

Master Course  
in Organic Chemistry

2018-19

methods and design  
in organic synthesis



Pere Romea

*Visione metafísica di New York*  
Giorgio De Chirico, 1975



## 5. New approaches

## BUILDING BLOCK STRATEGY

*based on the recognition of structural units*

## FUNCTIONAL GROUP STRATEGY

*based on the FG relationships*

PROS	CONS
------	------

*rational*

*reliable*

*robust*



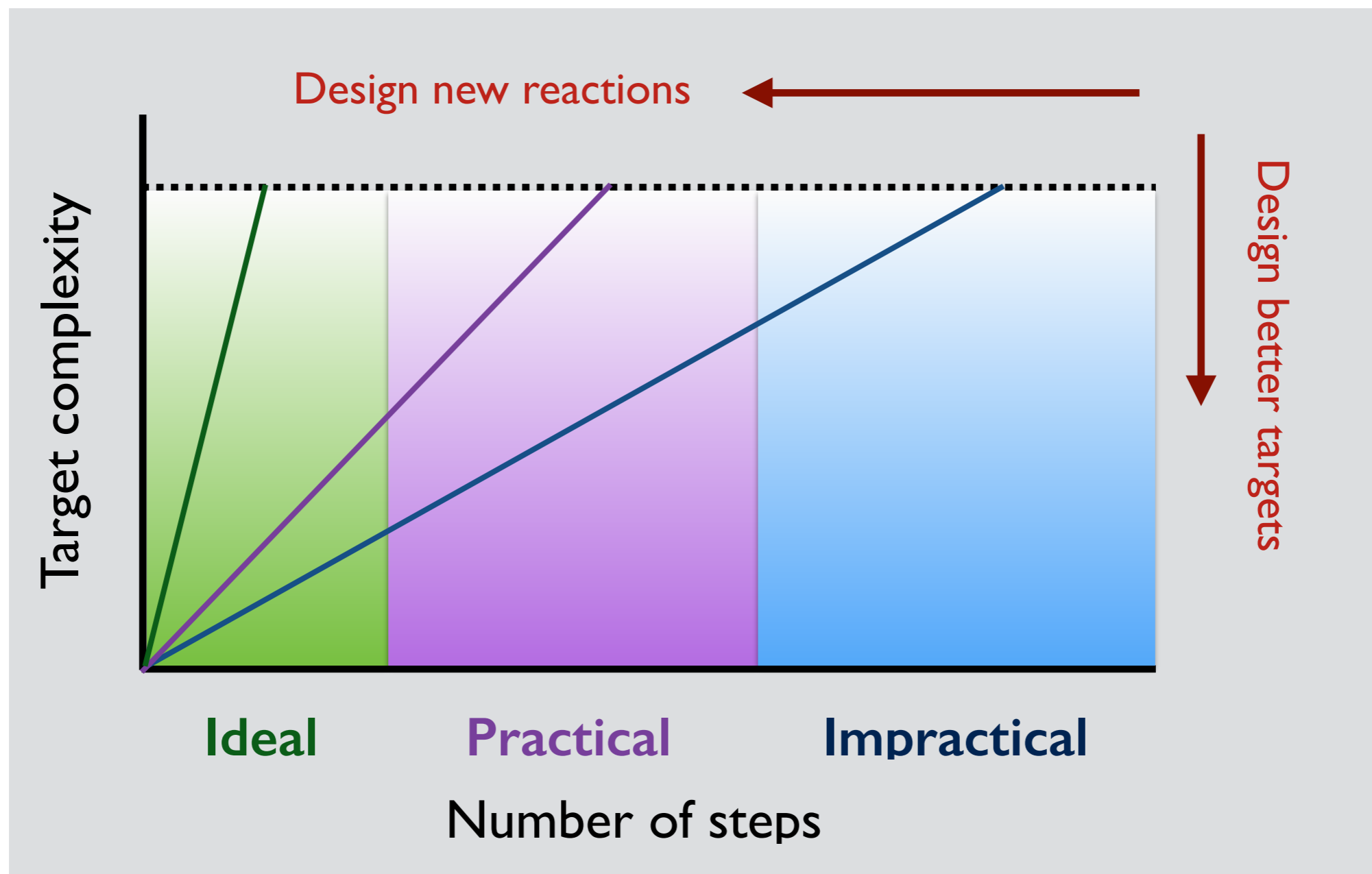
*restricted to heterolytic mechs*

*radical reactions? pericyclic reactions?*

*reactivity and selectivity as problems*

*protecting groups? changes/adjustments of FGs?*

*An efficient synthesis should not contain more than 20 steps*



## STEP ECONOMY

as least steps as possible

Fürstner, A. *Synlett* **1999**, 1523

Wender, P. A. *Tet* **2006**, 62, 7505; *Tet* **2013**, 69, 7529; *NPR* **2014**, 31, 433

## REDOX ECONOMY

avoidance of redundant redox steps

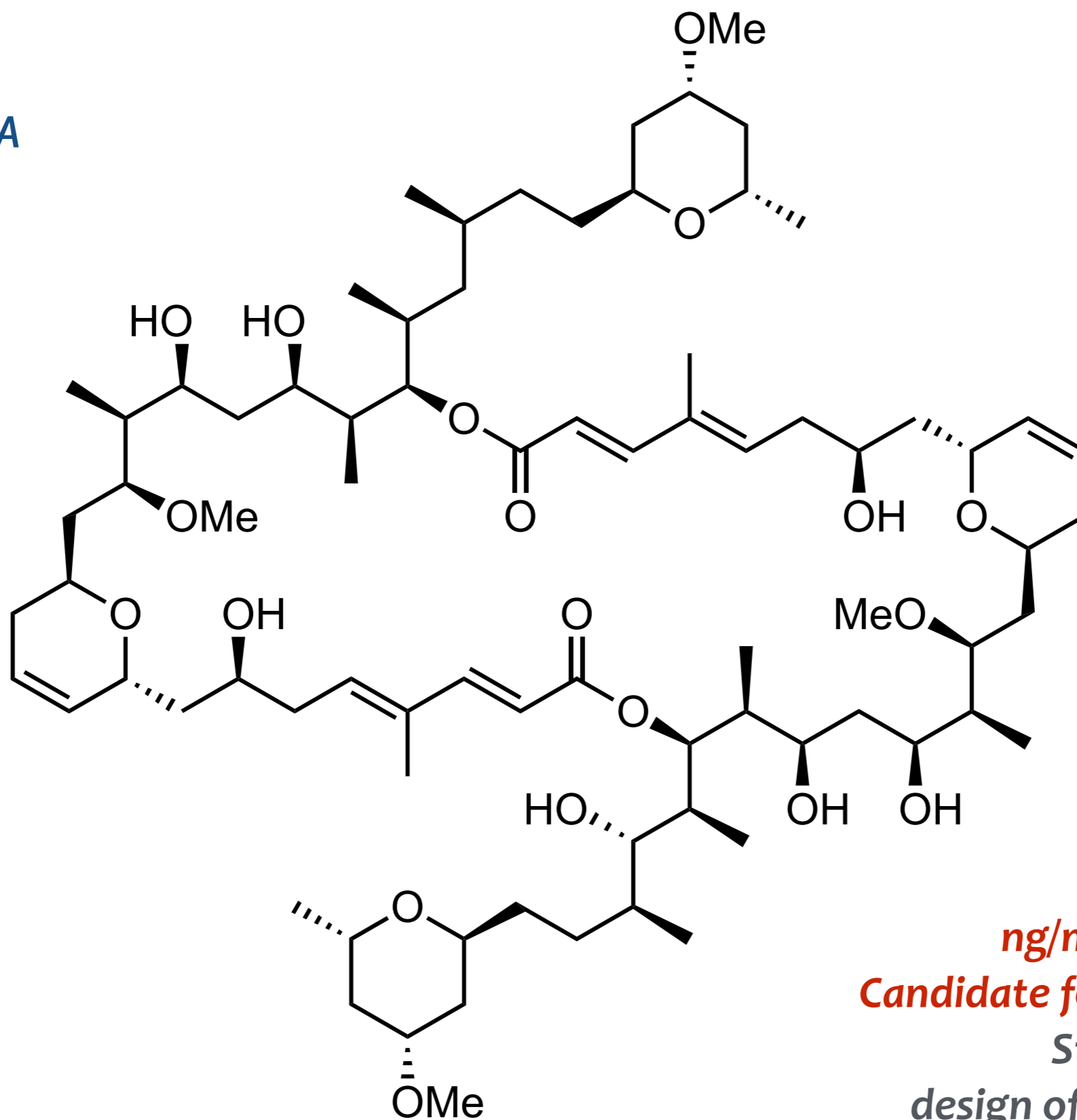
Baran, P. S.; Hoffmann, R. W. *ACIE* **2009**, 48, 2854

For *The Economies of Synthesis*, see: Baran, P. S.; Hoffmann, R. W. *CSR* **2009**, 38, 3010

## **POT ECONOMY**

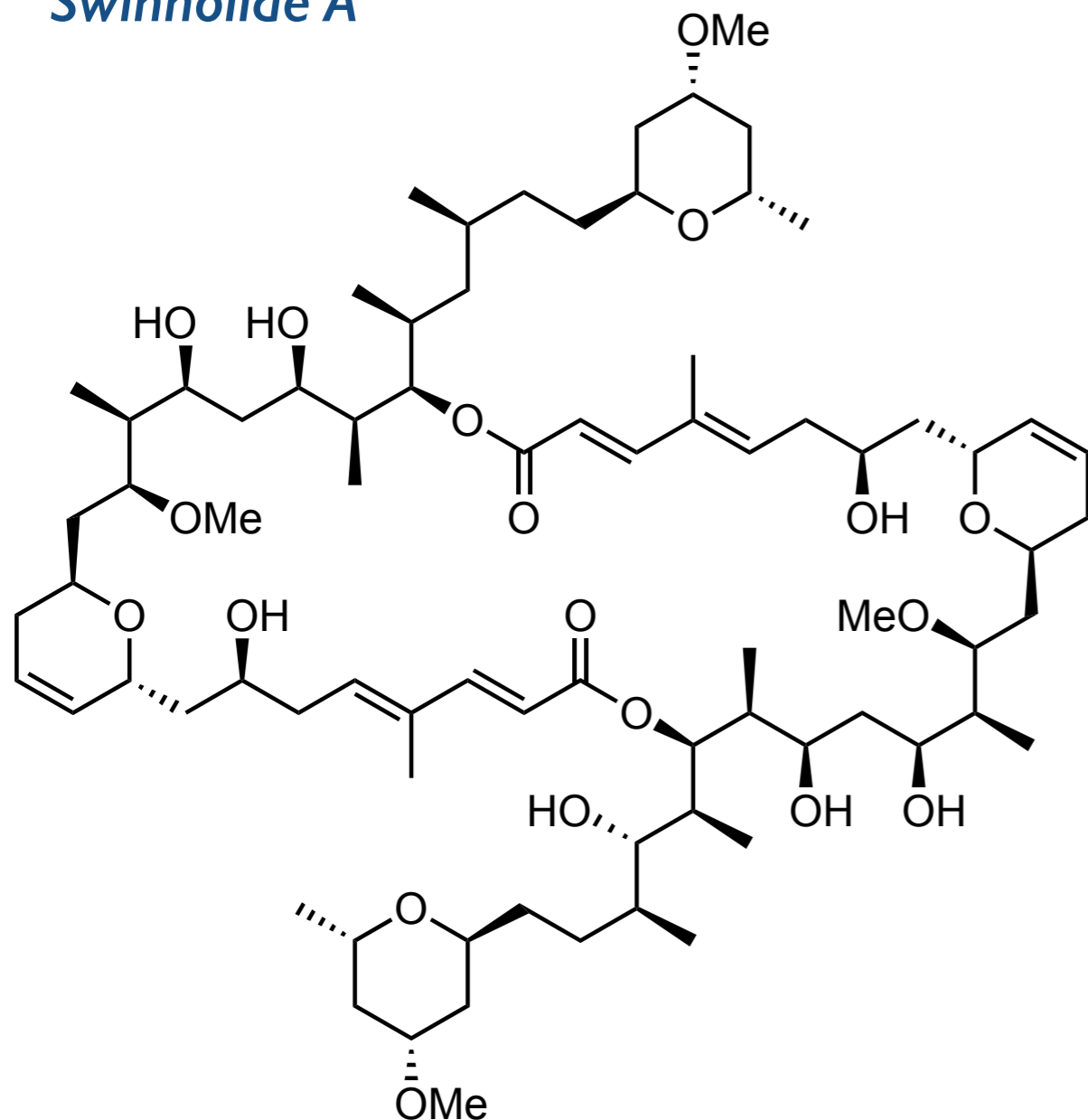
aim to complete an entire multi-step synthesis in a single pot  
(see Chapter 7)

Clarke, P. A. *Green Chem.* **2007**, *9*, 438; Christmann, M. *ACIE* **2011**, *50*, 3605  
Hayashi, Y. *CS* **2016**, *7*, 866

*Swinholide A*

**ng/mL cytotoxic activity**  
**Candidate for cancer treatment**  
Starting point for the  
design of clinical candidates?

## Swinholide A



## THREE TOTAL SYNTHESSES

Paterson, I. *JACS* **1994**, 116, 9391  
*Tet* **1995**, 51, 9393, 9413 9437, 9467

+ 1 year

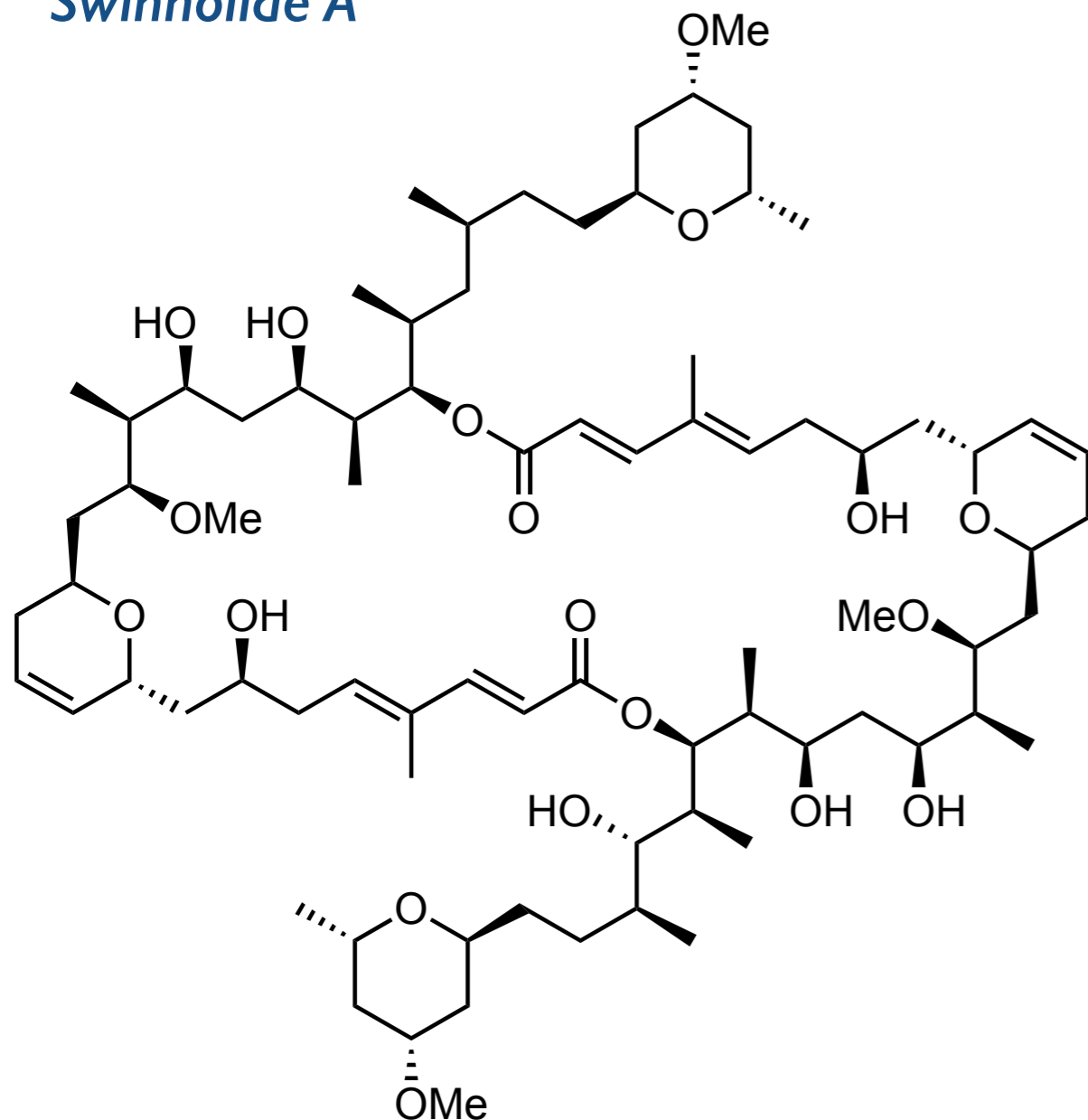
Nicolaou, K. C. *JACS* **1995**, 118, 3059  
*CEJ* **1995**, 2, 847

+ 21 years

Krische, M. J. *JACS* **2016**, 139, 14246



## Swinholide A



## THREE TOTAL SYNTHESSES

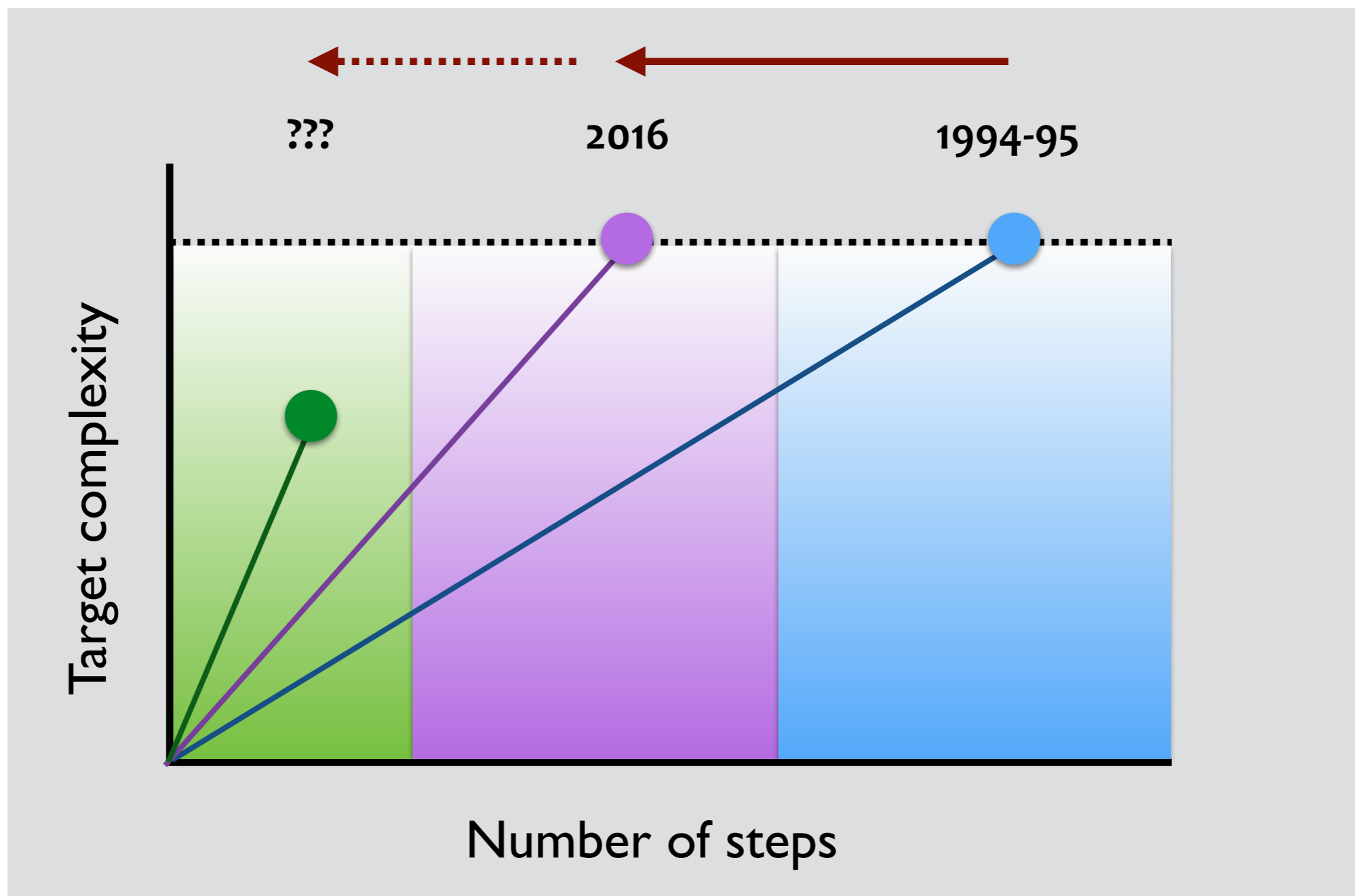
Paterson, I.  
27 Longest Lineal Synthesis ; 50 Total Steps

Nicolaou, K. C. *JACS* **1995**, 118, 3059  
35 Longest Lineal Synthesis ; 59 Total Steps

*Rh-Catalyzed reductive aldol reaction*  
*Ru-Catalyzed Metathesis*  
*Ir-Catalyzed Alcohol Allylation*

Krische, M. J. *JACS* **2016**, 139, 14246  
15 Longest Lineal Synthesis ; 30 Total Steps

*More simple TGT    More efficient reactions and strategies: CATALYSIS*



**NEW OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES**

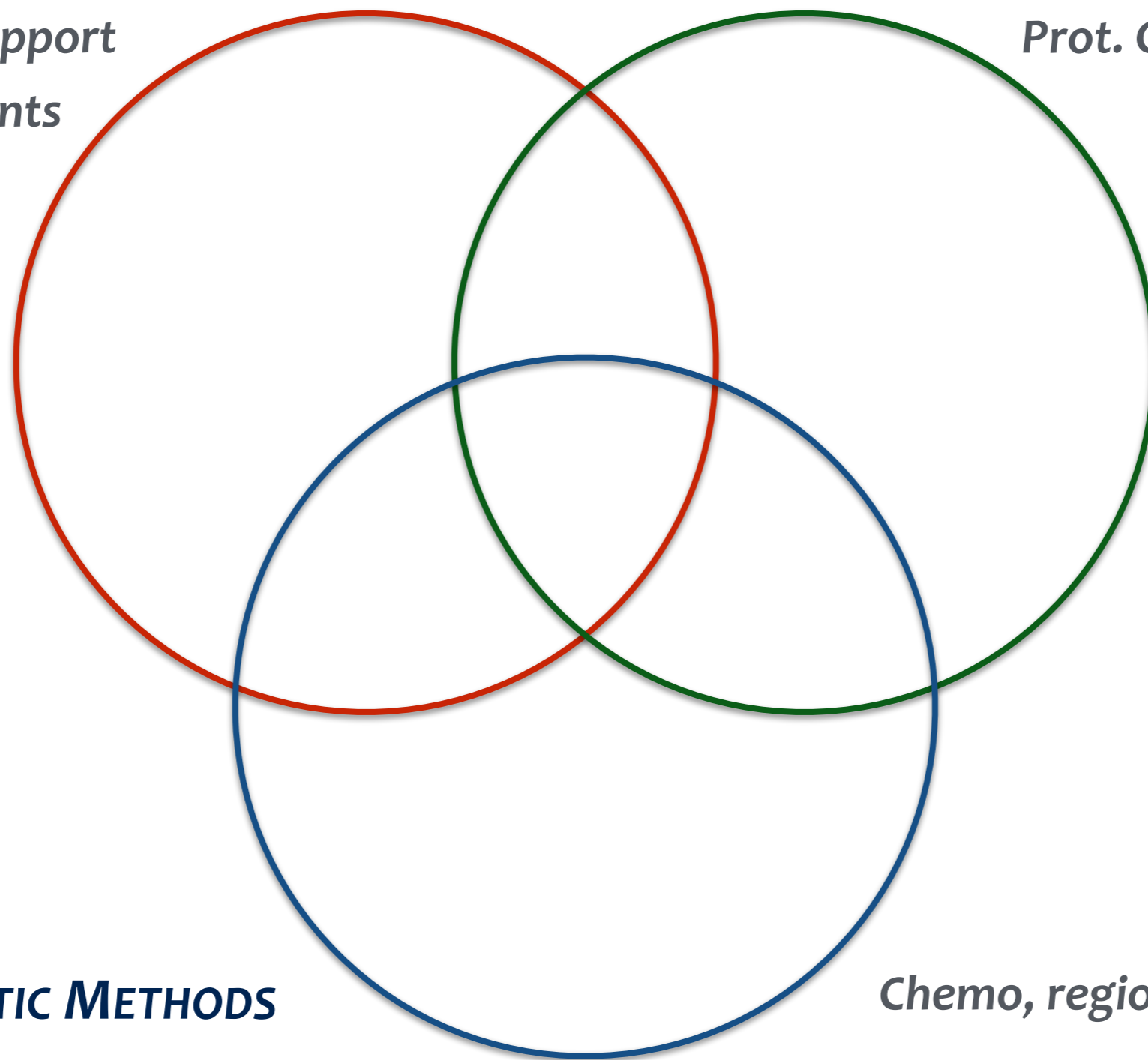
*Computational support*  
*Solid phase reagents*  
*Scavengers*

**NEW SYNTHETIC STRATEGIES**

*Prot. Group free sequences*  
*Tandem sequences*

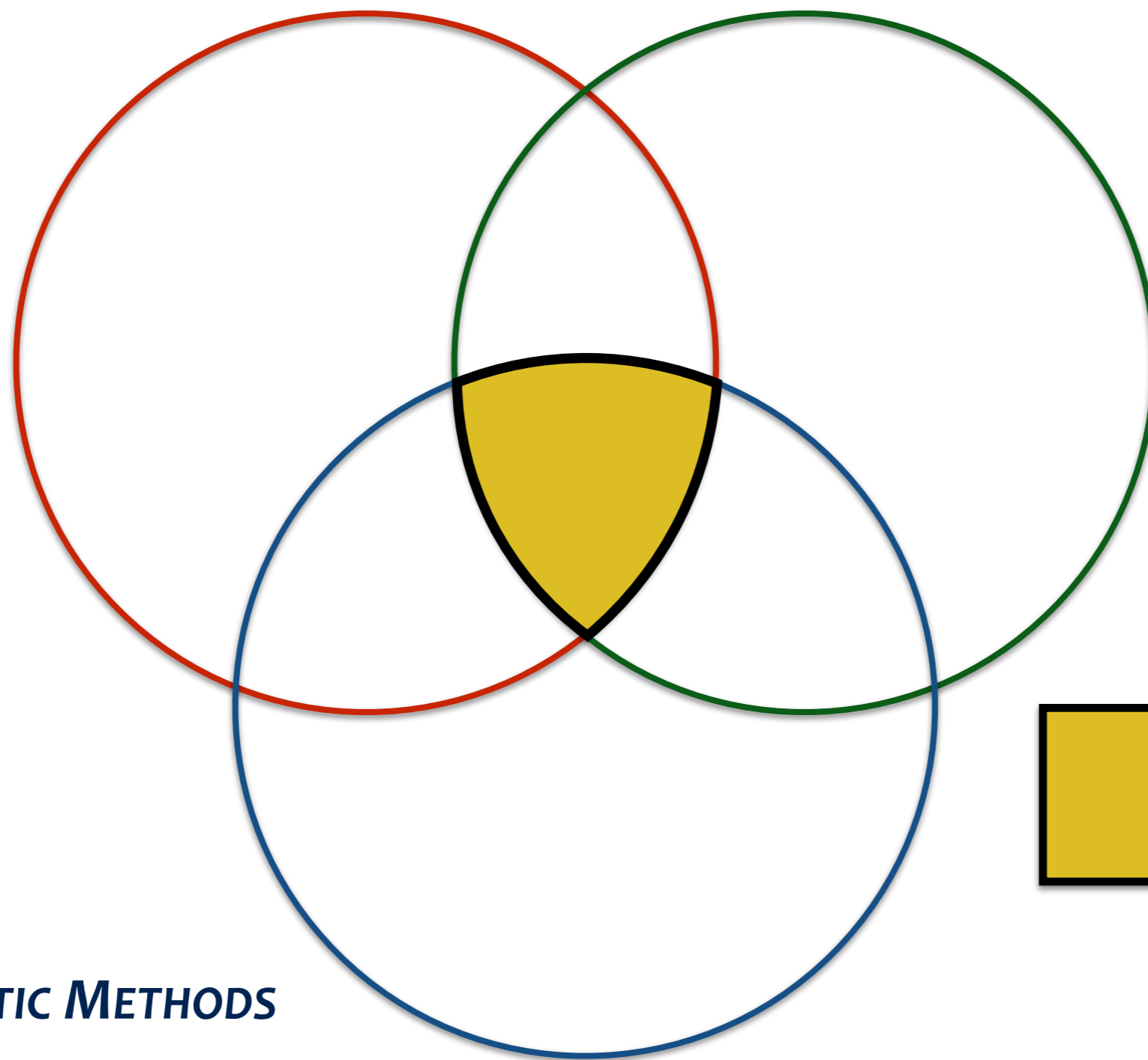
**NEW SYNTHETIC METHODS**

*Chemo, regio, and stereoselective reactions*



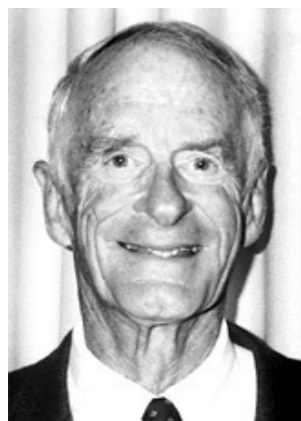
**NEW OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES**

**NEW SYNTHETIC STRATEGIES**



**Catalysis**

**NEW SYNTHETIC METHODS**



W. S. Knowles



R. Noyori



K. B. Sharpless

**2001**

*for their work on chiral catalyzed hydrogenation and oxidation reactions*



Y. Chauvin



R. H. Grubbs



R. R. Schrock

**2005**

*for the development of the metathesis method in organic synthesis*



R. F. Heck



E-i. Negishi

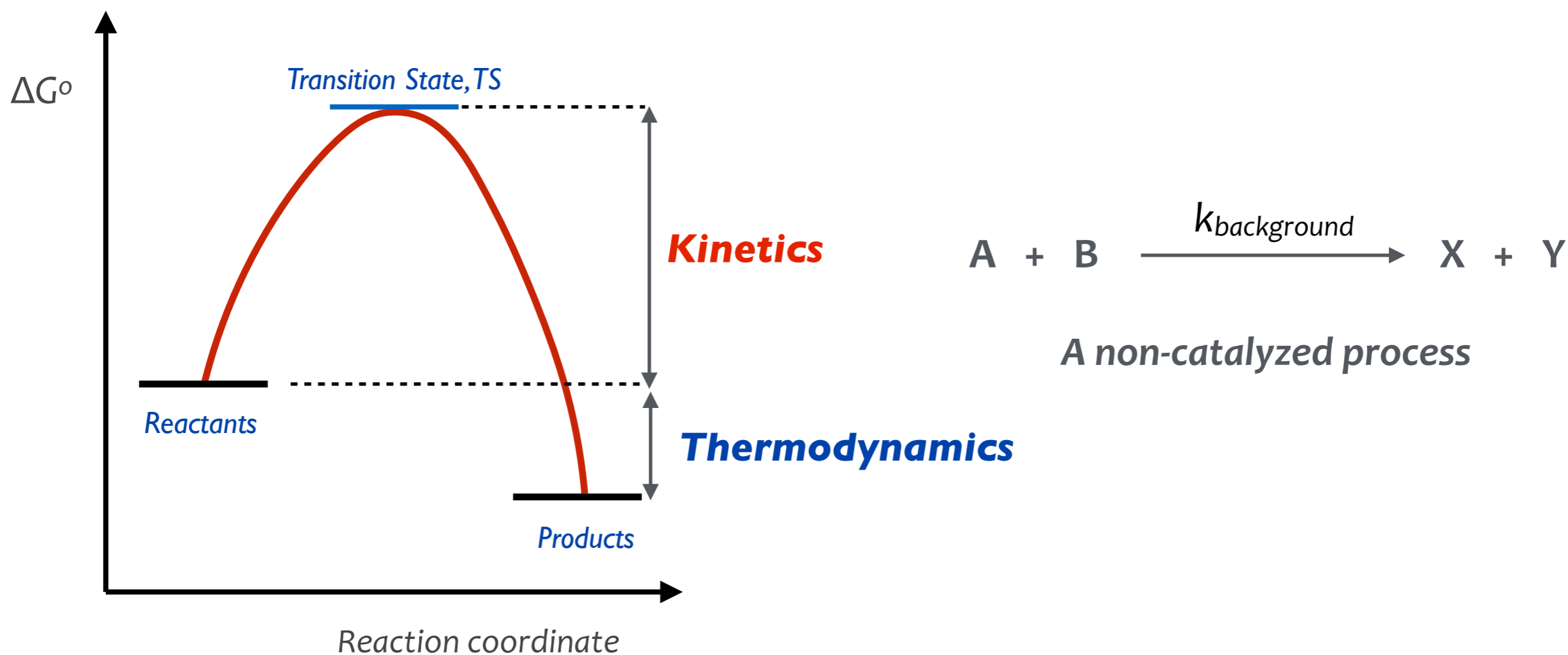


A. Suzuki

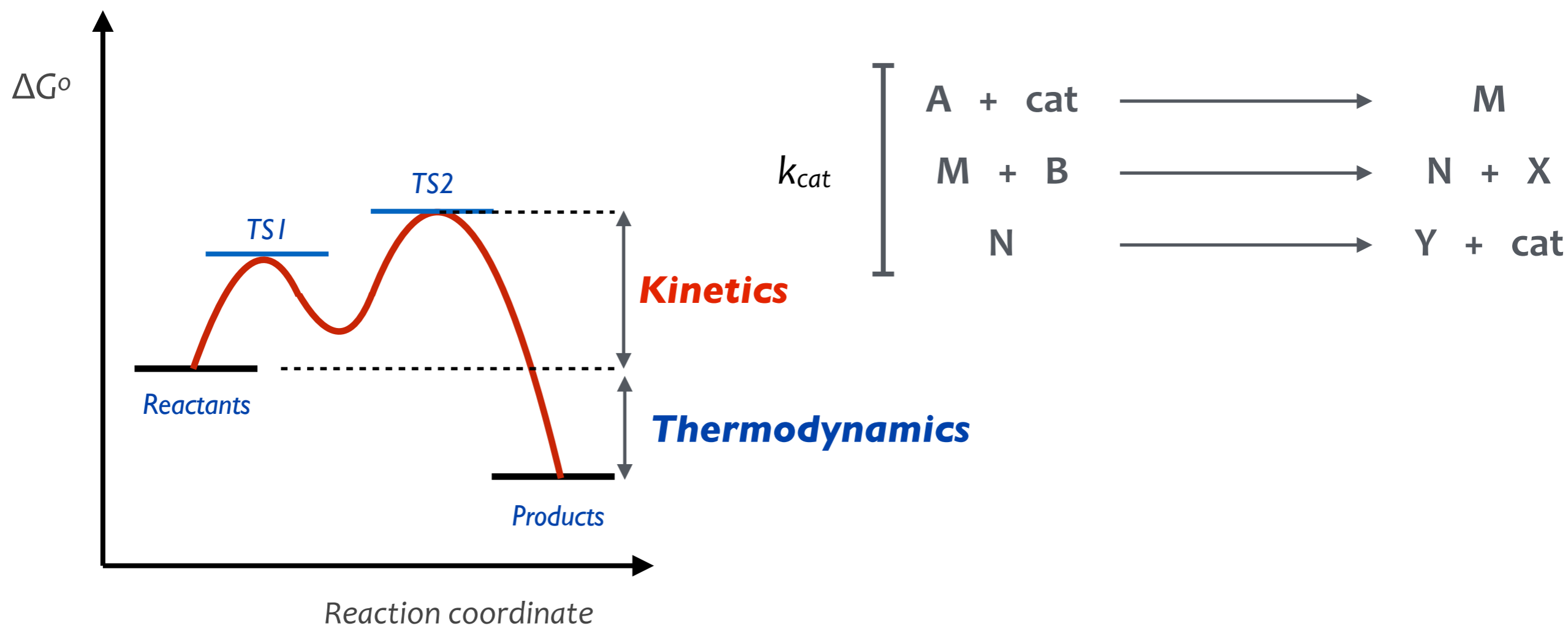
**2010**

*for palladium-catalyzed cross couplings in organic synthesis*

A catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a reaction without modifying the overall standard Gibbs energy change in the reaction.  
The process is called catalysis

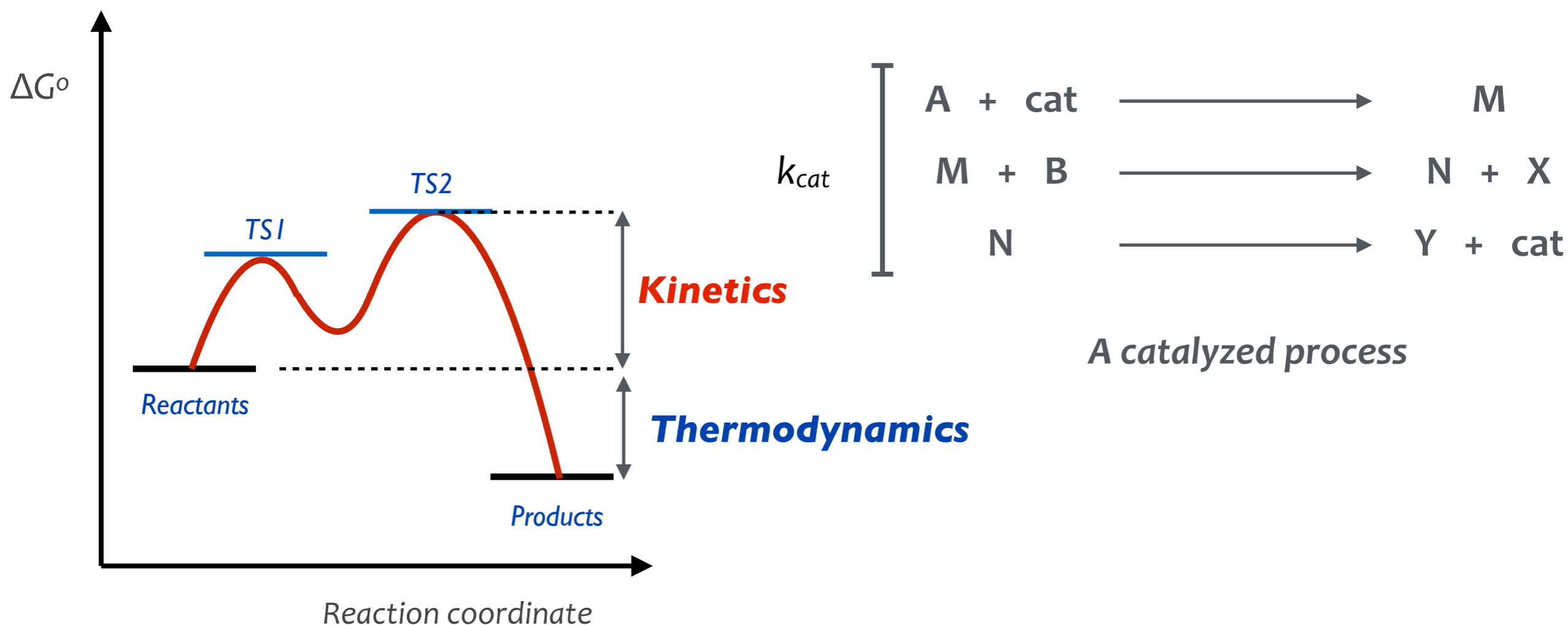


A catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a reaction without modifying the overall standard Gibbs energy change in the reaction.  
The process is called catalysis



This definition is sufficiently broad to encompass catalysts used in both small (substoichiometric) and large (stoichiometric and superstoichiometric) quantities as well as relatively complicated ( $[\text{Ir}(\text{PCy}_3)_3]^+\text{BPh}_4$ ) and simple ( $\text{H}^+$ ) catalysts

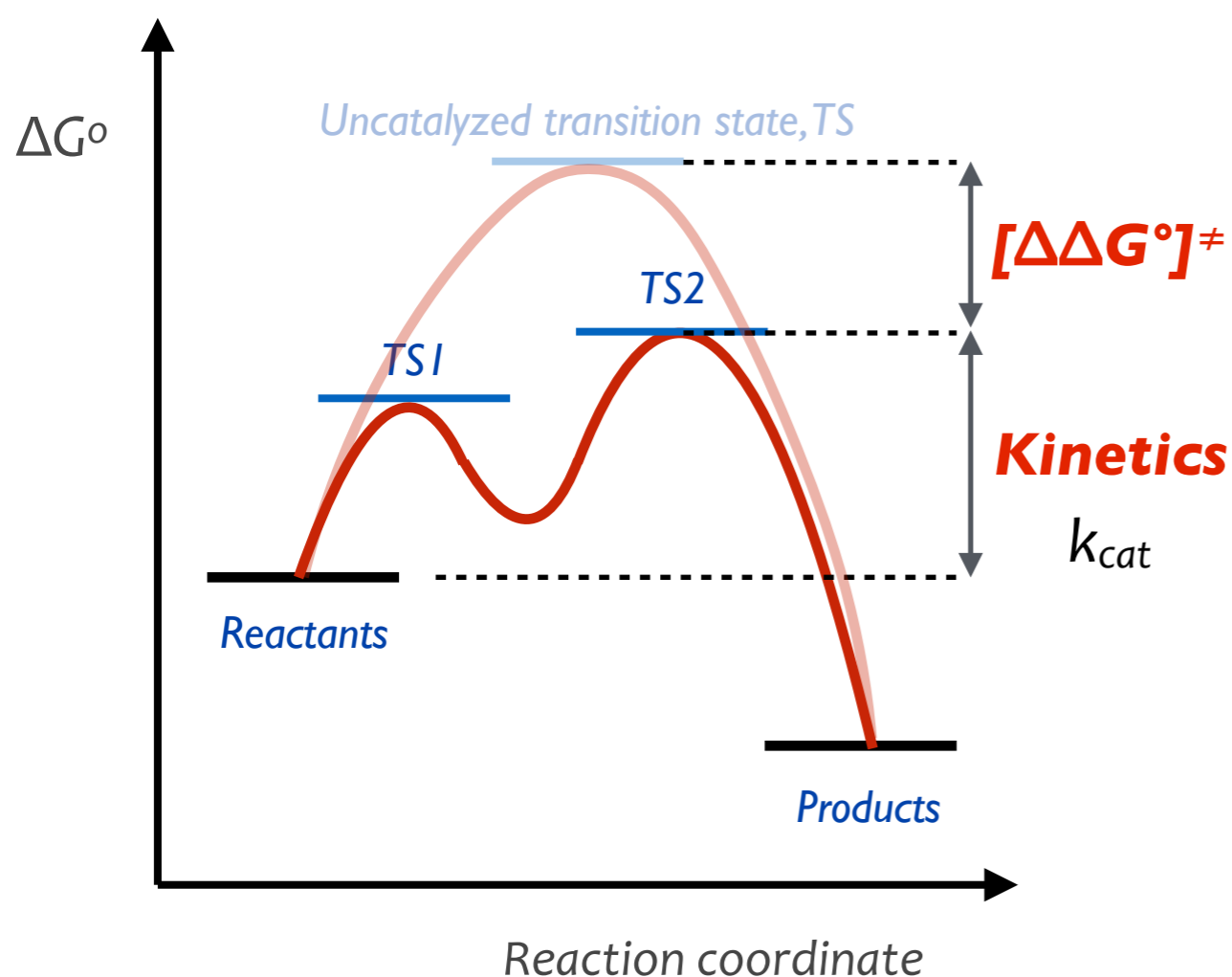
Jones, A. C.; Stoltz, B. M. *ACIE* 2014, 53, 2556





This definition is sufficiently broad to encompass catalysts used in both small (substoichiometric) and large (stoichiometric and superstoichiometric) quantities as well as relatively complicated ( $[\text{Ir}(\text{PCy}_3)_3]^+\text{BPh}_4$ ) and simple ( $\text{H}^+$ ) catalysts

Jones, A. C.; Stoltz, B. M. *ACIE* 2014, 53, 2556



**Activation mode**



A catalyzed process

**$[\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger]^\ddagger$  as higher as possible**

$$k_{\text{cat}} \gg k_{\text{background}}$$

## Organometallic Catalysis: Few Activation Concepts

### Lewis Acids Catalysts

---

Mukaiyama  
Corey  
Evans  
Shibasaki



### Atom Transfer Catalysts

---

Sharpless  
Jacobsen  
Shi



### Olefin Metathesis

---

Grubbs  
Schrock  
Hoveyda  
Fürstner



### $\sigma$ -bond insertion C–C bond coupling

---

Suzuki  
Stille  
Negishi  
Kumada



### $\sigma$ -bond insertion C–N, O, S bond coupling

---

Buchwald  
Hartwig



### $\pi$ -bond insertion

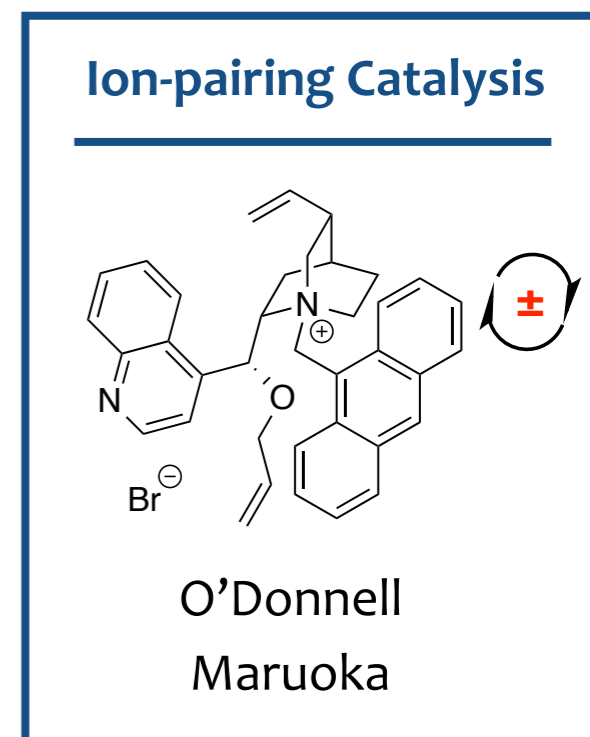
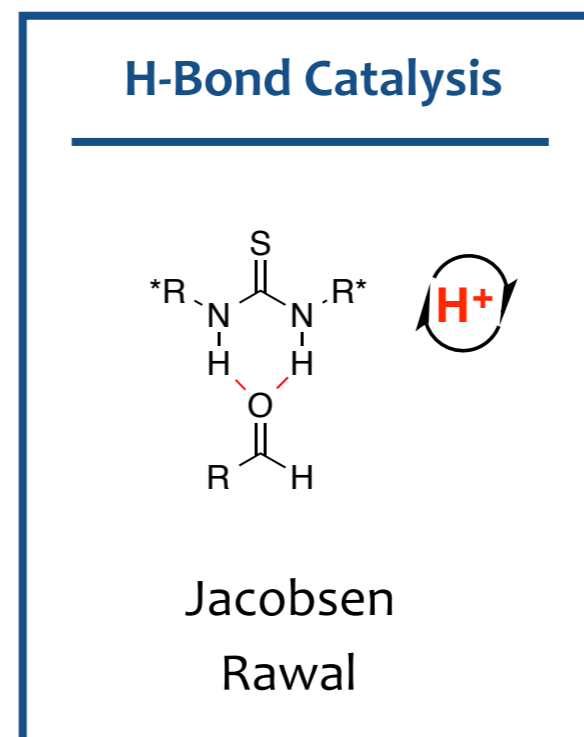
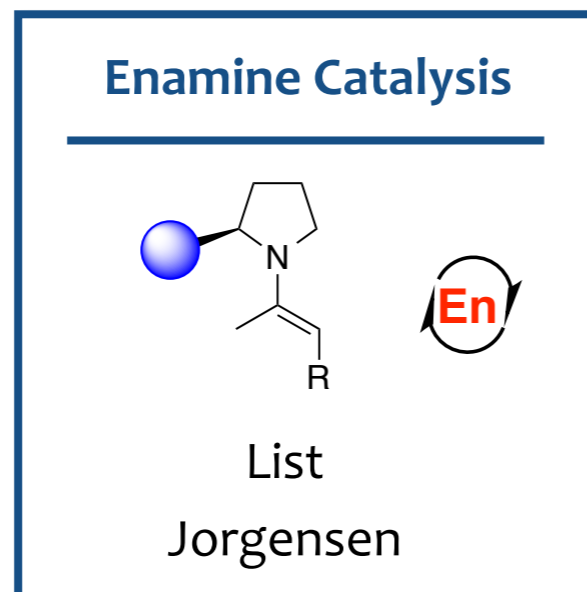
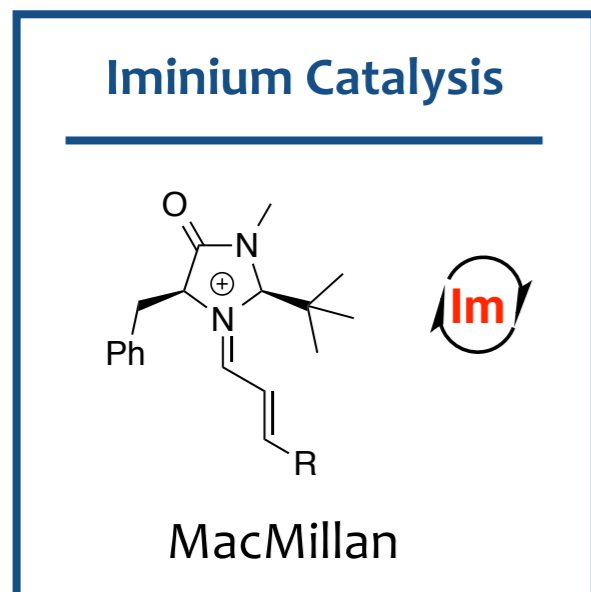
---

Trost  
Noyori  
Heck  
Krische



*Relatively few activation modes have resulted in a large number of chemical reactions*

Organocatalysis Has Added More Activation Concepts



Two new modes of catalyst activation have recently been devised

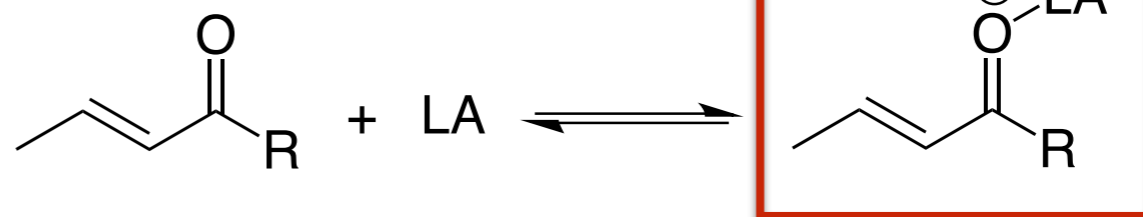


See Synthesis handouts (Chapter 2)

Diels-Alder: one of the most important pericyclic reactions

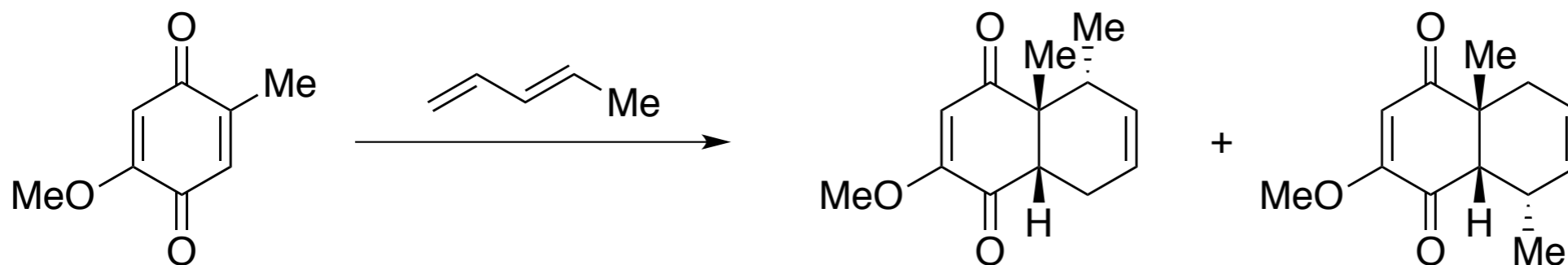
## Lewis Acids Catalysts

Mukaiyama  
Corey  
Evans  
Shibasaki



**better dienophile**

milder experimental conditions:  
better selectivity



Conditions

Ratio

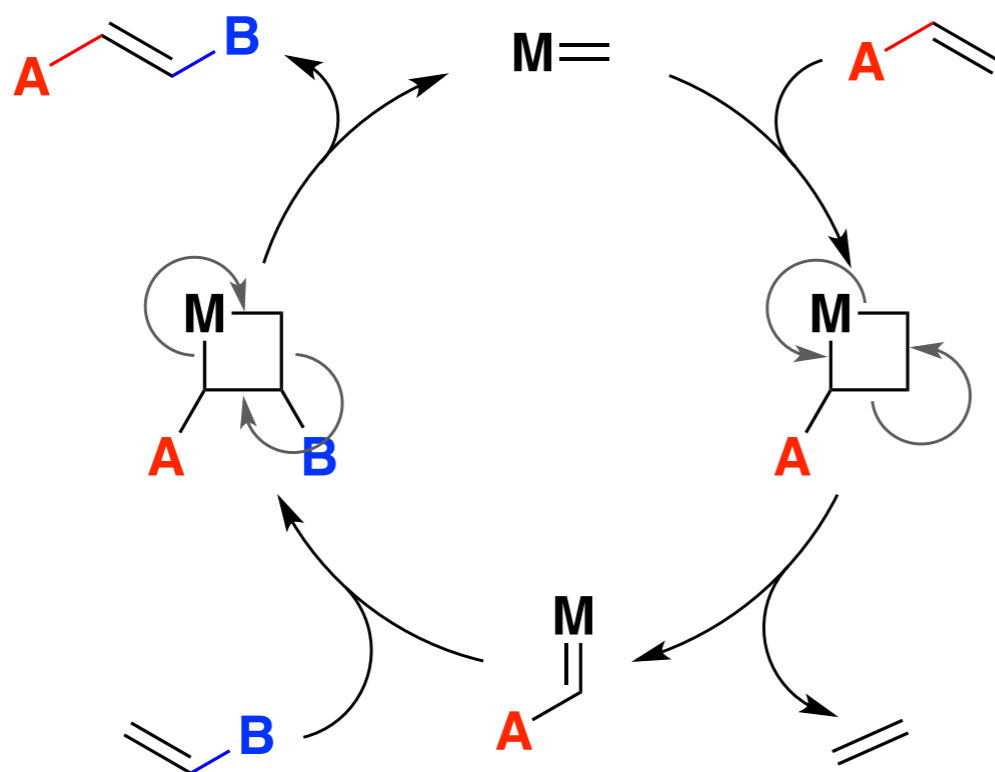
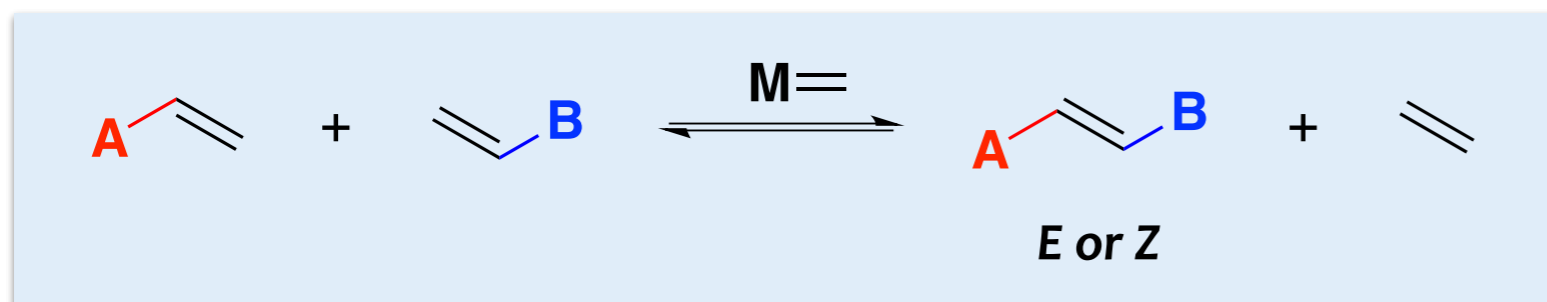
Without LA (100 °C) 50 : 50

**BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> (-20 °C) 80 : 20**

**SnCl<sub>4</sub> (-20 °C) 5 : 95**

**regioselectivity?**

Metathesis: a key reaction for the formation of alkenes

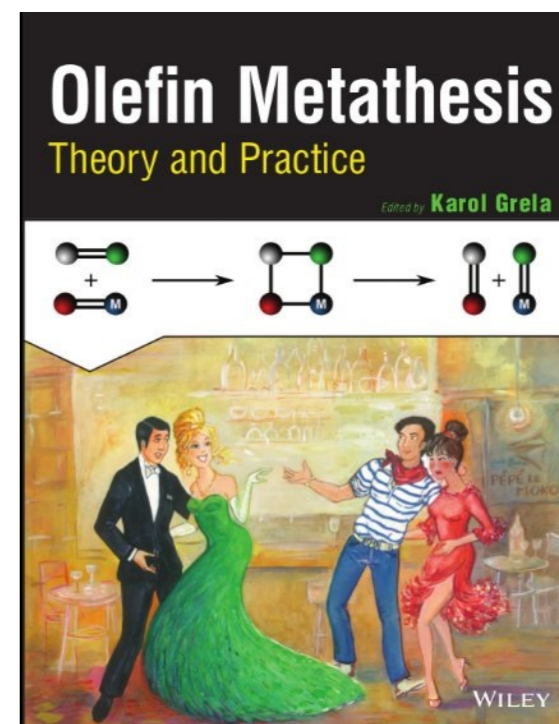


Metathesis can also involve alkynes

See Synthesis handouts (Chapter 3)

## Olefin Metathesis

Grubbs  
Schrock  
Hoveyda  
Fürstner

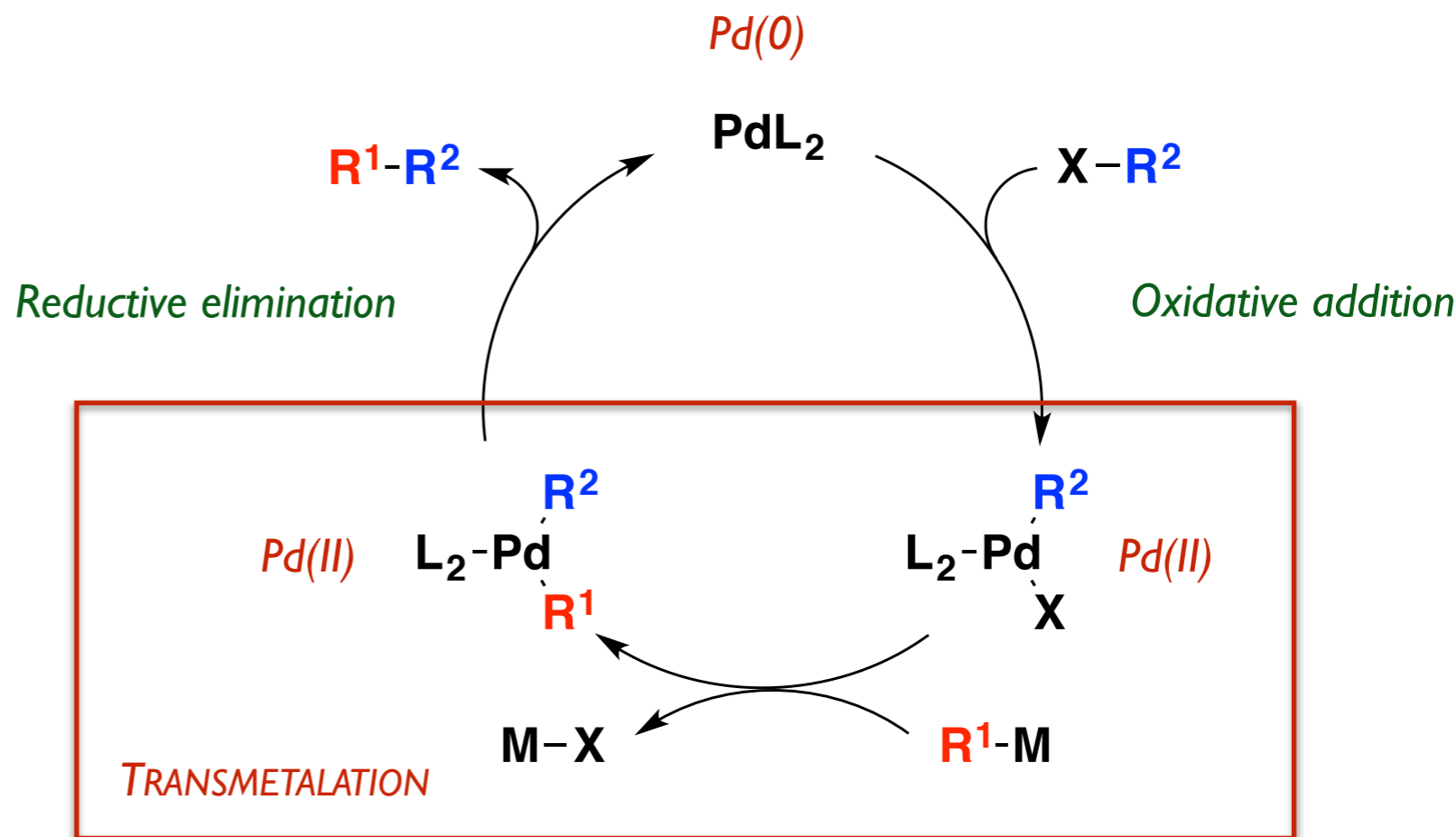


Grela K.

Olefin Metathesis. Theory and Practice. Wiley

## Pd-Coupling reactions: a new way to construct C-C bonds

See Synthesis handouts  
(Chapter 4)



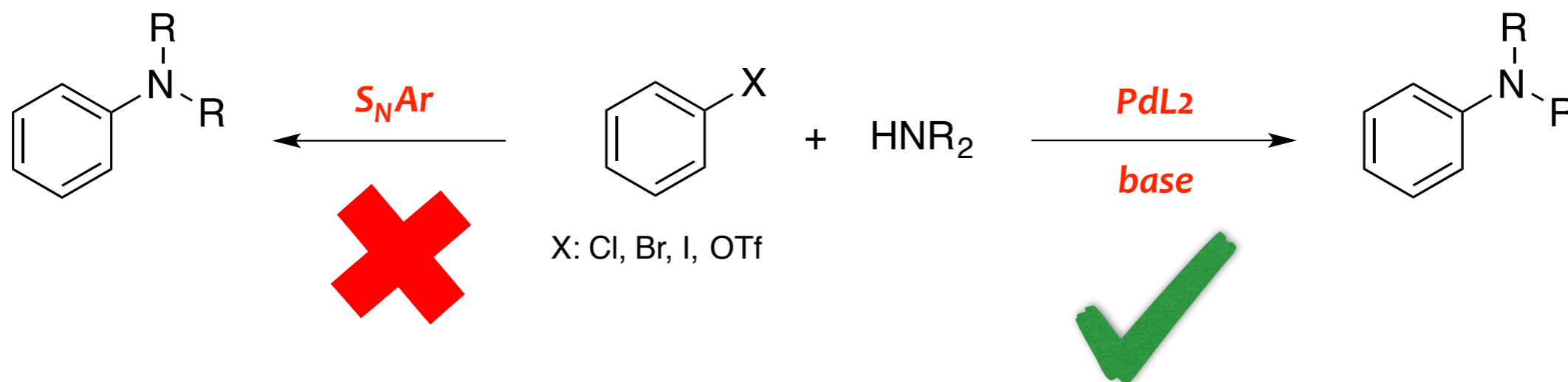
### $\sigma$ -bond insertion C-C bond coupling

Suzuki  
Stille  
Negishi  
Kumada



$R^1$ : alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl     $R^2$ : better no beta H  
 $X$ : I, Br, Cl, OTf

Pd-Coupling reactions: C–X bonds now available



**$\sigma$ -bond insertion**  
**C–N, O, S bond coupling**

Buchwald  
 Hartwig



In the **Buchwald-Hartwig reaction**, Pd(0) insertion into an aryl halide bond in an oxidative step is followed by the coordination of an amine (or other nucleophiles) to yield the substitution product

Buchwald, S. *ACR* **1998**, 31, 805  
 Hartwig, J. *ACR* **1998**, 31, 852

*A new way to build structures*

**SOMO Catalysis**



**Photoredox Catalysis**



MacMillan, Stephenson, Nicewicz, Yoon, Bach, Rueping



## A New Concept: SOMO Catalysis



Science 2007, 316, 582



David W. C. MacMillan

## Enantioselective Organocatalysis Using SOMO Activation

Teresa D. Beeson,<sup>1,2</sup> Anthony Mastracchio,<sup>1,2</sup> Jun-Bae Hong,<sup>1,2</sup> Kate Ashton,<sup>1,2</sup> David W. C. MacMillan<sup>1,2\*</sup>

The asymmetric  $\alpha$ -addition of relatively nonpolar hydrocarbon substrates, such as allyl and aryl groups, to aldehydes and ketones remains a largely unsolved problem in organic synthesis, despite the wide potential utility of direct routes to such products. We reasoned that well-established chiral amine catalysis, which activates aldehydes toward electrophile addition by enamine formation, could be expanded to this important reaction class by applying a single-electron oxidant to create a transient radical species from the enamine. We demonstrated the concept of singly occupied molecular orbital (SOMO) activation with a highly selective  $\alpha$ -allylation of aldehydes, and we here present preliminary results for enantioselective heteroarylations and cyclization/halogenation cascades.

Over the past four decades, the capacity to induce asymmetric transformations with enantioselective catalysts has remained a focal point for extensive research efforts in both industrial and academic settings.

<sup>1</sup>Merck Center for Catalysis, Department of Chemistry, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA. <sup>2</sup>Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA.

\*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: dmacmill@princeton.edu

During this time, thousands of asymmetric catalytic reactions have been invented (1), in accord with the increasing need for enantiopure medicinal agents and the rapid advancement of the field of asymmetric synthesis. Most catalytic enantioinductive processes are derived from a small number of long-established activation modes. Activation modes such as Lewis acid catalysis (2),  $\sigma$ -bond insertion (3),  $\pi$ -bond insertion (4), atom transfer catalysis (5), and hydrogen bonding catalysis (6) have each spawned

countless asymmetric reaction classes, thereby dramatically expanding the synthetic toolbox available to researchers in the physical and biological sciences. A necessary objective, therefore, for the continued advancement of the field of chemical synthesis is the design and implementation of distinct catalytic-activation modes that enable previously unknown transformations.

Over the past 8 years, our laboratory has been involved in the development of the field of organocatalysis, a research area that relies on the use of small organic molecules as catalysts for enantioselective transformations. As part of these studies, we introduced the concept of iminium catalysis (7): an enal or enone activation mode that lowers the energy of the substrate's lowest unoccupied molecular orbital, facilitating enantioselective C-C and C-N conjugate additions, cycloadditions, hydrogenations, and Friedel-Crafts alkylations (8). Simultaneously, Barbas and List (9) brought to fruition the concept of enamine catalysis (Fig. 1), which raises the energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) in aldehydes and ketones to promote enantioselective  $\alpha$ -carbonyl functionalization with a large range of electrophiles (10). These two modes of catalyst activation (iminium and enamine) have provided, in total, more than 60 asymmetric methodologies over the past 7 years.

The frontier disconnections involve **C–H activation**

*C–H activation is associated with a bond functionalization in which a carbon–hydrogen bond is cleaved and replaced with a carbon-X bond (where X is usually carbon, oxygen, or nitrogen)*

*The term usually implies that a transition metal is involved in the C–H cleavage process*

*A large variety of transforms are available, so many options can be considered*

## ***If C–H Bonds Could Talk: Selective C–H Bond***

**Let the molecule do the talking:**

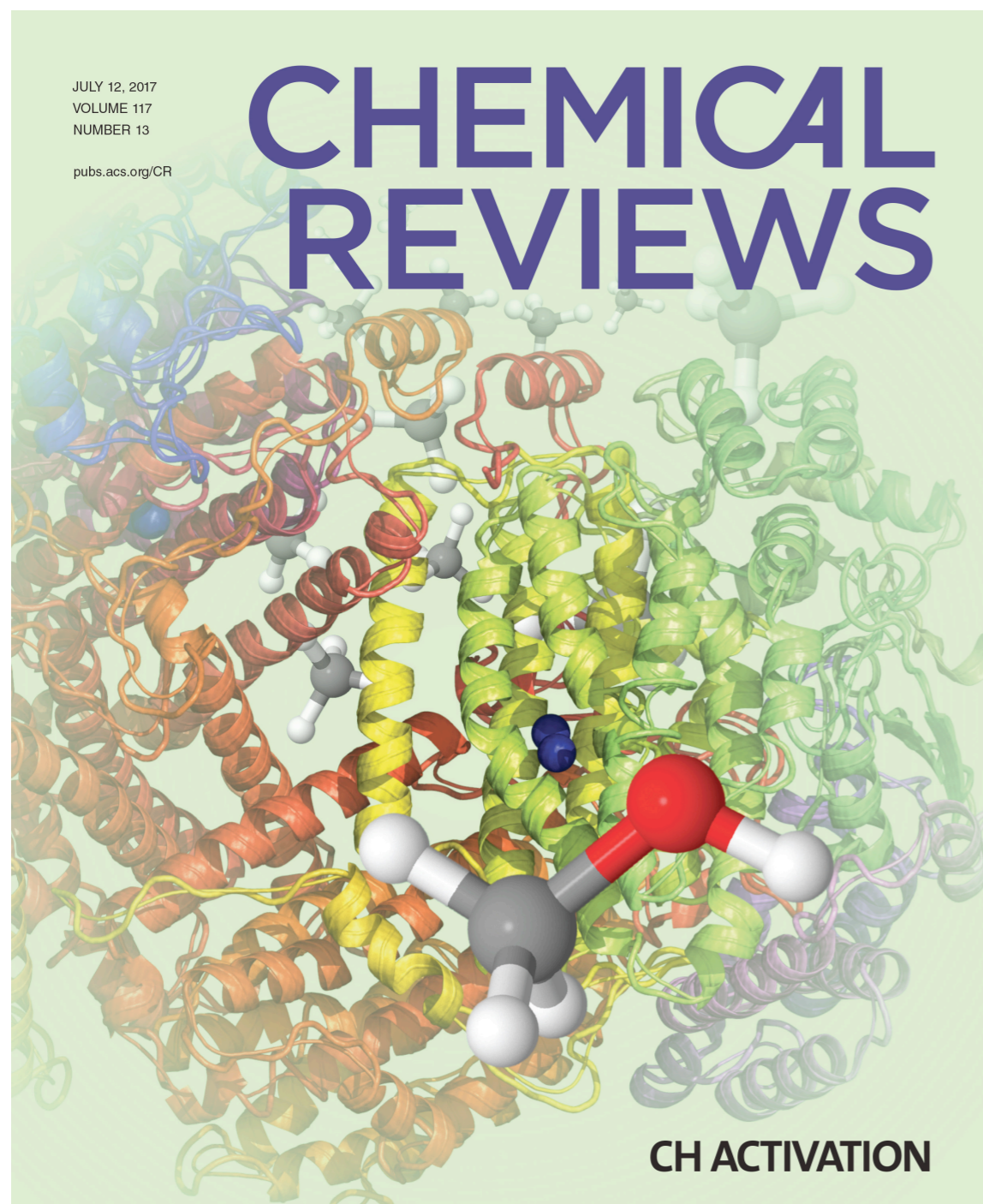
*If C–H bonds could talk, they would tell stories of **inductive effects, conjugation, hyperconjugation, steric hindrance, and strain release.***

*These stories are told from the perspective of synthetic planning and draw from the immense body of literature on the topic*

Baran, P. *Nature* **2009**, 459, 824; *ACIE* **2011**, 50, 3362

See also, Baran, P. *CSR* **2011**, 40, 1976

***For further comments, see Chapter 8***



## Chemistry Reviews

July 2017, Issue 13

*Pd-Catalyzed transformations of alkyl C–H bonds*  
J.-Q. Yu

*Oxidative C–H/C–H coupling reactions between  
two (hetero)arenes*  
J. You

*Metal catalyzed decarboxylative C–H functionalization*  
W. Su

*Transition metal catalyzed C–H bond addition to  
carbonyls, imines, and related polarised  $\pi$  bonds*  
J. A. Ellman

*Transition-metal-catalyzed C–H alkylation using alkenes*  
G. Dong

*Organocatalysis in inert C–H bond functionalization*  
S. Luo

**A comprehensive knowledge of  
the structure of organic molecules,  
mechanisms of reactions,  
and reactivity  
is nowadays essential  
to design and carry out organic synthesis**

The retrosynthetic analysis  
could be based on the recognition  
of the most appropriate transforms

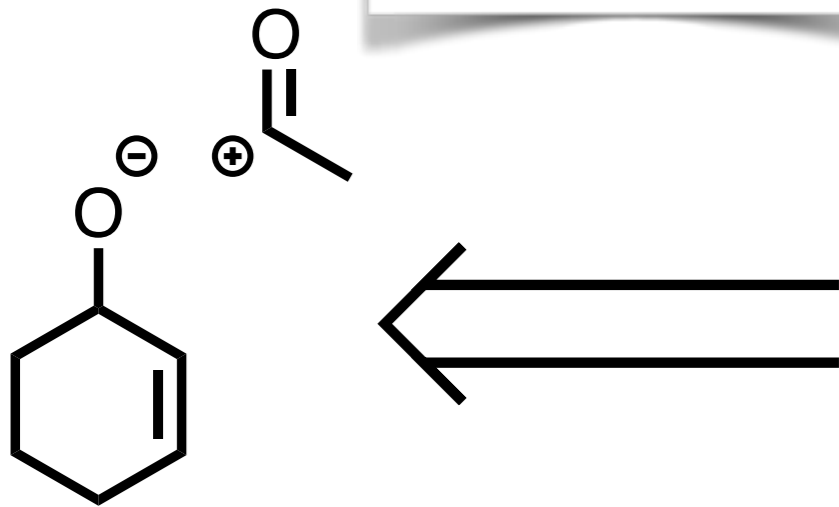
**However, ...**

**there are many thousands of transforms which are  
potentially useful in retrosynthetic analysis,  
just as there are very many known  
and useful chemical reactions**

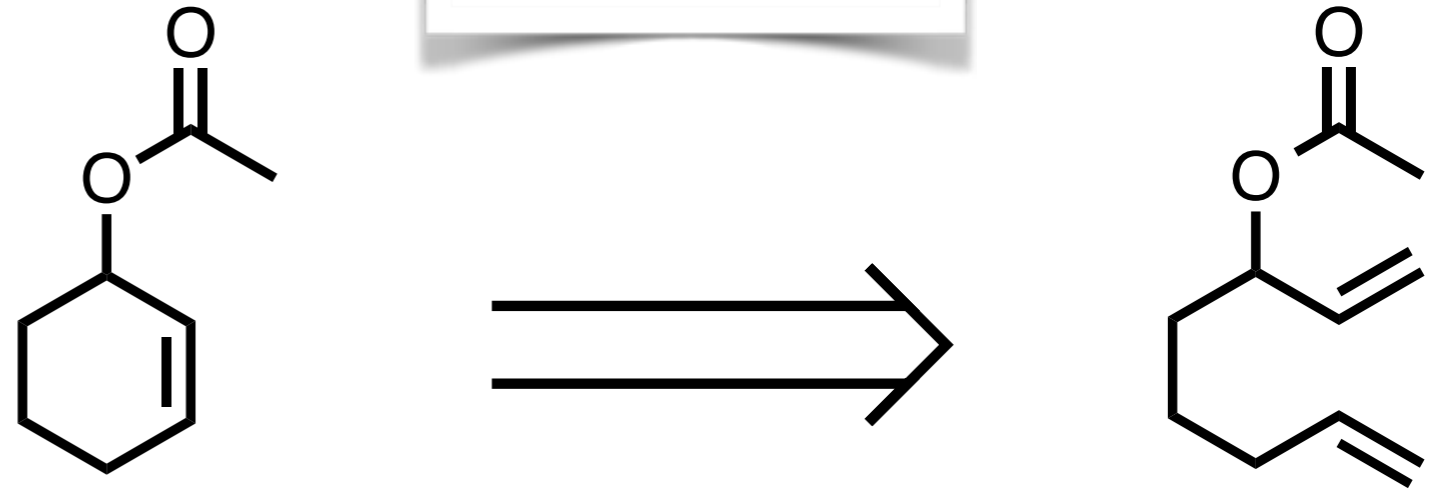
Elias J. Corey

A variety of Transforms for a TGT

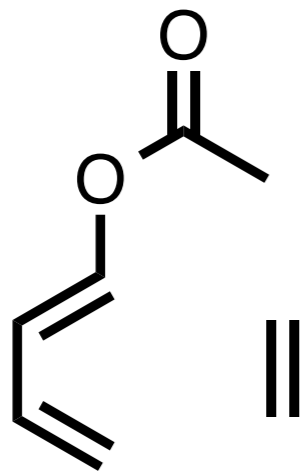
**Acylation**



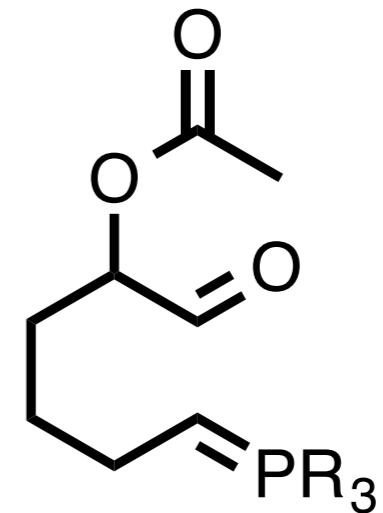
**Metathesis**

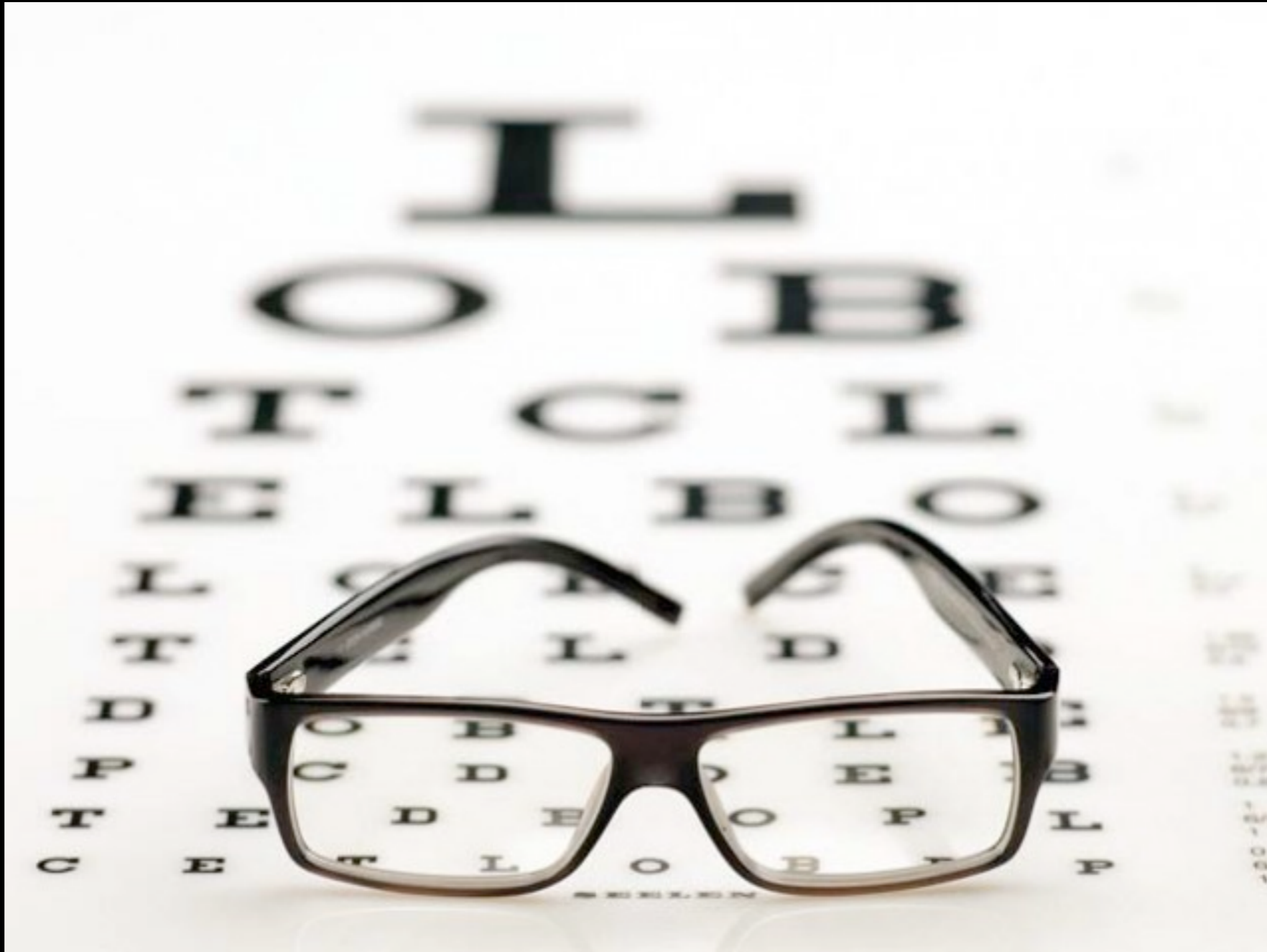


**Diels-Alder**



**Wittig**





educate your **eyes**



**sight needs KNOWLEDGE**

**for the proper recognition of potential  
RETRONS / TRANSFORMS**

## **BUILDING BLOCK-BASED STRATEGY**

*recognition of structural units*

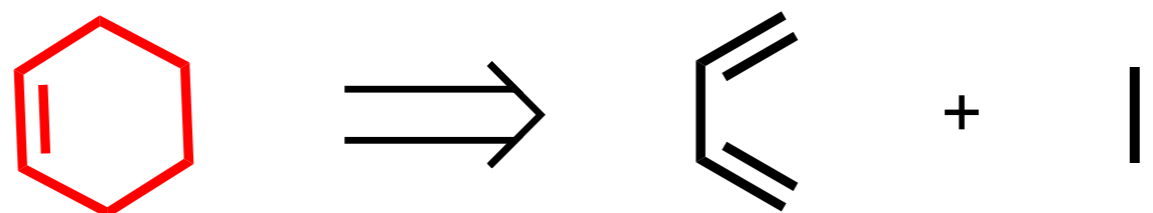
## **FUNCTIONAL GROUP-BASED STRATEGY**

*analysis of the FG relationships*

## **TRANSFORM-BASED STRATEGY**

*identification of suitable returns and  
look ahead for a powerfully simplifying transform*

**Retron:** molecular substructure that enables certain transformations



**Supra Retron:** molecular substructure that can be associated with a variant of a general transform



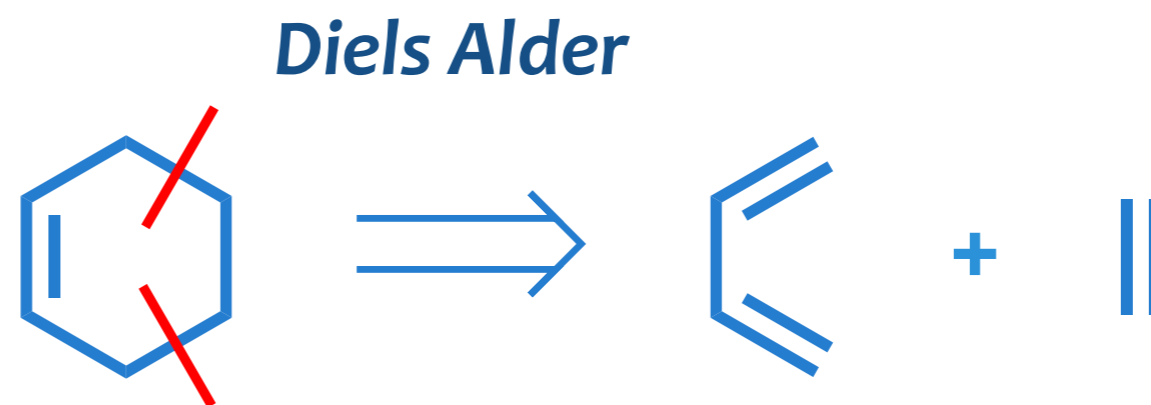
$\alpha$ -pyrone

Danishefsky's diene

## 1. Structurally Simplifying Transforms

Effect molecular simplification

by disconnecting carbon skeleton, and/or FG and/or stereocenters



## 2. Neutral Transforms

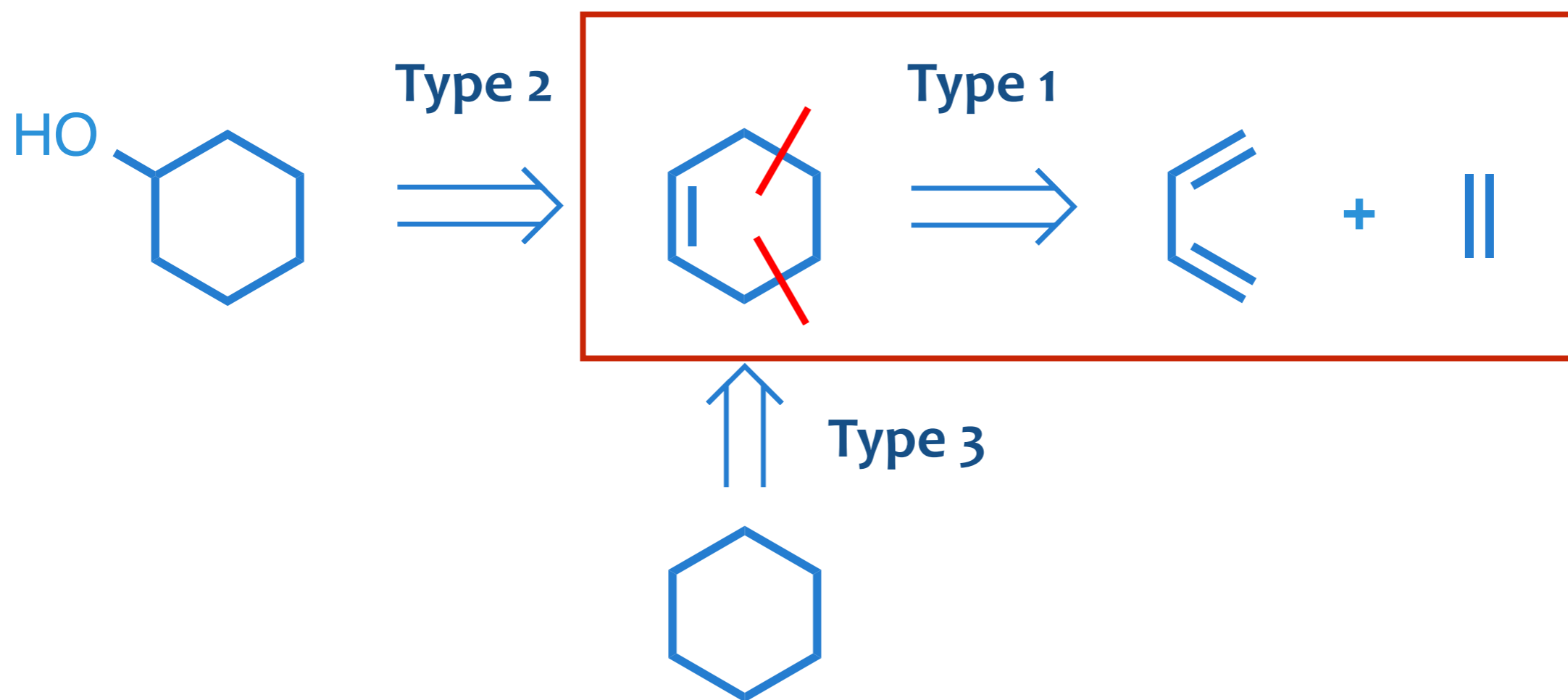
No essential change in molecular complexity, but which can be useful because they modify a TGT to allow a subsequent application of type 1. They include rearrangements of carbon backbone, **functional group interchange (FGI)** and inversion/transfer of stereocenters.



### 3. Structurally Increasing Complexity Transforms

Include addition of rings, **functional groups (FGA)**, or stereocenters





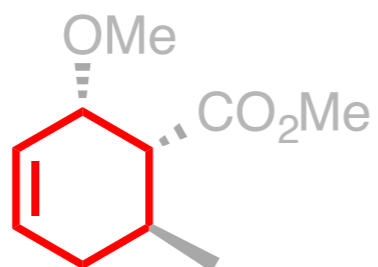
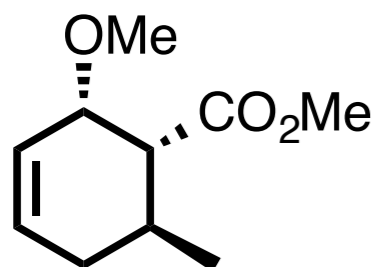


## Target

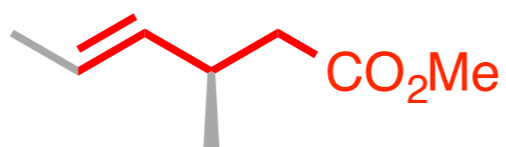
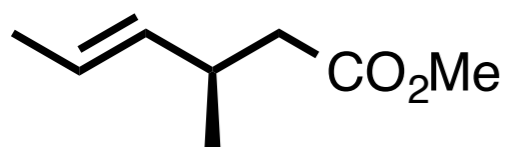
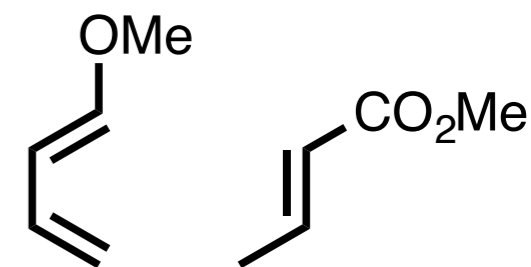
## Retron

## Transform

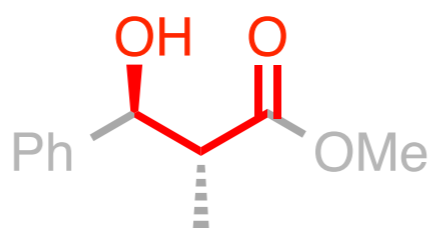
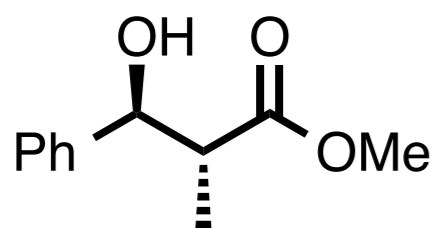
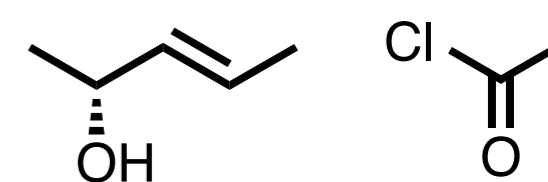
## Precursors



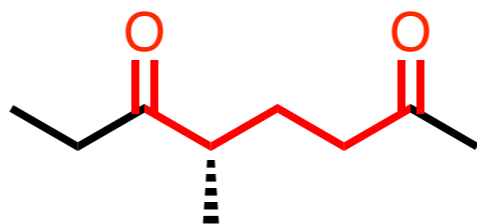
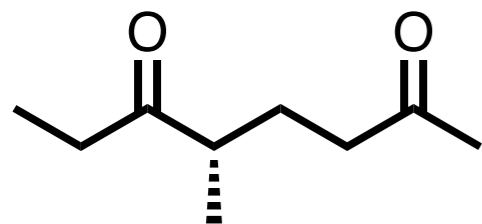
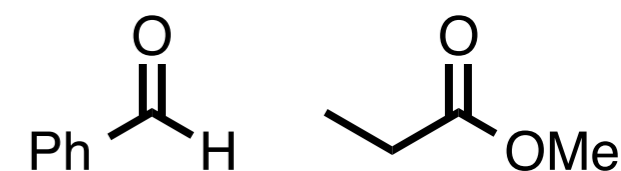
*Diels Alder*



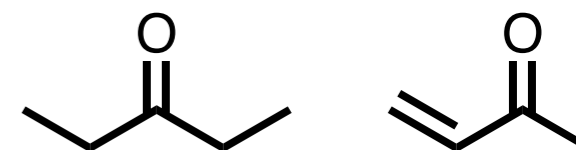
*Ireland Claisen rearrangement*



*Aldol reaction*



*Michael reaction*

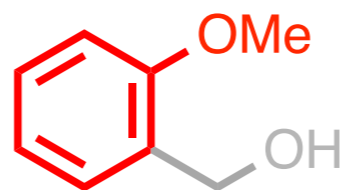
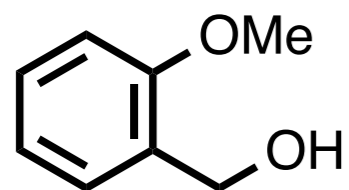


## Target

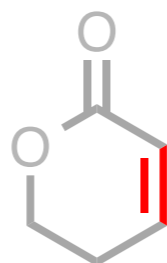
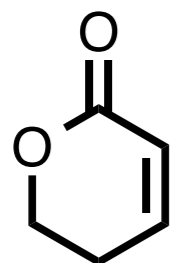
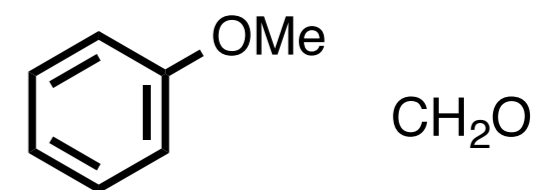
## Retron

## Transform

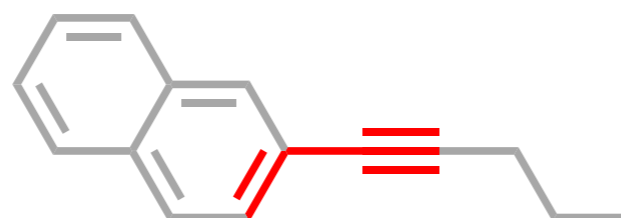
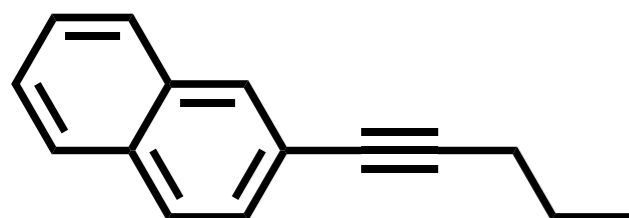
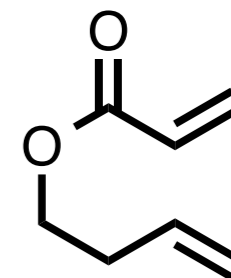
## Precursors



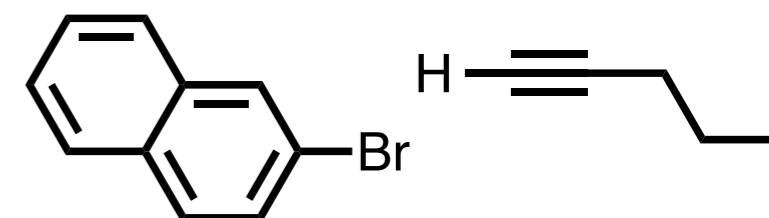
*Ortho-Li*



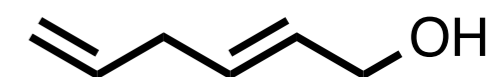
*Metathesis*



*Sonogashira coupling*



*Sharpless epoxidation*



One feature of major significance is the overall effect of  
transform on **MOLECULAR COMPLEXITY**

**Molecular size**

**Cyclic connectivity or topology**

**Functional Group (FG) content**

**Stereocenter content**

**Centers of high chemical reactivity**

**Kinetic (thermal) stability**

## Eficiencia en la síntesis total de productos naturales

Ben Bradshaw y Josep Bonjoch

**Resumen:** La síntesis total de productos naturales ha entrado en una nueva era en la que la eficiencia del proceso asume un papel preponderante, a fin de poder acceder de manera escalable a moléculas con potencial impacto en la sociedad. Se presenta un panorama general de propuestas para alcanzar una síntesis ideal, tales como las estrategias de diseño de síntesis (uso de reacciones tándem, reducción de etapas no productivas) y nuevos procedimientos operacionales (uso de reactivos anclados, agentes secuestradores y economía de recipiente / pot economy).

**Palabras clave:** eficiencia sintética, diseño de síntesis, economía de recipiente, síntesis total, productos naturales.

**Abstract:** The total synthesis of natural products is entering a new era in which efficiency is playing a central role in order to enable scalable syntheses of molecules with a potentially beneficial impact on society. An overview of proposals to reach an ideal synthesis, such as synthetic design strategies (using tandem reactions, cutting non-productive steps) and operational procedures (use of supported reagents and scavengers, and pot economy), is presented.

**Keywords:** synthetic efficiency, synthesis design, pot economy, total synthesis, natural products.

### INTRODUCCIÓN

La síntesis total de productos naturales<sup>[1]</sup> a lo largo del siglo xx acometió el acceso a compuestos cada vez más complejos, auspiciada por motivos estructurales o de actividad biológica de los mismos. Un ejemplo emblemático, desarrollado en el grupo de Kishi,<sup>[2]</sup> es la síntesis de la palitoxina (Figura 1), cuya estructura contiene 71 elementos estereoquímicos (5,4x10<sup>20</sup> estereoisómeros posibles). El resultado global de esta actividad fue el descubrimiento de modos de reactividad, la génesis de nuevos catalizadores y la validación de métodos de síntesis en entornos estructurales exigentes, consolidando así el avance de la síntesis orgánica. Esta actividad fecunda permitió el crecimiento de las interacciones con la biología<sup>[3]</sup> y la química médica.<sup>[4]</sup> Sin embargo, el optimismo derivado de los hitos sintéticos alcanzados no despejaba las dudas acerca de la traducción de los logros sintéticos en beneficios reales para la sociedad. La síntesis total del taxol (Figura 1b) puso de manifiesto que el estado del arte en la síntesis de

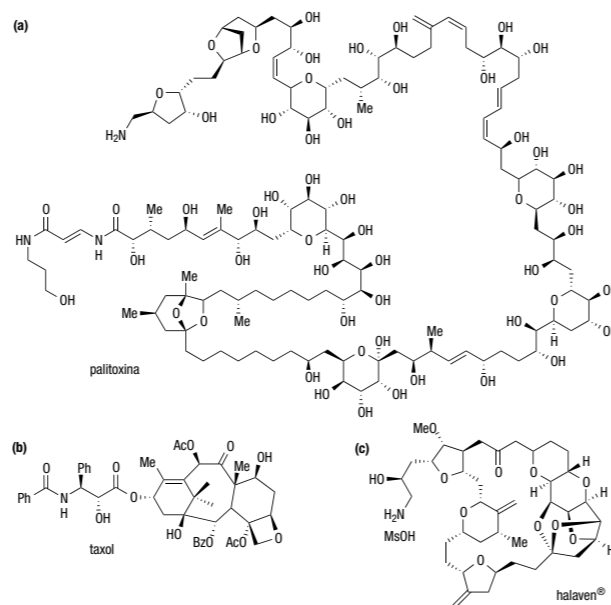


Figura 1. (a) Palitoxina; (b) Taxol; (c) Halaven®

compuestos de alta complejidad no era eficiente desde un punto de vista práctico.<sup>[5]</sup> A pesar de los esfuerzos de diversos grupos de investigación, la síntesis total tan solo pudo proporcionar pequeñas cantidades de este valioso compuesto. Con la entrada del nuevo milenio, nuevas metodologías y tecnologías, y un enfoque holístico de la síntesis han convergido para dar un paso adelante al reto de la eficiencia. Así, algunos fármacos basados en productos naturales complejos se sintetizan a escala industrial<sup>[6,7]</sup> (p. ej. el agente antimitótico Halaven®,<sup>[8]</sup> Figura 1c), demostrando que el acceso a la complejidad estructural no está fuera del alcance de la síntesis total.



B. Bradshaw



J. Bonjoch

Laboratori de Química Orgànica,  
Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de Barcelona,  
Av. Joan XXIII s/n, 08028-Barcelona  
C-e: josep.bonjoch@ub.edu

Recibido: 14/11/2015. Aceptado: 15/12/2015.

recommended  
paper

Bonjoch, J.; Bradshaw, B.  
*Anales de Química* 2015, 111, 203–211

© 2015 Real Sociedad Española de Química