Catalytic Asymmetric Synthesis: The Formation of All Carbon Quaternary Centers

"Molecular complexity can be used as an indicator of the frontiers of synthesis, since it often causes failures which exposes gaps in existing methodology. The realization of such limitations can stimulate the discovery of new chemistry and new ways of thinking about synthesis" E.J. Corey, 1989

> Christopher Rosenker Wipf Group - Frontiers of Chemistry May 26, 2012

What is a frontier in chemistry?

• Frontier (n): the extreme limit of understanding or achievement in a particular area

• A topic that is currently being investigated in the field of chemistry that has the potential to be incredibly useful; however, lacks key findings or breakthroughs to allow it to gain widespread use.



Apple Dictionary, Version 2.1.3 (80.4) Image from http://fineartamerica.com/featured/american-frontier-mick-burkey.html

All Carbon Quaternary Stereocenters

- What reactions do we know that can install all carbon quaternary stereocenters?
 - •Aldol, Enolate Alkylation, Diels-Alder, Allylic Alkylation, Conjugate Addition, S_N2', Cyclopropanation, Desymmetrization, Radical
 - •Desymmetrizations can be done by any reaction not forming quaternary centers
 - •The most famous of all is the Wieland-Miescher Ketone synthesis:



- All carbon quaternary stereocenters can be installed using:
 - Inherent substrate control (if the molecule has other stereocenters present)
 - Stoichiometric chiral auxiliary
 - Catalytic asymmetric methodology

All Carbon Quaternary Stereocenters



Vitamin D₃

All Carbon Quaternary Stereocenters

"Within the area of asymmetric synthesis, the enantioselective construction of all-carbon quaternary stereocenters (C*R¹R²R³R⁴) is a particularly difficult challenge. One obstacle is low reactivity, due to steric congestion, which discourages the targeted carbon-carbon bond formation from occurring. Of course, even if this reactivity problem can be overcome, there is yet another formidable barrier to success: high enantioselectivity requires that, in the transition state for the formation of a new C-R⁴ bond, the three groups (R¹, R², and R³) already attached to the central carbon must be very effectively distinguished." Gregory C. Fu & Ara Mermerian (MIT, JACS 2005, 127, 5604.)



Asymmetric Catalysis



- What is asymmetric catalysis?
 - Simplest reaction is combining two molecules; one prochiral and one achiral.
- Important properties of a catalyst:
 - Catalyst availability, preparation, stability, cost, high activity (ie low loading), recoverable, reusable
 - Broad substrate scope, predictable reactivity
 - Ideally, one catalyst would be able to give 100% yield, *er*, recovery, and be completely recyclable for a variety of chemical transformations.
 - Unfortunately we are not far from one catalyst, one reaction, for one substrate...

Image from Walsh, P. J. and Kozlowski, M. C. Fundamentals of Asymmetric Catalysis 2009, p3.

Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Catalysis

- Catalyst activity is generally determined by a metal.
- Catalyst reactivity and enantioselectivity can be tuned by chiral organic ligands.
 - Catalyst efficiency is controlled by the balance between electronic and steric factors of the ligand.
 - Almost limitless combinations of metals and chiral organic molecules make catalyst choice challenging.
- Rational design and optimization of catalysts is unsuitable for unprecedented asymmetric reactions.
 - A good mechanistic understanding of the reaction can provide insight for rational catalyst design.

Outline

- All Carbon Quaternary Stereocenters
 - Cycloaddition Reactions
 - Metal Catalyzed Cyclizations
 - Cyclopropanations
 - The Heck Reaction
 - Chiral Allyl-Metal Electrophiles
 - Alpha Carbonyl Alkylation
 - Aldol & Mannich Reactions
 - Addition to Chiral Carbon Electrophiles
 - S_N2' Addition
 - Conjugate Addition



LA = B, Mg, Al, Ti, Cr, Fe, Cu, Ru, Sm, Gd

Type II



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Claisen Rearrangement



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Page 18 of 65



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Ene-yne cyclizations 5% [(MeCN)₄Pd](BF₄)₂ 10% BINAP, HCOOH MeO₂C 5% Pd(CO₂CF₃)₂ -CO₂Me 10% (R)-SEGPHŐS DMSO, 100 °C Ns Ns 100 °C, C₆D₆ $R = CO_2Me_1$, H 99%, >99% ee >99%, >99% ee PPh₂ 5% [(MeCN)₄Pd](BF₄)₂ PPh₂ 10% BINAP, HCOOH DMSO, 100 °C Ns (R)-SEGPHOS Ns റ $R = CO_2Me_1$, H >99%, 98-99% ee [Rh(CO)2CI]2 2.5 mol% $AgSbF_{6}$ (6 mol%) PPh₂ PPh₂ L* (6.5 mol%) DCE, 50-70 °C $R = Alkyl, COMe, CO_2Me, Ph$ L* $X = NTs, O, C(CO_2Bn)_2$

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41-90%, 48-99% ee

Silyloxyenyne cyclization



Corkey, B. K.; Toste, F. D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2007, 129, 2764.

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• Diene cyclization



Gives complex chiral structures from linear SM
Can achieve high enantioselectivity; yield if often lower than other transformations
Requires significant optimization: Metal, L*, solvent, T, additive, O₂
Reactions sensitive to minor changes in substrate

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Cyclopropanations using diiodomethane





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Intramolecular cyclopropanation



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Intermolecular cyclopropanation



Intermolecular cyclopropanation



Intermolecular cyclopropenylation





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The Heck Reaction



Ashimori, A.; Bachand, B.; Overman, L. E.; Poon, D. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 6477. Dounay, A. B.; Humphreys, P. G.; Overman, L. E.; Wrobleski, A. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 5368. Cho, S. Y.; Shibasaki, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 1773.

The Heck Reaction



Busacca, C. A.; Grossbach, D.; Campbell, S. J.; Dong, Y.; Eriksson, M. C.; Harris, R. E.; Jones, P.-J.; Kim, J.-Y.; Lorenz, J. C.; McKellop, K. B.; O'Brien, E. M.; Qiu, F.; Simpson, R. D.; Smith, L.; So, R. C.; Spinelli, E. M.; Vitous, J.; Zavattaro, C. J. Org. Chem. 2004, 69, 5187.

The Heck Reaction



• Limited to **intramolecular** reaction for the preparation of all-carbon quaternary centers

- Reaction limited by relatively high catalyst loading
- Substrates limited by olefin isomerization side products and pre-organized configuration

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Allyl addition to Aldhydes

Allyl addition to aldehydes



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S_N2' Addition Chemistry



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HN-SO₂

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56%; 94:6 *er* >20:1 *dr*

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Conclusion



Douglas, C. J.; Overman, L. E. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA.* **2004**, *101*, 5363. Trost, B. M.; Jiang, C. *Synthesis* **2006**, 369. Marek, I.; Sklute, G. *Chem. Commun.* **2007**, 1683.