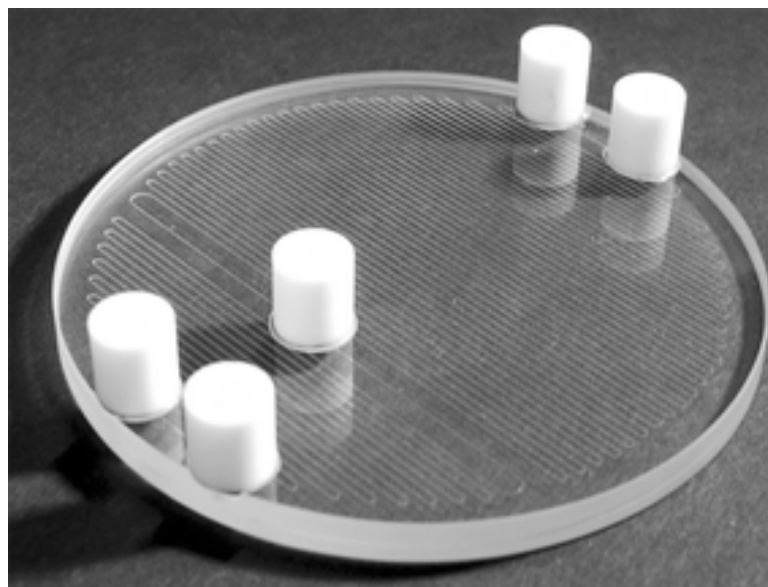


Microreactors: Using the Very Small to Make the Very Large New Technology in Pharmaceutical Development

Robert J. Halter
Wipf Group
August 14th, 2004





Outline

- Introduction
- Continuous Flow Reactions
- Lab Style Applications; Yield improvements, ee improvements, time improvements, etc.
- Process Scale Applications; Access to different chemistry, process development improvement, potential cost savings
- Two Real Life Applications
- Conclusions



Definitions

- Batch chemistry
 - Basically what we do everyday
 - Add all reactants, stir for x hours, work-up and analyze.
- Combinatorial chemistry
 - What robots do
 - Batch scale chemistry in parallel with automation
- Continuous flow chemistry
 - Less Common
 - Add reactants to pot A; allow to flow into pot B for work-up; never stop flow
- Microreactor chemistry – Continuous flow chemistry using specialized equipment

What is a Microreactor

- An extension of μ Total Analysis (μ TAS), i.e., Lab-on-a-Chip
 - 1st example a GC from Stanford
- Recent example
 - DNA Analyzer – Available commercially from Agilent Technologies
 - Can detect 1 ng/L
 - Only need 1 μ L of sample





μ Reactors: Why Should You Care?

- Cleaner reactions
- A wider variety of reactions possible
- Potentially faster scale-up

Definitely has the potential to spend less time on development and scale up and more time selling. i.e. More money for company (and hopefully you)

- Currently a “hot” topic in pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals
- Potential (partial) paradigm shift

Haswell, S. J., Middleton, R. J., O’Sullivan, B., Skelton, V., Watts, P., Styring, P. *Chem. Comm.*, **2001**, 391-398. Tilstam, U.; *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2004**, *8*, 421.



Advantages of μ Reactors to “Normal Chemistry”

- Possibility to “number up” instead of scale up reactions
- Reduced reaction time in many cases
- Vastly improved heat transfer
- Ability to perform “dangerous” chemistries

“The technology offers an efficient, safe scale-up, shorter process research times and eventually a reduction in drug development times. Microreactor technology shows promise as an innovative tool to help us fulfill our mission to move new medicines from discovery into patients as quickly as possible.” J & J

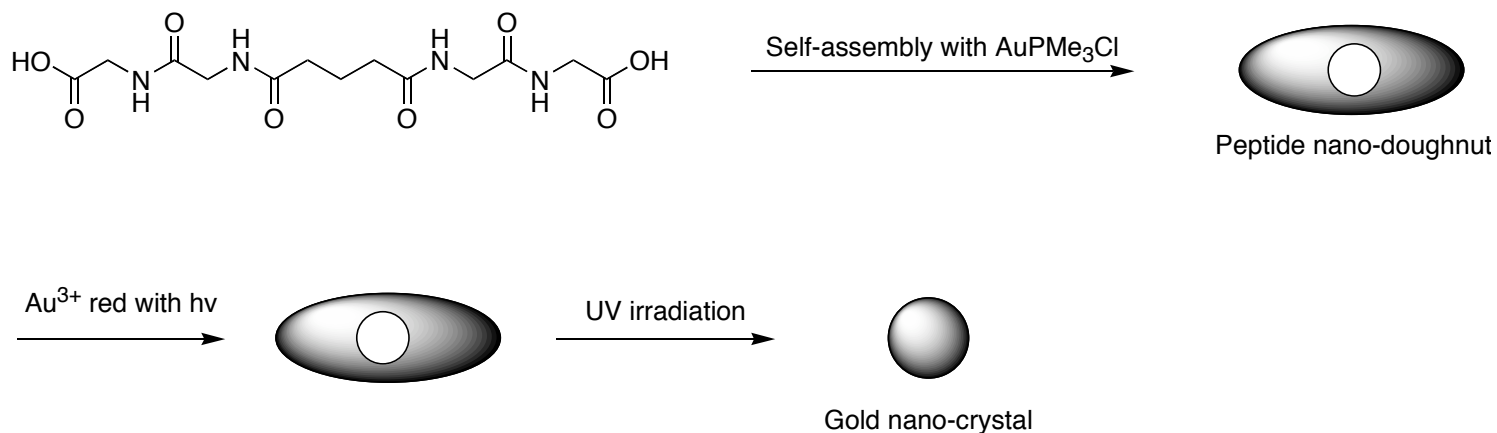
Zhang, X., Stefanick, S., Villani, F. J. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2004**, *8*, 455.

What is a μ Reactor

It is not a nano-reactor

Both reasonable scale and technologies applied

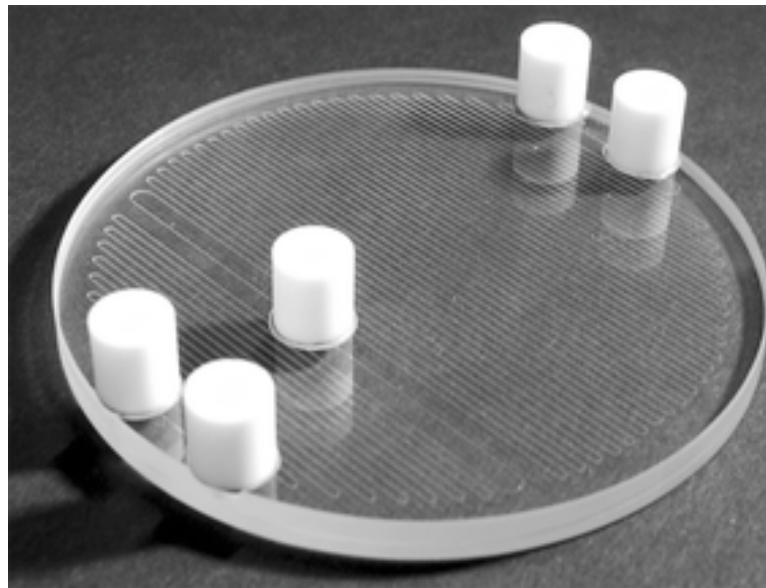
Example of nano-reactor



Djalali, R., Samson, J., Matsui, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2004**, *126*, 7935.

Characteristics of μ Reactors

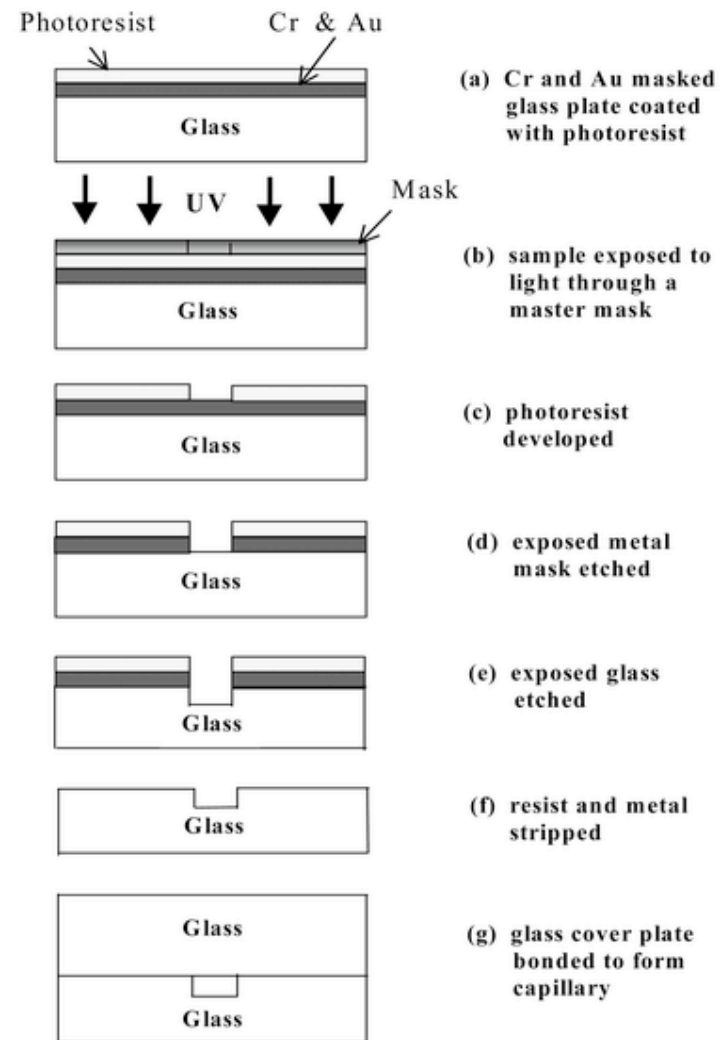
- Channels 50 to 500 μm wide
- Wall between reaction and heat exchanger 20 to 50 μm
- Laminar flow, opposed to turbulent mixing



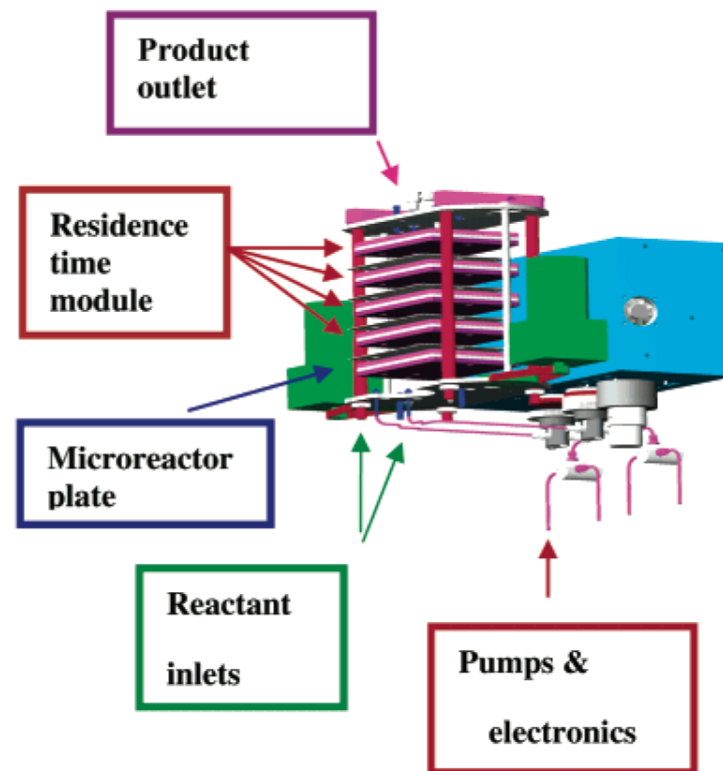
Manufacture of μ Reactors

- Bulk machining using wet chemical etching of silicon
- Dry etching using plasma or ion beams
- Micromolding
- Wet chemical etching of glass
- Isotropic wet chemical etching
- Laser ablation
- Buy from commercial sources

Ehrfeld, W., Hessel, V., Lowe, H., *Microreactors: New Technologies for Modern Chemistry* Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 2004, p. 15



Complete μ Reactors



Zhang, X., Stefanick, S., Villani, F. J., *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2004**, *8*, 455. Haswell, S. J., Watts, P. *Green Chemistry*, **2003**, *5*, 240.



Commercially Available

- Cellular Process Chemistry
- Mgt mikroglas
- FZK
- IMM

One drawback is lack of standardized interfaces.

Appears as if academic labs usually make their own system

Lowe, H., Hessel, V., Mueller, A. *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2002**, 74, 2271

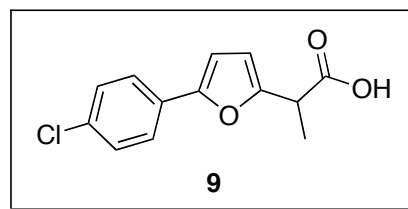


Reactions Performed in μ Reactors

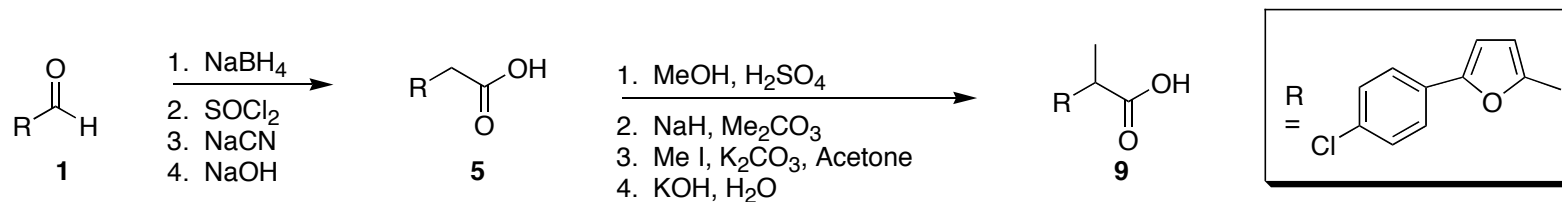
- 1,3 Dipolar cycloadditions
- Suzuki Coupling
- Michaelis-Arbuzov Rearrangement
- NaBH_4 Reduction
- Intramolecular Diels-Alder Reaction
- Nef Reaction
- Ketalization
- Aminolysis
- BuLi Add'n to Cyclohexanone
- BuLi Add'n to Benzaldehyde
- Wittig-Horner Reaction
- Wagner-Meerwein Rearrangement
- Beckmann Rearrangement
- Paal-Knorr Pyrrole Synthesis
- Guaresky-Thrope-Pyridone Synthesis
- Red-Al Reduction Synthesis of THP-Ether
- Synthesis of α -Hydroxyacetals
- Synthesis of 2-Amino-Pyridine-N-Oxide
- Pd-Catalyzed Cross Coupling
- Wittig Reaction
- Favorskii Rearrangement
- Oxidation of Sulfide
- Mitsunobu Reaction
- Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution

<http://www.cpc-net.com/reactions.shtml>

An Early Example of Continuous Flow Chemistry



Route A



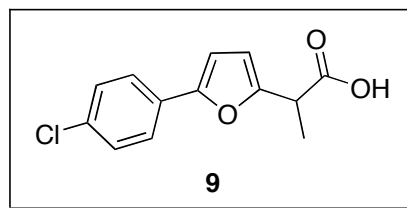
Route A was optimized and proceeded well on scale, however, the overall yield was 12 %

Yields for the eight individual steps were not reported, but avg. yield per step is 77 %

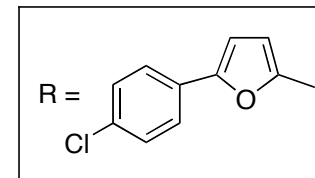
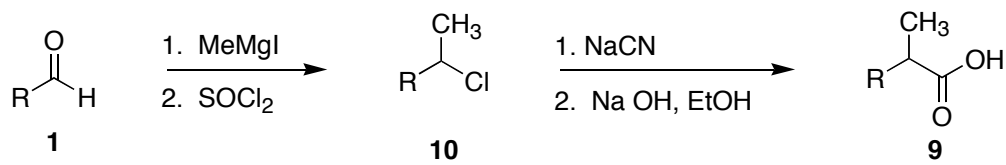
Amount needed not specified, but eventually 10 kg of intermediate was obtained,

Foulkes, J. A., Hutton, J. *Synthetic Comm.*, **1979**, *9*, 625-630

An Early Example of Continuous Flow Chemistry



Route B



$t_{1/2} = 20 \text{ min @ } 30 - 35 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

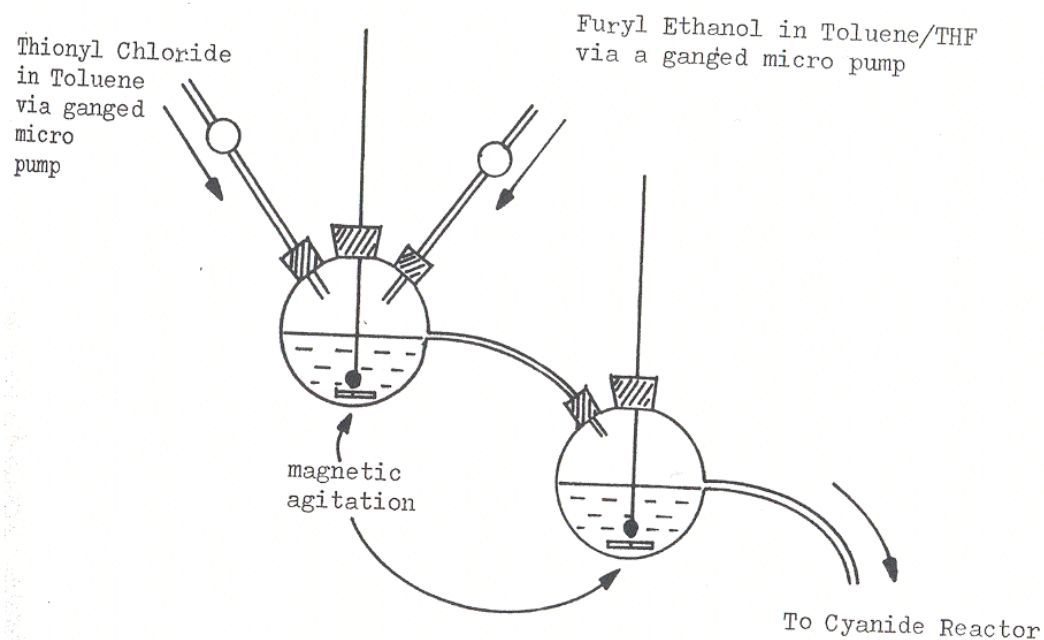
On small scale reaction worked decently, 20-30 % yield over 4 steps

Average yield of 67 % - 74 % per step

Yield on large scale, 100 - 200 g was "unacceptably low"

Foulkes, J. A., Hutton, J. *Synthetic Comm.*, **1979**, *9*, 625-630

An Early Example of Continuous Flow Chemistry



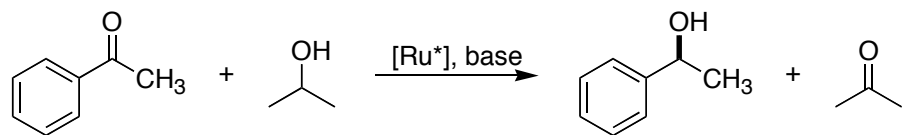
Using above set-up with 10 mL flasks over 10 kg of the nitrile was obtained in one week.

Average lifetime of the chloride was 1 min

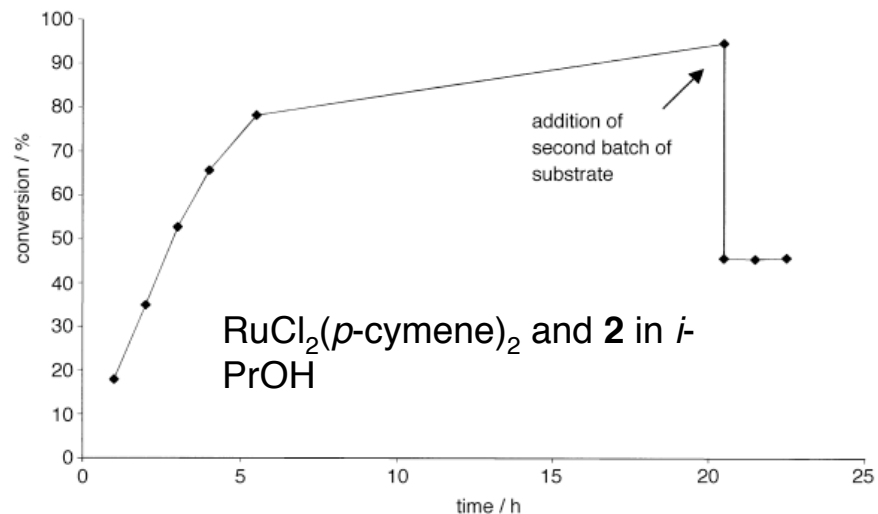
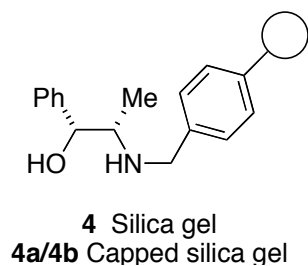
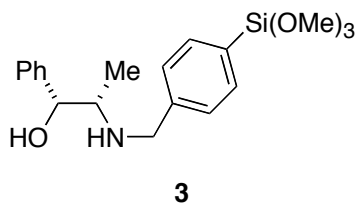
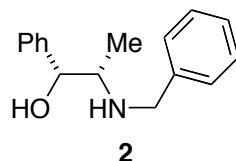
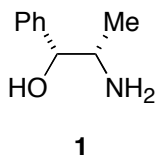
Yield of nitrile was 90 - 92 %, average per step of 97 %

Foulkes, J. A., Hutton, J. *Synthetic Comm.*, **1979**, 9, 625-630

Continuous Flow for Catalyst Stability

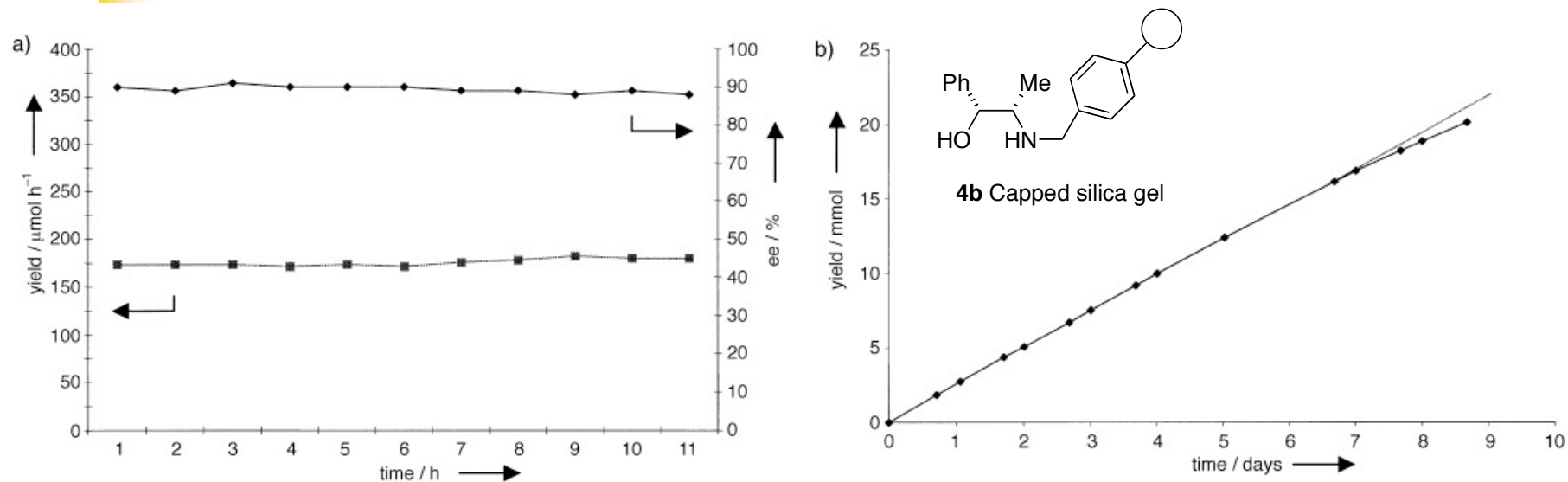


Chiral Ligands



Sandee, A. J., Petra, D. G. I., Reek, J. N. H., Kamer, P. C. J. Leeuwen, P. W. N. M. *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2001**, 7, 1262.

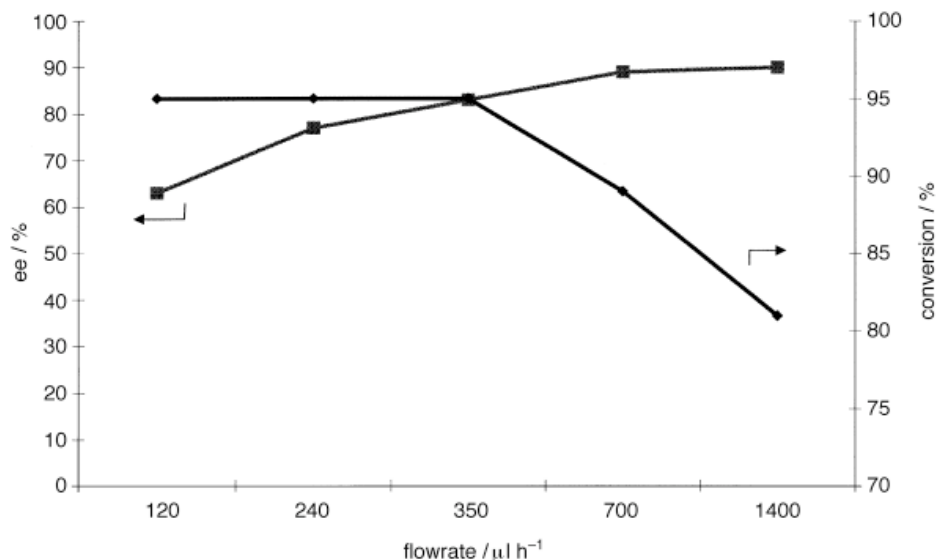
Continuous Flow for Catalyst Stability



- Both ee and yield are remarkably stable
- Catalytic ability (ee and yield) barely decreases from theoretical over 9 days
- <1 % Ru leaching
- CF yield is $15 \text{ g L}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$, batch yield is $5.7 \text{ g L}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$

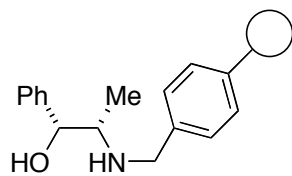
Sandee, A. J., Petra, D. G. I., Reek, J. N. H., Kamer, P. C. J. Leeuwen, P. W. N. M. *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2001**, 7, 1262.

Drawback to System, Another Parameter to Optimize



Entry	Flow ($\mu\text{L h}^{-1}$)	Conv %	ee %	Ru leaching
1	120	95	63	n.d.
2	240	95	77	n.d.
3	350	95	83	n.d.
4	700	90	89	<1
5	1400	81	90	<1
6	1400	95	89	<1
7	1400	95	89	<1
8	1400	95	90	<1
9	1400	53	88	<1
10	1400	29	88	<1

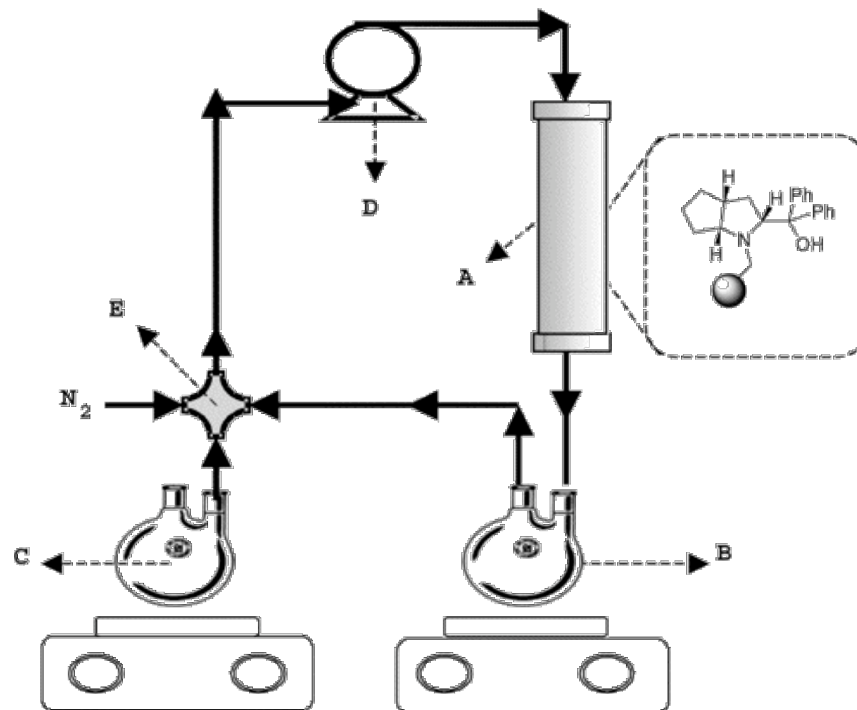
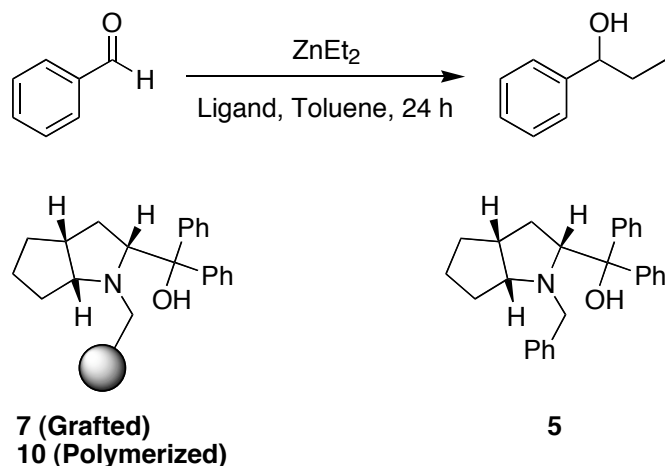
Entry **8** run without base, gave best results



4 Silica gel
4a/4b Capped silica gel

Sandee, A. J., Petra, D. G. I., Reek, J. N. H., Kamer, P. C. J. Leeuwen, P. W. N. M. *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2001**, 7, 1262.

Continuous Flow: Improvement in ee: A Good Candidate for μ Reactor Technology

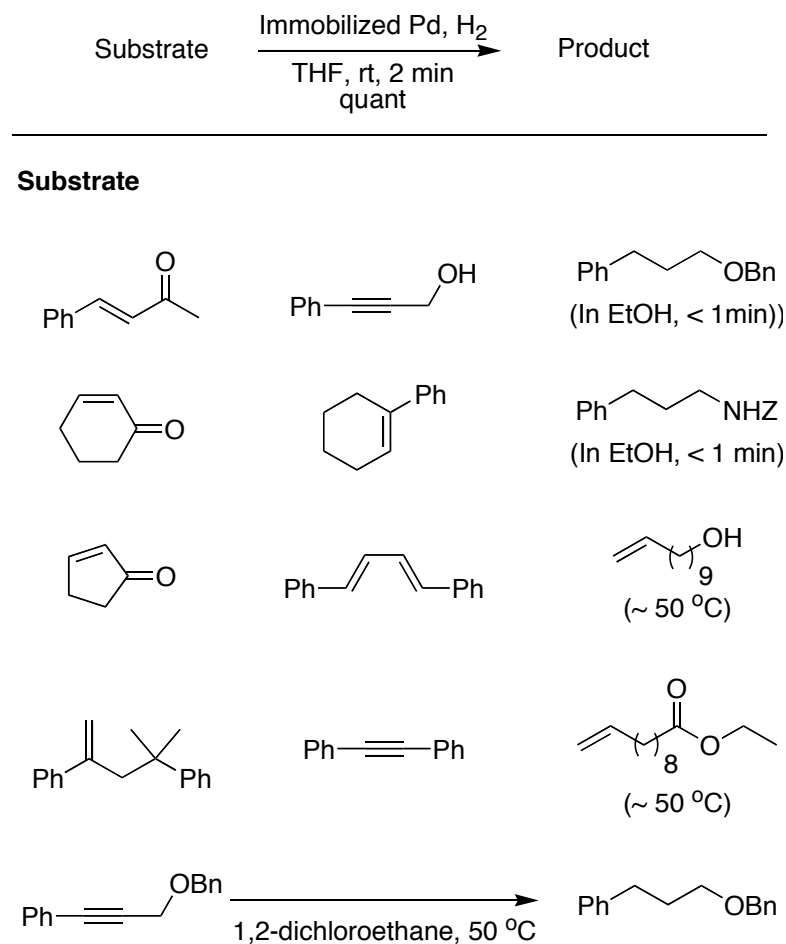


At various ligand concentrations ee's ranged from 74 to 85 % for **5** and **7** in batch-wise operations

10 in a flow-through system gave 99 % ee
Flow through system was re-usable at least 4 times

Burguete, M. I., Garcia-Verdugo, E., Vicent, M. J., Luis, S. V., Penneman, H., von Keyserling, N. G., Martens, J. *Org. Lett.*, **2002**, 4, 3947

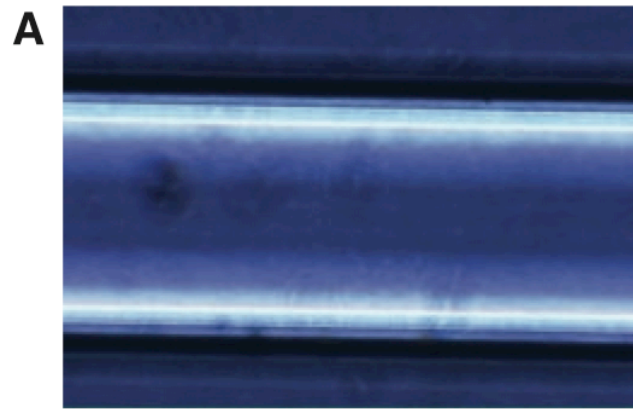
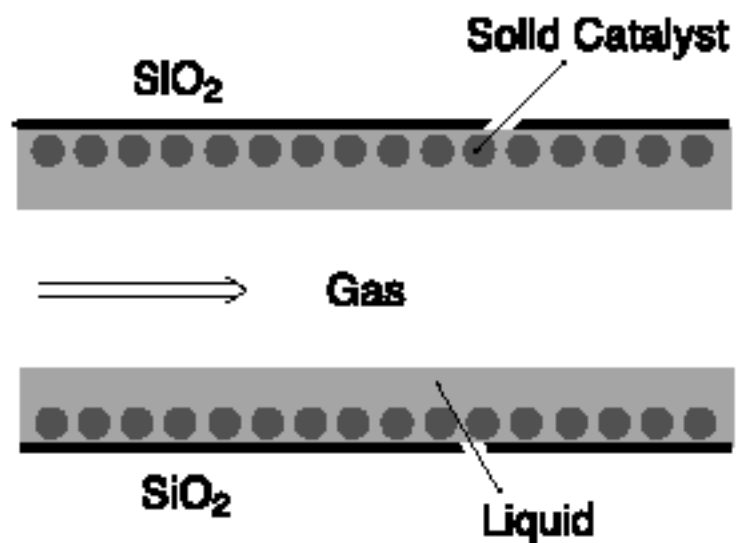
Hydrogenation Reactions



- No Pd leaching
- Product clean after solvent removal
- Scale-up should be easy, just add reactors
- Some yields (benzyl ether deprotection) much higher than batch reactions

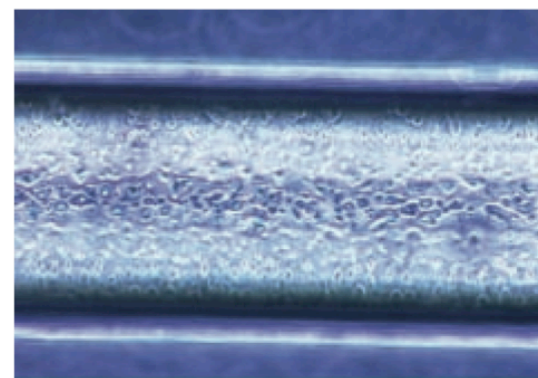
Kobayashi, J., Mori, Y., Okamoto, K., Akiyama, R., Ueno, M., Kitamori, T., Kobayashi, S. *Science* **2004**, *304*, 1305

Hydrogenation Reactions



50 μm

Before immobilization of the catalyst



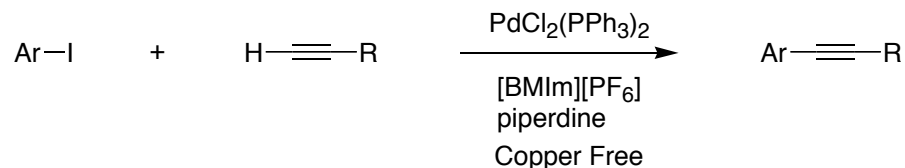
50 μm

After immobilization of the catalyst

Kobayashi, J., Mori, Y., Okamoto, K.,
Akiyama, R., Ueno, M., Kitamori, T.,
Kobayashi, S. *Science* **2004**, *304*, 1305



Palladium Catalyzed Reactions in μ Reactors



Batch Yields 88 - 97 %; Rxn time 2 h

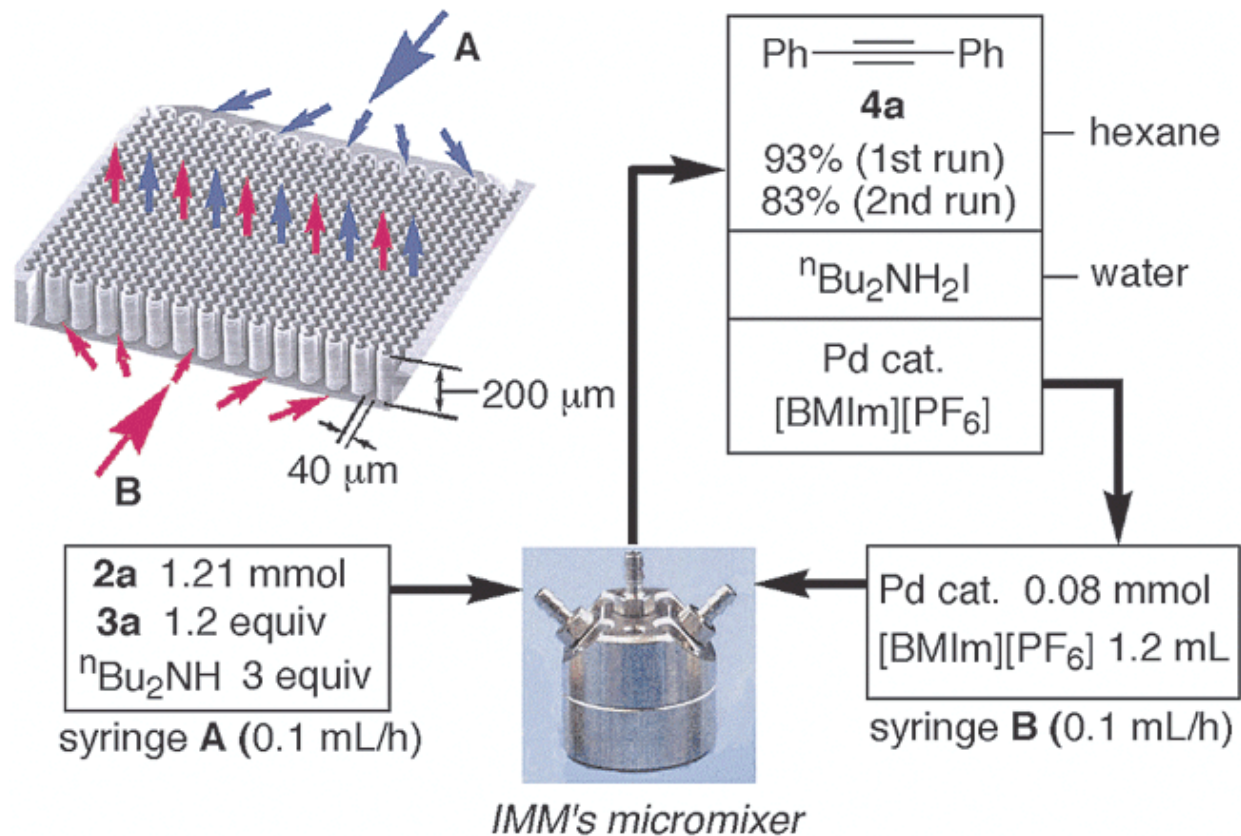
Micromixer yield was 93 % and 83 %; Residence time 10 min

- Necessary to start with recycled catalysts for solubility issues
- Upon further recycling of the ionic liquid the yield dropped to 83 %
- More proof of concept than an improvement
- At least one Suzuki coupling has been reported as well, but yield was very low.

Fukuyama, T., Shinmen, M., Nishitani, S., Sato, M., Ryu, I. *Org. Lett.*, **2002**, 4 1691.

Greenway, G. M.; Haswell, S. J.; Morgan, D. O., Skelton, V., Styring, P. *Sens. Actuat. B*, **2000**, 63, 153.

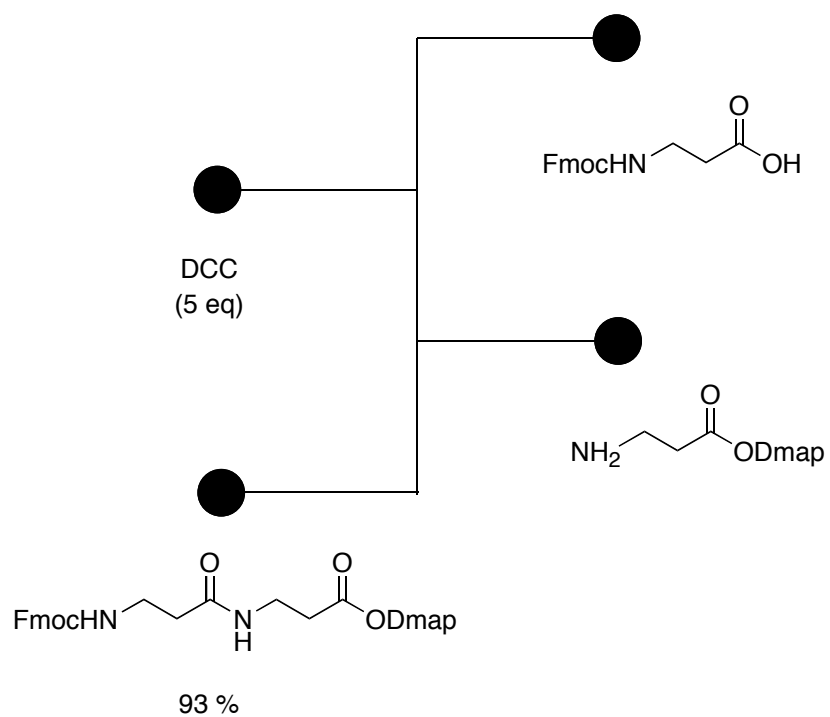
Reactor Used



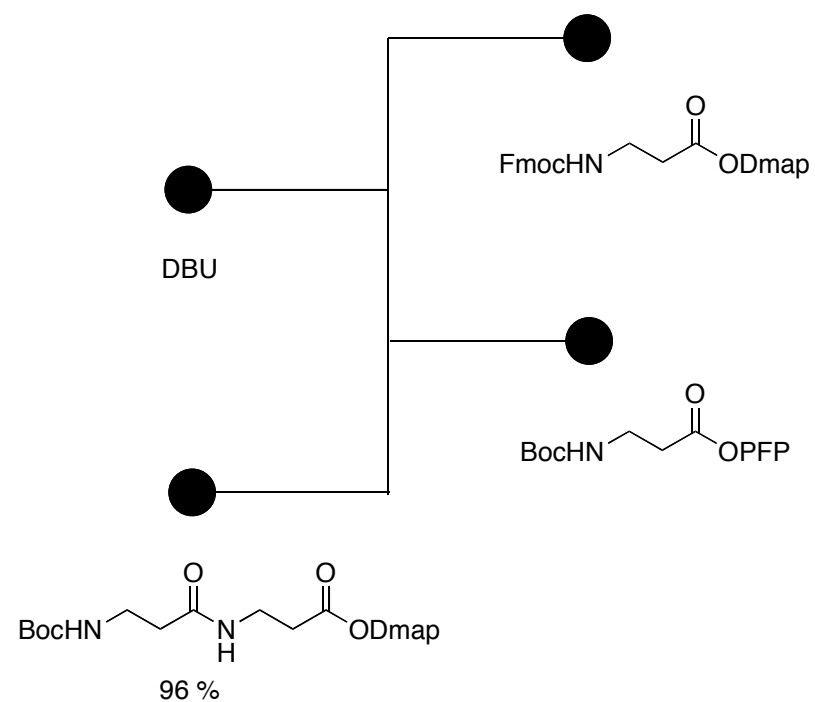
Fukuyama, T., Shinmen, M., Nishitani, S., Sato, M., Ryu, I. *Org. Lett.*, **2002**, 4 1691

β -peptide Synthesis

Coupling



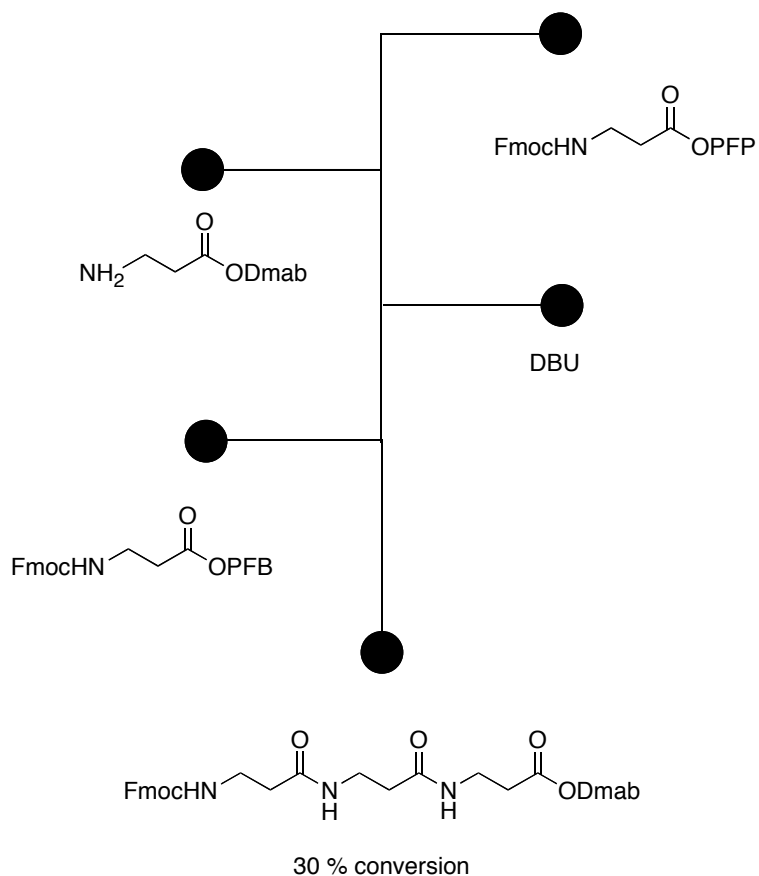
Deprotection, then Coupling



Watts, P., Wiles, C., Haswell, S. J., Pombo-Villar, E. *Tetrahedron*, **2002**, *58*, 5427.

Tripeptide Synthesis

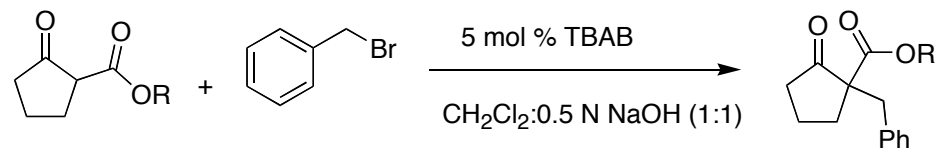
Coupling



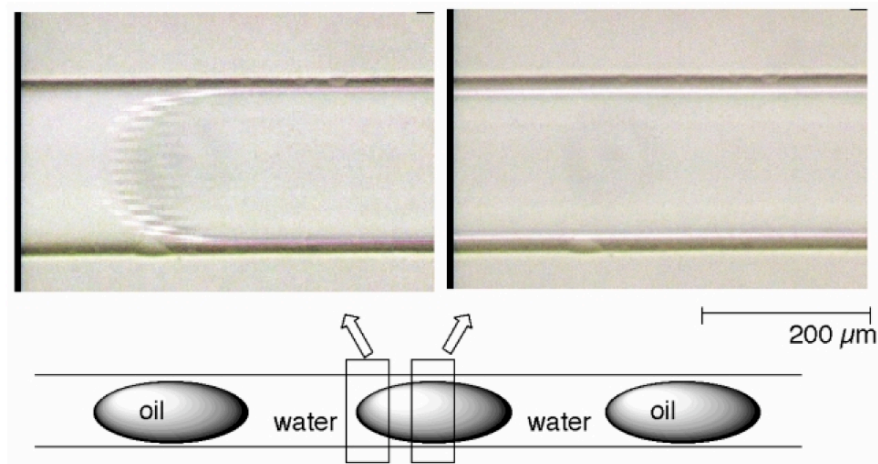
- Reactions faster than batch reactions
- One of only a few examples of two or more reactions in a μ reactor

Watts, P., Wiles, C., Haswell, S. J., Pombo-Villar, E. *Tetrahedron*, **2002**, *58*, 5427.

Better Phase Transfer Characteristics



Vessel	Yield
μ Reactor (60 s)	57 %
μ Reactor (300 s)	> 90 %
rbf (1350 rpm, 60 s)	37 %
rbf (400 rpm, 60 s)	~ 20 %



Ueno, M.; Hisamoto, H., Kitamori, T., Kobayashi, S. *Chem. Comm.* **2003**, 936.

Generality of Reaction

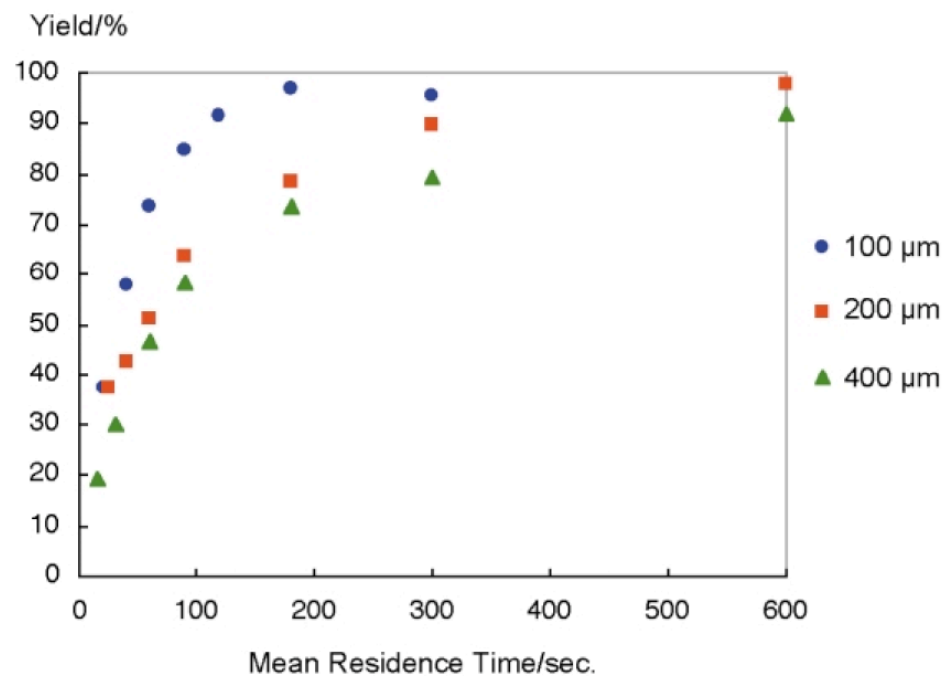
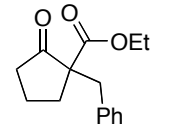
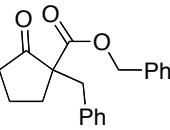
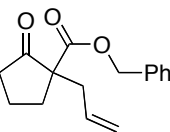
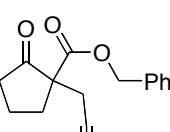
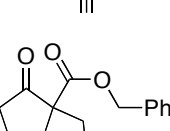
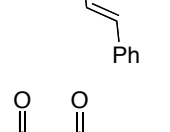


Fig. 3 The effect of the width of the reactors.

Ueno, M.; Hisamoto, H., Kitamori, T., Kobayashi, S. *Chem. Comm.* **2003**, 936.

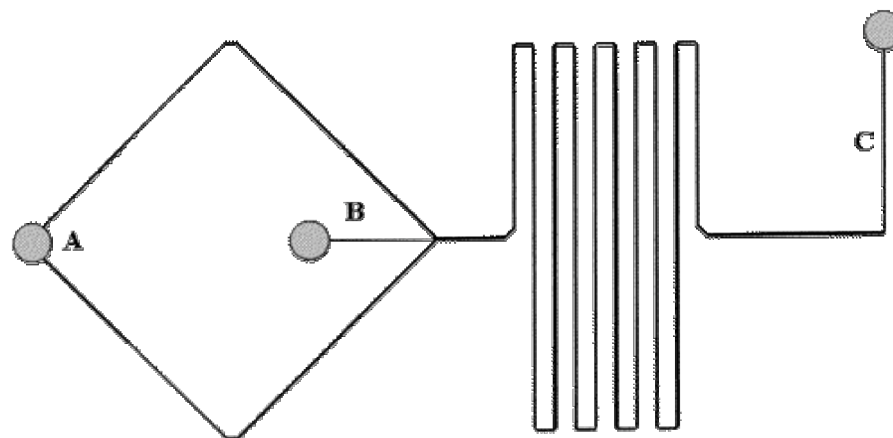
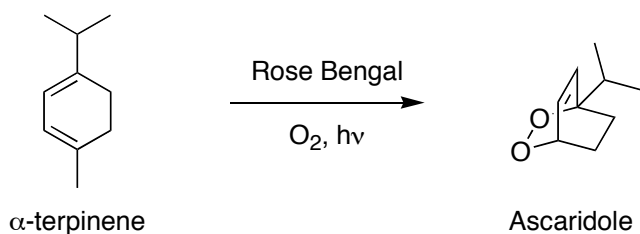
Product	2 min (batch)	10 min
	75 (49)	96 %
	73 (48)	85%
	45 (18)	87 %
	35 (18)	92 %
	91 (87)	97 %
	65 (20)	71 %



Photochemistry on Process Scale

- Problems on large scale
 - Formation of insoluble aggregates
 - Rapid loss of light intensity
 - Explosive nature of O₂ saturated solvents
- Appears that photochemistry is done on scale, but health and safety concerns still exist.
- Ideal case for miniaturization

Proof of Concept



- Chip was 5 cm × 2 cm, channel 50 μ m deep by 150 μ m wide
- ~ 95 % of the light is transmitted
- Light bulb is only 20 W, 6 V.
- Solution is immediately degassed, basically no explosion hazard
- > 80 % conversion in 5 s rxn time

Wooten, R. C. R., Fortt, R., de Mello, A. J. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.* **2002**, *6*, 187



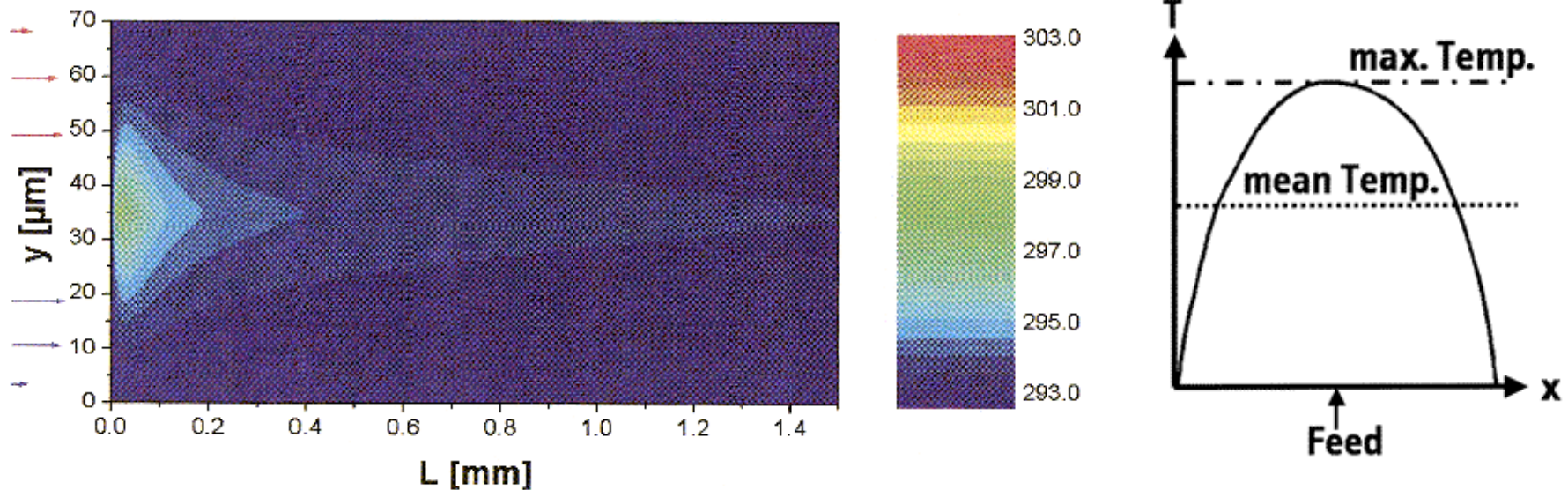
Heat Control in Reaction Vessels

- Heat transfer rate is proportional to surface area of vessel
- Surface to volume ratio thus becomes key

Reaction Vessel	Ratio (cm ² /cm ³)
μReactor	200
100 mL rbf	1
50 gal (190 L)	0.084
1000 L	0.06

Taghavi-Modhadam, S., Kleenman, A., Golbig, K. G., *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.* **2001**, 5, 652.

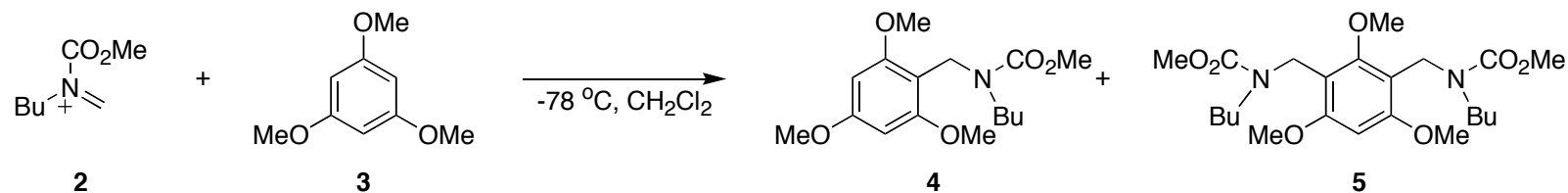
Heat Control in Reaction Vessels



- Hot spots are minimized (eg., 3 K versus 60 K rise)
- Entire rxn mixture can be kept at optimal temperature

Taghavi-Modhadam, S., Kleenman, A., Golbig, K. G., *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.* **2001**, 5, 652.

Reactions at Low Temperature

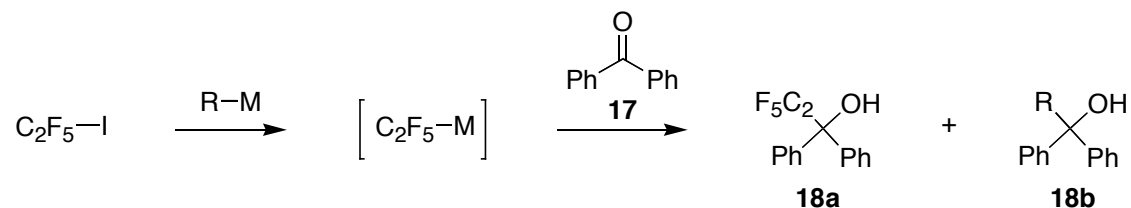


Reactor	4 (%)	5 (%)	4:5
batch	37	32	54:46
T-shaped tube	36	31	54:46
Micromixer	92	4	96:4

5 increases with temp, improved heat transfer credited with improved selectivity

Suga, S., Nagaki, A., Yoshida, J-I. *Chem. Comm.*, **2003**, 354

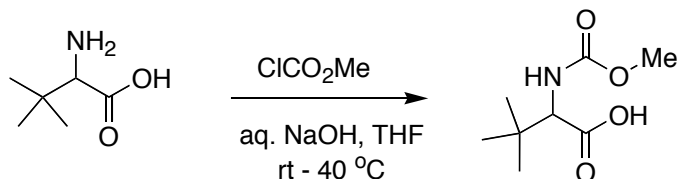
Reactions at Low Temperature: Ability to Raise the Temperature



Entry	Reagent	T, stage 1 (°C)	T, stage 2, (°C)	Ratio R-M/C ₂ F ₅ I /17)	t, Stage 1 (min)	t, Stage 2 (min)	17 (%)	18a (%)	18b (%)
3 batch	MeMgCl	-30	0	2.5:2.8:1	10	>60	84	15	1
4	MeMgCl	2	-4	3.9:4.3:1	0.9	<10	65	25	10
5	MeMgCl	1	-4	3.9:2.7:1	0.9	<10	13	80	7
6	MeMgCl	-6	-4	3.9:2.7:1	0.9	8	9	86	5
7	MeMgCl	-8	-6	5.4:2.7:1	0.7	<10	7	82	11
8	MeMgCl	-6	-4	7.8:7.8:1	0.8	<10	28	72	

Schwalbe, T., Autze, V., Hohmann, M., Stirner, W. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.* **2004**, *8*, 440

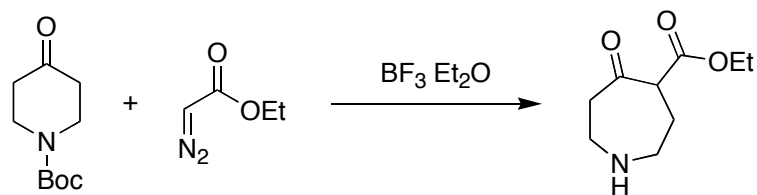
Application of μ Reactor Minimize Addition Concerns



- Heat release upon addition of methyl chloroformate
- Slow addition is sufficient to control heat, except in loss of cooling or stirring
- Direct transfer to μ Reactor at 35°C provided 91 % yield
- Residence time of 7 min, > 1 kg produced in 1 h

Zhing, Z., Stefanick, S., Villani, F. J. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.* **2004**, *8*, 455

Application of μ Reactor to “Unscaleable” Chemistry



Literature: Et₂O, -25 °C, 90 % crude

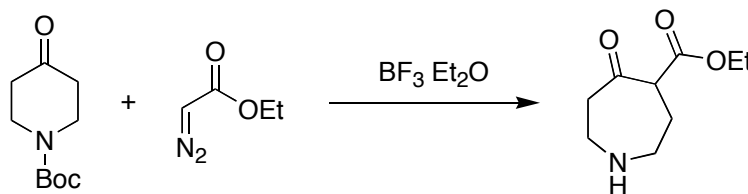
Process (70 mg scale): CH₂Cl₂/MTBE (1:4), 0.2 eq BF₃Et₂O, < 15 °C, 81 %

- Addition of BF₃·Et₂O very exothermic
- Heat release **not** feed controlled, initiation period is observed
- Solvent reflux temperature could be reached with loss of cooling
- Evolution of large amounts of N₂

“Scaling this reaction to kilogram scales *safely* in a conventional reactor is not recommended”

Zhang, X., Stefanick, S., Villani, F. J. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2004**, *8*, 455

Application of μ Reactor to “Unscaleable” Chemistry



Literature: Et₂O, -25 °C, 90 % crude

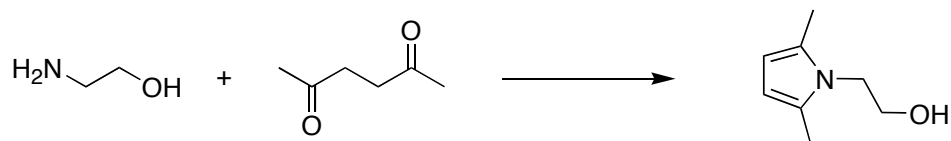
Process (70 mg scale): CH₂Cl₂/MTBE (1:4), 0.2 eq BF₃Et₂O, < 15 °C, 81 %

- 70 mg batch conditions directly transferred to micro-reactor
- Yield increased to 89 % with precise control
- Rxn time of 1.8 min
- 91 g/h obtained, potentially 2.2 kg per day
- “... we were able to reduce the time-consuming process research to find optimal safe conditions.”

Zhang, X., Stefanick, S., Villani, F. J. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2004**, *8*, 455



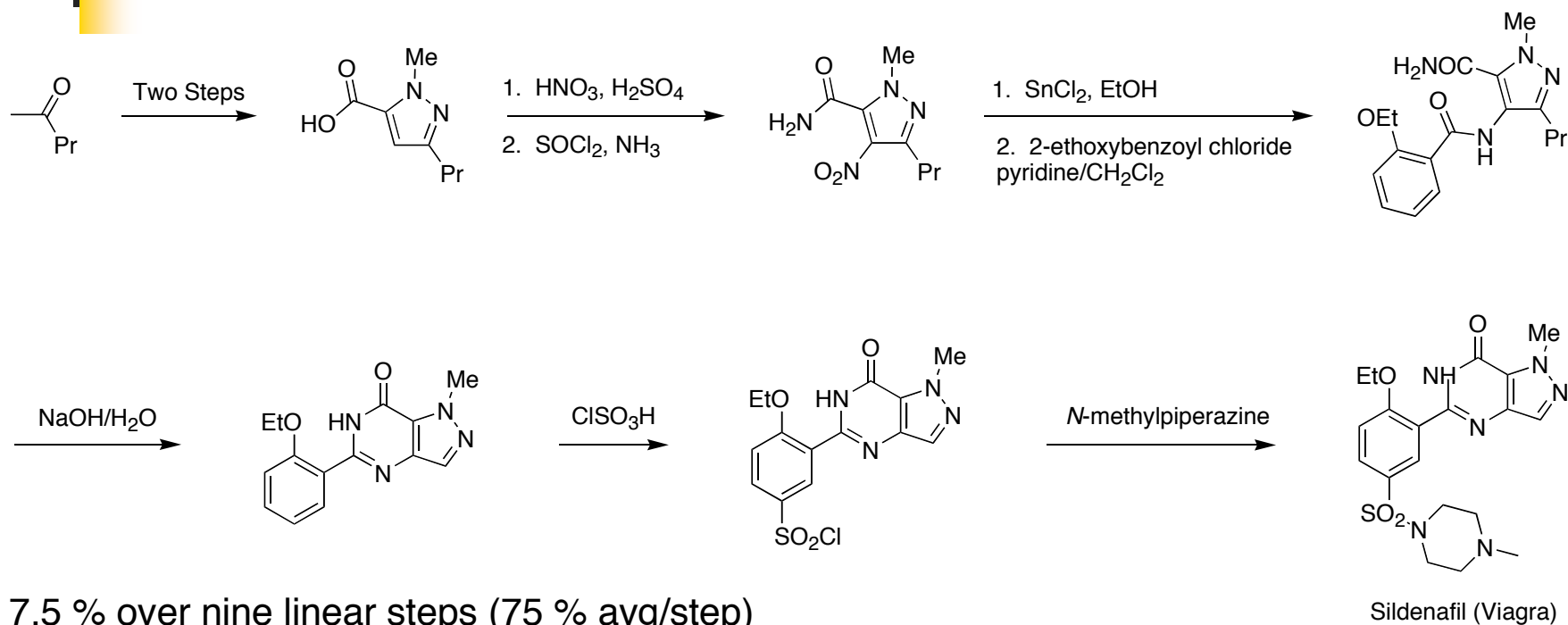
Are μ Reactors Green?



- Time for addition of reagents quite significant on process scale
- Reaction can be done without solvent in μ Reactor
- 91 % yield (after distillation)
- 260 g/h (6.2 kg/day)
- 10 min clean-up (flush with EtOH)

Schwalbe, T., Autze, V., Hohmann, M., Stirner, W. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.* **2004**, *8*, 440.

Application to a Blockbuster Drug: Medicinal Chemistry Route

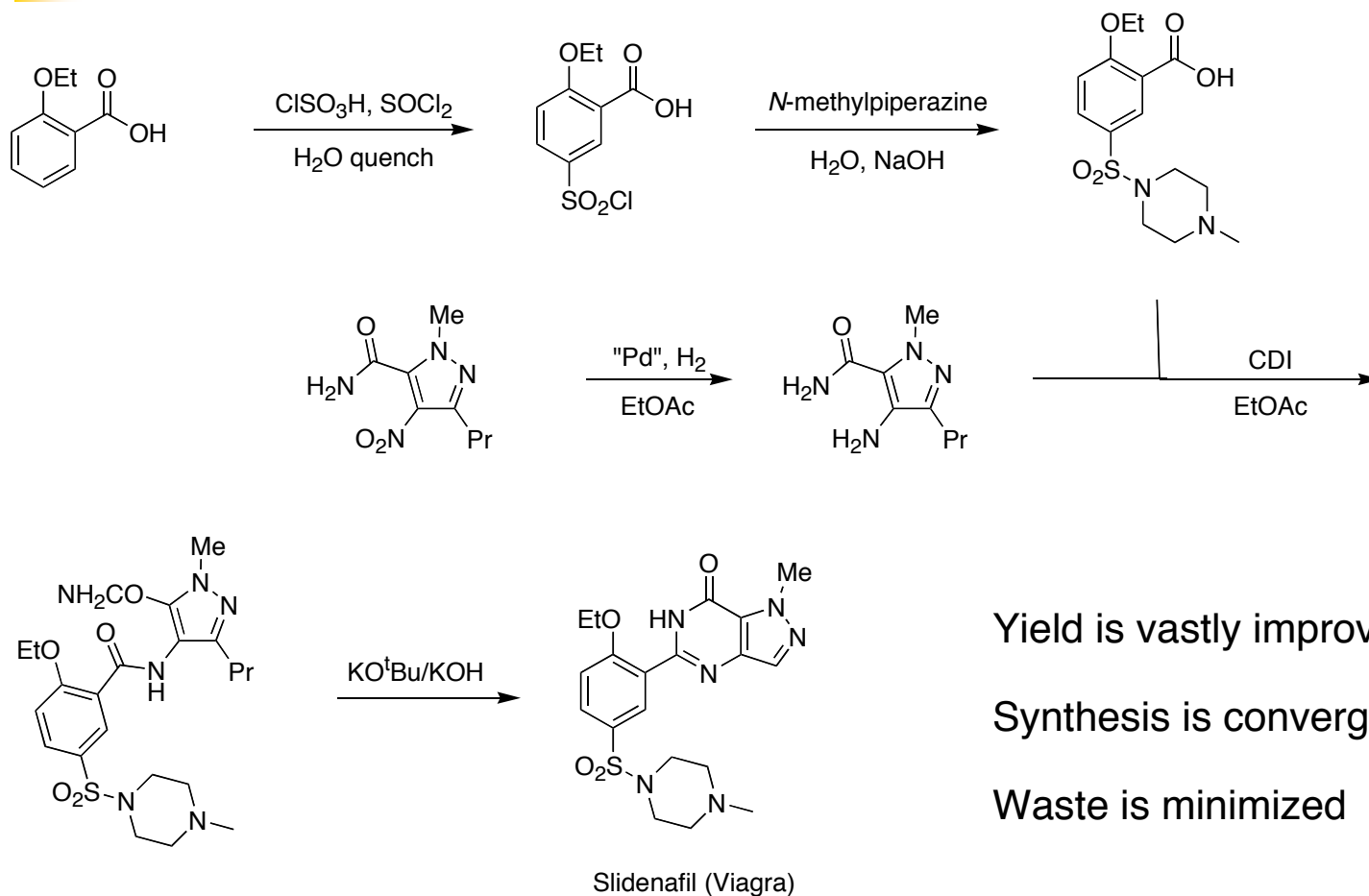


Unsuitable for commercial development

- Linear
- Multiple recrystallizations of final product
- Chlorosulphonation on scale is difficult (quench)

Dale, D. J., Dunn, P. J., Gloightly, C., Hughes, M. L., Levett, P. C., Pearce, A. K., Searle, P. M., Ward., G., Wood, A. S. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2000**, *4*, 17-22.

Application to a Blockbuster Drug: Commercial Route



Dale, D. J., Dunn, P. J., Gloightly, C., Hughes, M. L., Levett, P. C., Pearce, A. K., Searle, P. M., Ward., G., Wood, A. S. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2000**, 4, 17-22.



Application to Commercial Drug: Safety Issues

- Nitropyrazole decarboxylates at 100 °C under reaction conditions
- Mixing of H₂SO₄ and HNO₃ generates 249 kJ/mol (59.5 kcal/mol)
 - Reaction starts at 50 °C and could easily reach 127 °C
- Procedure modified to minimize heat release
 - SM dissolved in H₂SO₄
 - HNO₃ and H₂SO₄ separately mixed
 - SM and 1/3 of nitrating mixture mixed
 - HPLC analysis was performed and another 1/3 added, etc.
- Process is safe and robust, but time consuming and labor intensive

Dale, D. J., Dunn, P. J., Gloightly, C., Hughes, M. L., Levett, P. C., Pearce, A. K., Searle, P. M., Ward., G., Wood, A. S. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2000**, *4*, 17-22.



Application to Commercial Drug: An Advertisement

- Interested in proving concept
- Reaction was run at 90 °C – the “ideal” reaction temperature
- Residence time of 35 min
- 5.5 g/h (132 g/day), 46 g/L, 73 % yield
Commercial scale, 1.93 kg/10h, 2400 g/L
- Direct scale up of medicinal chemistry route (75 %) yield
- *Further optimization of concentration, time and temperature should quickly raise yield.*

Panke, G., Schwalbe, T.; Stirner, W., Taghavi-Moghadam, S., Wille, G. *Synthesis*, **2003**, 2827.

μReactors: Not A Replacement for Process Chemists

Comparison of Organic Waste from Medicinal chemistry and commercial routes

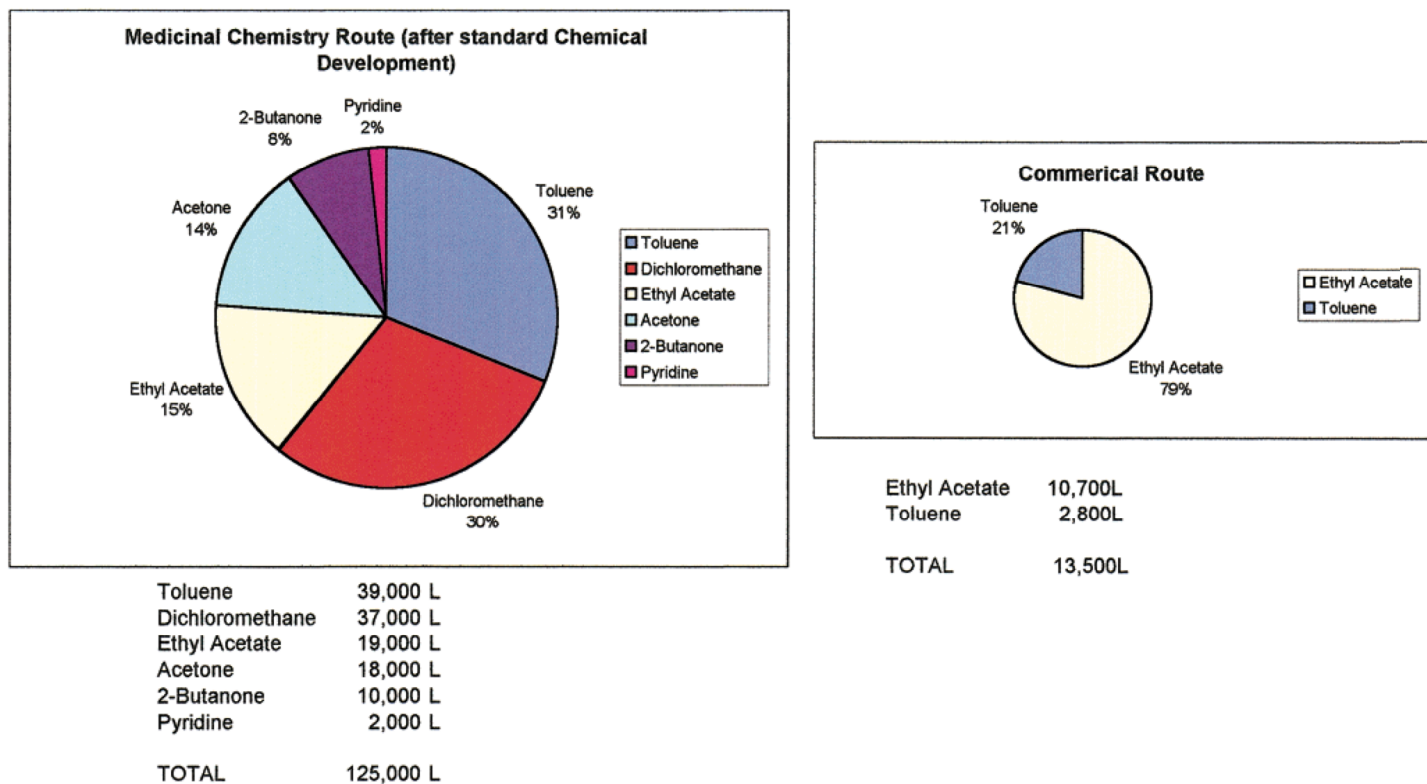
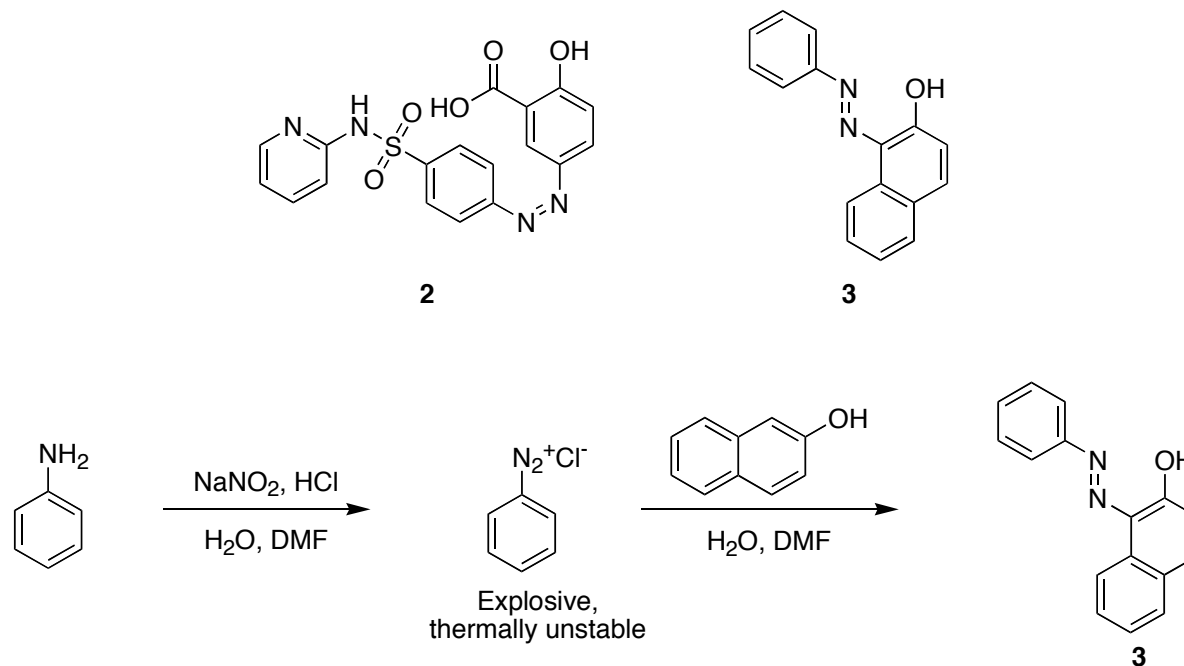


Figure 4. Comparison of organic waste from medicinal chemistry and commercial routes. The cyclisation solvent, *tert*-butyl alcohol, ends up in the aqueous waste (for treatment) in both medicinal chemistry and commercial routes.

μ Reactors in series for Hazardous Materials

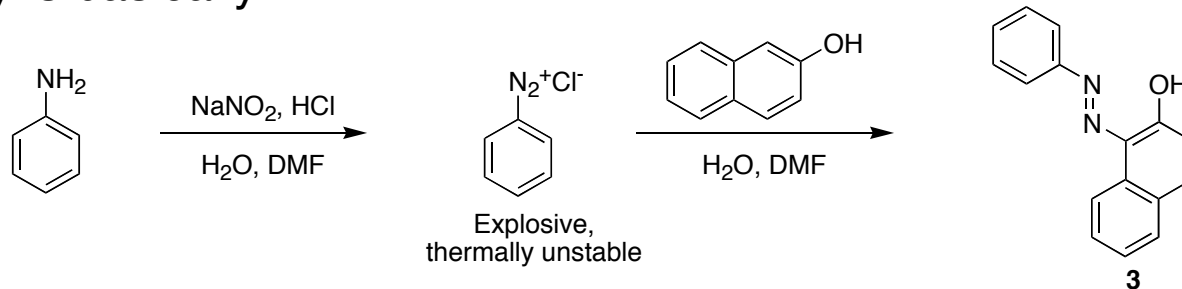


- On academic scale reaction proceeded to 52 % conversion

Wooten, R. C. R., Fortt, R., de Mello, A. J. *Lab Chip*, **2002**, 2, 5.

Azo Coupling on Large Scale

- Application of CPC reactors to dye formation extensively studied by Clariant: Pigments and Additives Division.
- No dye given, no yields
- Explored differences between traditional batch processing for one red and one yellow dye
- Chemistry is basically:

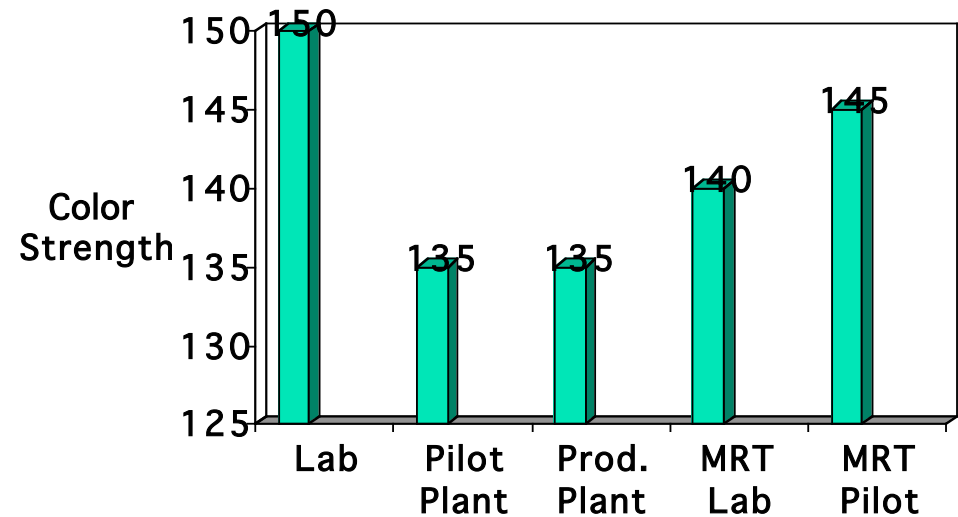
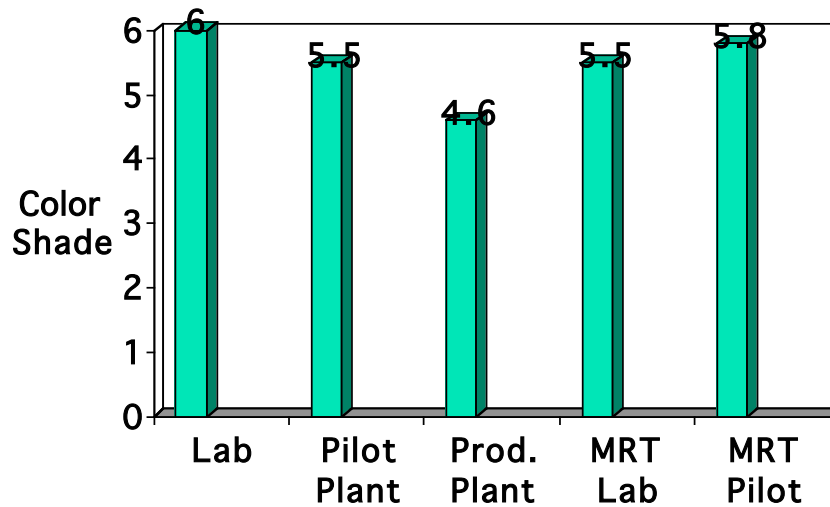


Wille, Ch., Gabski, H.-P., Haller, Th., Kim, H., Unverdorben, R. W., *Chem. Eng. Jour.*, **2004**, 101, 179.

Results of Study

- Output
 - 80 kg per batch operation and hour
 - 1 kg/h for μ Reactor
 - Both reproducible to $\pm 3\%$

- Quality



Wille, Ch., Gabski, H.-P., Haller, Th., Kim, H., Unverdorben, R. W., *Chem. Eng. Jour.*, **2004**, 101, 179.



μReactor Reproducibility

- Quality improves because of better dosing at strong flow rates
- Particle size and distribution stayed consistent
- Process transfer from lab to plant took 1 week, 2-3 for batch

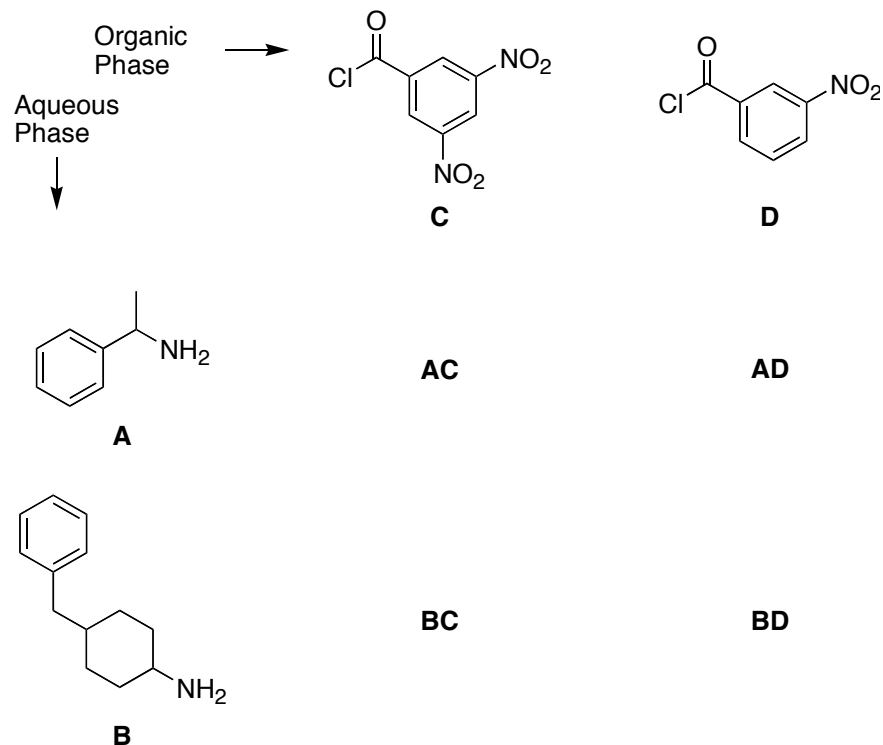
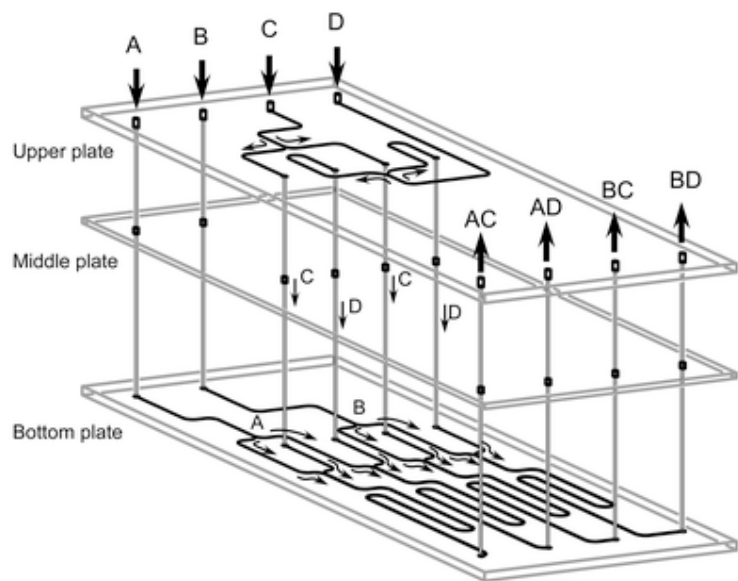
Property	MRT-lab	MRT-pilot
Color dC	1.58	1.52
Color strength (%)	111	118
Color shade dH	0.40	0.38
Color lightness dL	0.42	0.4

- Only example I could find of a published scale-up
- Pilot plant has been ordered from CPC

Wille, Ch., Gabski, H.-P., Haller, Th., Kim, H., Unverdorben, R. W., *Chem. Eng. Jour.*, **2004**, *101*, 179. Schwakbe, T., Autze, V., Hohmann, M., Stirner, W. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.* **2004**, *8*, 440.

Combinatorial Chemistry on Chips

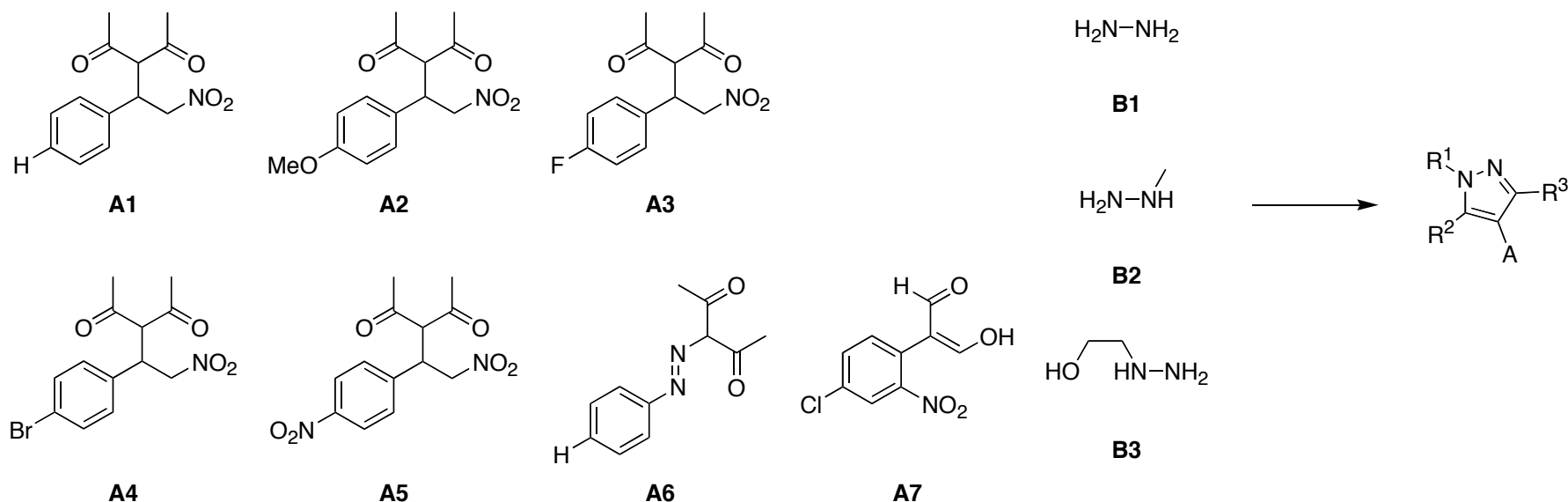
- Method A: Parallel Synthesis
 - Complicated chip patterns
 - Multiple pumps and outlets
 - Efficacy demonstrated



Kikutani, Y., Horiuchi, T., Uchiyama, K., Hisamoto, H, Tokeshi, M., Kitamori, T. *Lab Chip*, **2002**, *2*, 188.

Combinatorial Chemistry on Chips

- “Slug” Injection
 - Less Hardware and complicated chip design needed
 - Possibility of direct analysis of product either with μ TAS or conventional methods
 - Amounts obtained are relatively small



Garcia-Edigo, E., Spikmans, V., Wong, S. Y. F., Warrington, B. H. *Lab Chip*, **2003**, 3, 73-76



Limitations of System

- Will the process be cGMP compliant??
- May not be (is not?) suitable for all reactions.
- NO SOLIDS
- Lack of knowledge about the “art” may hinder and slow usage
- Quality of the commercially available systems has to be improved

Anderson, N., G., *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2001**, *5*, 613. Wille, Ch., Gabski, H.-P., Haller, Th., Kim, H., Unverdorben, L., Winter, R. *Chem. Eng. Jour.* **2004**, *101*, 179.



Conclusions

- Intriguing way of performing reactions
- Definite possibility for commercial use
- Most likely a medicinal chemist will never see one in his or her lab
- Could be useful first in small scale, on site, manufacture of toxic chemicals in bulk
- Someone needs to use it first:
 - “Nobody wants to take the lead on his own; thus, the situation can be described as wait and see.”
 - “Finally, all this information must be used to build plants with μ flow devices and to profit from the new technology. Otherwise the technology will stay at a level of an ‘innovation,’ ‘plaything’ or whatever.”

Quotes from IMM in Penneman, H., Watts, P., Haswell, S. J., Hesse, V., Lowe, H. *Org. Proc. Res. Dev.*, **2004**, *8*, 422



Impact of Chemical Weapon Proliferation

- Small, easily hidden
- Problems of “good” toxic chemicals same as “bad” toxic chemicals
- Microreactors will likely be easily manufactured in the near future
- Could possibly be used for reliable “onsite” generation

Lowe, H., Hessel, V., Mueller, A. *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2002**, 74, 2271

- Much the same could be said of “batch” chemistry and existing technology
- Should be aware of the problem, but not overly concerned.