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***Activating Acids with Bases: Theory and Applications***  
***An Homage to G. N. Lewis***

Ischia Advanced School  
of Organic Chemistry 2006  
Ischia, Italy

19-23 September 2006

QuickTime™ and a  
Photo - JPEG decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

G. N. Lewis (1875-1946)

# (Asymmetric) Catalysis: The Chemical Evergreen

reagents

Periodic Table of the Elements

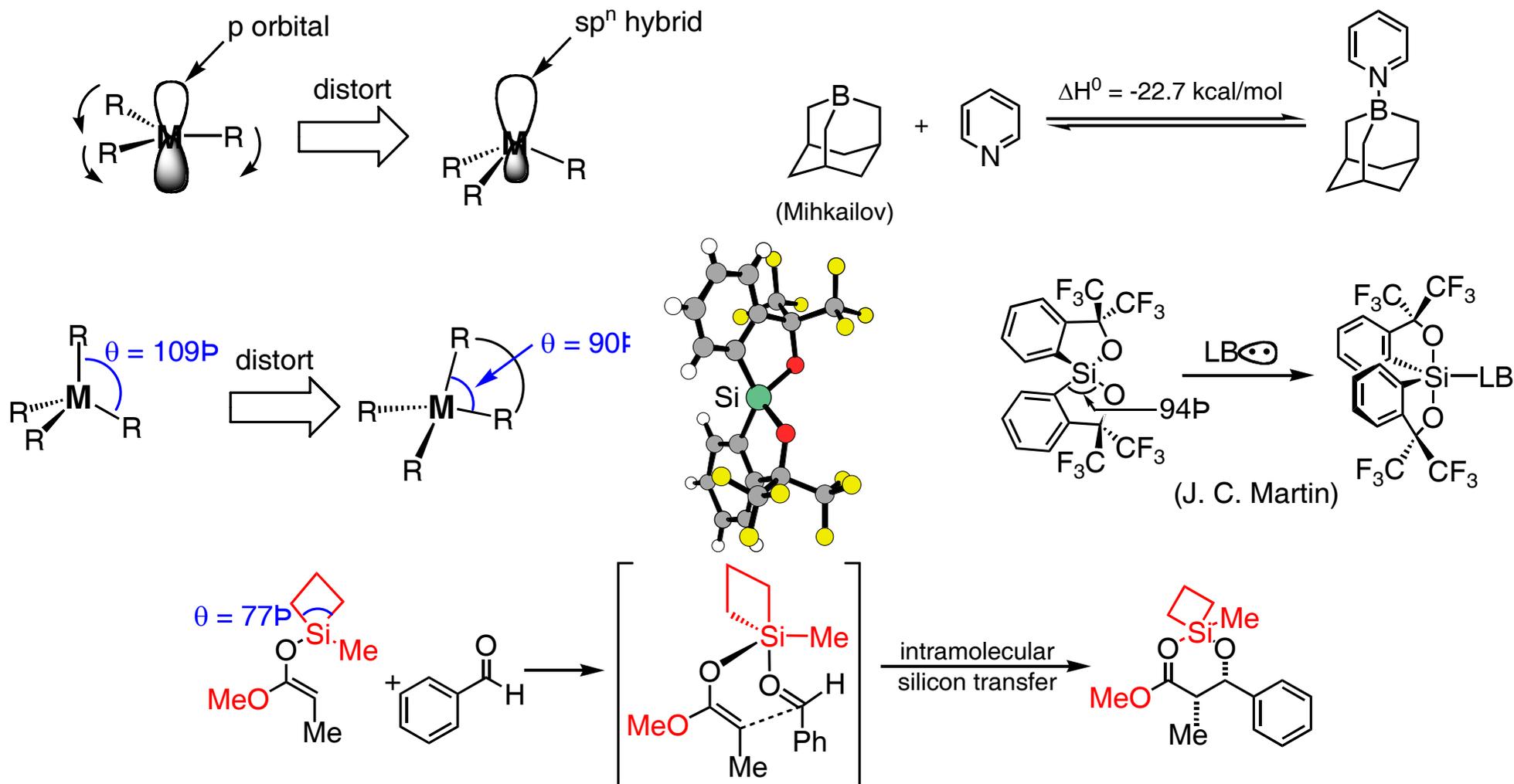
1A	2A	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	11B	12B	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
1 <b>H</b> hydrogen 1.008	4 <b>Be</b> beryllium 9.012	21 <b>Sc</b> scandium 44.96	22 <b>Ti</b> titanium 47.88	23 <b>V</b> vanadium 50.94	24 <b>Cr</b> chromium 52.00	25 <b>Mn</b> manganese 54.94	26 <b>Fe</b> iron 55.85	27 <b>Co</b> cobalt 58.93	28 <b>Ni</b> nickel 58.69	29 <b>Cu</b> copper 63.55	30 <b>Zn</b> zinc 65.39	31 <b>Ga</b> gallium 69.72	32 <b>Ge</b> germanium 72.58	33 <b>As</b> arsenic 74.92	34 <b>Se</b> selenium 78.96	35 <b>Br</b> bromine 79.90	36 <b>Kr</b> krypton 83.80																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
3 <b>Li</b> lithium 6.941	11 <b>Na</b> sodium 22.99	19 <b>K</b> potassium 39.10	37 <b>Rb</b> rubidium 85.47	55 <b>Cs</b> cesium 132.9	87 <b>Fr</b> francium (223)	101 <b>La*</b> lanthanum 138.9	102 <b>Ce</b> cerium 140.1	103 <b>Pr</b> praseodymium 140.9	104 <b>Nd</b> neodymium 144.2	105 <b>Pm</b> promethium (147)	106 <b>Sm</b> samarium (150.4)	107 <b>Eu</b> europium 152.0	108 <b>Gd</b> gadolinium 157.3	109 <b>Tb</b> terbium 158.9	110 <b>Dy</b> dysprosium 162.5	111 <b>Ho</b> holmium 164.9	112 <b>Er</b> erbium 167.3	113 <b>Tm</b> thulium 168.9	114 <b>Yb</b> ytterbium 173.0	115 <b>Lu</b> lutetium 175.0																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
12 <b>Mg</b> magnesium 24.31	20 <b>Ca</b> calcium 40.08	38 <b>Sr</b> strontium 87.62	56 <b>Ba</b> barium 137.3	88 <b>Ra</b> radium (226)	103 <b>Ac~</b> actinium (227)	104 <b>Rf</b> rutherfordium (261)	105 <b>Db</b> dubnium (262)	106 <b>Sg</b> seaborgium (263)	107 <b>Bh</b> bohrium (264)	108 <b>Hs</b> hassium (265)	109 <b>Mt</b> meitnerium (266)	110 <b>Ds</b> darmstadtium (271)	111 <b>Uuu</b> unnilium (272)	112 <b>Uub</b> ununium (277)	113 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	114 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	115 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	116 <b>Uun</b> ununium (298)	117 <b>Uun</b> ununium (298)	118 <b>Uuo</b> ununoctium (?)																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
		13 <b>Al</b> aluminum 26.98	14 <b>Si</b> silicon 28.09	15 <b>P</b> phosphorus 30.97	16 <b>S</b> sulfur 32.07	17 <b>Cl</b> chlorine 35.45	18 <b>Ar</b> argon 39.95	47 <b>Ag</b> silver 107.9	48 <b>Cd</b> cadmium 112.4	49 <b>In</b> indium 114.8	50 <b>Sn</b> tin 118.7	51 <b>Sb</b> antimony 121.8	52 <b>Te</b> tellurium 127.6	53 <b>I</b> iodine 126.9	54 <b>Xe</b> xenon 131.3																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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		39 <b>Y</b> yttrium 88.91	40 <b>Zr</b> zirconium 91.22	41 <b>Nb</b> niobium 92.91	42 <b>Mo</b> molybdenum 95.94	43 <b>Tc</b> technetium (98)	44 <b>Ru</b> ruthenium 101.1	45 <b>Rh</b> rhodium 102.9	46 <b>Pd</b> palladium 106.4	47 <b>Ag</b> silver 107.9	48 <b>Cd</b> cadmium 112.4	49 <b>In</b> indium 114.8	50 <b>Sn</b> tin 118.7	51 <b>Sb</b> antimony 121.8	52 <b>Te</b> tellurium 127.6	53 <b>I</b> iodine 126.9	54 <b>Xe</b> xenon 131.3	79 <b>Au</b> gold 197.0	80 <b>Hg</b> mercury 200.5	81 <b>Tl</b> thallium 204.4	82 <b>Pb</b> lead 207.2	83 <b>Bi</b> bismuth 208.9	84 <b>Po</b> polonium (209)	85 <b>At</b> astatine (210)	86 <b>Rn</b> radon (222)																																																																																																																																																																																																																
		57 <b>La*</b> lanthanum 138.9	72 <b>Hf</b> hafnium 178.5	73 <b>Ta</b> tantalum 180.9	74 <b>W</b> tungsten 183.9	75 <b>Re</b> rhenium 186.2	76 <b>Os</b> osmium 190.2	77 <b>Ir</b> iridium 192.2	78 <b>Pt</b> platinum 195.1	79 <b>Au</b> gold 197.0	80 <b>Hg</b> mercury 200.5	81 <b>Tl</b> thallium 204.4	82 <b>Pb</b> lead 207.2	83 <b>Bi</b> bismuth 208.9	84 <b>Po</b> polonium (209)	85 <b>At</b> astatine (210)	86 <b>Rn</b> radon (222)	107 <b>Bh</b> bohrium (264)	108 <b>Hs</b> hassium (265)	109 <b>Mt</b> meitnerium (266)	110 <b>Ds</b> darmstadtium (271)	111 <b>Uuu</b> unnilium (272)	112 <b>Uub</b> ununium (277)	113 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	114 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	115 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	116 <b>Uun</b> ununium (298)	117 <b>Uun</b> ununium (298)	118 <b>Uuo</b> ununoctium (?)																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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(296)	137 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	138 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	139 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	140 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	141 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	142 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	143 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	144 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	145 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	146 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	147 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	148 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	149 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	150 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	151 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	152 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	153 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	154 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	155 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	156 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	157 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	158 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	159 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	160 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	161 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	162 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	163 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	164 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	165 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	166 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	167 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	168 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	169 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	170 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	171 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	172 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	173 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	174 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	175 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	176 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	177 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	178 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	179 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	180 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	181 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	182 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	183 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	184 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	185 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	186 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	187 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	188 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	189 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	190 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	191 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	192 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	193 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	194 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	195 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	196 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	197 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	198 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	199 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	200 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	201 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	202 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	203 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	204 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	205 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	206 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	207 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	208 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	209 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	210 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	211 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	212 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	213 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	214 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	215 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	216 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	217 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	218 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	219 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	220 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	221 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	222 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	223 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	224 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	225 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	226 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	227 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	228 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	229 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	230 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	231 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	232 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	233 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	234 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	235 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	236 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	237 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	238 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	239 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	240 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	241 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	242 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	243 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	244 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	245 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	246 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	247 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	248 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	249 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	250 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	251 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	252 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	253 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	254 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	255 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	256 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	257 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	258 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	259 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	260 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	261 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	262 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	263 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	264 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	265 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	266 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	267 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	268 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	269 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	270 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	271 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	272 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	273 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	274 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	275 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	276 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	277 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	278 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	279 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	280 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	281 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	282 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	283 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	284 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	285 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	286 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	287 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	288 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	289 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	290 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	291 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	292 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	293 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	294 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	295 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	296 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	297 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	298 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	299 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	300 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	301 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	302 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	303 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	304 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	305 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	306 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	307 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	308 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	309 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	310 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	311 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	312 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	313 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	314 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	315 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	316 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	317 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	318 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	319 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	320 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	321 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	322 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	323 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	324 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	325 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	326 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	327 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	328 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	329 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	330 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	331 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	332 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	333 <b>Uuq</b> ununium (296)	

## *Opportunities for Catalysis in the Main Group?*

- Lewis Acidity:
  - B(+3), Al(+3), Ga(+3), In(+3)
  - Si(+4), Sn(+2, +4), Pb(+4)
  - P(+5), Sb(+3, +5), Bi(+3, +5)
  - O(+2), S(+2, +4, +6), Se(+2, +4, +6), Te(+2, +4, +6)
  - F(+1), Cl(+1, +3, +5, +7), Br(+1, +3, +5, +7), I(+1, +3, +5, +7)
- Catalyzed Chemical Processes
  - Carbonyl addition reactions (aldol, allylation, ene)
  - Acetal addition reactions
  - Friedel-Crafts reactions
  - Conjugate addition reactions
  - Azomethine addition reactions
  - Epoxide opening reactions
  - Cycloadditions ([4+2], hetero [4+2], [3+2]), Electrocyclic reactions
  - Sigmatropic (and other) rearrangements

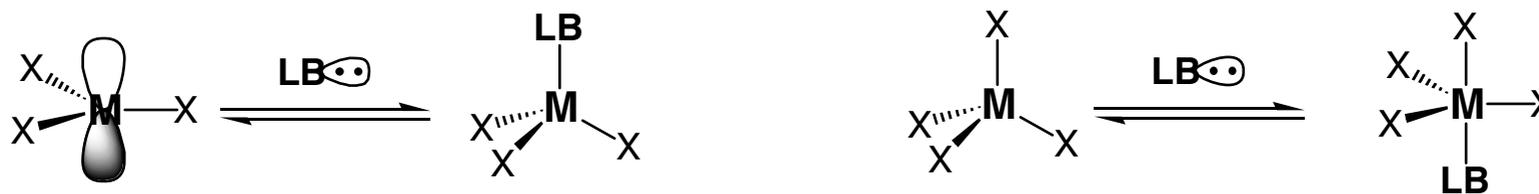
# Strategies for Modulating Lewis Acidity: *Structural*

structural perturbations (“strain-release Lewis acidity”)



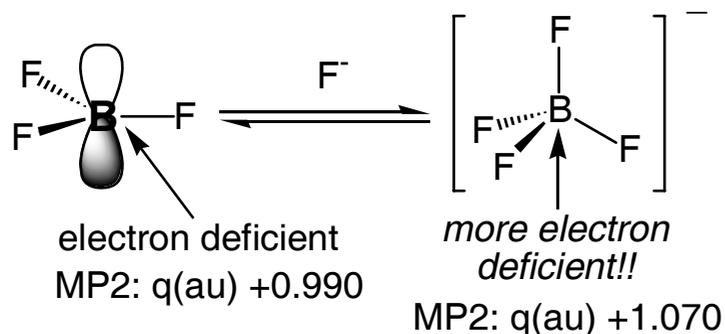
# Strategies for Modulating Lewis Acidity: *Electronic*

## electronic perturbations (electrophilic)



Binding equilibrium becomes more favorable as electron deficiency at **M** increases:  $X = \text{NR}_2 < \text{OR} < \text{halide} < \text{TfO} \sim \text{Tf}_2\text{N}$

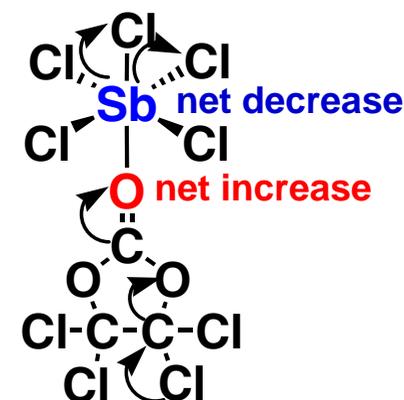
## electronic perturbations (nucleophilic?)



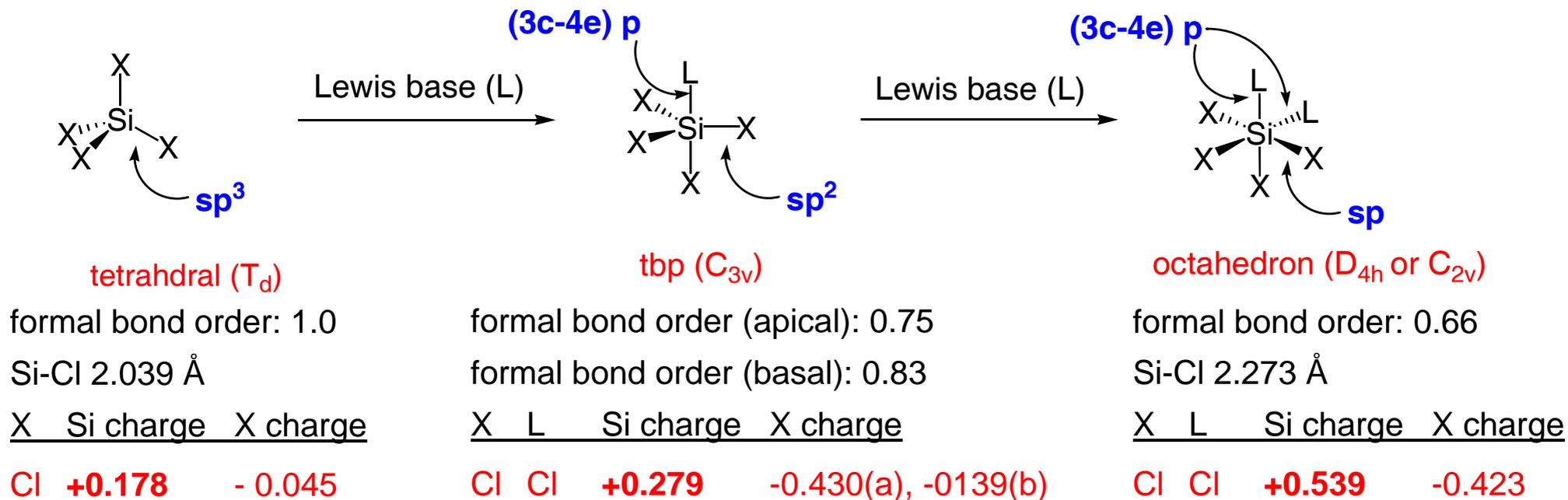
C. Cramer, private communication

## Gutmann's Fourth Rule "spillover effect"

"...although a donor-acceptor interaction will result in a net transfer of electron density from a donor species to an acceptor species, it will, in the case of polyatomic species, actually lead to a net **increase** of electron density at the donor atom of the donor species and to a net **decrease** of electron density at the acceptor atom of the acceptor species."

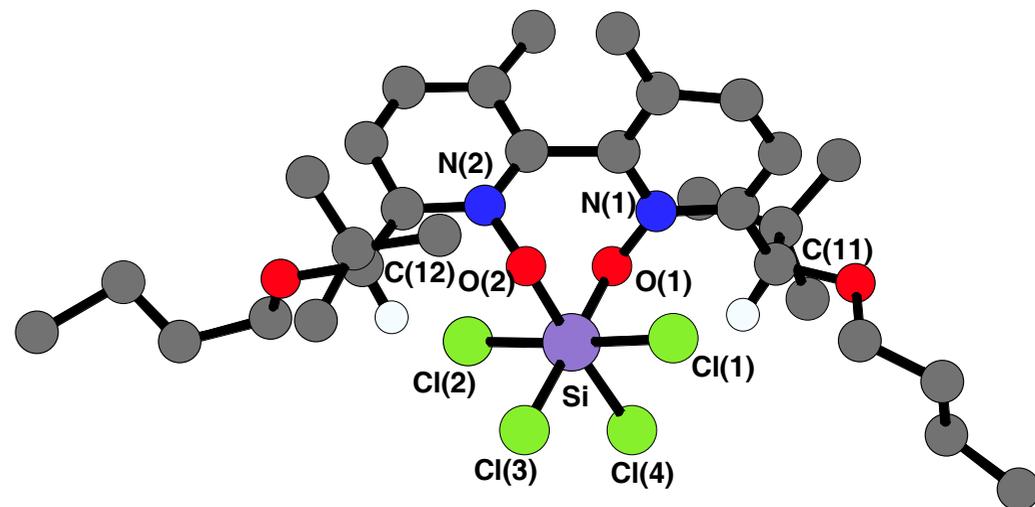
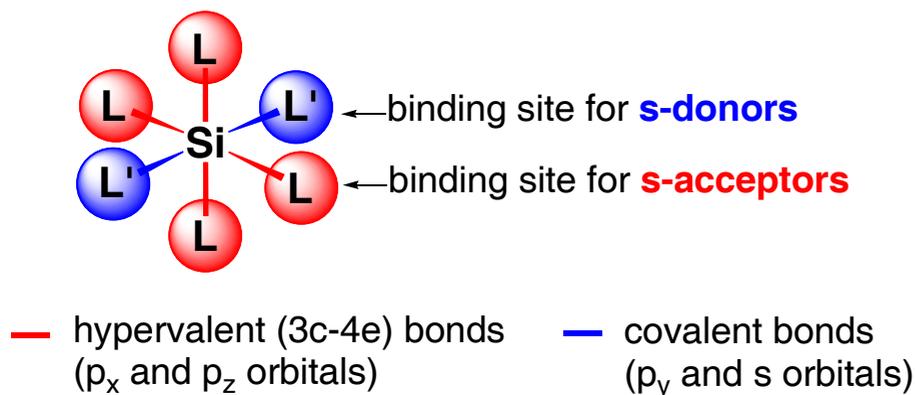
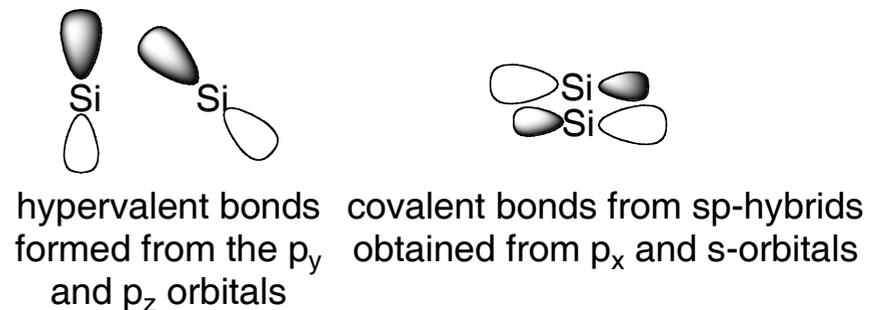
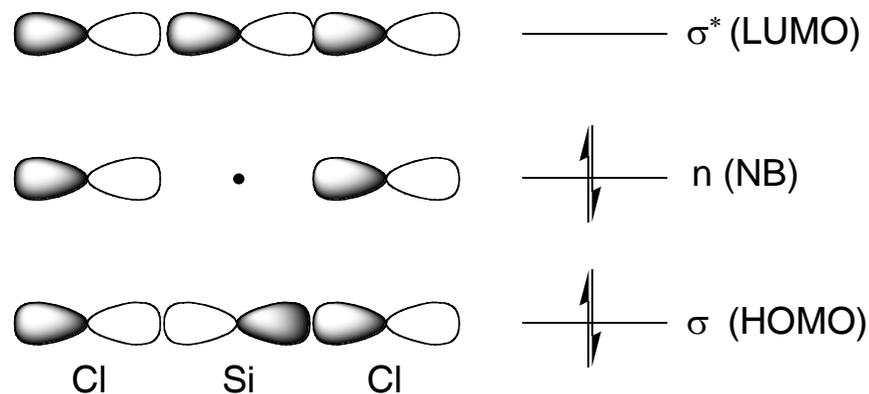


# Structure, Bonding and Charge Distribution in Hypercoordinate Silicon Compounds



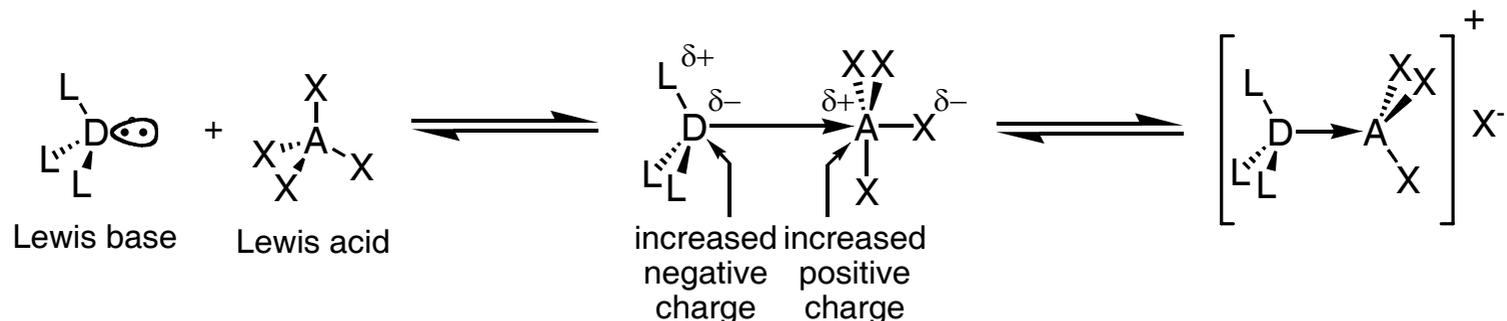
1. Coordination by both neutral and anionic ligands results in a **decrease** in the electron density at the central silicon atom and an **increase** in electron density on the ligands.
2. Hypervalent bonding is highly ionic in character and dissociation can be facile.
3. Hypervalent bonds favor electronegative ligands, sp bonds favor electropositive ligands

# The Hypervalent 3-Center/4 Electron Bond

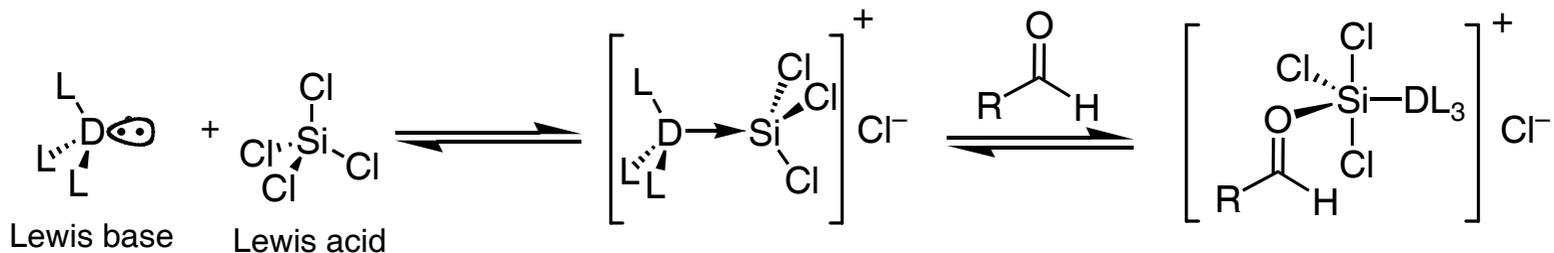


Si-Cl(1)/Cl(2): 2.180 Å  
 Si-Cl(3)/Cl(4): 2.197 Å

## Lewis Base Activation of Lewis Acids



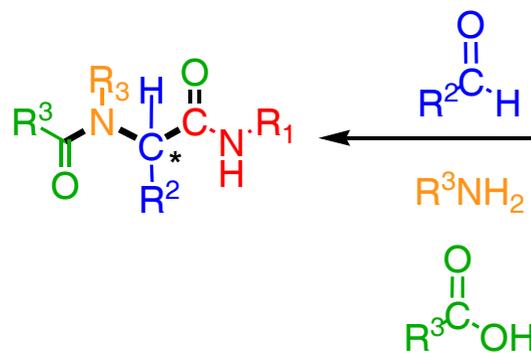
- The kinetically significant (strong) Lewis acid is generated only in the presence of the Lewis base thus negating the achiral background reaction.
- Reactions can be run with a stoichiometric amount of the weak Lewis acid
  - Increased rates
  - Product inhibition is minimized



Other electrophiles: enals, enones, azomethines, epoxides, nitrones, nitroalkenes  
 Pro Nucleophiles: Nu-SiR<sub>3</sub> = allylsilanes (stannanes) enol silanes, silyl ketene acetals, etc.

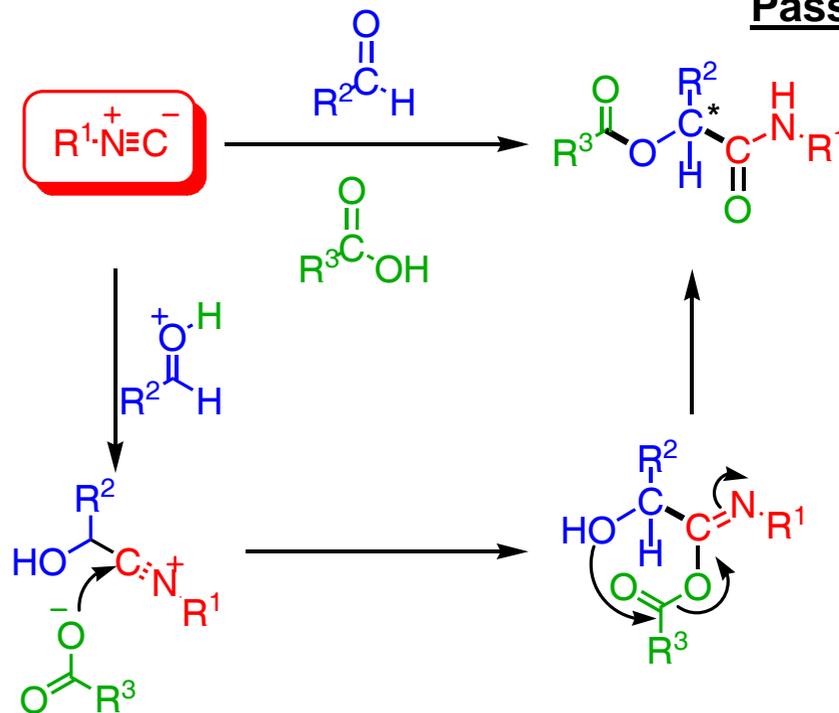
# Catalytic Enantioselective Passerini Reaction

Ugi



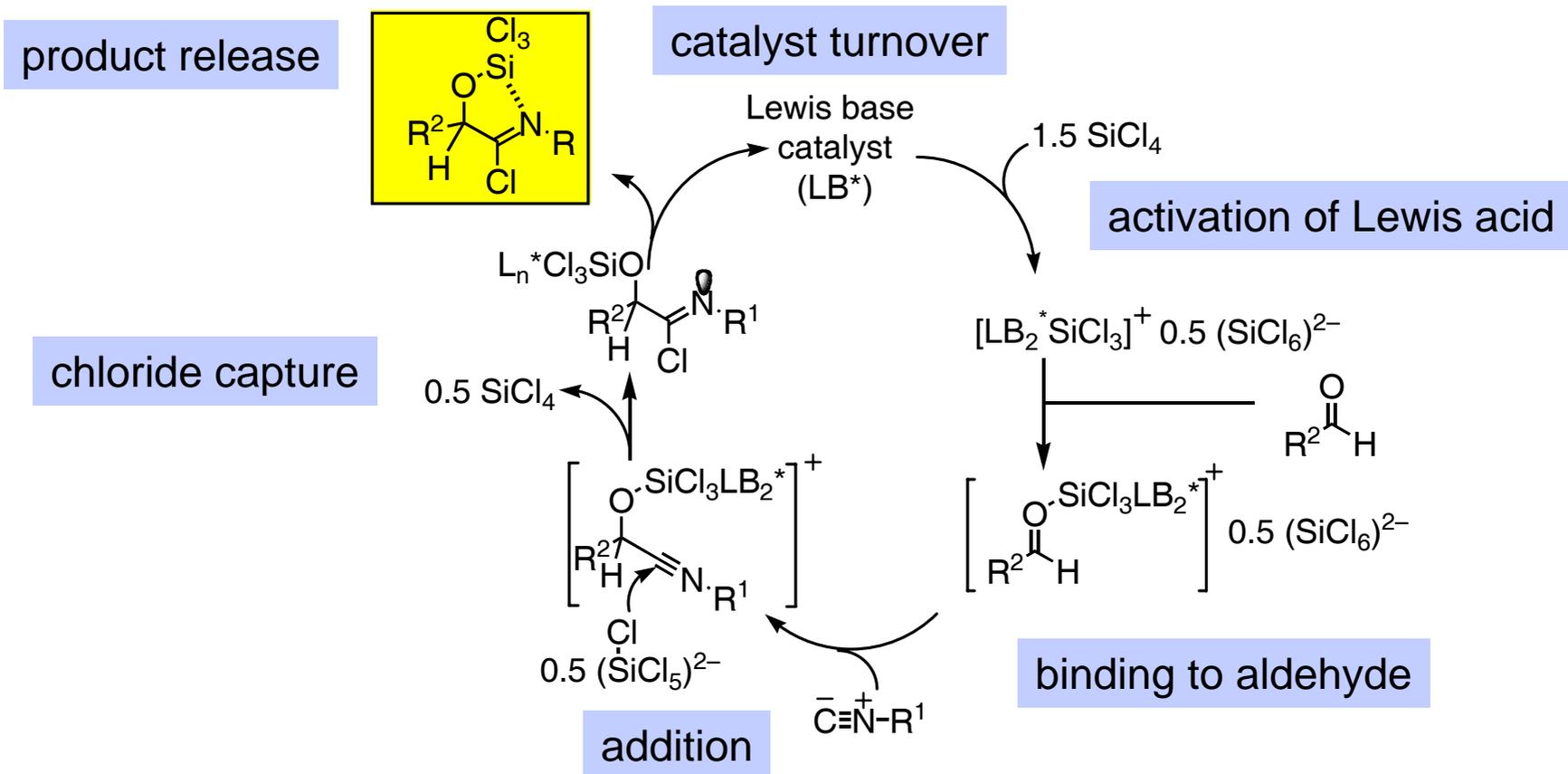
multicomponent reactions for  
molecular diversity

Passerini



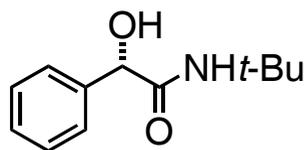
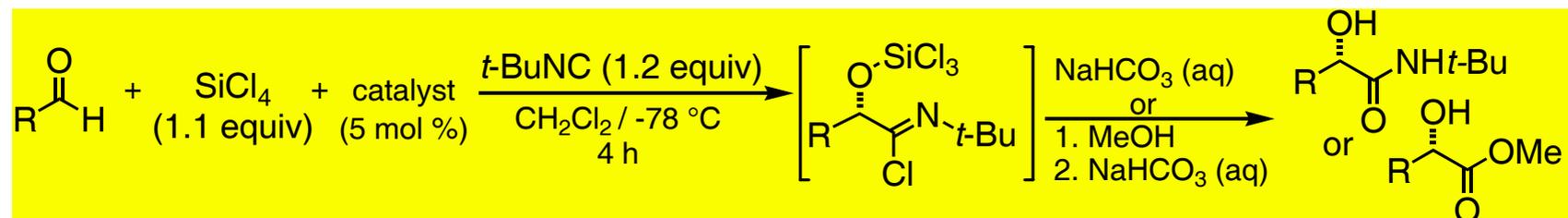
Isocyanide bears divalent carbon atom with electrophilic and nucleophilic properties  
Up to four new bonds and one stereocenter created in very useful  $\alpha$ -acyloxy amides  
Auxiliary-based approaches but **no examples of catalytic enantioselective process!!**

## Passerini Reaction: Lewis Base Activation of Lewis Acid

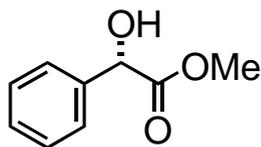


- activated silyl cation preferentially binds carbonyl substrate, instead of the isocyanide
- attenuated Lewis acidity of the silicon center in imidoyl chloride results facile turnover
- catalyst turnover becomes the release of the Lewis base, instead of the Lewis acid

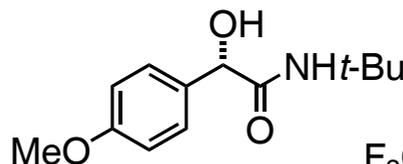
# Catalytic Enantioselective Passerini Reaction: Aldehyde Survey



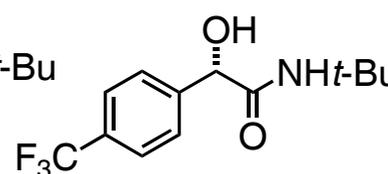
yield 96%  
er: > 99/1



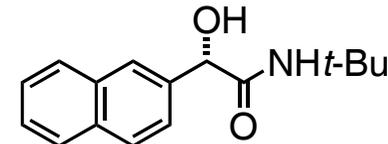
yield 95%  
er: > 99/1



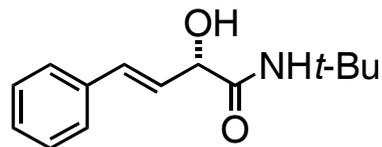
yield 89%  
er: 98.3/1.7



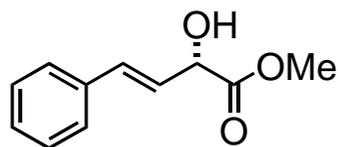
yield 89%  
er: 96.5/3.5



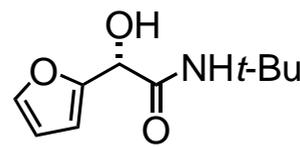
yield 93%  
er: > 99/1



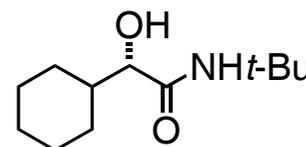
yield 81%  
er: 97.8/2.2



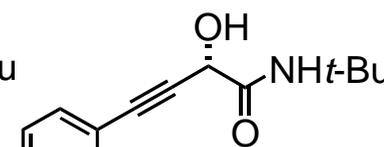
yield 71%  
er: 97.9/2.1



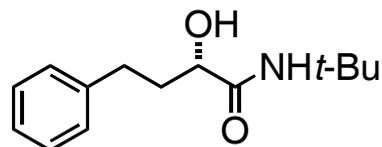
yield 83%  
er: 95.9/4.1



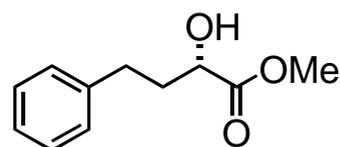
yield 53%  
er: 87.1/12.9



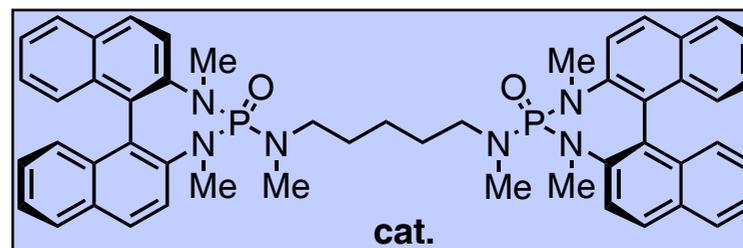
yield 76%  
er: 77.0/23.0



yield 92%  
er: 81.9/18.1



yield 88%  
er: 81.8/18.2



## *Cast and Sponsors*

Xiping Su  
Robert A. Stavenger  
Son Pham

Jiping Fu  
Yu Fan  
Greg Beutner  
Tommy Bui

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John Heemstra, Jr.  
Won-jin Chung  
William Collins  
Tyler Wilson  
Peter Yao

Dr. Brian Eklov  
Dr. Mobaligh Ahmad

### Funding

National Science Foundation  
Eastman Kodak Company  
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals  
Ministry of Science and Education (Japan)  
GlaxoSmithKline (UK)  
Pharmacia Corporation  
Abbott Laboratories