

The Minisci Reaction

Radical Additions to Electron-Deficient Heterocycles

Jake Ganley

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Princeton University



Literature Group Meeting

August 27, 2021



Reviews Covering the Minisci Reaction

Minisci, F.; Fontana, F.; Vismara, E. J. Substitutions by Nucleophilic Free Radicals: A New General Reaction of Heteroaromatic Bases. *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **1990**, *27*, 79-96.

- Original conception and early developments

Dunston, M. A. J. Minisci reactions: Versatile CH-functionalizations for medicinal chemists. *Med. Chem. Commun.* **2011**, *2*, 1135-1161.

- Synthesis and functionalization of complex molecules

Tauber, J.; Imbri, D.; Opatz, T. Radical Addition to Iminium Ions and Cationic Heterocycles. *Molecules* **2014**, *19*, 16190-16222.

- Theoretical background & FMO analysis

Proctor, R. S. J.; Phipps, R. J. Recent Advances in Minisci-Type Reactions. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2019**, *58*, 13666-13699.

- Modes of radical generation and control of stereochemistry

Sun, A.; McAtee, R.; McClain, E. J.; Stephenson, C. R. J. Advancements in Visible-Light-Enabled Radical C(sp)²-H Alkylation of (Hetero)arenes. *Synthesis* **2019**, *51*, 1063-1072.

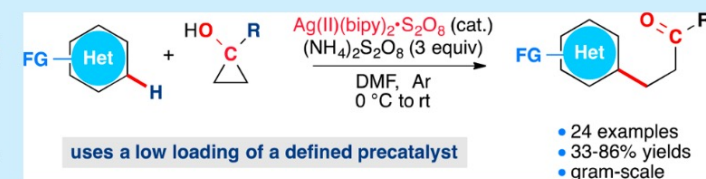
- Photochemical modes of radical generation

EDGE ARTICLE

The Acid-Free Cyclopropanol-Minisci Reaction Reveals the Catalytic Role of Silver–Pyridine Complexes

Aurei Nikolaev,[§] Claude Y. Legault,[†] Minhao Zhang,[§] and Arturo Orellana^{*,§}[§]Department of Chemistry, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3, Canada[†]Department of Chemistry, University of Sherbrooke, 2500 Boulevard de l'Universite, Sherbrooke, Québec J1K 2R1, Canada**S** Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A well-defined homogeneous silver precatalyst can be utilized for the direct C–H functionalization of a wide range of aromatic nitrogen heterocycles with cyclopropanols under acid-free conditions. This reaction can be conducted on gram-scale and with low catalyst loadings (as low as 1%), which is rare for silver-catalyzed Minisci-type reactions. Moreover, reactivity trends, as well as steric and calculated electronic properties of the heterocycles, strongly suggest that silver–heterocycle complexes formed in situ behave as redox active catalysts and as Lewis acid activators of the heterocycle and that the electronic nature of the heterocyclic substrates tunes the reactivity of the resulting complexes.

Metal- and Acid-Free
Using Trioxane as
Soluble OxidantJacob M. Ganley,^{†,‡} Melodie Christensen,[§] Yu-hong Lam,^{||} Zhengwei Peng,^{||} Angie R. Angeles,^{*,‡,#} and Charles S. Yeung^{*,†}Cite This: *J. Org. Chem.* XXXX, XXX, XXX–XXX

pubs.acs.org/joc

View Journal | View Issue

Visible-Light-Mediated Direct Decarboxylative Acylation of Electron-Deficient Heteroarenes Using α -KetoacidsSabyasachi Manna and Kandikere Ramaiah Prabhu^{*}

Department of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560012, Karnataka, India

Minisci C–H alkylation of
heteroarenes using
alkyl halides usingChen Wang,^a Hongjian Song,^a Yuxiu Liu^a

The Minisci Reaction

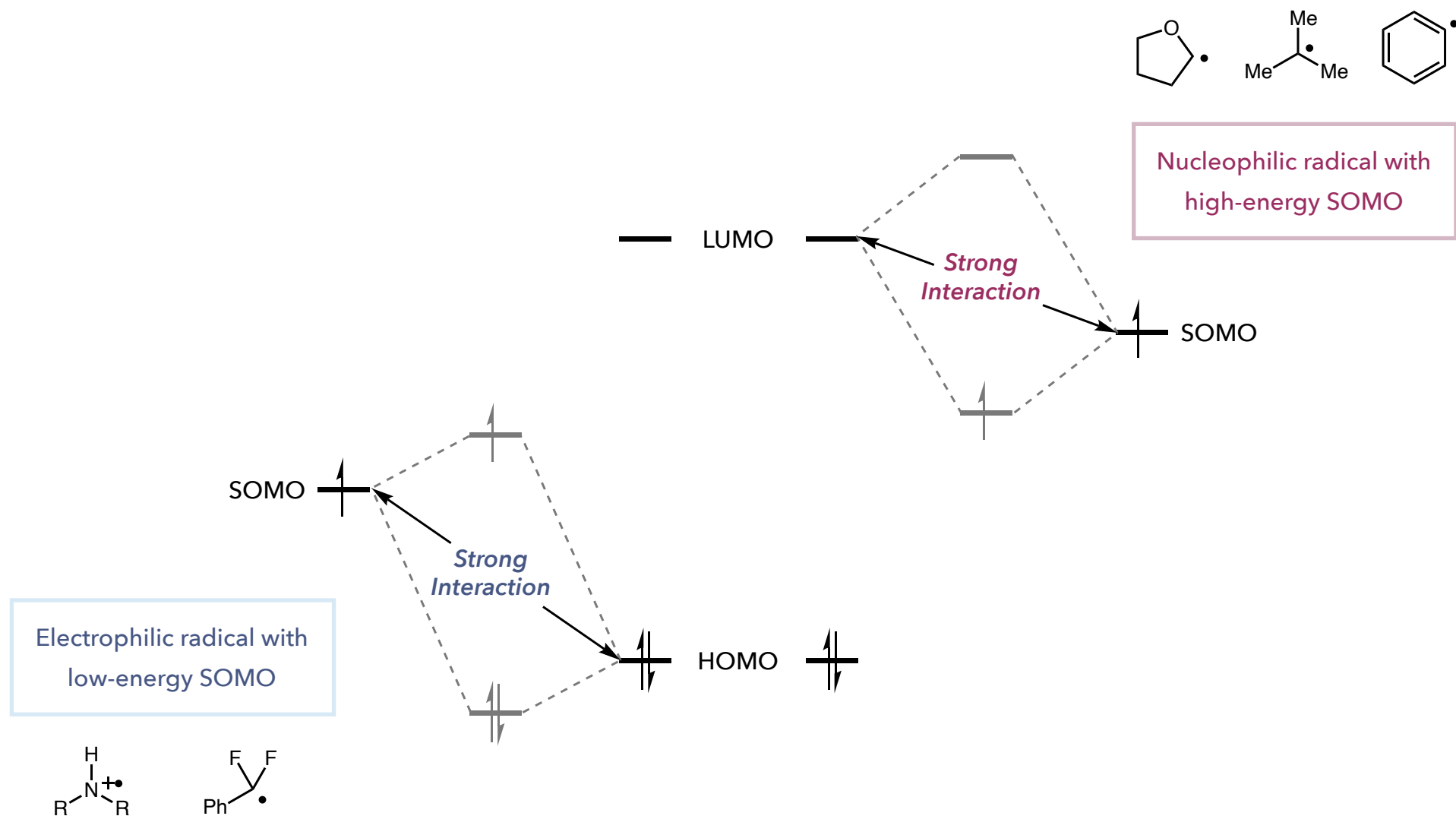
Radical Additions to Electron-Deficient Heterocycles

— *Outline* —

1. Historical context and reaction development
2. Mechanistic features governing selectivity
3. Recent innovations in the Minisci reaction

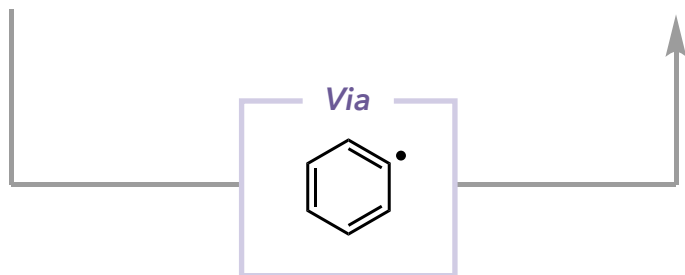
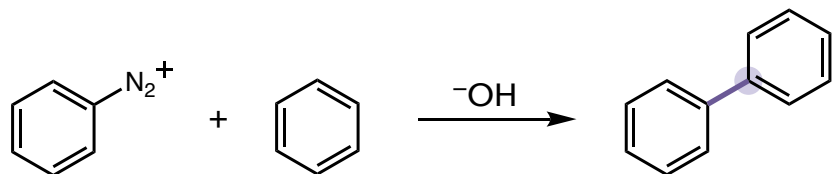


Radical Electrophilicity/Nucleophilicity

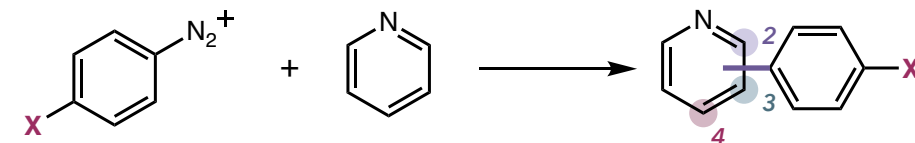


Arylation of Pyridine

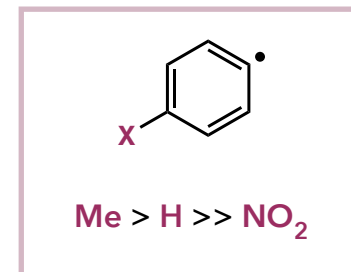
Gomberg-Bachmann-Hey Reaction



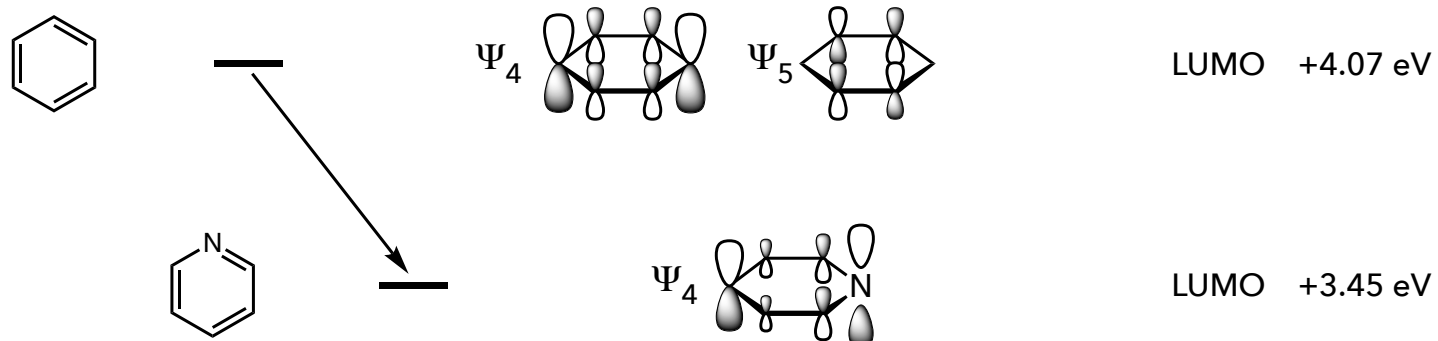
Nucleo/Electrophilic Radicals



	2	3	4
X = H	52	30	18
X = Me	56	28	16
X = NO ₂	44	43	13

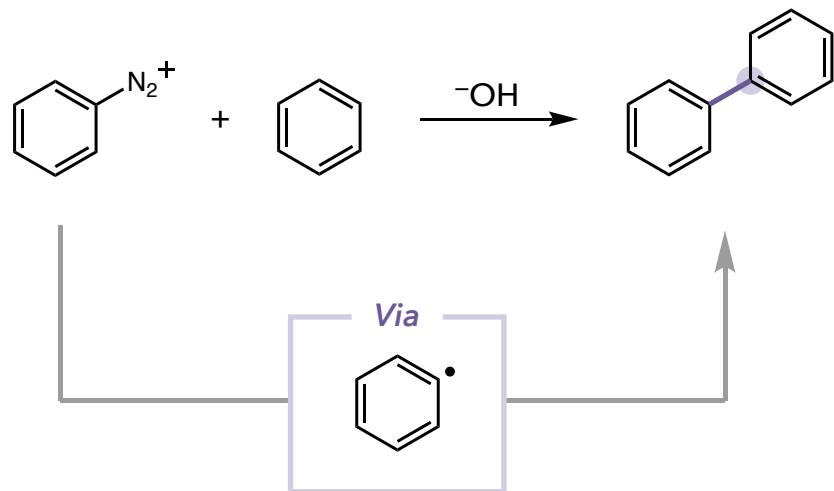


FMO Analysis of Neutral Arenes/Pyridinium

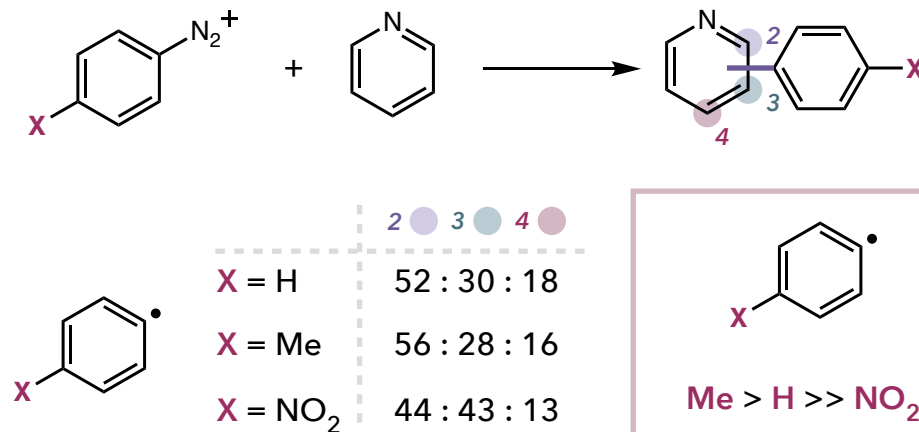


Arylation of Pyridine

Gomberg-Bachmann-Hey Reaction

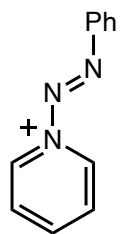


Nucleo/Electrophilic Radicals



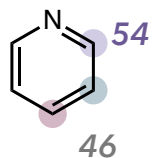
Me > H >> NO₂

Additions to Pyridiniums

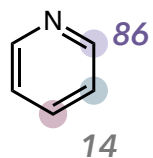


Ratio Diazonium:Pyridine

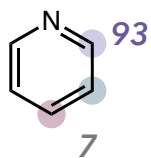
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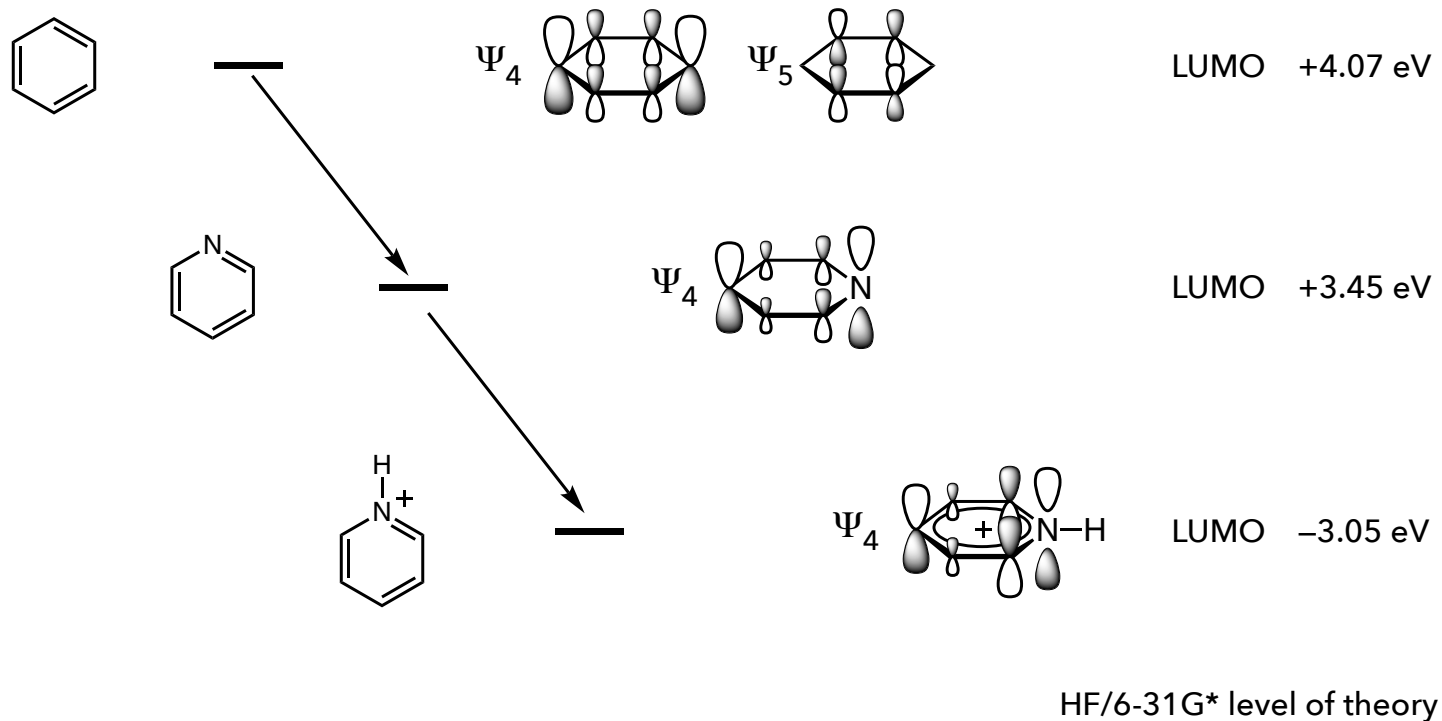
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1:6



FMO Analysis of Neutral Arenes/Pyridinium

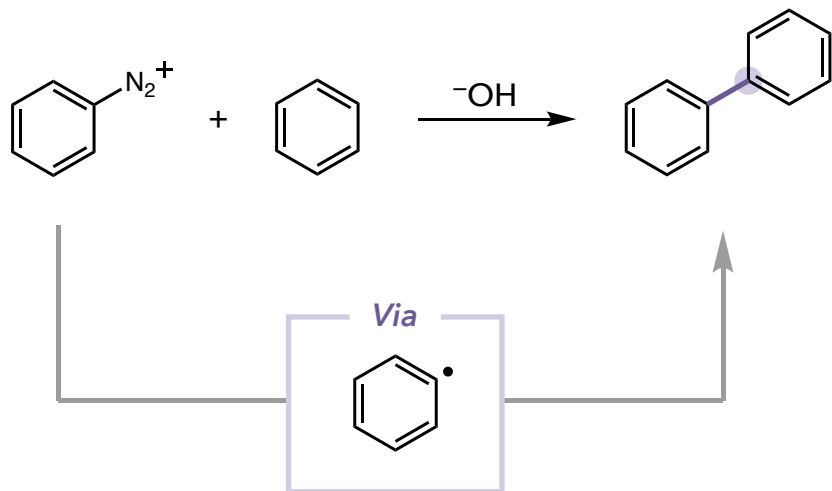


Frontier Molecular Orbital Theory

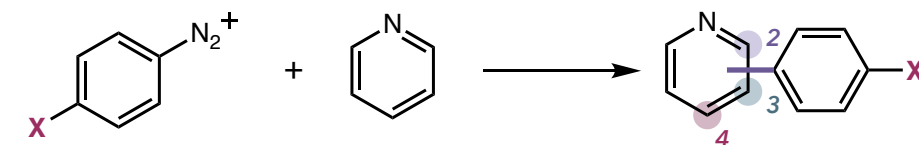
- Correctly predicts preferential reactivity at 2- and 4-positions of pyridinium
- Explains higher reactivity of cationic form due to lower LUMO

Arylation of Pyridine

Gomberg-Bachmann-Hey Reaction



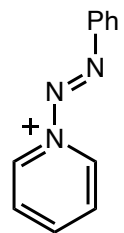
Nucleo/Electrophilic Radicals



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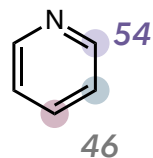
Me > H >> NO₂

Additions to Pyridiniums

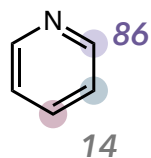


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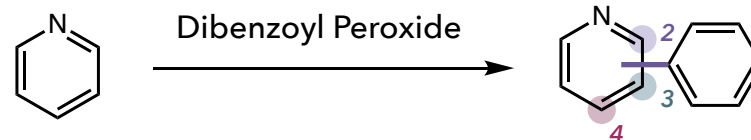
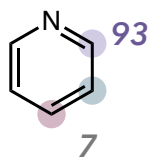
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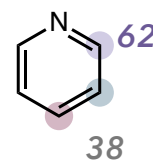
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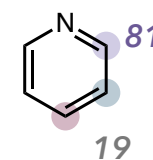
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Excess Pyridine

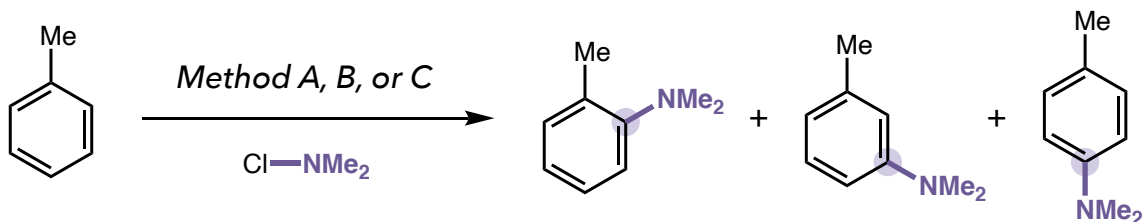


In Acetic Acid



Electrophilic Amination of Arenes

— Bock/Kompa, 1965 —

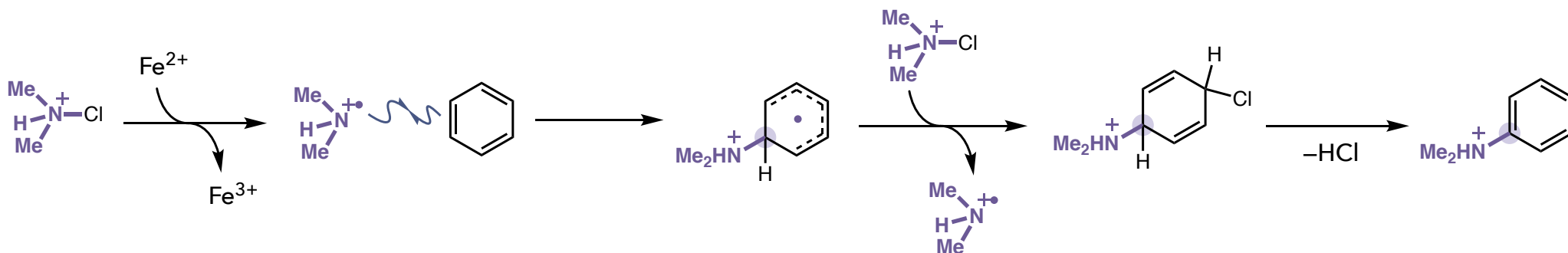


Method A: Na₂SO₄/Sulfuric Acid, 100 °C (80% yield)

Method B: UV irradiation in Sulfuric Acid (61% yield)

Method C: AlCl₃, 100 °C (50% yield)

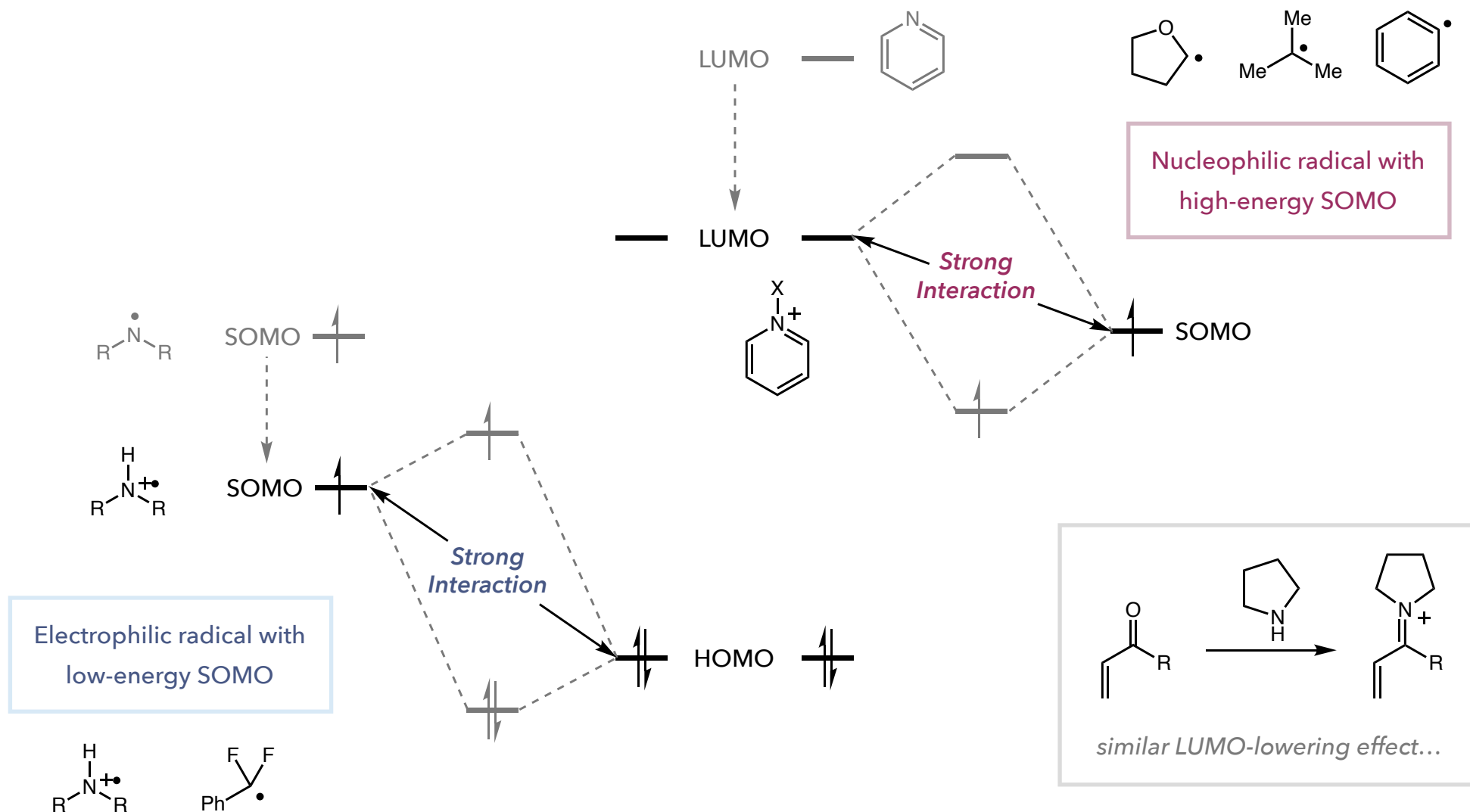
— Minisci, 1965 —



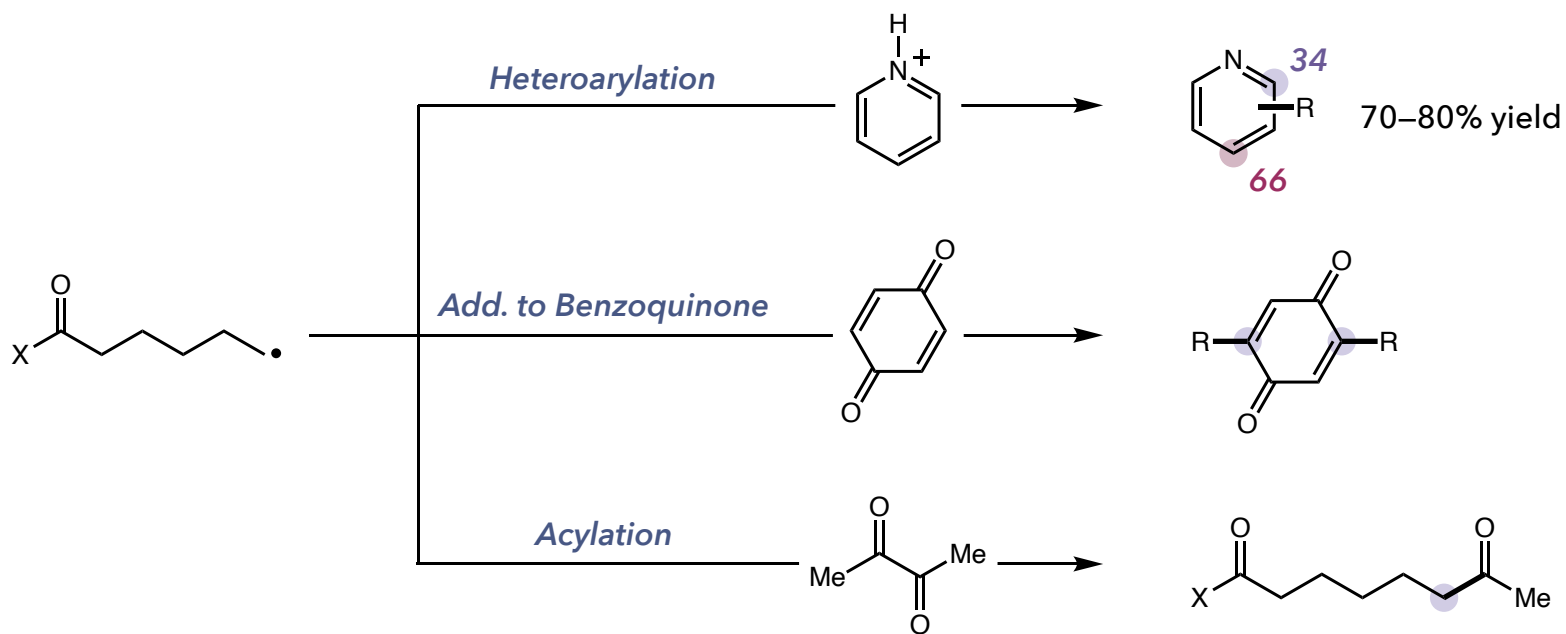
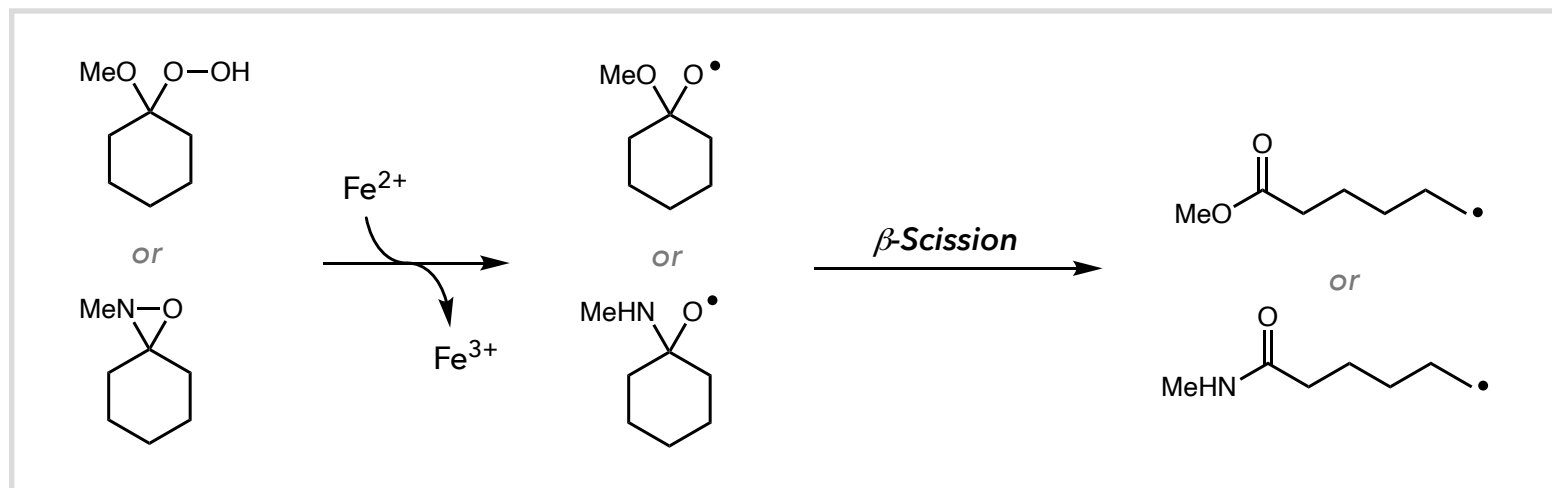
Key Mechanistic Features

- Redox system for radical initiation
- Protonation of amines renders it electrophilic
- Significant polar component to reaction selectivity

Radical Electrophilicity/Nucleophilicity

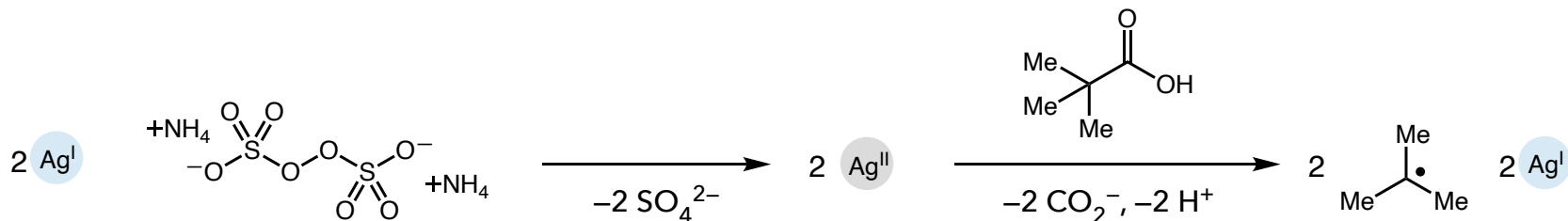


Investigating the Nucleophilic Behavior of Alkyl Radicals

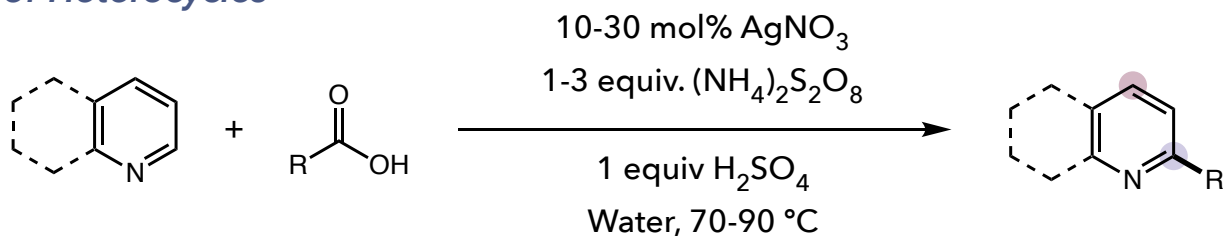


Advent of "The Minisci Reaction"

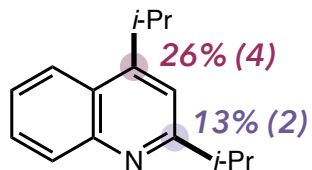
Ag Catalyzed Decarboxylation



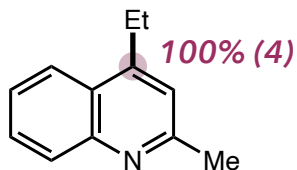
Alkylation of Heterocycles



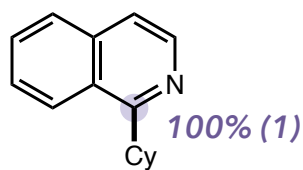
61% (2-, 4-)



99% yield

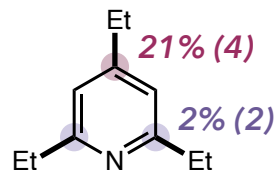


98% yield



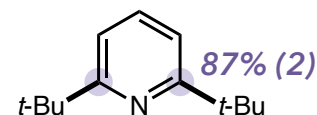
84% yield

73% overall.

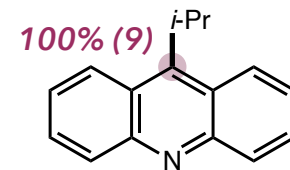


98% yield

13% (2-, 6-)



93% yield



66% yield

The Minisci Reaction

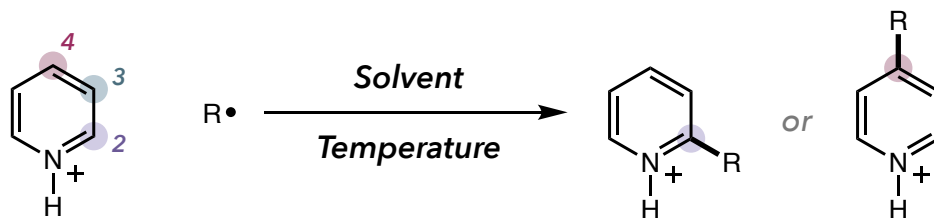
Radical Additions to Electron-Deficient Heterocycles

— *Outline* —

1. Historical context and reaction development
2. Mechanistic features governing selectivity
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Regioselectivity in the Additions of Radicals to Pyridinium



Solvent Effects

radical	solvent	2 ● 4 ● (3 ●)
	water	64 : 32 (4)
	benzene	70 : 24 (6)
	water	56 : 74
	benzene	75 : 25
	water	32 : 68
	benzene	72 : 28
	water	23 : 77
	benzene	71 : 29
	water, benzene, MeCN, DMSO...	no reaction (bibenzyl formation)

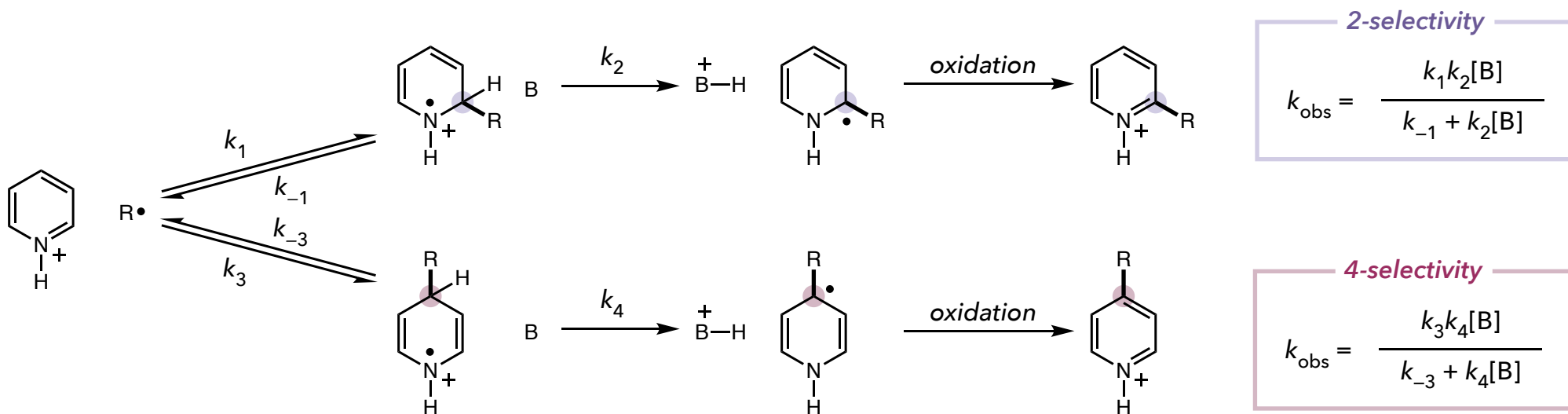
Kinetic Isotope Effects

radical	solvent	Py(H)		Py(D)		k_H/k_D	
		2 ● 4 ●	2 ● 4 ●	2 ● 4 ●	2 ● 4 ●		
	water	64 : 32	61 : 31	1.0	1.0		
	benzene	70 : 24	70 : 24	1.0	1.0		
	water	31 : 69	30 : 70	3.9	4.2		
	benzene	72 : 28	77 : 23	1.7	1.9		

Temperature Effects

radical	temperature	2 ● 4 ●
	20 °C	33 : 67
	60 °C	29 : 71
	100 °C	23 : 77

Kinetic Model to Account for Regioselectivity

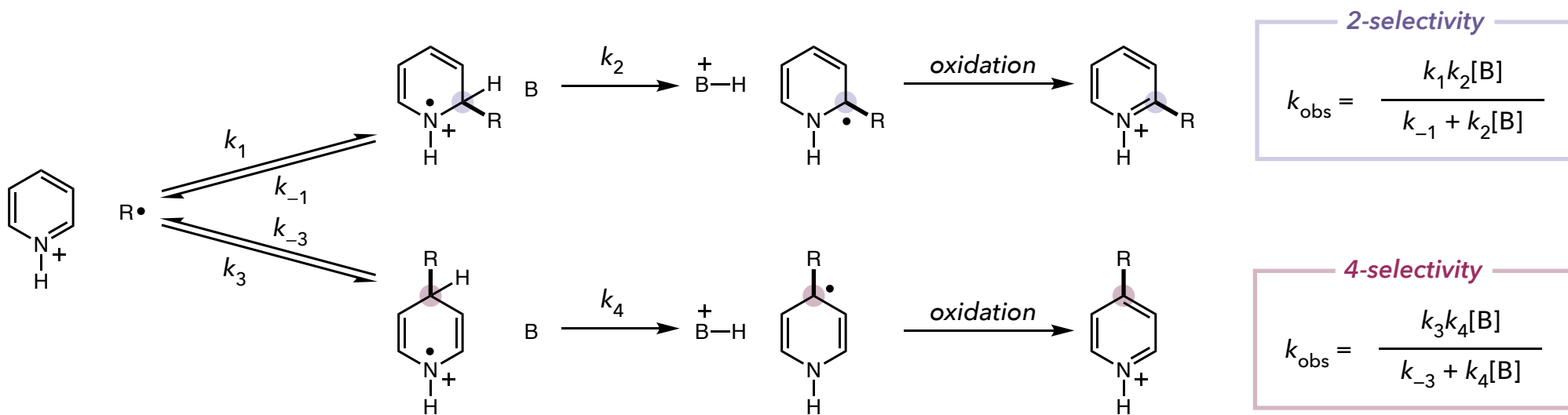


Solvent Effects

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	water	56 : 74
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	water	32 : 68
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	water	23 : 77
	benzene	71 : 29

- Magnitude of solvent effect trends Ph < n-Bu < i-Pr < t-Bu
- Either related to *solvation of polar transition states* (k_1 vs k_3) or to the *reversibility of addition* ($k_{-1}/k_2[\text{B}]$ or $k_{-3}/k_4[\text{B}]$)

Kinetic Model to Account for Regioselectivity

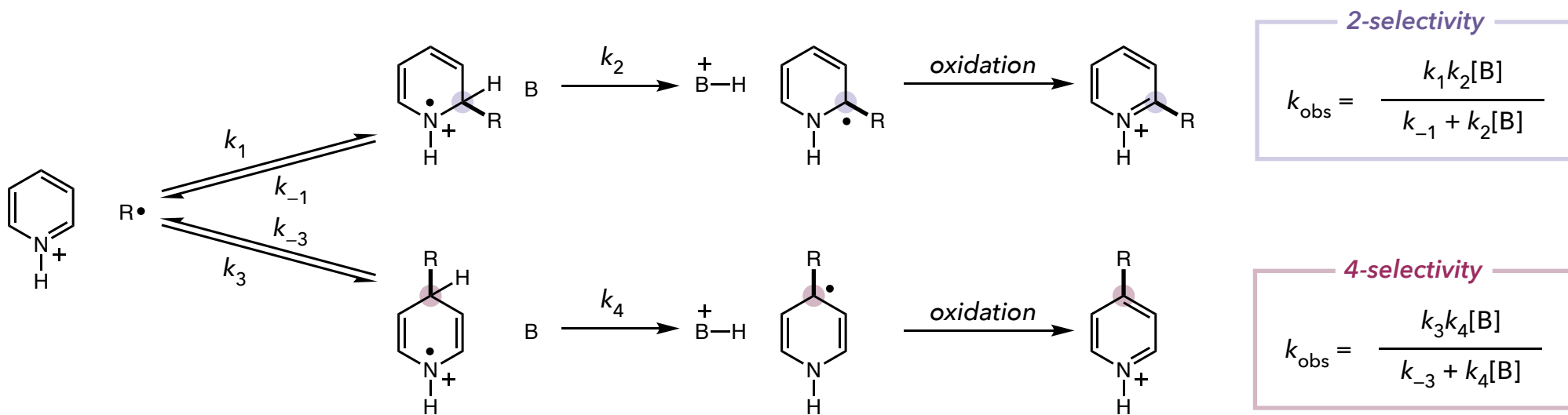


Kinetic Isotope Effects

radical	solvent	Py(H)		Py(D)		$k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}}$	
		2	4	2	4	2	4
	water	64	32	61	31	1.0	1.0
	benzene	70	24	70	24	1.0	1.0

- **No isotope effect** observed for Ph radical ($k_{-1} \ll k_2[\text{B}]$ and $k_{-3} \ll k_4[\text{B}]$)
- **Addition to the pyridinium is largely irreversible**, regioselectivity determined by k_1 vs k_3

Kinetic Model to Account for Regioselectivity

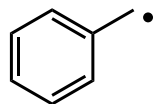


Solvent Effects

radical

solvent

2 ● 4 ● (3 ●)

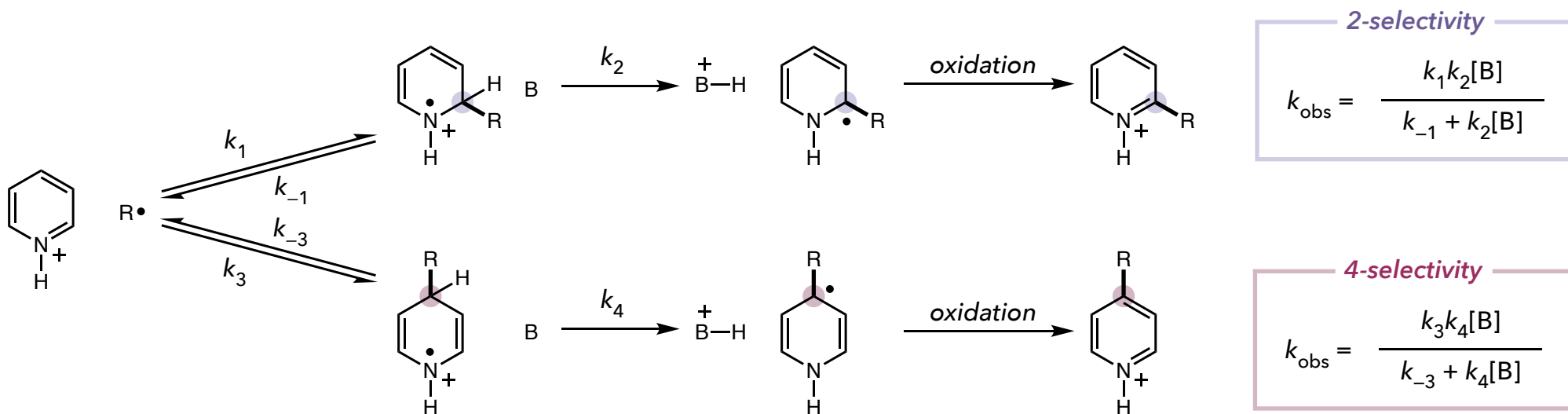


water, benzene,
MeCN, DMSO...

no reaction
(bibenzyl formation)

- No desired product observed for benzyl radical in any solvent
- *Low enthalpy of addition* renders $k_{-1} \gg k_2[\text{B}]$ and $k_{-3} \gg k_4[\text{B}]$, allowing for *irreversible dimerization*

Kinetic Model to Account for Regioselectivity

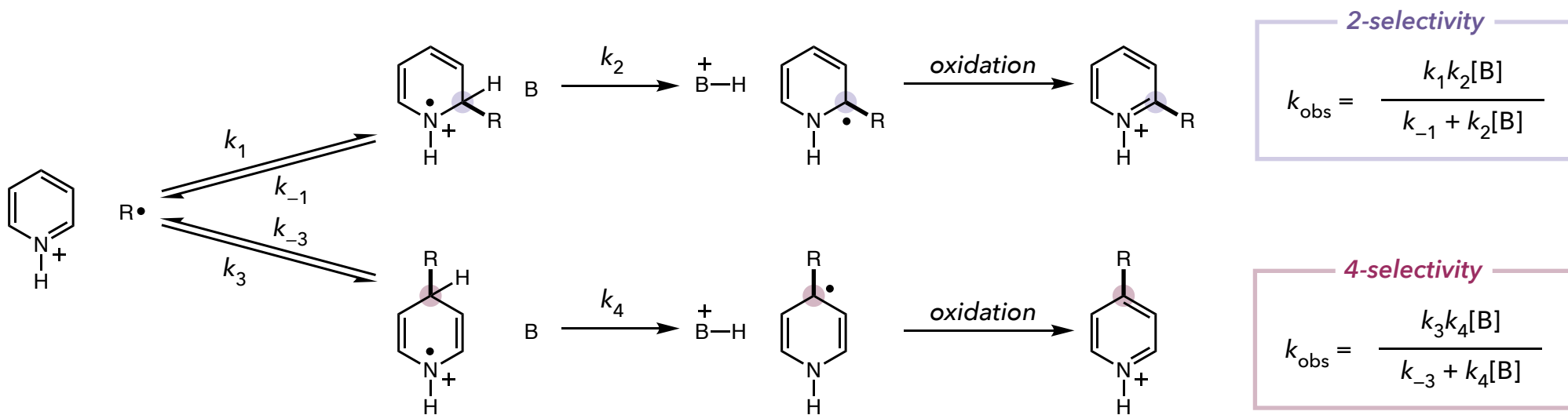


Kinetic Isotope Effects

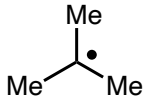
radical	solvent	Py(H)		Py(D)		$k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}}$	
		2	4	2	4	2	4
	water	31	69	30	70	3.9	4.2
	benzene	72	28	77	23	1.7	1.9

- **Isotope effect** and **regioselectivity** are both significantly affected by reaction medium
- Solvent and base catalysis mainly influence the **reversibility of the radical addition**
- Poorly solvated radical ion pair in benzene undergoes α -deprotonation faster than in water

Kinetic Model to Account for Regioselectivity

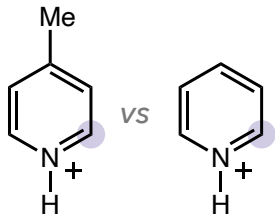
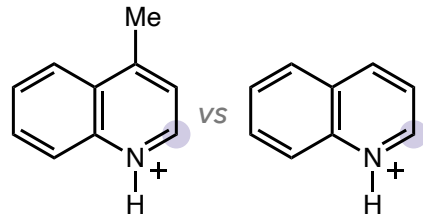
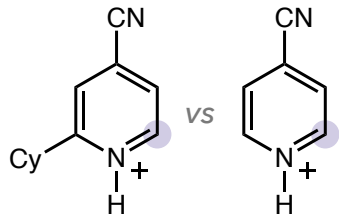
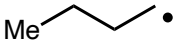
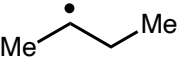
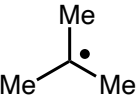


Temperature Effects

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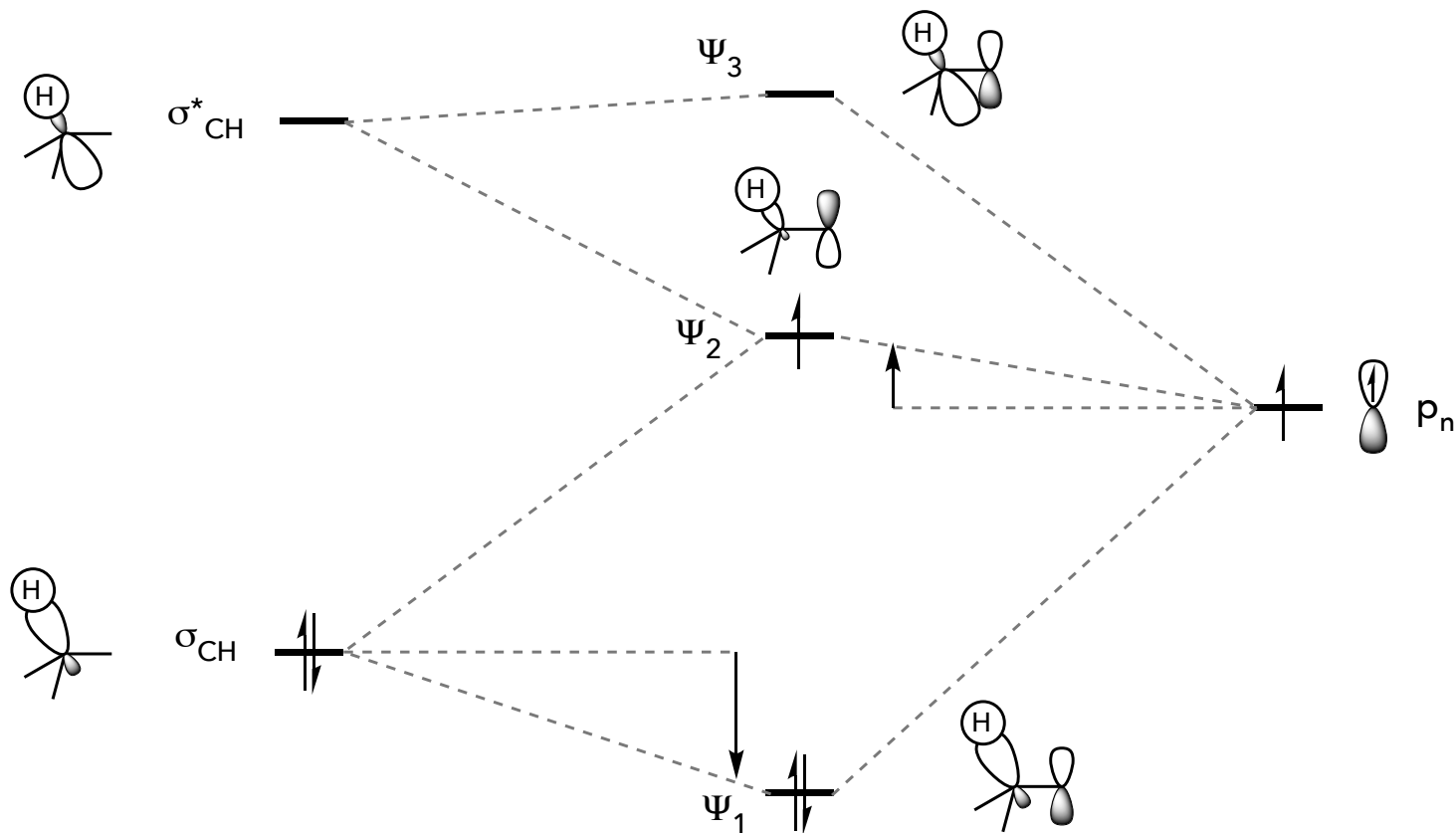
- Increasing the *temperature* of the reaction in water *increases reversibility of radical addition*
 - Increasing the reversibility *increases the amount of the 4-isomer*
- Similarly, increasing the reaction pH (*decreasing base catalysis*) *favors 4-isomer*

Deactivation of Arene by Alkylation

			
Me•	0.53 : 1.0	--	--
	0.32 : 1.0	0.70 : 1.0	0.33 : 1.0
	0.28 : 1.0	0.60 : 1.0	0.20 : 1.0
	0.15 : 1.0	0.16 : 1.0	< 0.10 : 1.0

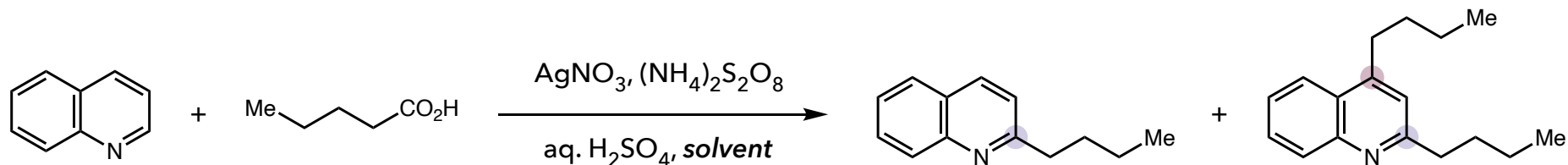
- Introduction of an inductively donating *alkyl group deactivates the ring* towards further alkylation
 - The degree of activation increases with the *nucleophilic character* of the attacking radical

Nucleophilicity of Alkyl Radicals



- **Hyperconjugation** with adjacent $\sigma(\text{C-H})$ -orbitals **raises the SOMO energy**
 - Nucleophilicity of radicals trends primary < secondary < tertiary
- Similarly, hyperconjugation with **heteroatom lone pairs** also raises the SOMO energy

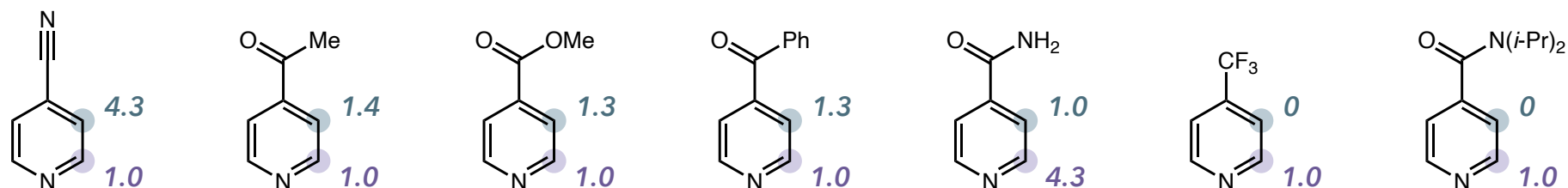
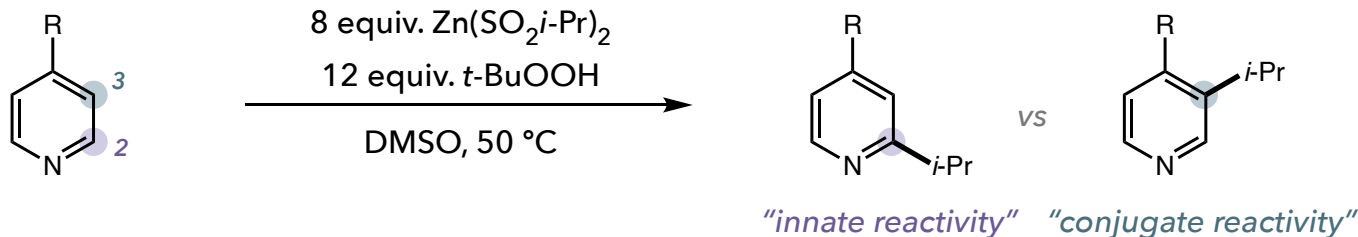
Circumventing Overalkylation with Biphasic Reaction Conditions



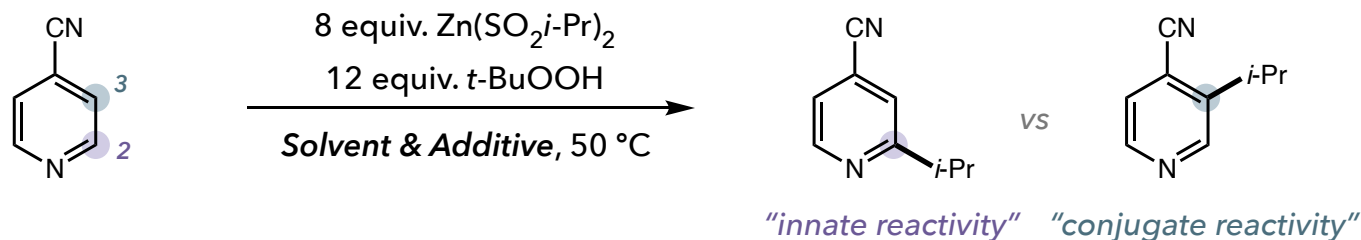
<i>Conversion (%)</i>	<i>Solvent</i>	<i>Monoalkyl (%)</i>	<i>Dialkyl (%)</i>
38	H ₂ O	100	—
87	H ₂ O	67	33
31	PhCl/H ₂ O	100	—
63	PhCl/H ₂ O	100	—

- Introduction of an alkyl group *increases the lipophilicity* of the product
 - Extraction into the organic solvent *inhibits further alkylation*

Substituent, Solvent, and Acid Effects in Regioselectivity



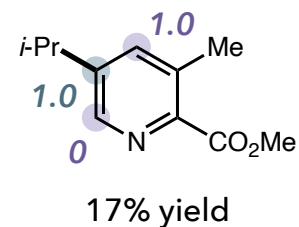
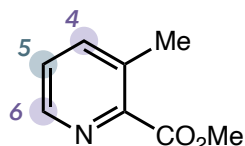
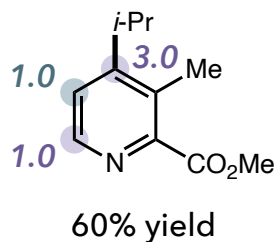
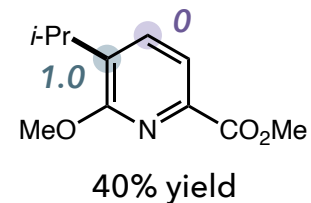
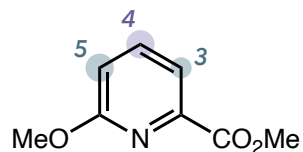
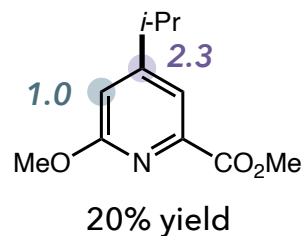
Solvent & Additive Effects



	2 ● 3 ●
DMSO	1.0 : 4.3
$\text{CHCl}_3:\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3.0 : 1.0
DMSO + H_2SO_4	6.6 : 1.0
$\text{CHCl}_3:\text{H}_2\text{O}$ + TFA	5.0 : 1.0

- Addition of acid & switch of solvent reduces influence of *"conjugate reactivity"*

Predicting and Tuning Regioselectivity



"Innate Reactivity"

16 equiv. Zn(SO₂R)₂

24 equiv. *t*-BuOOH

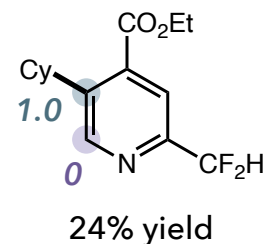
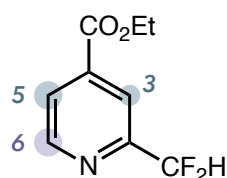
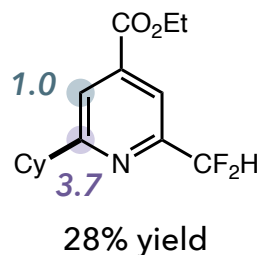
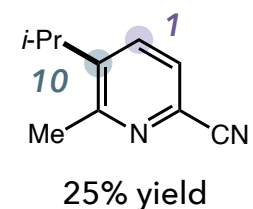
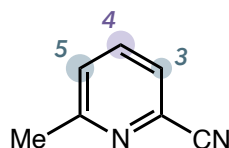
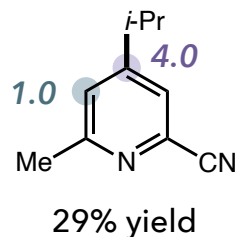
CHCl₃/H₂O/TFA

"Conjugate Reactivity"

16 equiv. Zn(SO₂R)₂

24 equiv. *t*-BuOOH

DMSO



The Minisci Reaction

Radical Additions to Electron-Deficient Heterocycles

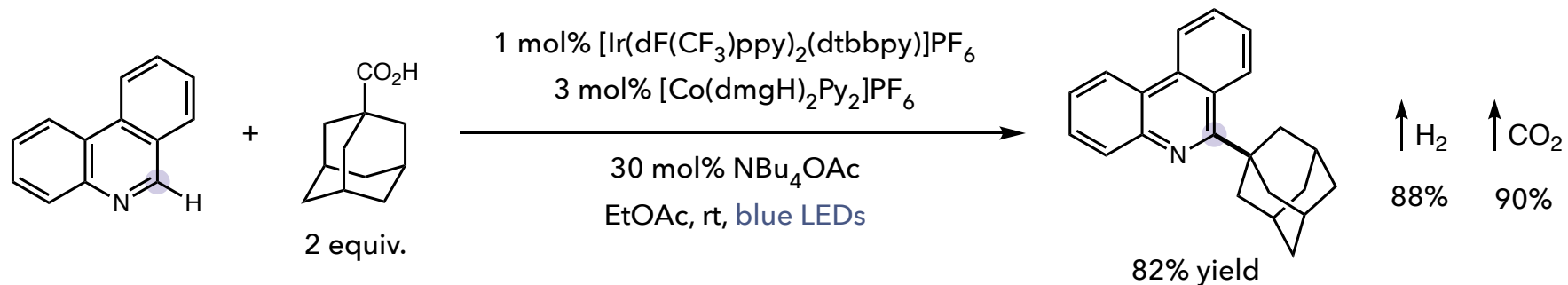
— *Outline* —

1. Historical context and reaction development
2. Mechanistic features governing selectivity
3. Recent innovations in the Minisci reaction

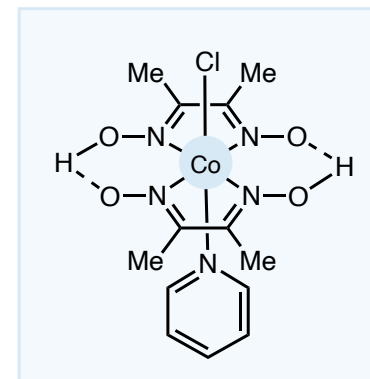
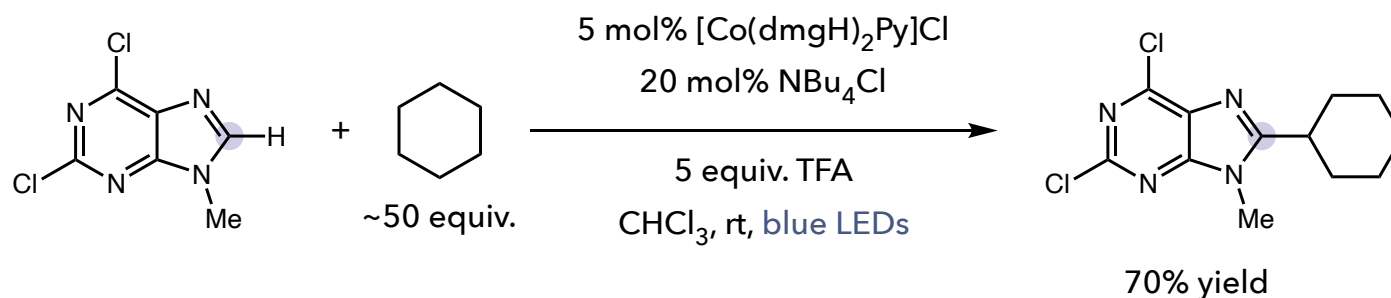


Dehydrogenative Coupling with H₂ Release

Decarboxylative Radical Generation

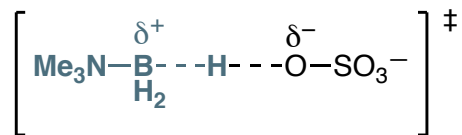


Chlorine Radical Generation

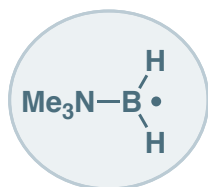


- Net oxidative reaction with no chemical oxidant, solely *driven by light and the release of H₂*

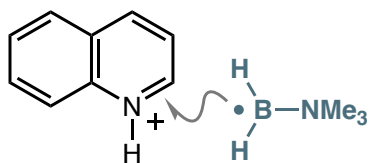
Nucleophilicity of Boryl Radicals



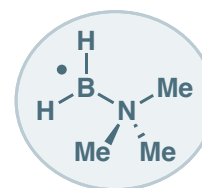
Polarized HAT transition state



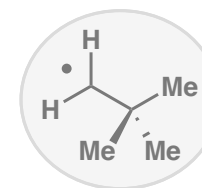
Precedented nucleophilic HAT reagent



Nucleophilic addition to arenes?



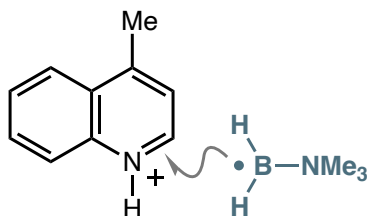
Boryl Radical



Neopentyl Radical

Ionization Potential (eV)	5.65	8.14
Hirshfield Charge	-0.38	-0.006
Radical Configuration	 <i>σ-radical</i>	 <i>π-radical</i>
Structural Features	B-N = 1.619 Å	C-C = 1.502 Å

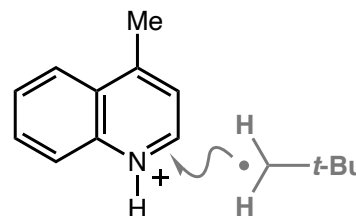
Minisci Borylation



$$\Delta G^\circ = -11.0 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

$$\Delta G^\ddagger = 5.4 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

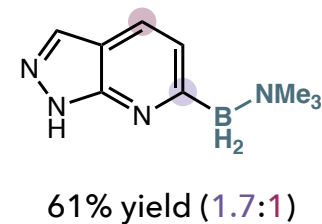
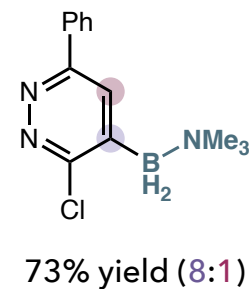
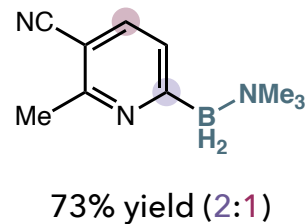
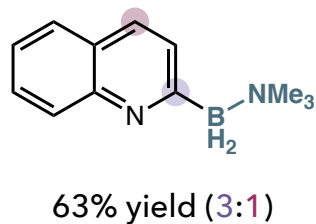
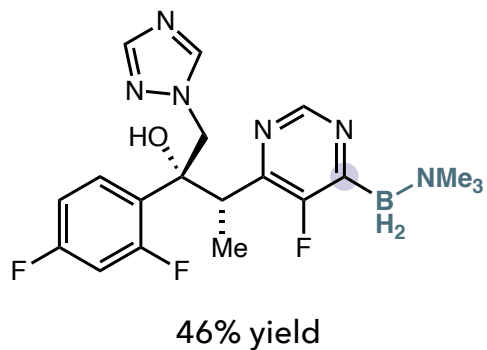
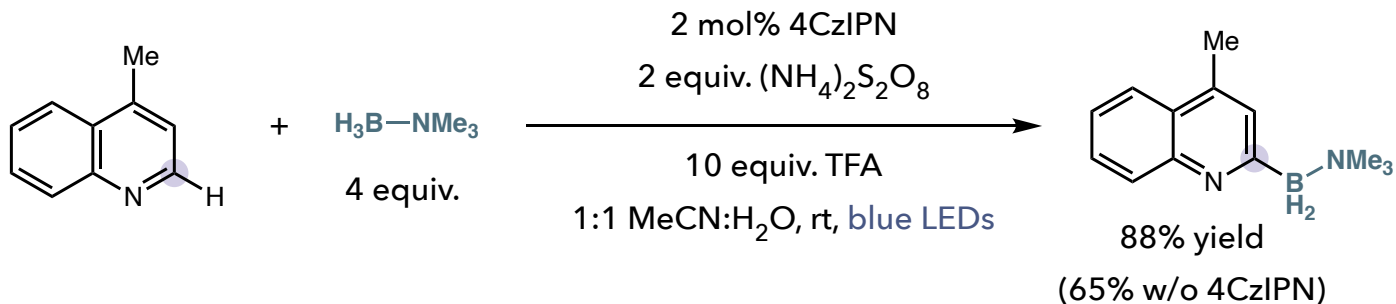
Minisci Alkylation



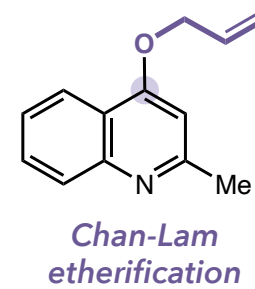
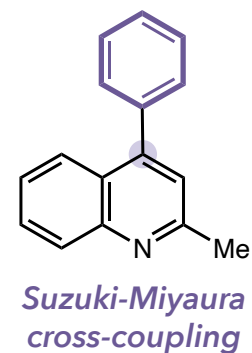
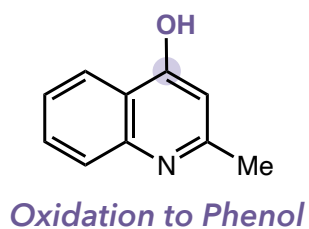
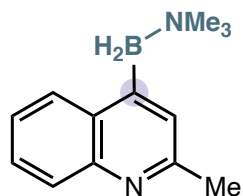
$$\Delta G^\circ = 4.7 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

$$\Delta G^\ddagger = 20.1 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

Minisci-Type Borylation of Nitrogen Heterocycles

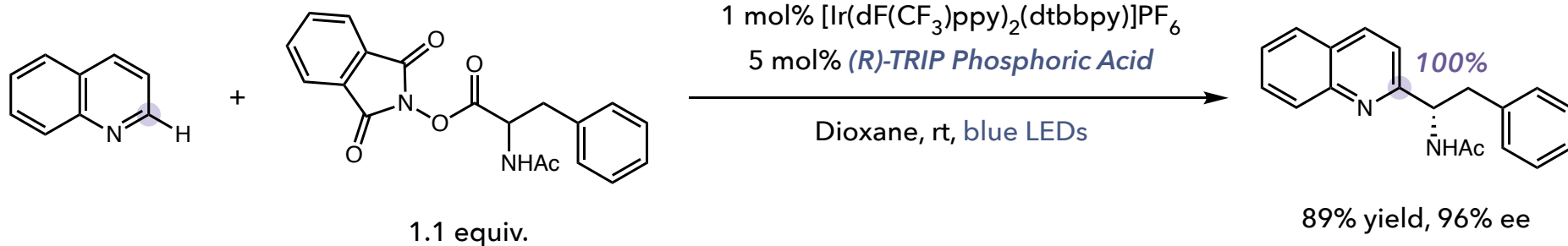


Derivatization of Boryl Group

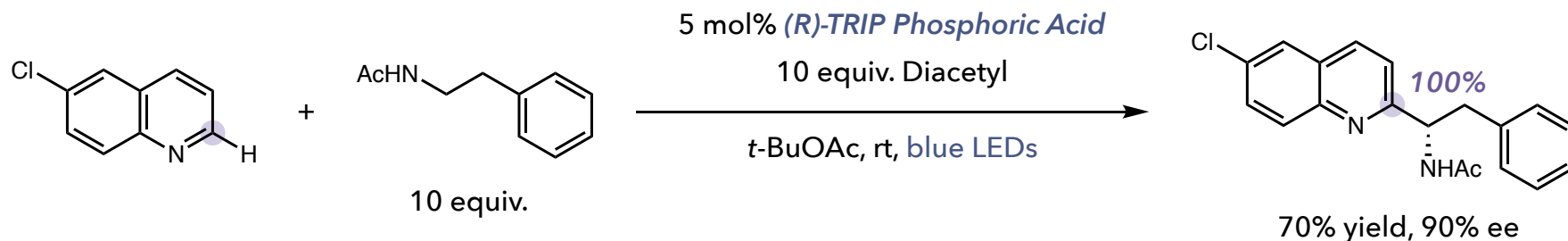
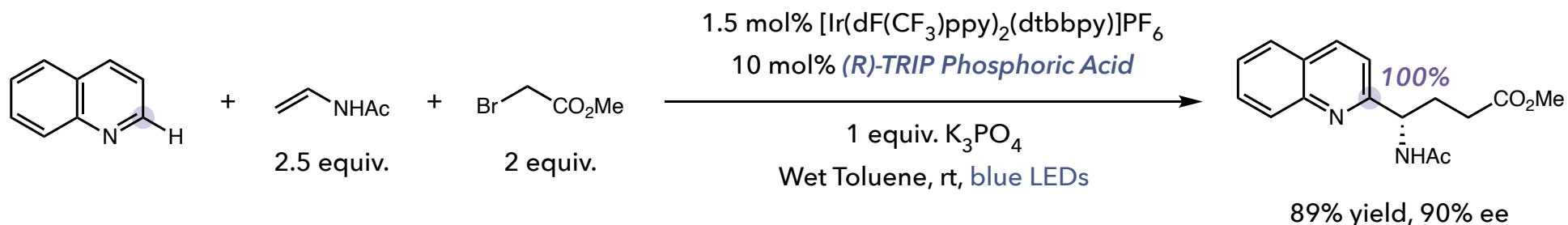


Enantioselective Minisci Reaction

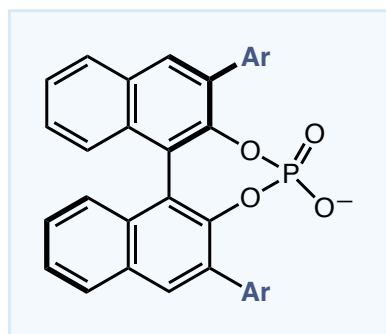
Original Phipps Report, 2018



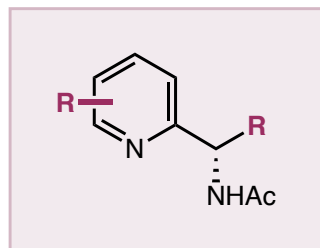
Follow Up Reports



Multivariate Linear Regression Analysis



8 phosphoric acids

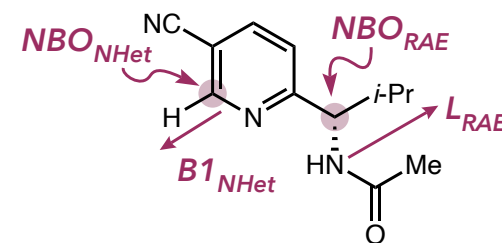
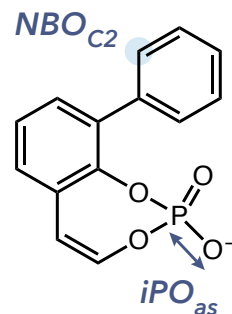


7 heteroarene products

Build training set

Develop model

$$\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger = 0.73 - 0.30(iPO_{as}) + 0.18(NBO_{C2}) + 0.17(NBO_{RAE}) + 0.26(NBO_{NHet}) - 0.21(L_{RAE}) + 0.30(B1_{NHet})$$

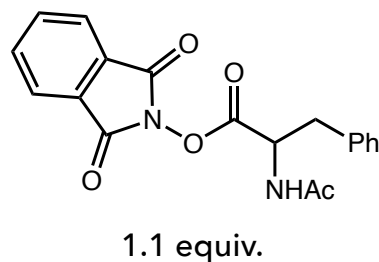
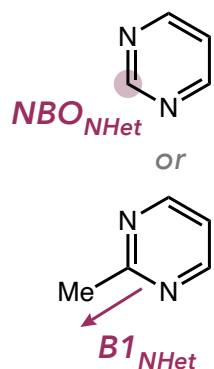


L_{RAE} = distance along bond axis

$B1_{NHet}$ = minimum radius perpendicular to bond axis

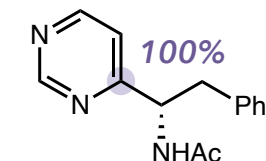
NBO_{RAE} = natural bond orbital

iPO_{as} = asymmetric IR stretch



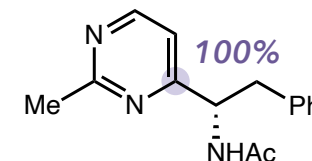
1 mol% [Ir(dF(CF₃)ppy)₂(dtbbpy)]PF₆
5 mol% (R)-TRIP Phosphoric Acid

Dioxane, rt, blue LEDs



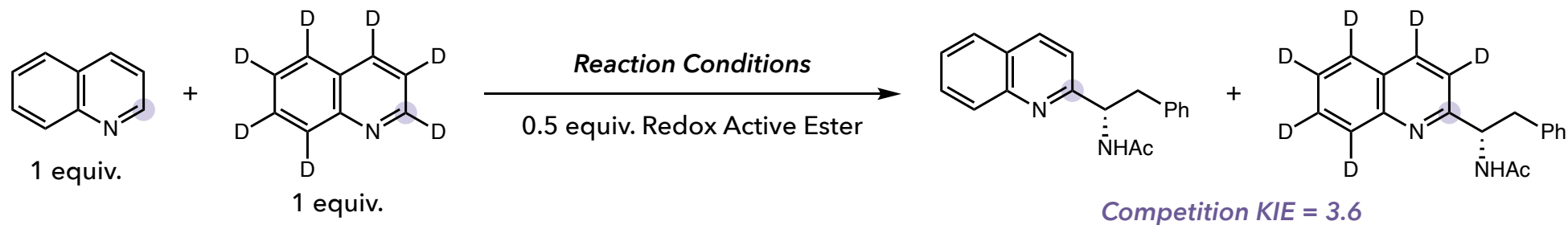
44% yield, 88% ee
(predicted 89% ee)

or

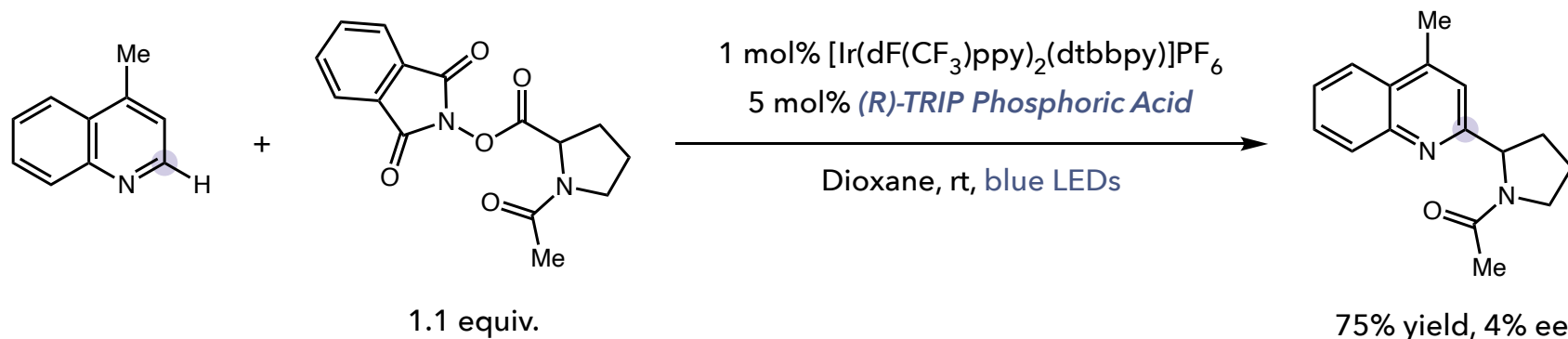


45% yield, 94% ee
(predicted 94% ee)

Additional Mechanistic Experiments

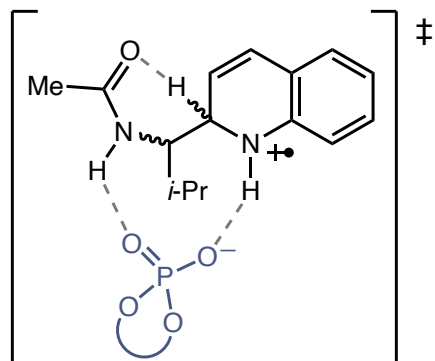


- Consistent with Minisci's measured KIE of α -THF radical and reversibility *dependence on radical stability*
- Suggests a *Curtin-Hammett situation*- radical addition is reversible and *deprotonation is selectivity determining*

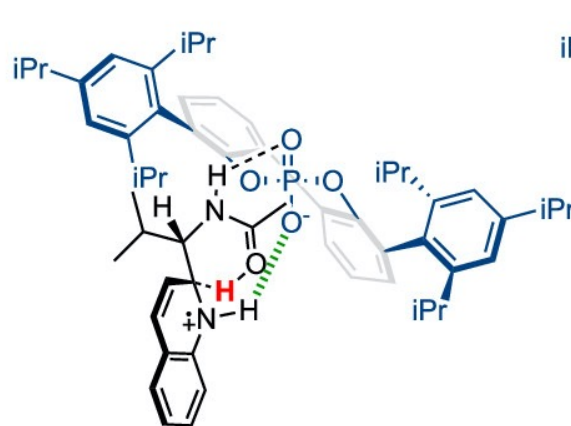


- Suggests the free N–H bond participates with the phosphate during enantiodetermining deprotonation

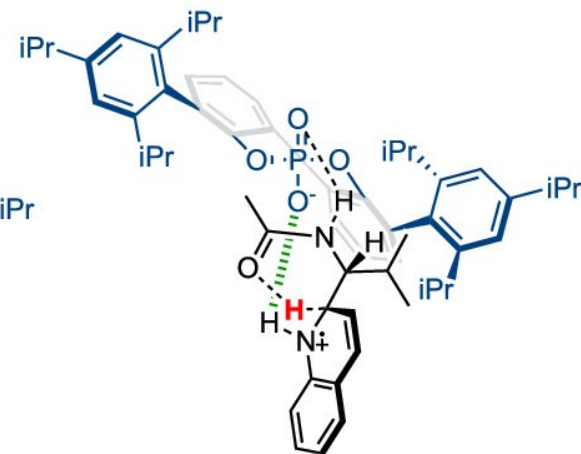
Summarized Computational Study



lowest energy calculated transition state



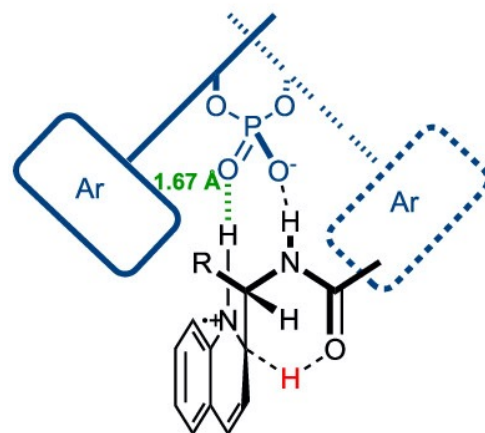
R,S-INT
0.0 kcal/mol



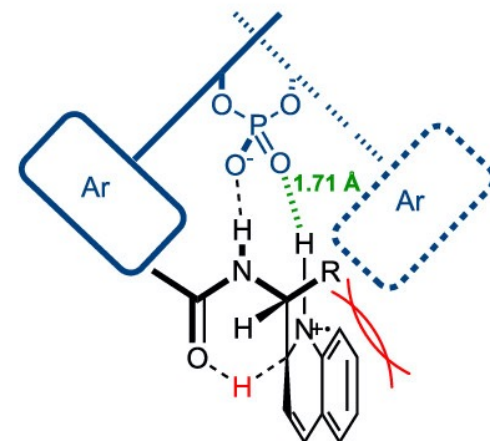
S,R-INT
1.2 kcal/mol

Enantioselectivity Model Rationalizes

- Selectivity dependence on $B1_{NHet}$ and L_{RAE}
- Poor performance of carbamate & TFA PG
- Superior performance of *N*-Ac vs *N*-Piv
- High regioselectivity for 2-position
- Correlation between regio- & enantioselectivity

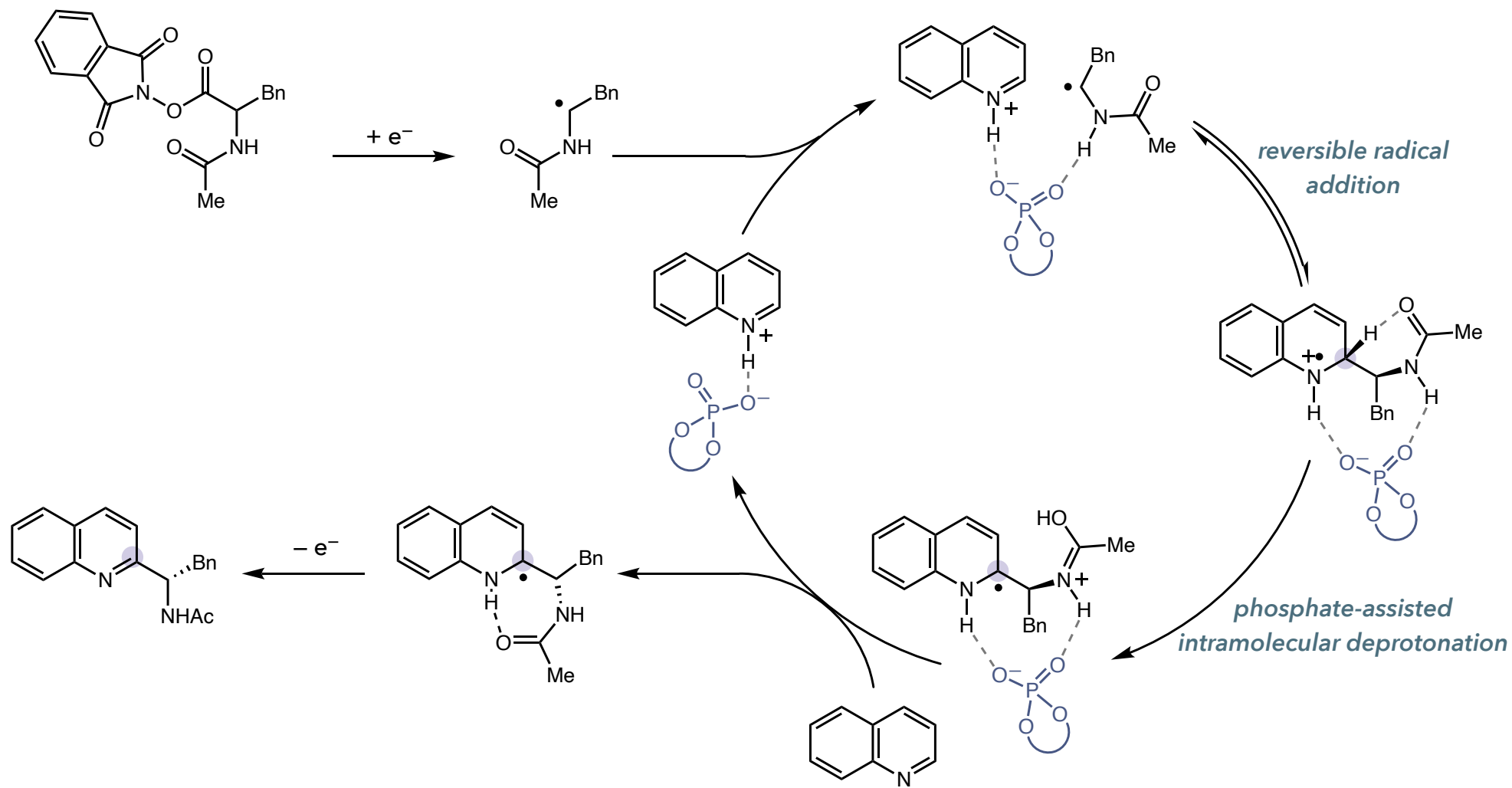


R,S-INT
0.0 kcal/mol



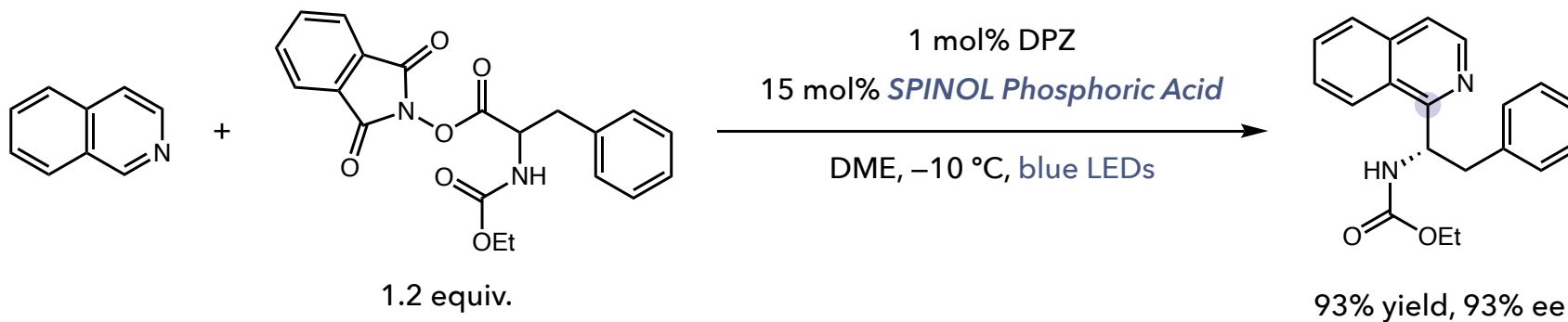
S,R-INT
1.2 kcal/mol

Proposed Reaction Mechanism

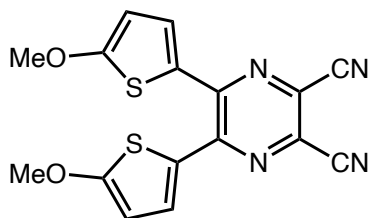


Asymmetric Minisci Reaction with Isoquinolines

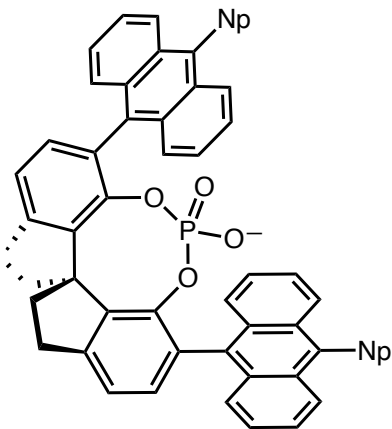
— Zhiyong Jiang, 2018 —



DPZ Photocatalyst



SPINOL Phosphoric Acid

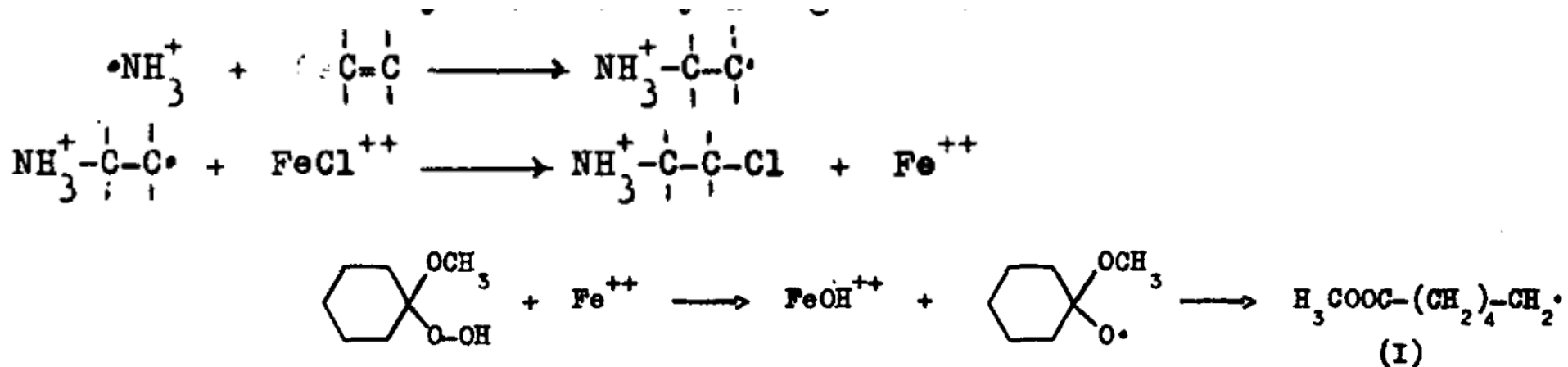


Differentiating Features

- Organic vs Ir photocatalyst
- Carbamate PG (deprotonation step?)
- Complementary (if narrow) scope of arene
- Completely different binding pocket

Conclusions

1) We stand on the *shoulders of giants* who explored much of the fundamental radical reactivity that we use today



Fine Chemicals from Lignosulfonates. 1. Synthesis of Vanillin by Oxidation of Lignosulfonates

Hans-René Bjørsvik*

Borregaard Synthesis, P.O. Box 162, N-1701 Sarpsborg, Norway

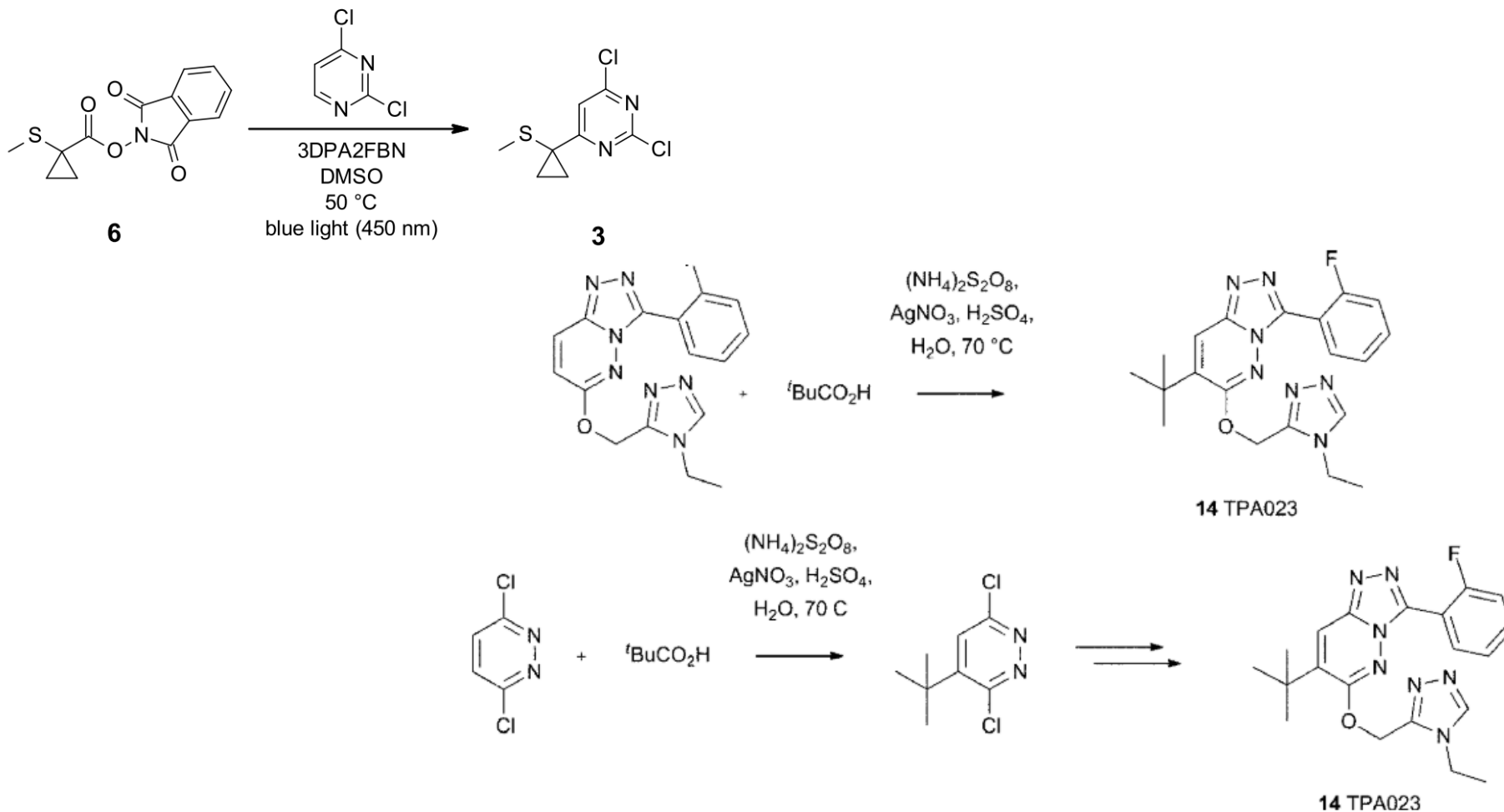
Francesco Minisci

Dipartimento di Chimica del Politecnico di Milano, via Mancinelli 7, I-20131 Milano, Italy

Conclusions

2) The Minisci reaction is a powerful method for *assembling desirable molecules* (sp^2-sp^3 bonds, basic heterocycles)

Photoredox Minisci Reaction Using Large-Scale Photoflow Equipment

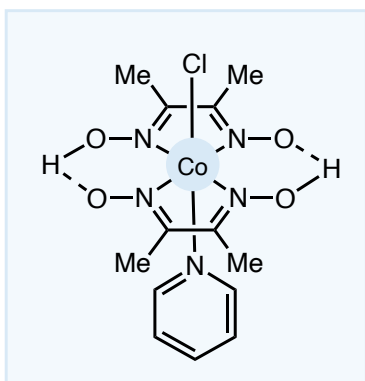


Scheme 11 Synthesis of TPA023, an $\alpha 2/\alpha 3$ selective GABA_A agonist.⁴⁰

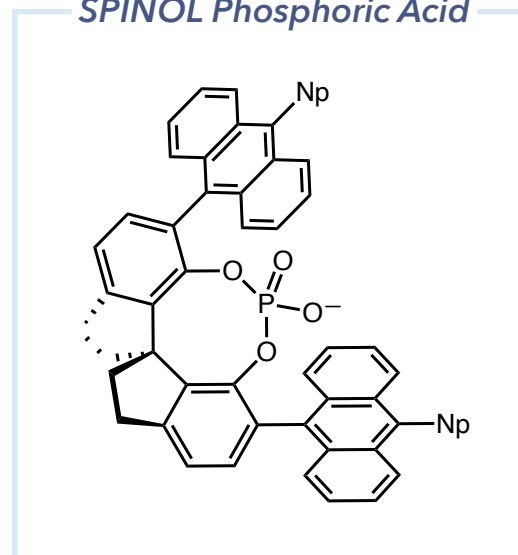
Conclusions

3) Interfacing with *modern catalysis* (Photoredox, CPA, Co H₂ evolution, electrocatalysis) has led to new innovations

Cobaloxime Hydrogen Evolution Catalyst



SPINOL Phosphoric Acid



4) *Photoredox catalysis* has drastically diversified the classes of substrates that can be used as radical precursors

5) The Minisci reaction *deserves to be respected* as more than just an afterthought in a photoredox paper!

— *Future Directions* —

- Catalytic control over regioselectivity & enantioselectivity (atroposelective?)
 - Further improving reactivity of heterocycles (beyond quinoline, isoquinoline, and pyridine)
- Complementary reactivity and selectivity with other catalysts (Lewis Acids? Frustrated Lewis Pairs?)
 - Catalytic, out-of-equilibrium deracemization enabled by Proton-Coupled Electron Transfer™