



HOMOGENEOUS HYDROGENATION

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8.1 INTRODUCTION — HOMOGENEOUS HYDROGENATION

Heterogeneous hydrogenation

Pt, Pd... solid or supported (e.g. Pd/C)

Easy separation and reuse

Homogeneous hydrogenation¹

Unique stereoselectivity

Beyond alkenes

¹M. Calvin *Trans. Faraday Soc.*, **1938**, 34, 1181. DOI: [10.1039/TF9383401181](https://doi.org/10.1039/TF9383401181)

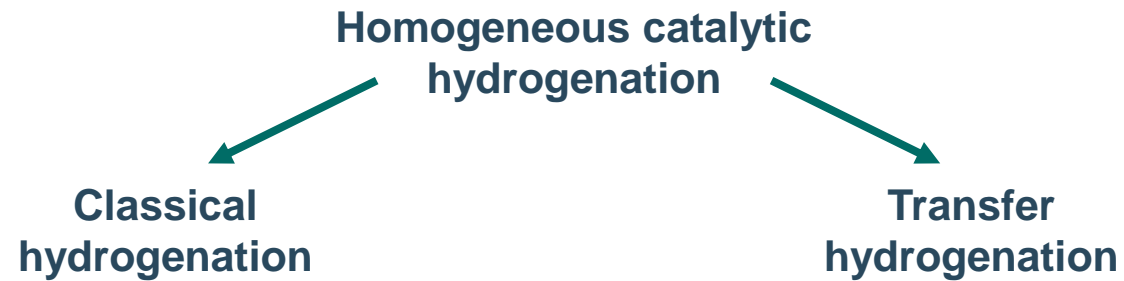


8.1 INTRODUCTION — HOMOGENEOUS HYDROGENATION

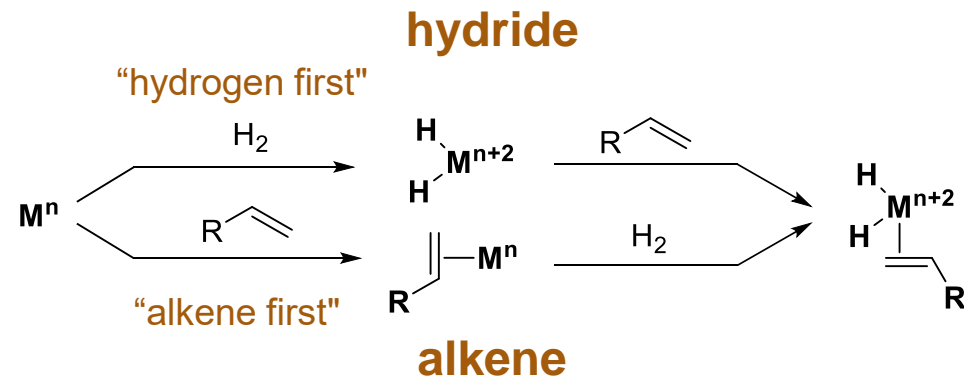
- 1965 Wilkinson
- Industrially common in its asymmetric form (e.g. drug synthesis)
- Asymmetric (Nobel 2001, Noyori + Knowles)



8.1 INTRODUCTION — HOMOGENEOUS HYDROGENATION

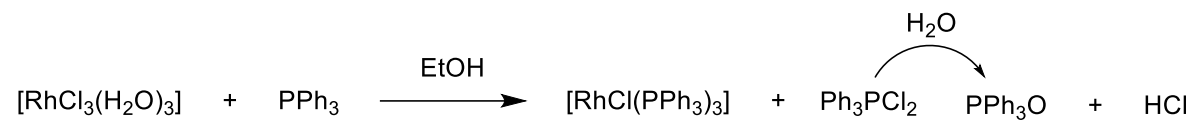


General Mechanisms

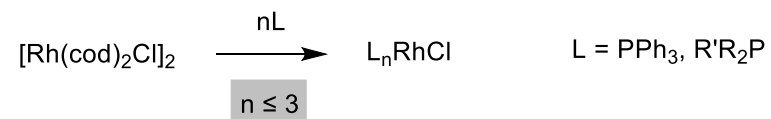




8.2.1 WILKINSON'S CATALYST - SYNTHESIS



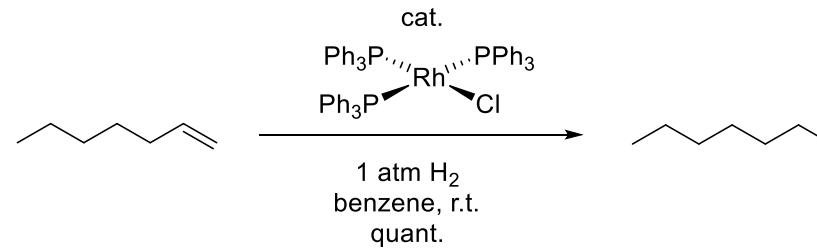
drawback: limited phosphine diversity



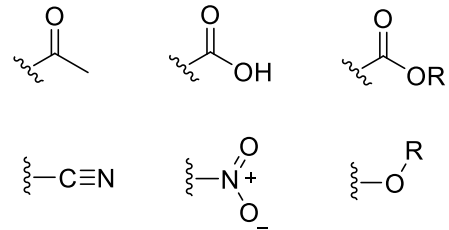
drawback: less direct



8.2.2 WILKINSON'S CATALYST - REACTIVITY



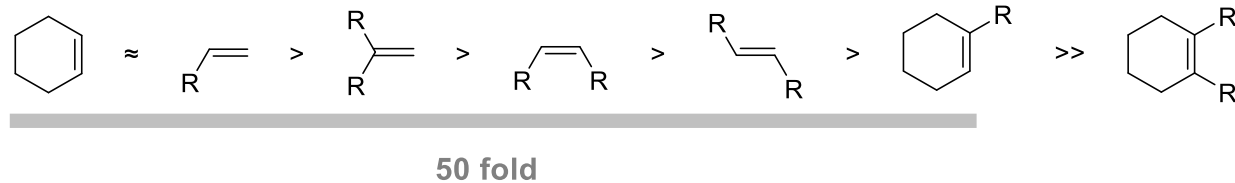
tolerated functional groups:



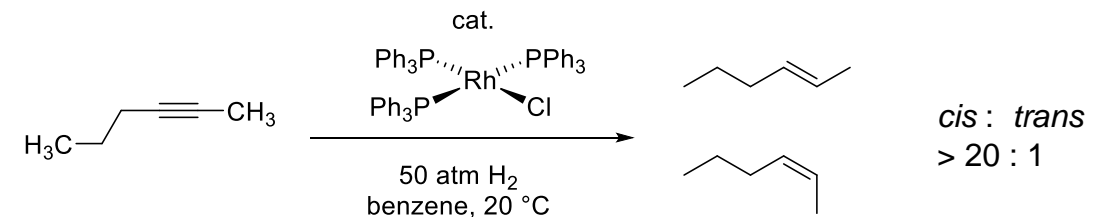
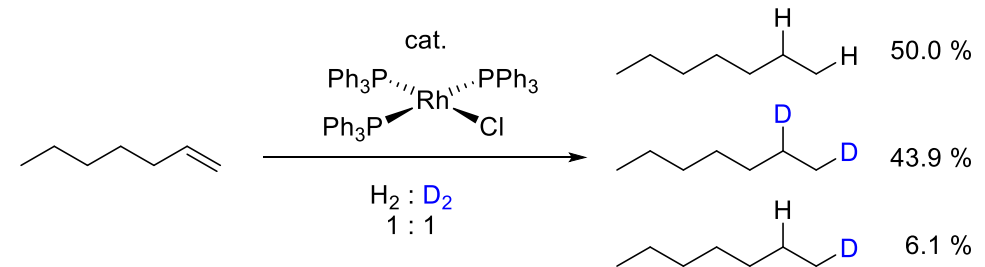
Wilkinson, *J. Chem. Soc. (A)* **1966**, 1711. DOI: [10.1039/J19660001711](https://doi.org/10.1039/J19660001711)



8.2.2 WILKINSON'S CATALYST - REACTIVITY



- cis selective
- ambient temperature, pressure
- in benzene with alcoholic co-solvents
- no H₂/D₂ scrambling

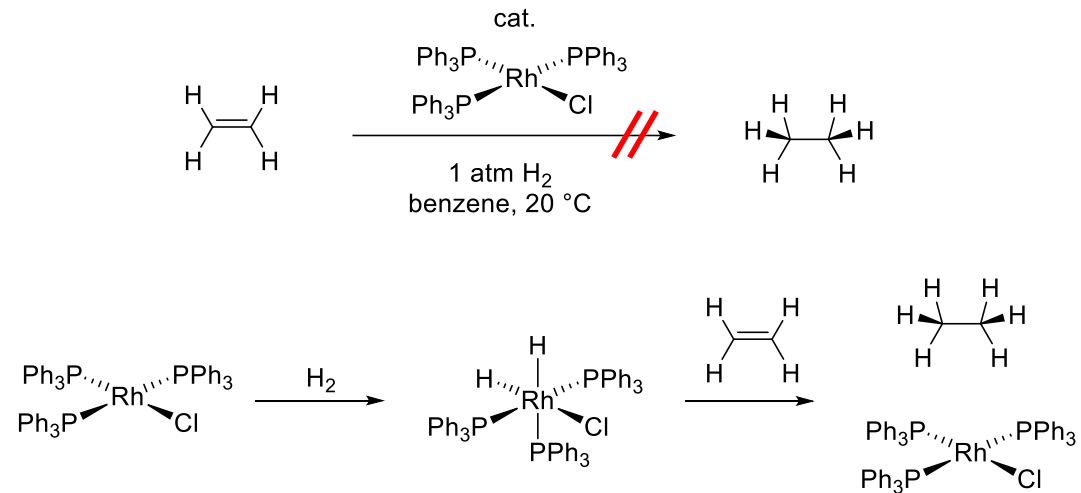


Wilkinson, *J. Chem. Soc. (A)* **1966**, 1711. DOI: [10.1039/J19660001711](https://doi.org/10.1039/J19660001711)



8.2.2 WILKINSON'S CATALYST - REACTIVITY

ethylene is not hydrogenated (likely forms a stable complex with Rh)

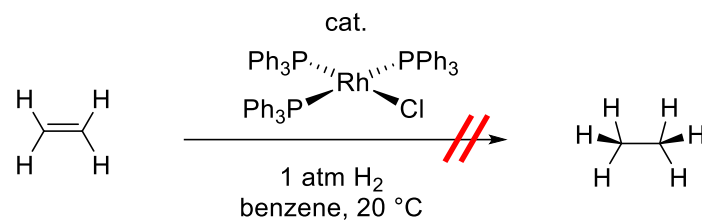


but it reacts stoichiometrically with preformed dihydride complex

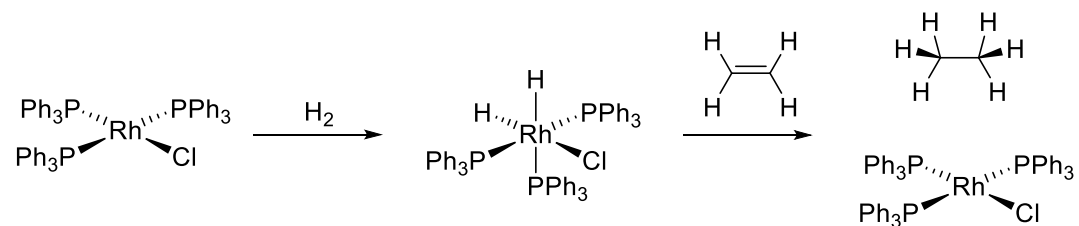
HYDROGENATION: WILKINSON'S CATALYST



ethylene is not hydrogenated



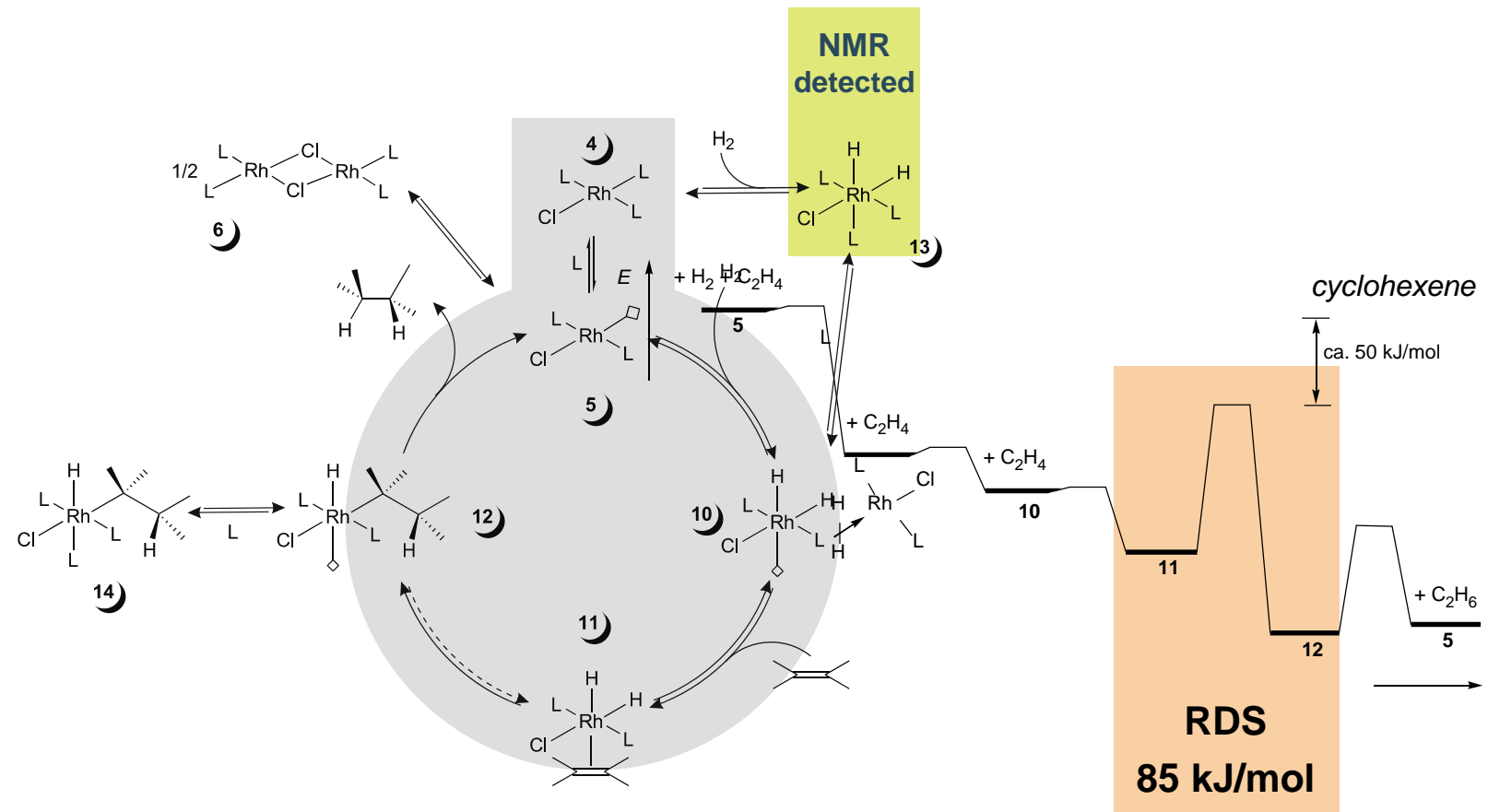
but...



ethylene reacts stoichiometrically
with preformed dihydride complex

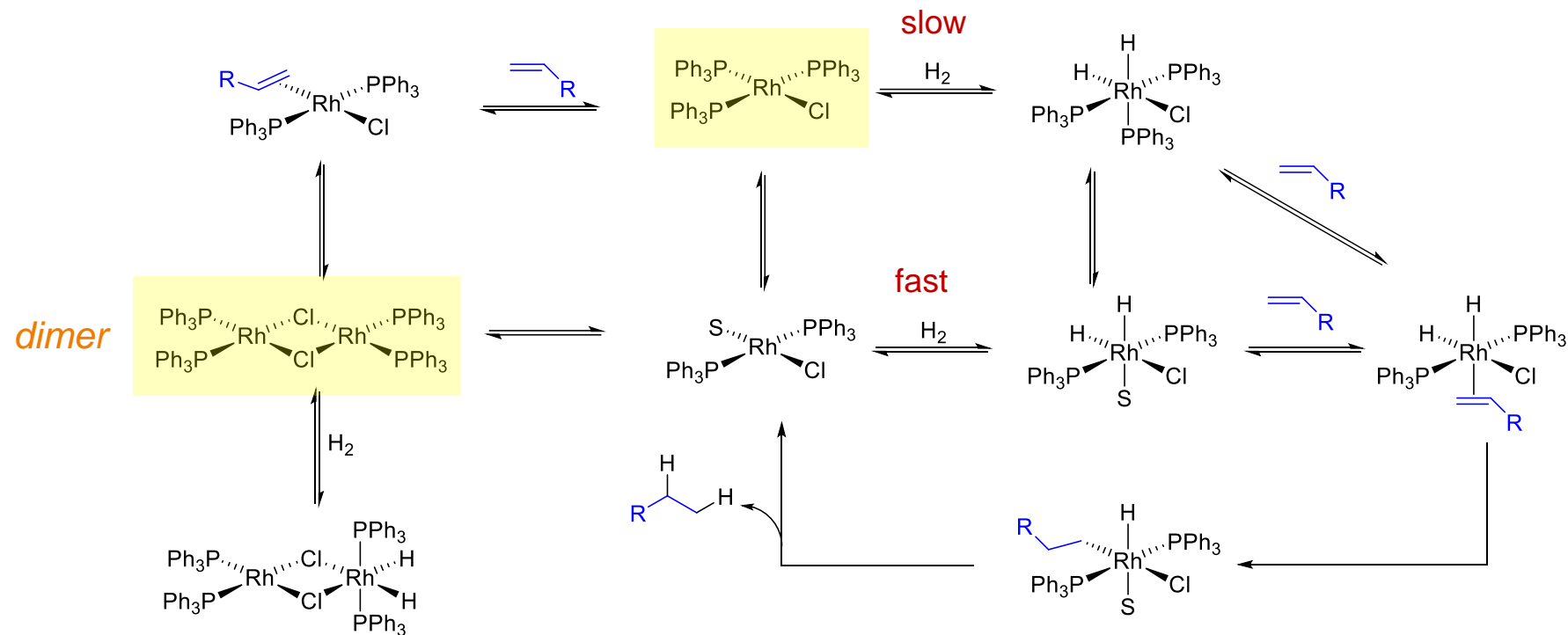


8.2.3 WILKINSON'S CATALYST – MECHANISM





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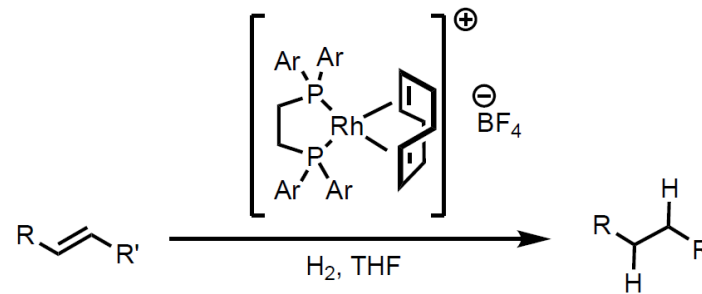
Halpern *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1981**, *50*, 11. DOI: [bndbhq](#)



8.3 SCHROCK – OSBORN, POD #1

Cationic Rh complex (1969-1976)

The Schrock–Osborn catalyst shown below is highly active for the hydrogenation of olefins. **Propose the active (on-cycle) catalyst in the transformation.**





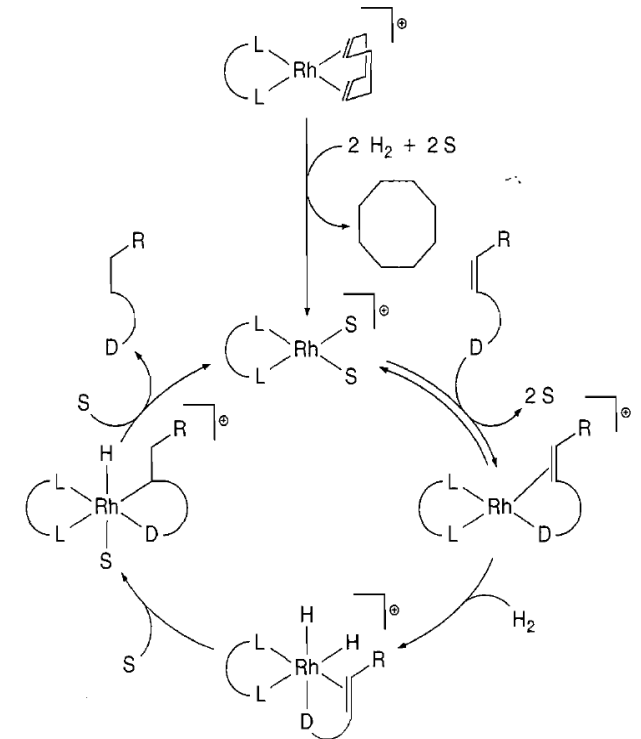
8.3.1 SCHROCK – OSBORN

Reactivity:

- Bidentate phosphines more reactive than monodentate
- Cationic Rh
- Intermediate $[\text{RhL}_2\text{S}_2]^+$ is acidic and can react with bases, H^+ needed

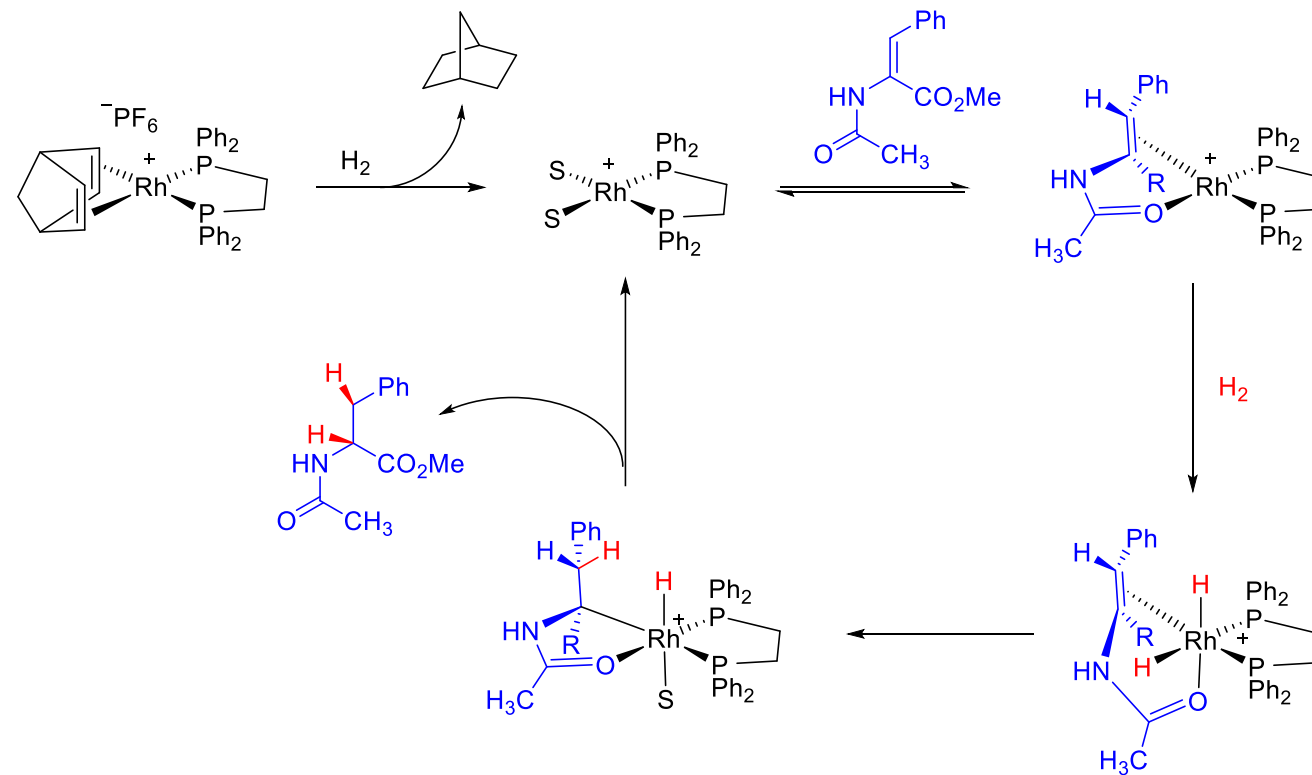
Mechanism

- Olefin first





8.3.2 SCHROCK – OSBORN – MECHANISM

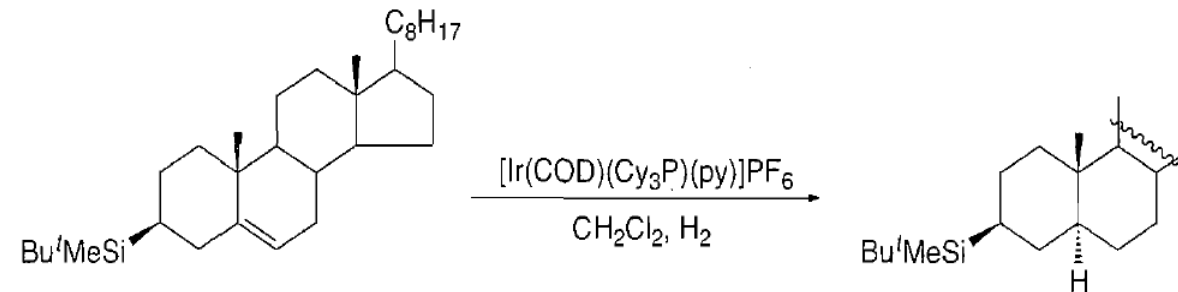
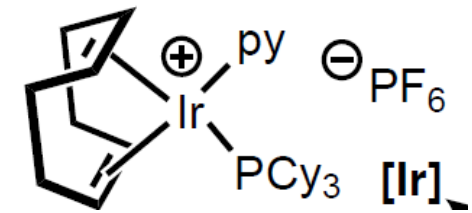


Halpern *Science* **1982**, 217, 401. DOI: [10.1126/science.217.4558.401](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.217.4558.401)



8.4.1 CRABTREE'S CATALYST

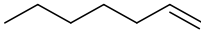

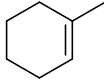
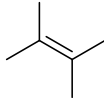
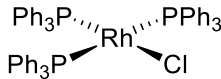
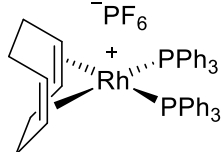
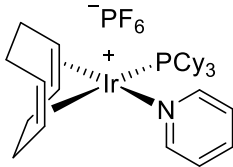
- 1977
- Non-coordinating solvents (CH_2Cl_2 vs. ROH Wilkinson)
- Most active hydrogenation catalyst known
- Active vs. hindered olefins



Crabtree, *Account Chem Res* **1979** 12, 9, 331. DOI: [10.1021/ar50141a005](https://doi.org/10.1021/ar50141a005)



8.4.1 CRABTREE'S CATALYST – REACTIVITY

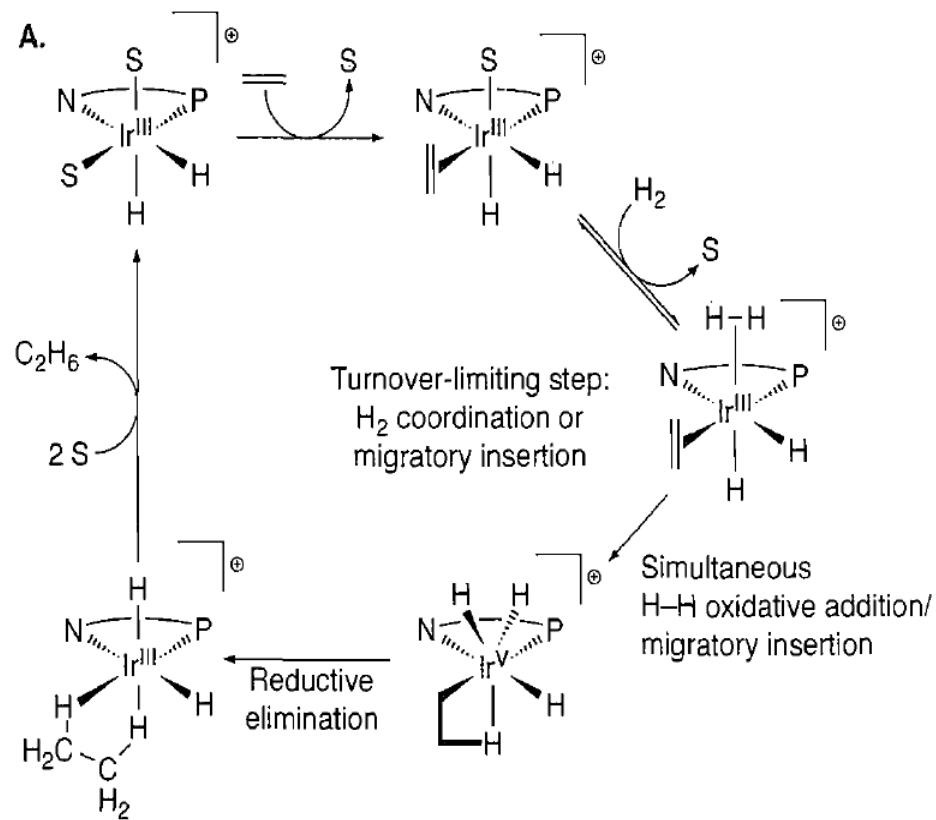
					
Wilkinson's catalyst		650	700	13	-
Schrock-Osborn catalyst		4000	10	-	-
Crabtree's catalyst		6400	4500	3800	4000

TOF / h⁻¹

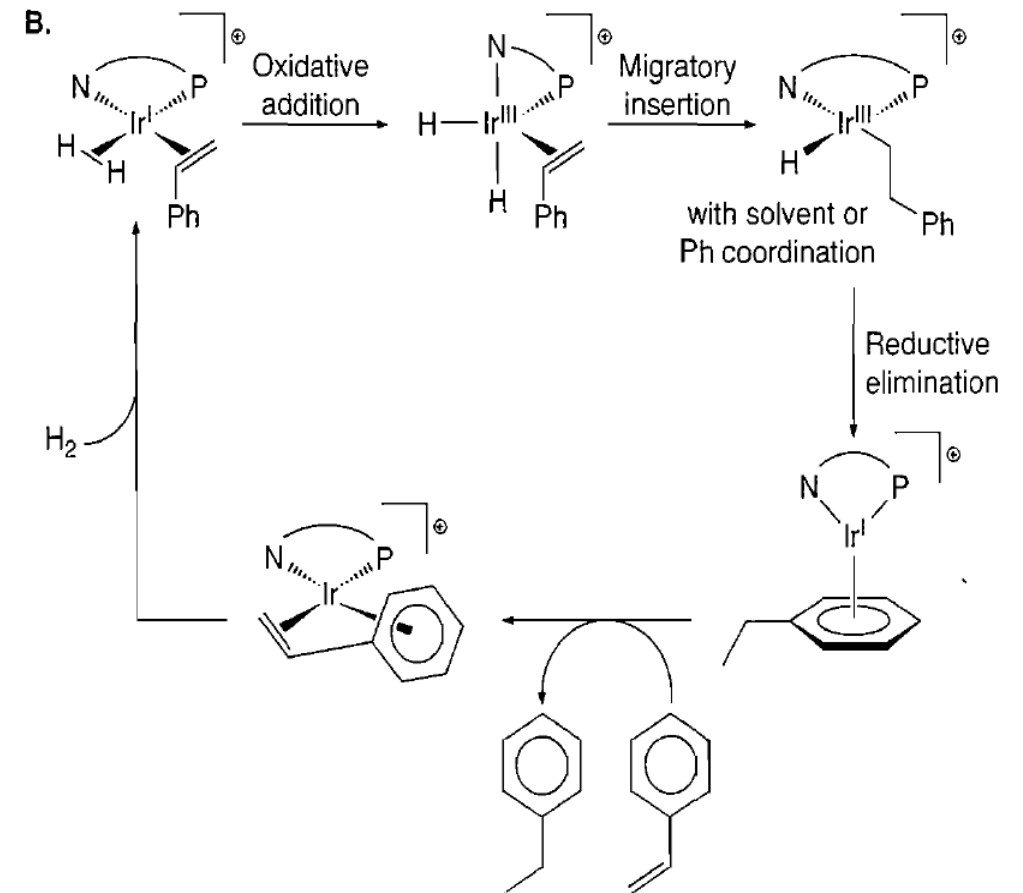
Crabtree *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1979**, *12*, 331



8.4.1 CRABTREE'S CATALYST – MECHANISTIC DEBATE



VS.

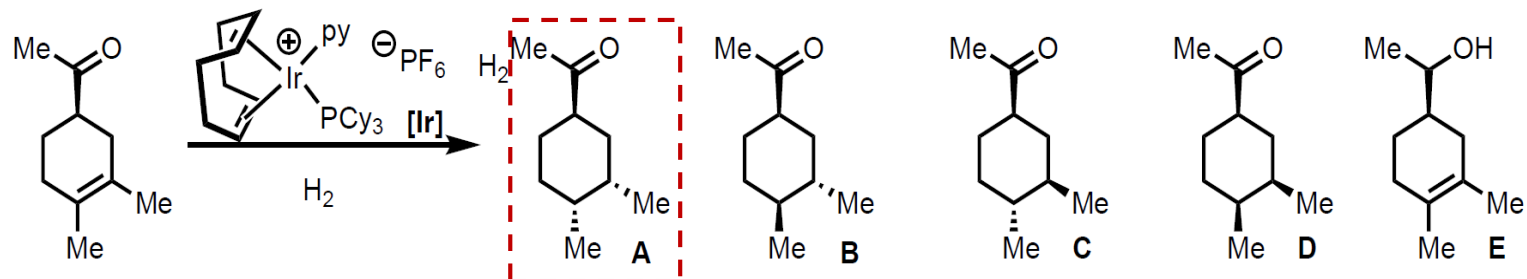




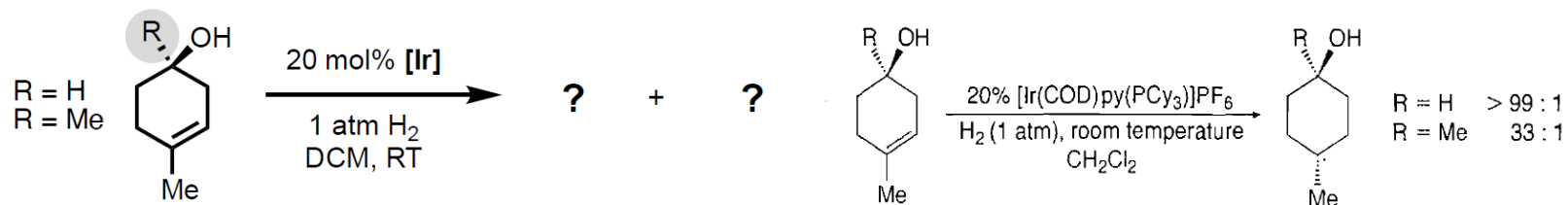
POD #2

Consider the following iridium-catalyzed hydrogenation reactions.

a) Predict the major product and propose an intermediate to rationalize your choice.



a) For each starting material, draw the two possible products, predict the major product, and discuss how the product distribution will change (moving from R = H to R = Me).

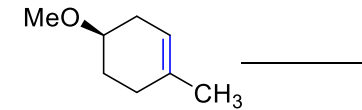
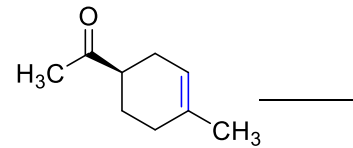
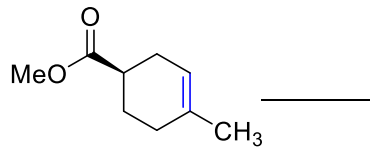
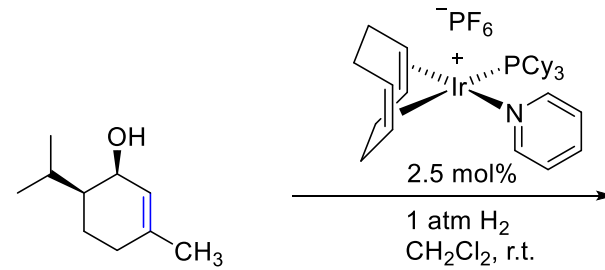


ACIE **1987** 26, 190. DOI: [10.1002/anie.198701901](https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.198701901)

JACS **1983** 105, 1072. DOI: [10.1021/ja00342a080](https://doi.org/10.1021/ja00342a080)



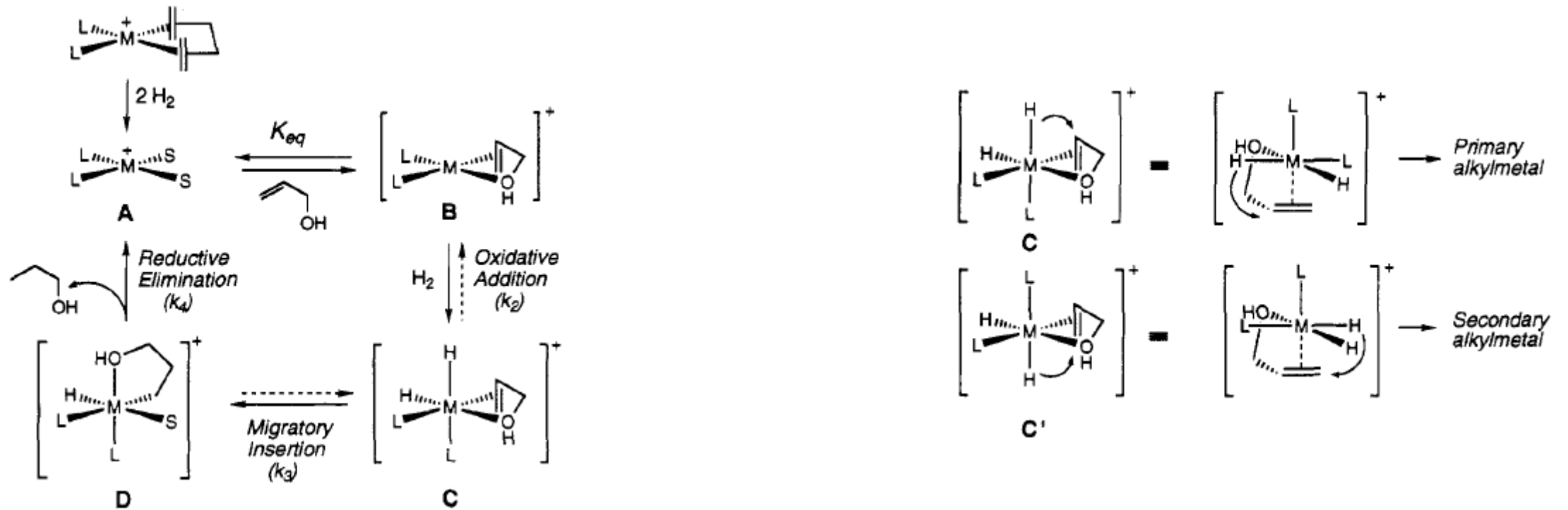
8.4.2 CRABTREE'S CATALYST – DIRECTED HYDROGENATION



Crabtree *JOC* **1986**, *51*, 2655



8.4.2 CRABTREE'S CATALYST – DIRECTED HYDROGENATION

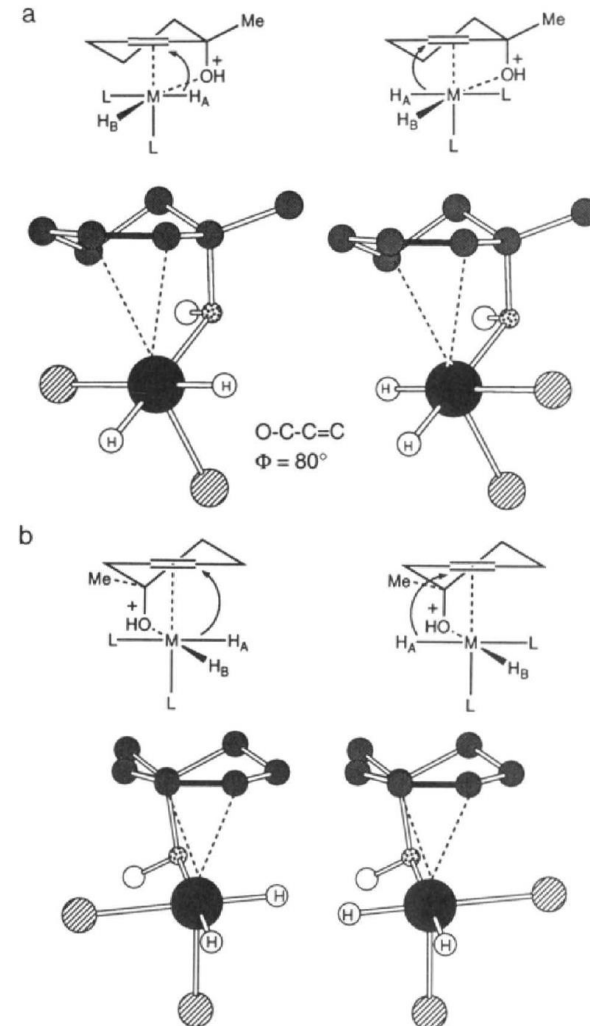
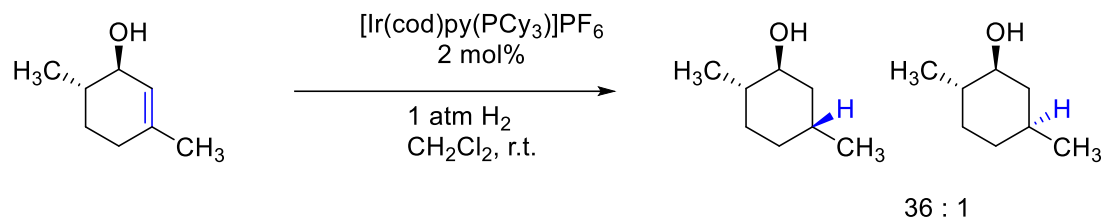
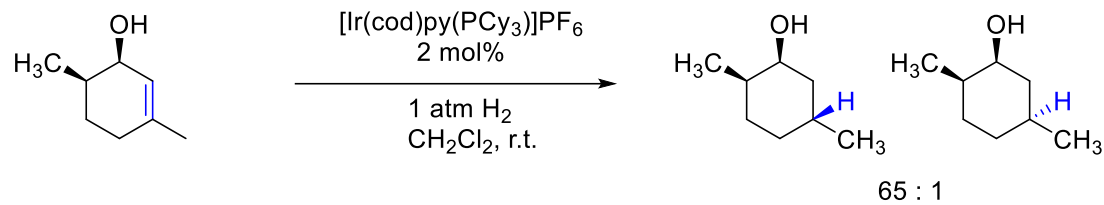
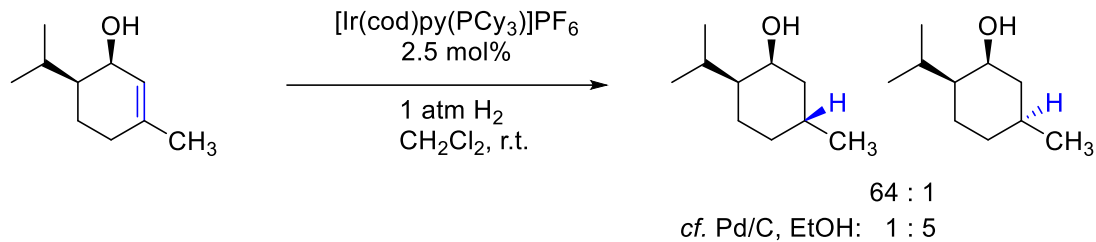


Evans *Chem Rev* **1993** 93, 4, 1307. DOI: [10.1021/cr00020a002](https://doi.org/10.1021/cr00020a002)



8.4.2 CRABTREE'S CATALYST – DIRECTED HYDROGENATION

Allylic alcohols
substituent proximal to DG -> low impact



Cyclic allylic alcohols

Cyclic homoallylic alcohols

Evans *Chem Rev* **1993** 93, 4, 1307. DOI: [10.1021/cr00020a002](https://doi.org/10.1021/cr00020a002)



8.4.2 CRABTREE'S CATALYST – DIRECTED HYDROGENATION

Entry	Substrate	Major Product	Mol %, Cat ^a	Selectivity
1			2, Ir ⁺ 2, Rh ⁺	>99 : 1 32 : 1
2			2, Ir ⁺ 2, Rh ⁺	41 : 1 7 : 1
3			5, Ir ⁺	1 : 1
4			5, Ir ⁺	1 : 1
5			2, Ir ⁺ 2, Rh ⁺	10 : 1 4 : 1
6			2, Ir ⁺ 2, Rh ⁺	7 : 1 1 : 1

^a Catalysts: [Rh(nbd)(diphos-4)]BF₄(Rh⁺); [Ir(cod)py-(PCY₃)]PF₆(Ir⁺). Reactions were run at 15 psi H₂.

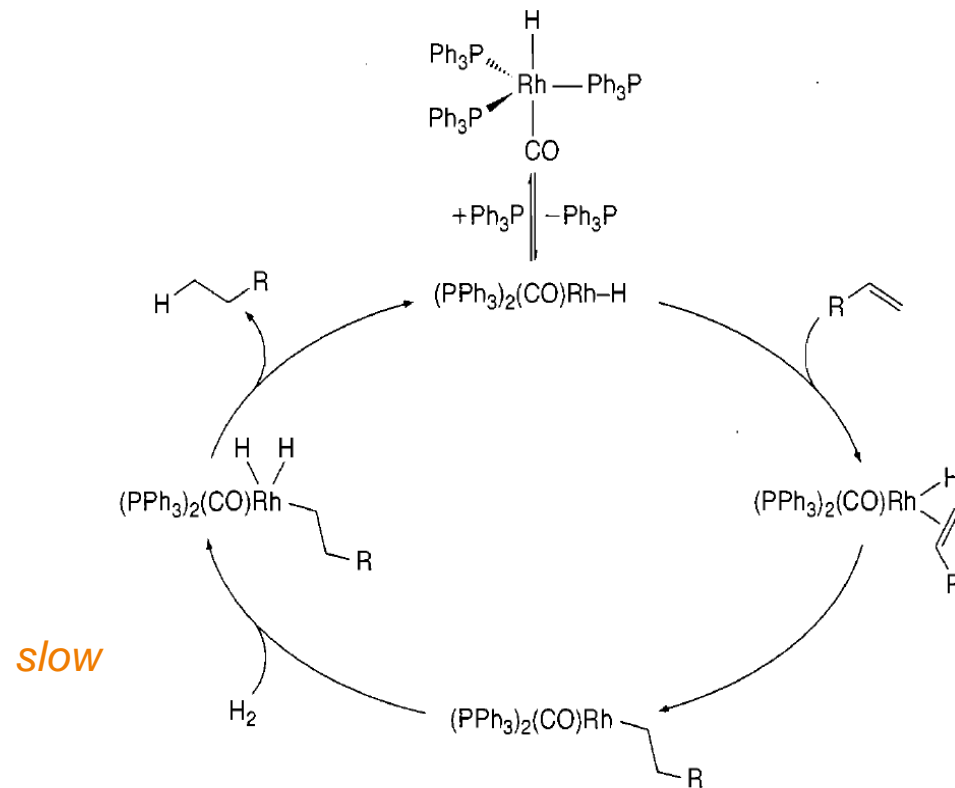
Evans *Chem Rev* **1993** 93, 4, 1307. DOI: [10.1021/cr00020a002](https://doi.org/10.1021/cr00020a002)

Entry	Substrate	Major Product	Mol %, Cat ^a	Selectivity
1			5, Ir ⁺	130 : 1
2			2, Ir ⁺ 2, Rh ⁺	41 : 1 7 : 1
4			5, Ir ⁺	1 : 1

- Amide better DG than esters



8.5.1 MONOHYDRIDE INTERMEDIATES – TERMINAL OLEFINS

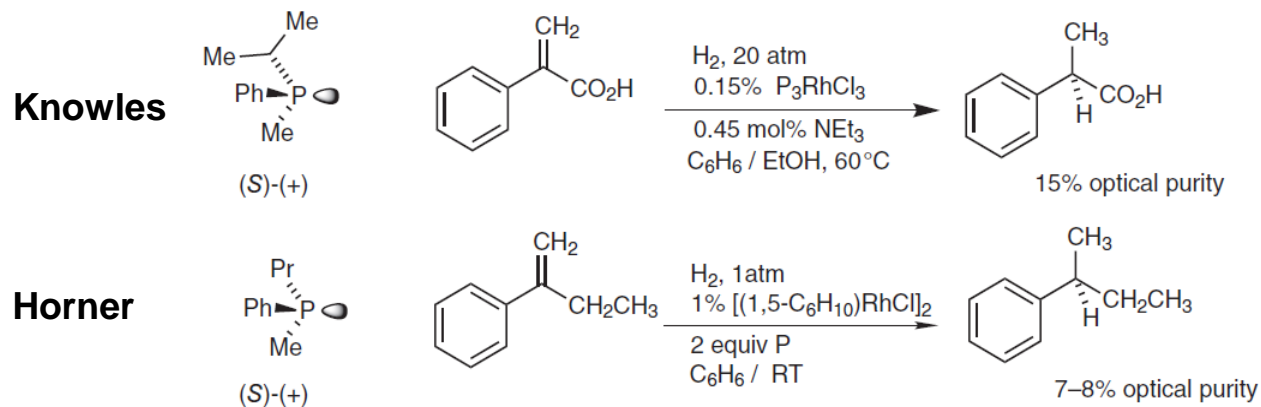


Origin of regioselectivity:

- Monohydride mechanism
(H₂ OA is slow, and 1,2migratory insertion reversible, with terminal alkyl-Rh favored due to sterics)
- CO ligand makes Rh more electrophilic
(thus agostic interactions -> more β-elimination -> isomerization as result of 1,2-migratory insertion + β-elimination)



8.6.1 ASYMMETRIC HOMOGENEOUS HYDROGENATION



“ATKINSON Did you consider the possibility of using a bi-phosphine, optically active?”

KNOWLES We’ve considered that very strongly. The main problem is that of synthetically making it”

at a 1970 conference

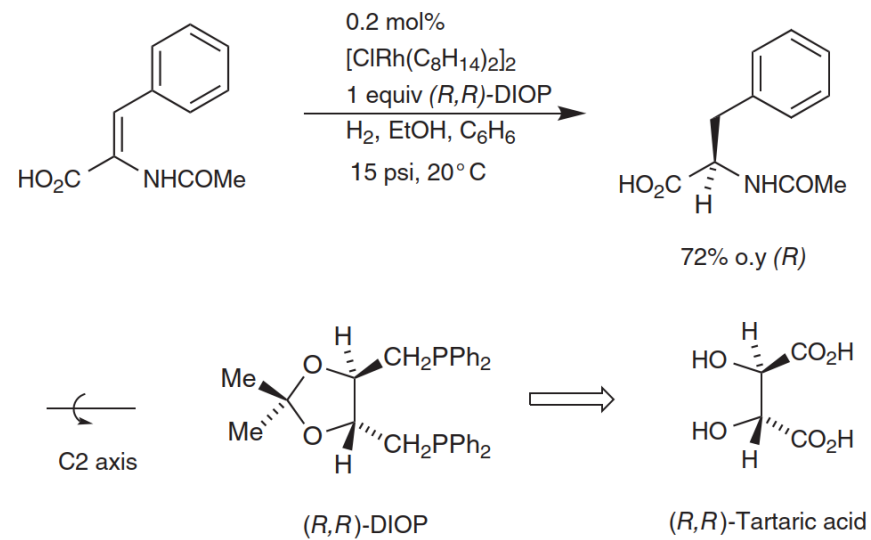
[As reported in: *Asymmetric Hydrogenation and Transfer Hydrogenation*, Wiley, 2021, p. 13]

Knowles, *Chem. Commun.*, **1968**, 22, 1445. DOI: [10.1039/C19680001445](https://doi.org/10.1039/C19680001445)

Horner, *ACIE*, **1968**, 7, 942. DOI: [10.1002/anie.196809422](https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.196809422)



8.6.2 DIOP: FIRST CHIRAL BIPHOSPHINE

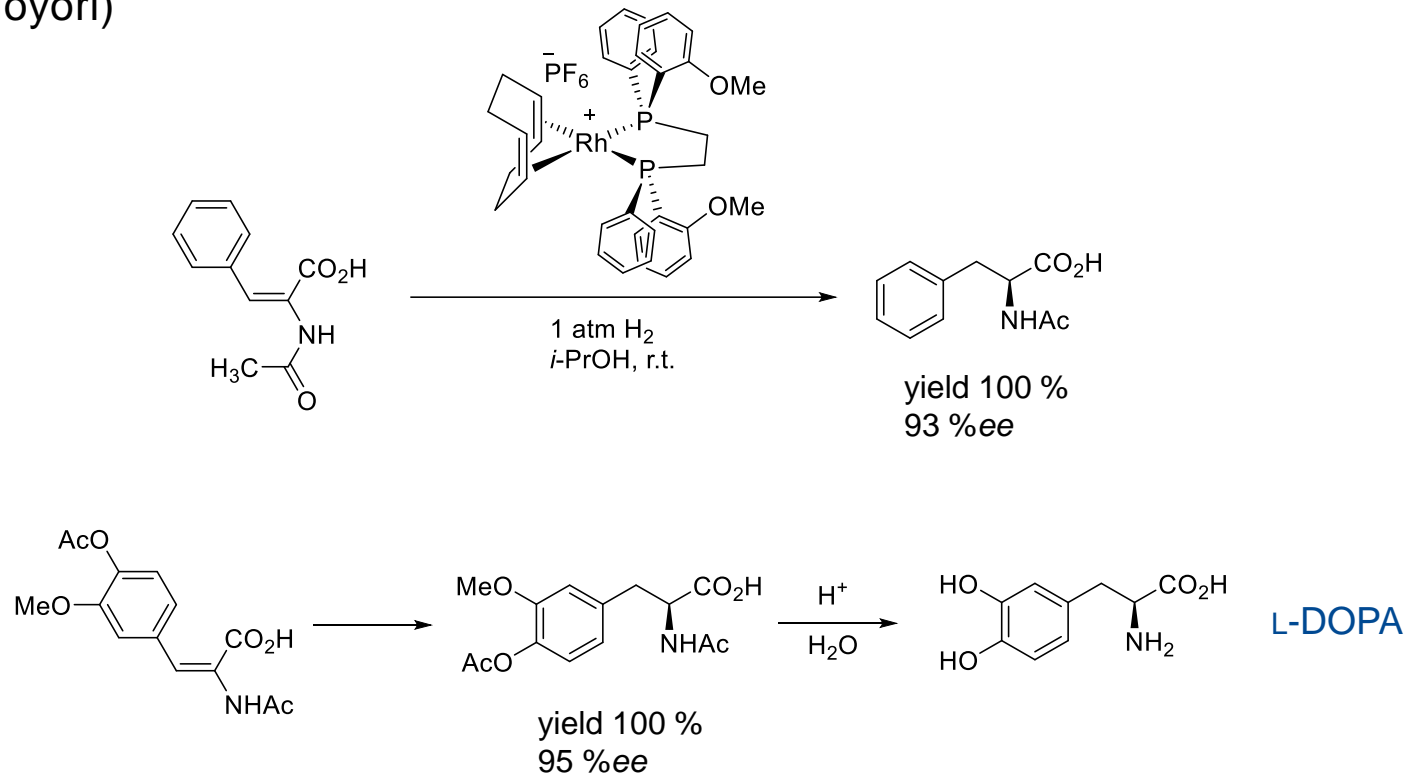


Dang and Kagan, *Chem. Commun.*, **1971**, 481. DOI: [10.1039/C29710000481](https://doi.org/10.1039/C29710000481)



8.6.6 ASYMMETRIC HYDROGENATION: KNOWLES

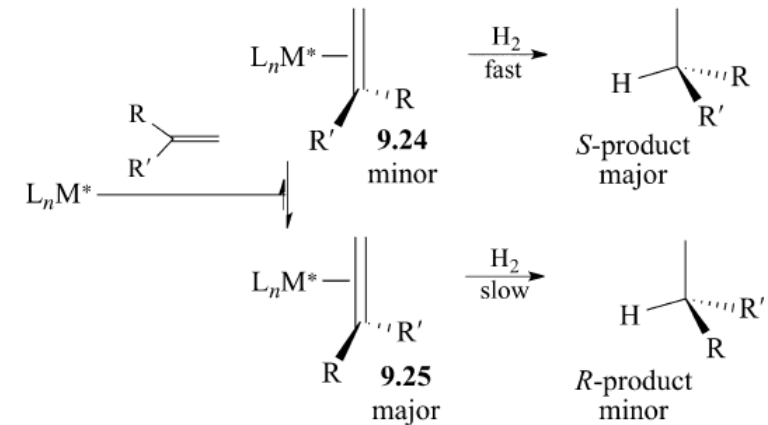
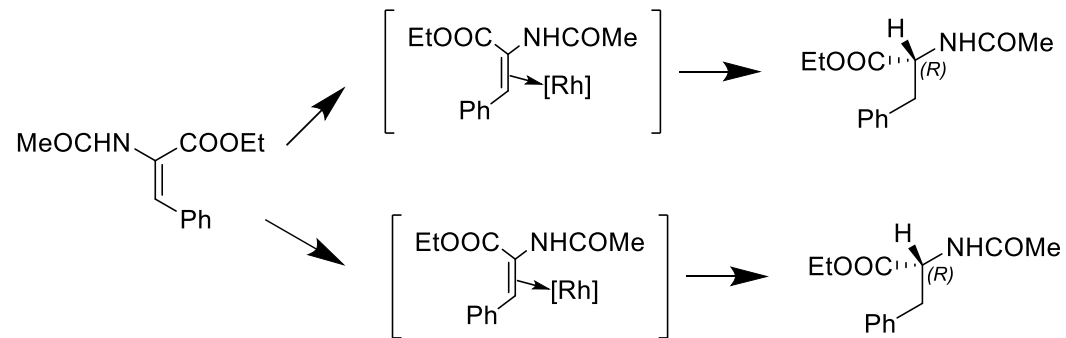
Nobel Prize 2001 (w/ Noyori)



Knowles *JACS* **1975** 97, 2567. DOI: [10.1021/ja00842a058](https://doi.org/10.1021/ja00842a058)
mechanism: Halpern *Science* **1982**, 217, 401. DOI: [10.1126/science.217.4558.401](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.217.4558.401)



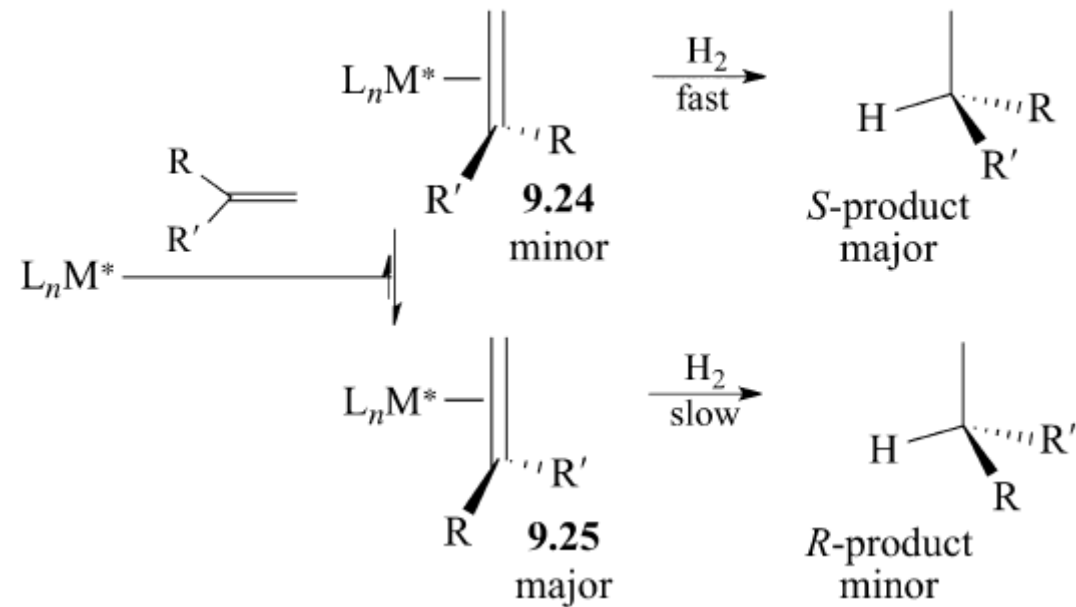
8.6.6 ASYMMETRIC HYDROGENATION: KNOWLES



Knowles *JACS* **1975** 97, 2567. DOI: [10.1021/ja00842a058](https://doi.org/10.1021/ja00842a058)
mechanism: Halpern *Science* **1982**, 217, 401. DOI: [10.1126/science.217.4558.401](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.217.4558.401)

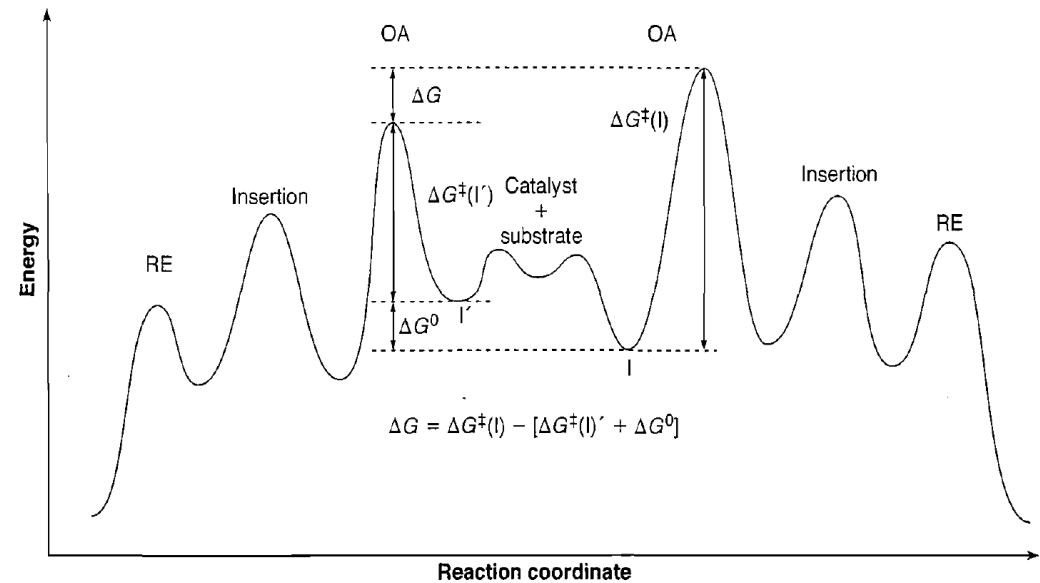
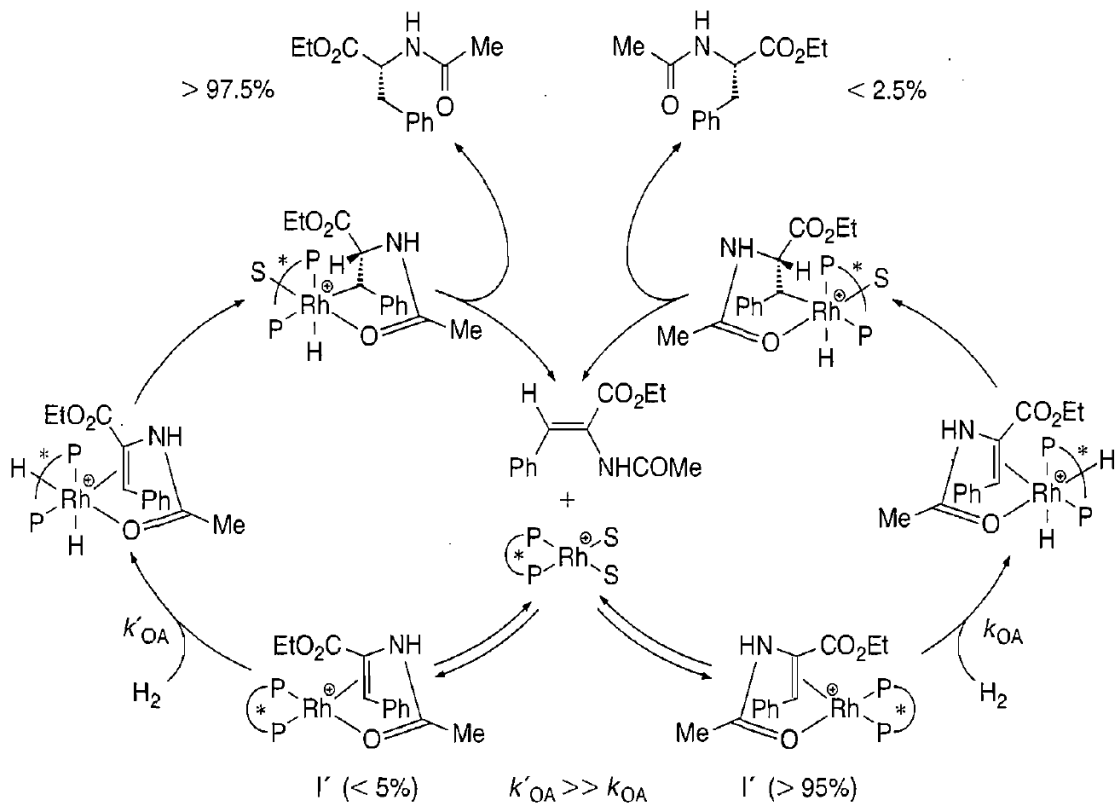


8.6.6 ASYMMETRIC HYDROGENATION: KNOWLES





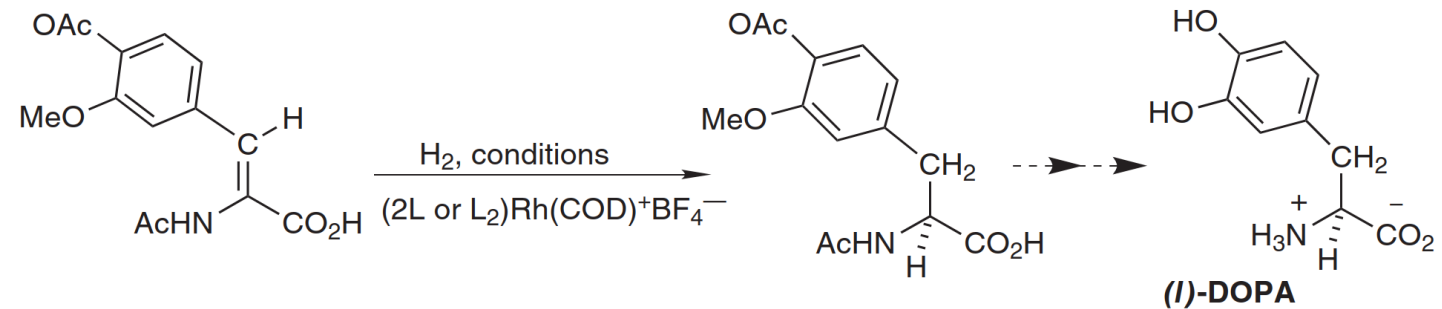
8.6.6 ASYMMETRIC HYDROGENATION: KNOWLES



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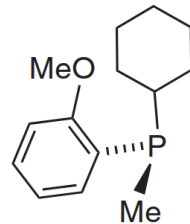


8.6.3 APPLICATION IN L-DOPA SYNTHESIS



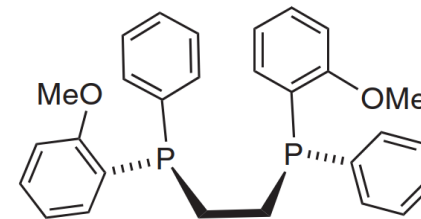
Monodentate CAMP

Cyclohexyl *o*-anisyl
methylphosphine



I (R)-CAMP

H₂, 10 psi., 0.03% cat., 50 °C,
i-PrOH, **88% o.p.**



L₂, (R,R)-DIPAMP

H₂, 60 psi., 0.05% cat., 4 h.
88% *i*-PrOH, **94% o.p.**

**Bidentate
DIPAMP
(dimerized CAMP)**

Phenyl *o*-anisyl
methylphosphine

Dang and Kagan, *Chem. Commun.*, **1971**, 481. DOI: [10.1039/C29710000481](https://doi.org/10.1039/C29710000481)