

Part 1. Introduction

A brief history

1828: Synthesis of urea = the starting point of modern organic chemistry.

1875: Prediction of the correct structure, Van't Hoff, *La Chimie dans l'Espace*, Bazendijk, P.M., Rotterdam **1875**, 29.

1887: First synthesis of an allene (glutinic acid), Burton and Pechmann, *Chem. Ber.* **1887**, 145.

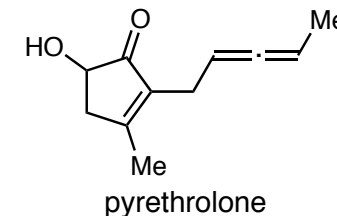
Confirmation of the structure of "glutinic acid", Jones *et al.*, *J. Chem. Soc.* **1954**, 3208.

1924: Isolation and characterization of first natural allene, pyrethrolone, Staudinger and Ruzicka, *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1924**, 177.

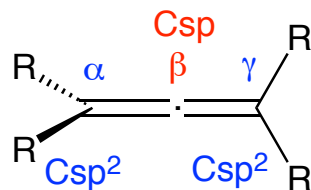
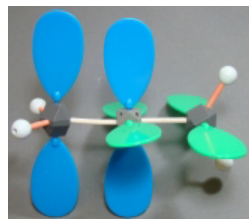
1928: First review on allenes, Bouis, *Ann. Chim. (Paris)* **1928**, 402.

1935: Synthesis of first chiral allene, Maitland and Mills, *Nature* **1935**, 994.

Last decade (2002-2012): Shengming Ma (148 publications); Norbert Krause (42 publications), Benito Alcaide and Pedro Almendros (33 publications). Scifinder, key word: allenes. Google gave 184000 (vs. alkyne 999000) (Nov **2012**).



Structure and physical properties



$$\chi(\text{Csp}^3) = 2.63$$

$$\chi(\text{Csp}^2) = 2.86$$

$$\chi(\text{Csp}) = 2.96$$

Brown, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1960**, 1881.

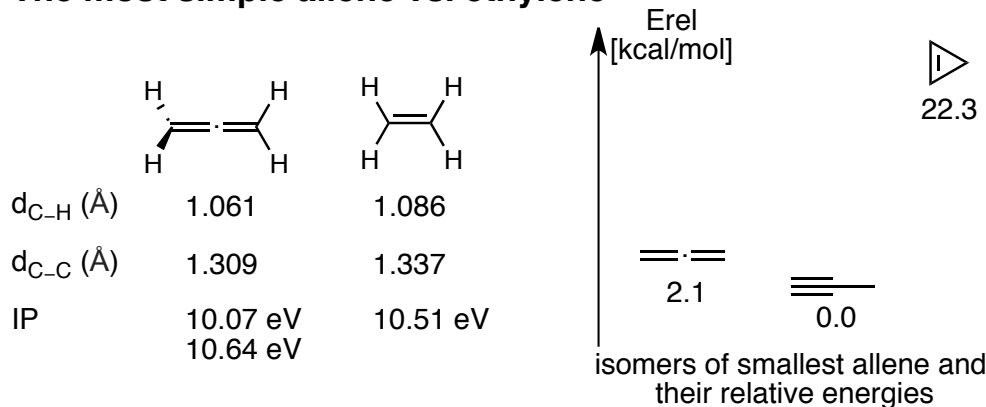
IR: antisymmetrical stretching vibration 1950-1960 cm^{-1}

(vs. alkene: 1680 cm^{-1} , alkyne 2200 cm^{-1})

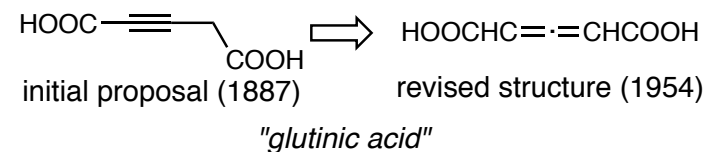
^1H NMR: $\delta = 4.9\text{-}4.4$ ppm

^{13}C NMR: $\delta_{\text{C}\alpha, \text{C}\gamma} = 120\text{-}73$ ppm; $\delta_{\text{C}\beta} = 220\text{-}200$ ppm.

The most simple allene vs. ethylene



many substituted allenes are thermodynamically more stable than the corresponding alkynes.



Classification



R = alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, alkynyl

EWG = CO_2R , CN, SO_2R ...

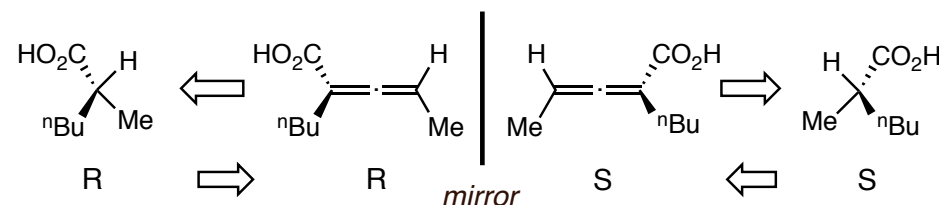
EDG = OR, SR, NR_2 , Hal, ...

Met = Li, Mg, B, Si, Sn, Zn, In, Ti, Cu, Pd

- allenes can react as both nucleophiles and electrophiles

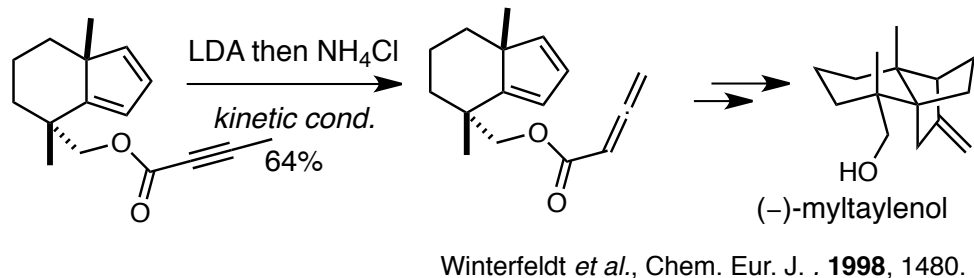
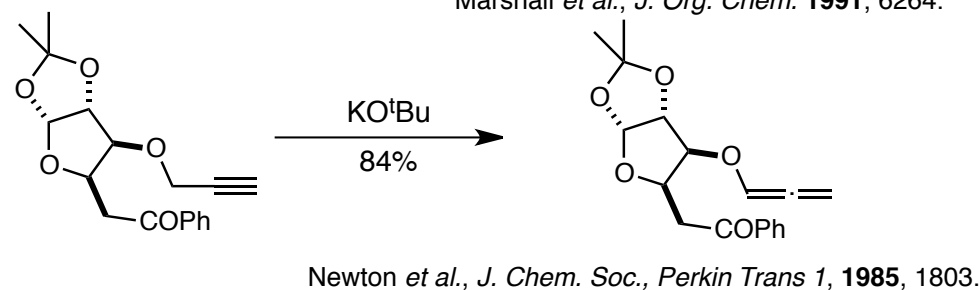
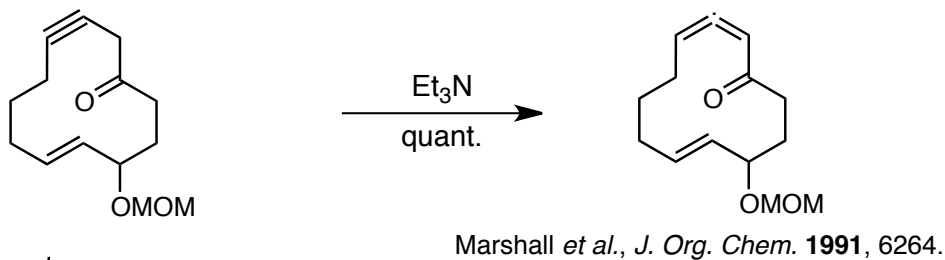
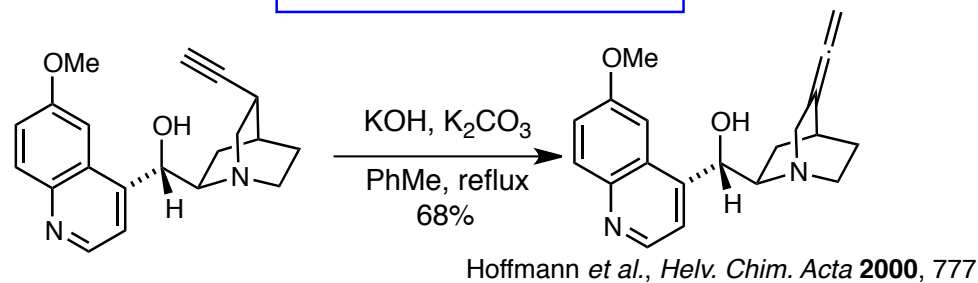
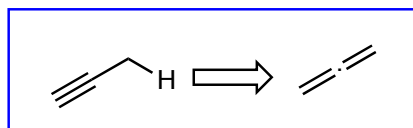
- changing the substitutes can alter the reactivity preferences

Determination the configuration of chiral allenes

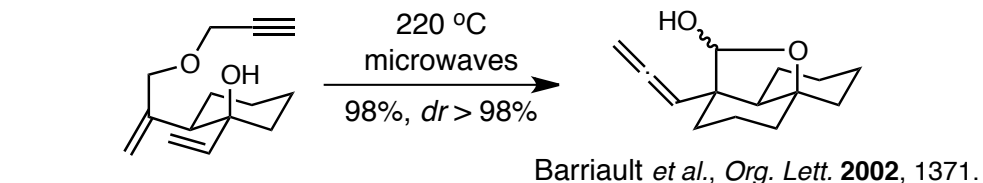
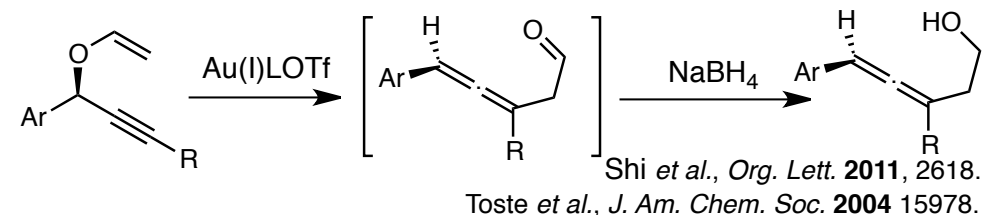
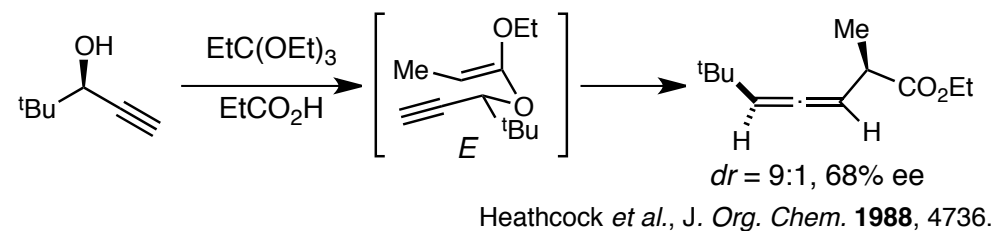
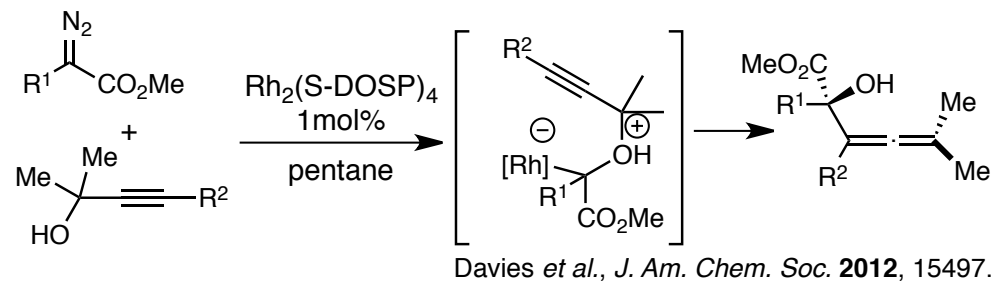
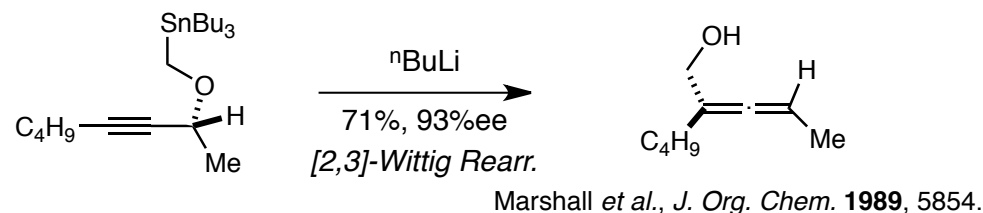
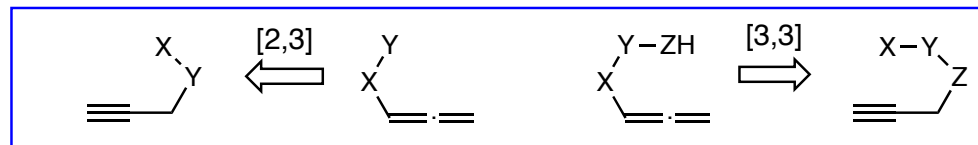


Part 2. Synthesis of Allenes

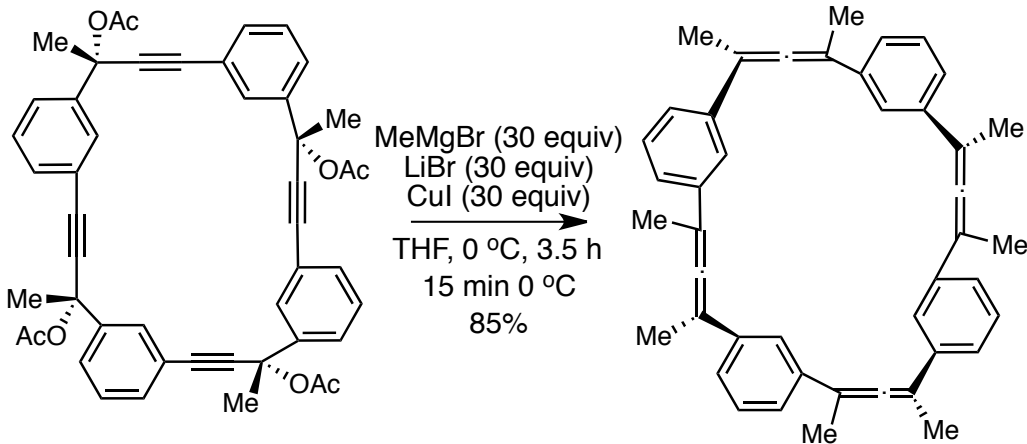
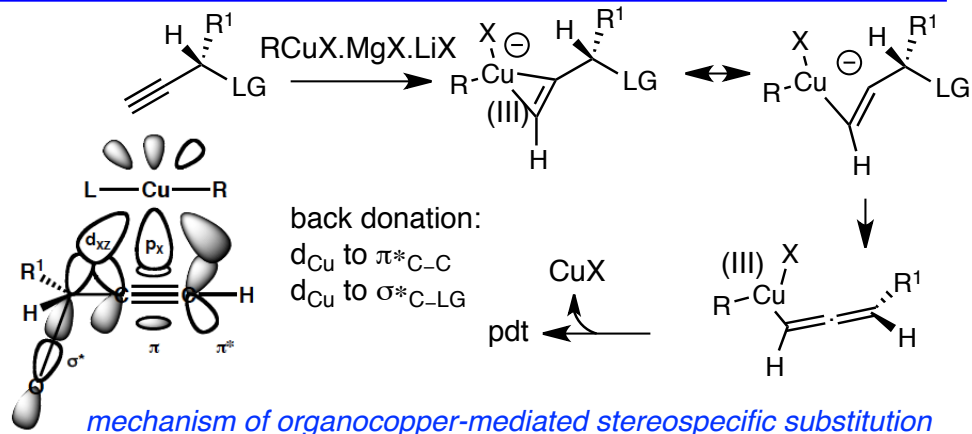
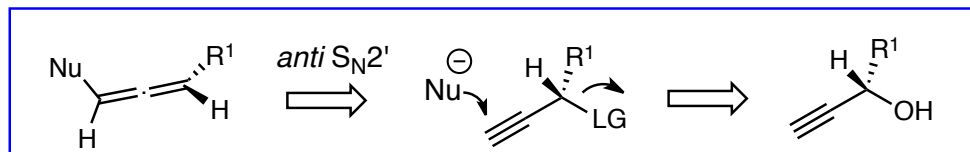
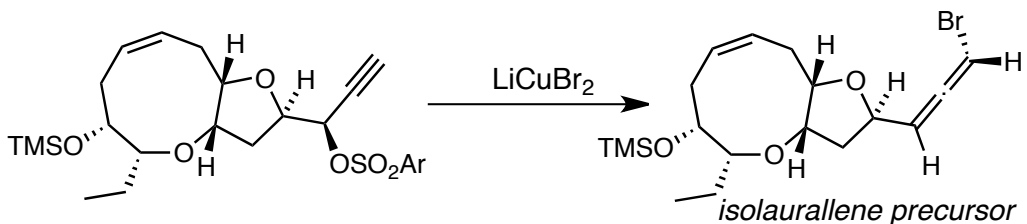
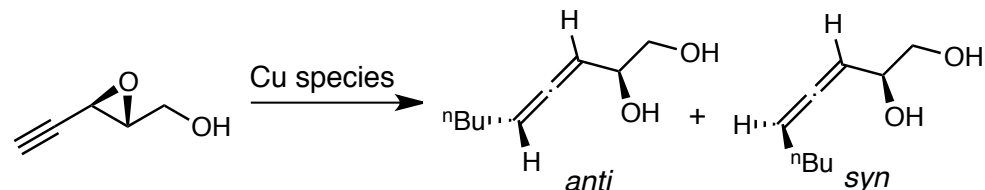
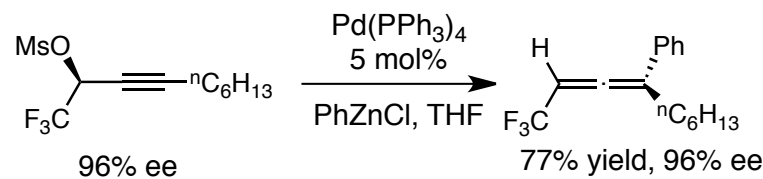
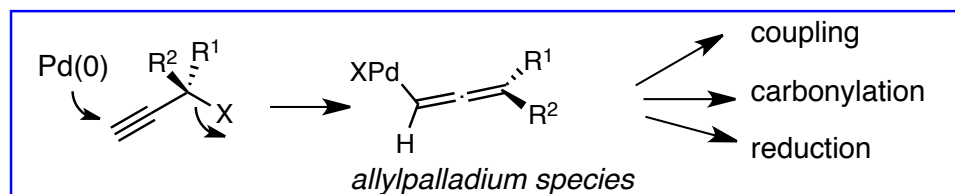
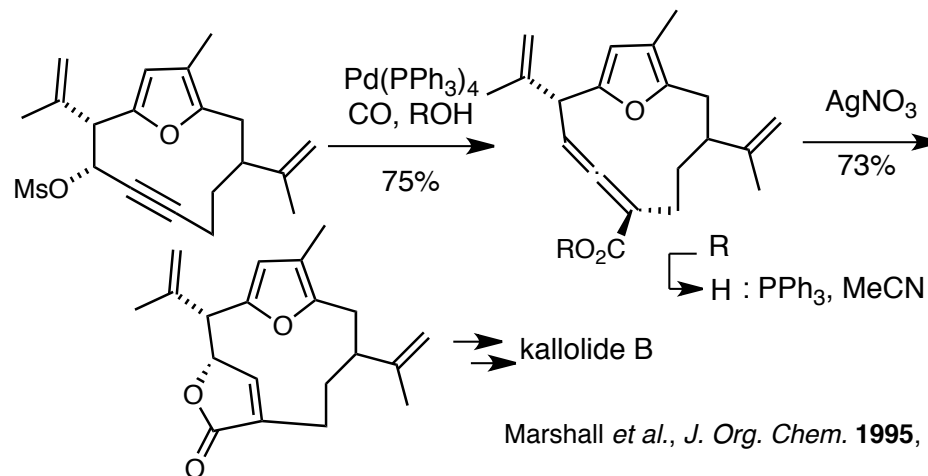
Prototropic Rearrangements



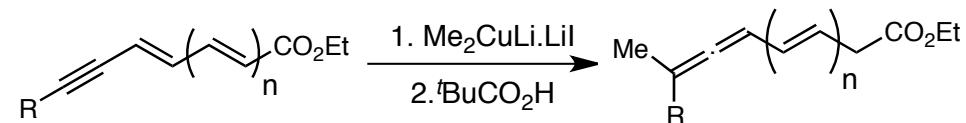
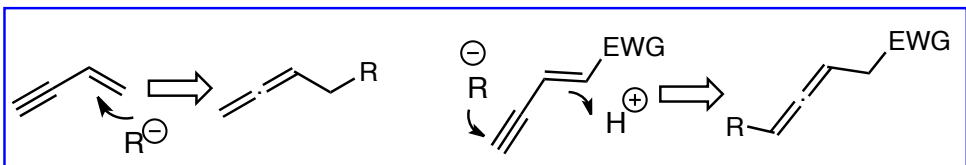
Sigmatropic Rearrangements



Nucleophilic Substitution

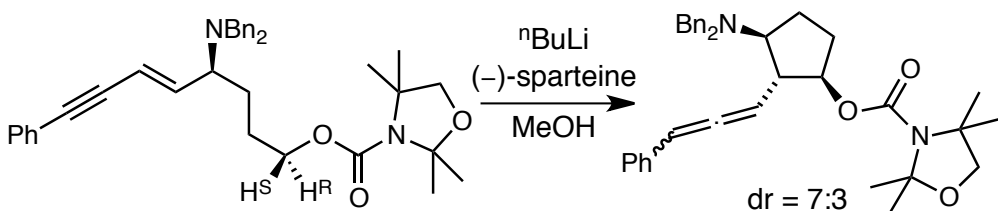
Fallis *et al.*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 568.Crimmins *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, 1533.syn: anti: ⁿBu₂CuLi = 60:40; ⁿBu₂CuLi.Me₂S = 6:94; ⁿBu₂CuMgBr.Me₂S = 1:99*Cu-promoted racemization of allenenes through SET*
Me₂S stabilizes Cu speciesOehlschlager and Czyzewska, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1983**, 5587.Kono and Yamanaka *et al.*, *Chem. Lett.* **2000**, 1360.Marshall *et al.*, *J. Org. Chem.* **1995**, 796.

Additions to Enynes Systems

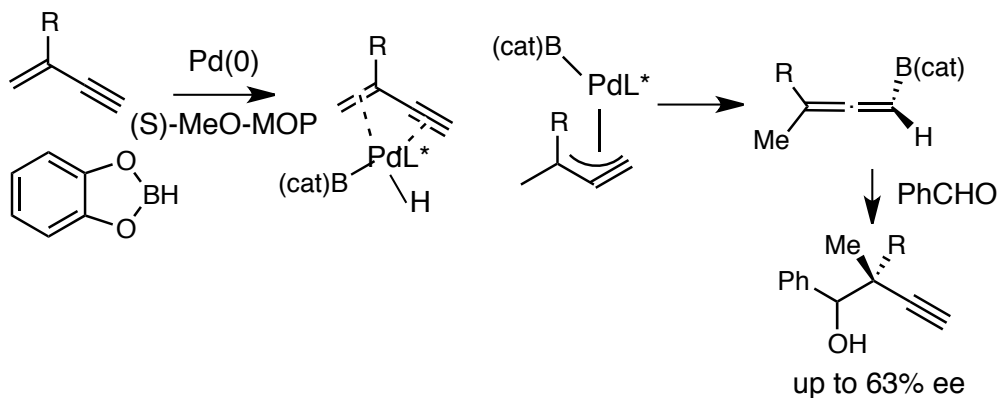


R = *t*Bu, n = 1, 90% (1,8 addition); R = Me, n = 2, 68% (1,10 addition);
R = Me, n = 3, 26% (1,12 addition)

Krause, *Liebigs Ann. Chem.* **1996**, 1487.

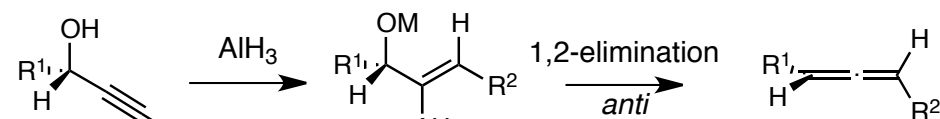
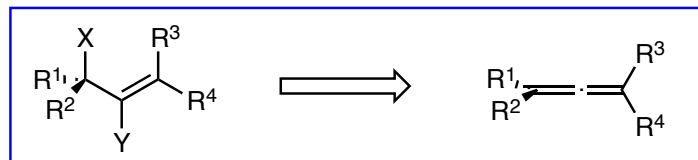


Oestreich and Hoppe, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1999**, 1881.

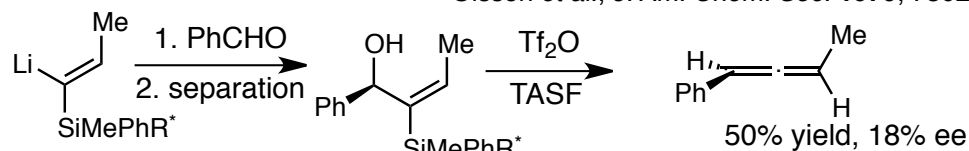


Hayashi, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun* **1993**, 1468.

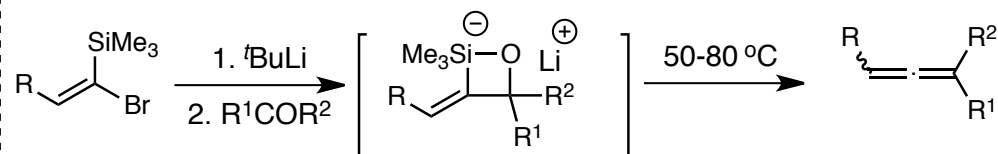
1,2-Elimination



Olsson et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, 7302.

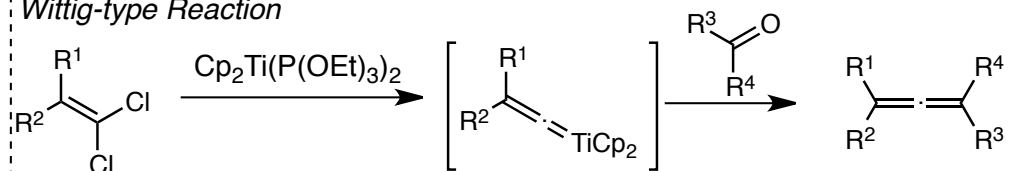


McGarvey, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1988**, 1355.

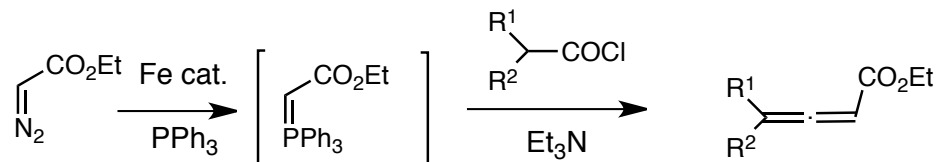


Takeda, *Synthesis* **2006**, 2577.

Wittig-type Reaction



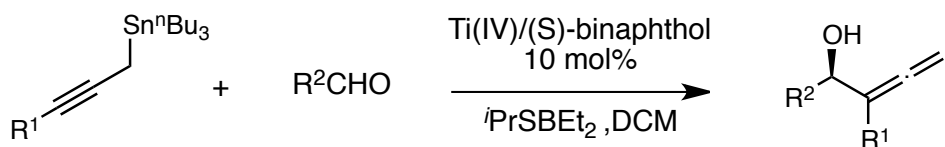
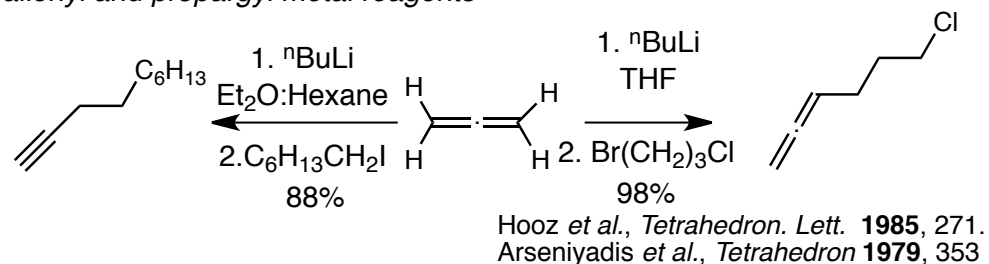
Takeda, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, **2005**, 2914.



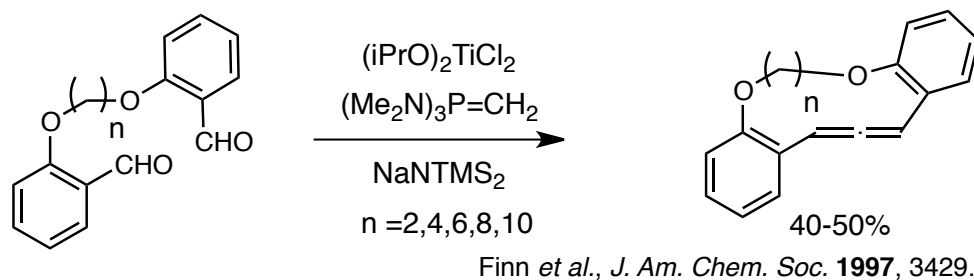
Dai et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, 1494.

Other Methods

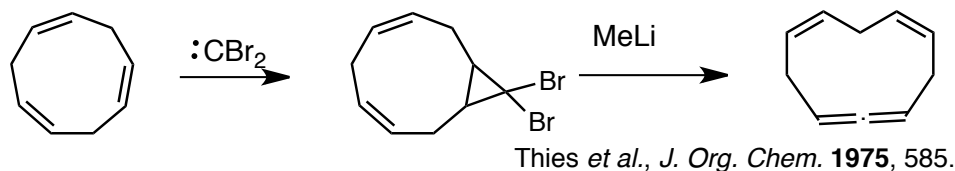
allenyl and propargyl metal reagents



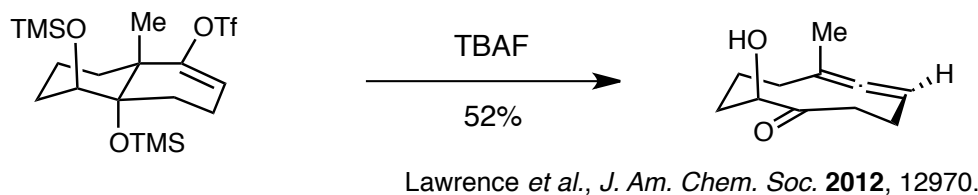
titanium-phosphorus ylides



carbene approach



fragmentation

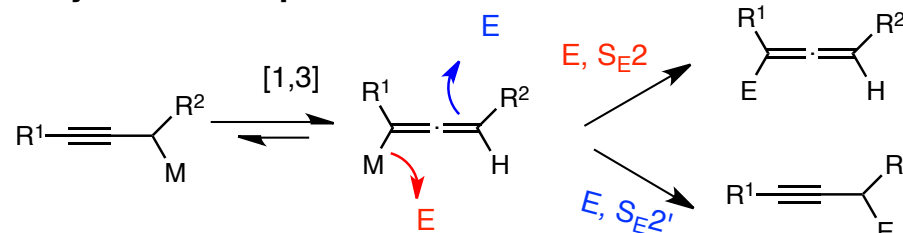


Part 3. Reactions of Allenes

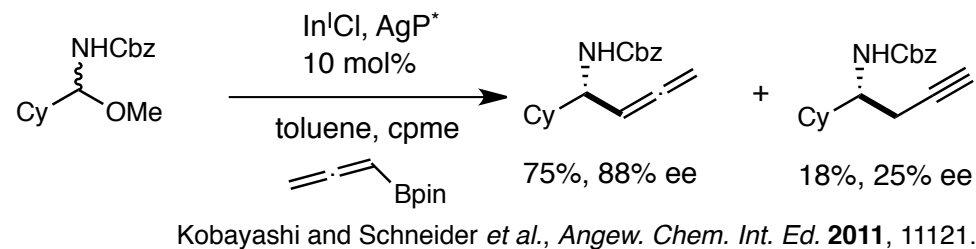
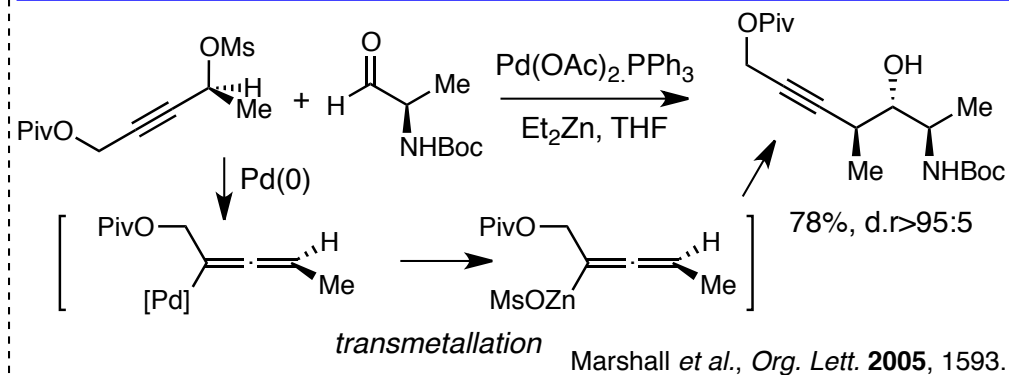
NOT to be covered:

- allenenes as alkenes (eg: Diels-Alder reaction, coupling)
- allenenes as enones, unsaturated esters... (eg. 1,4-addition in EWG substituted allenenes)

Allenylmetal Compounds

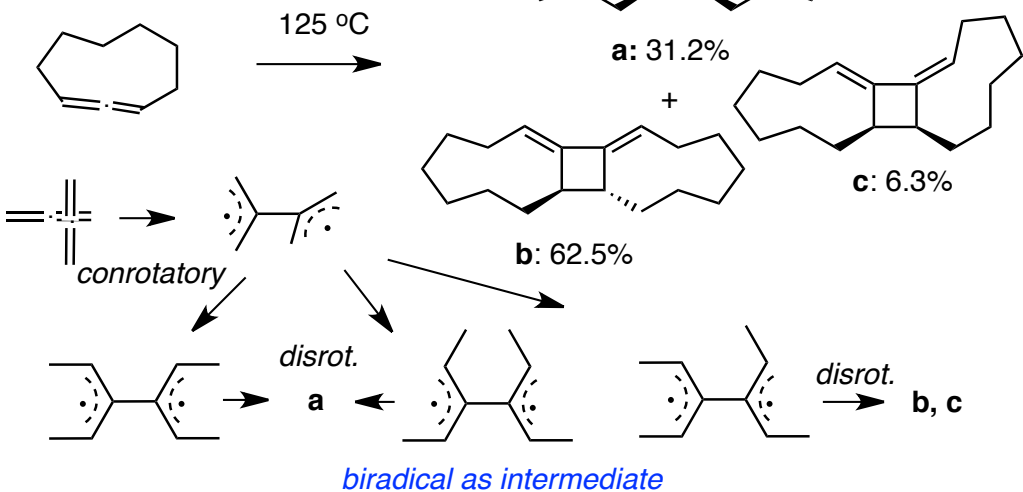
General rule (can be altered depend on R^1 , R^2 and/or metals, electrophiles):

- allenic isomer is more stable than propargylic one
- reaction in both $\text{S}_{\text{E}2}$ (Li, Mg...) and $\text{S}_{\text{E}2'}$ (Sn, B, In, Zn...) manners
- syntheses: metal-halogen exchange/propargylic deprotonation (Li), Babier type oxidative addition (Mg, Zn, In...), transmetalation (Li, Mg to Cu, Sn, B, Si, Zn, Ti...), or palladium catalyzed hydrogenation (B, Si)
- some allenic and propargylic metals can be isolated (M=B, Si, Sn)

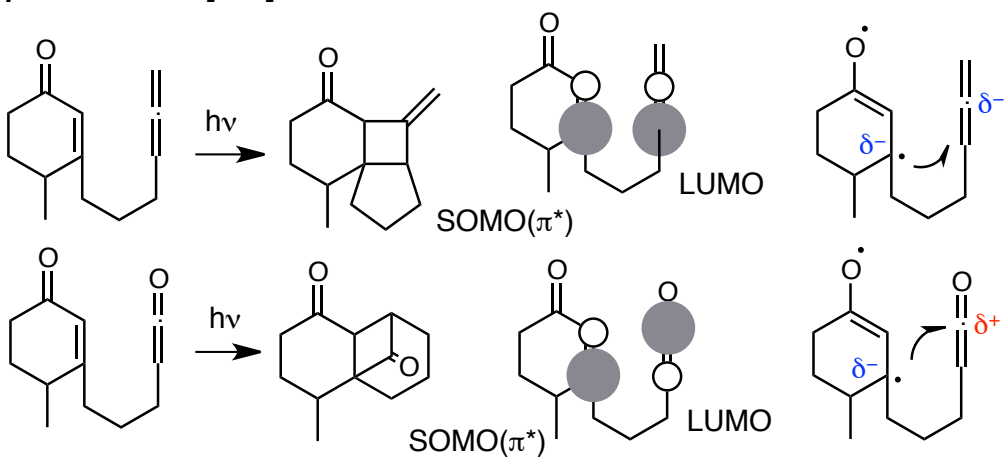
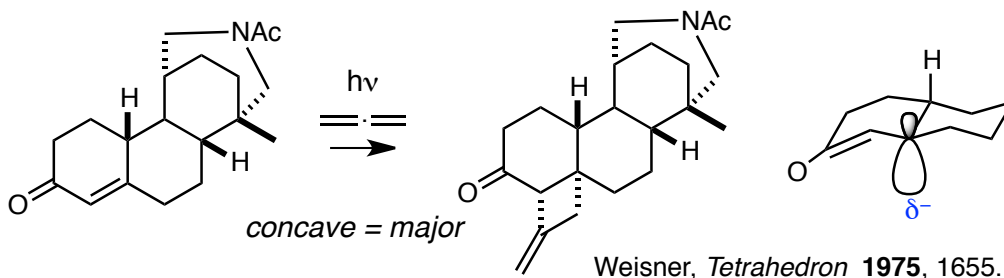


Cycloadditions

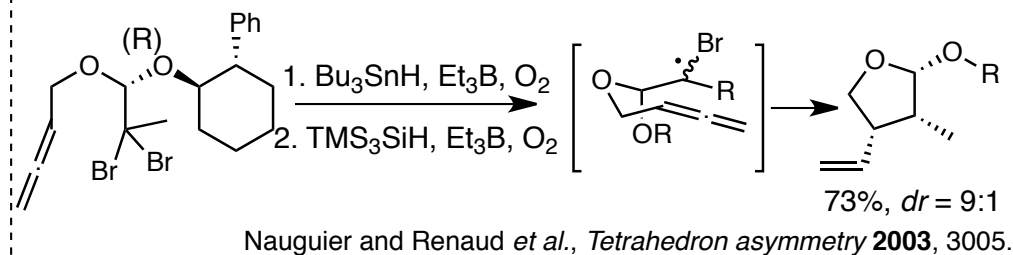
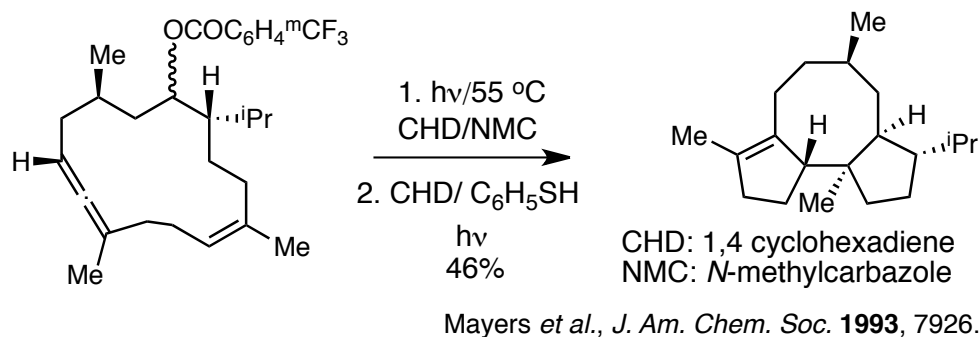
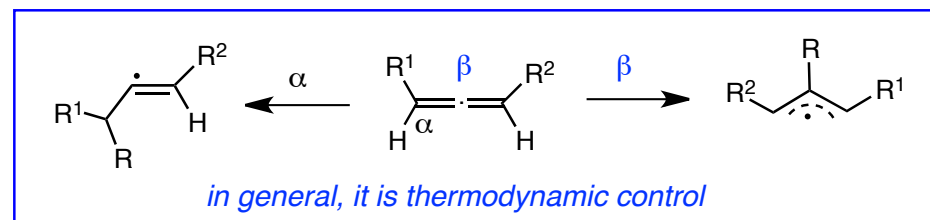
thermal [2+2]



photochemical [2+2]

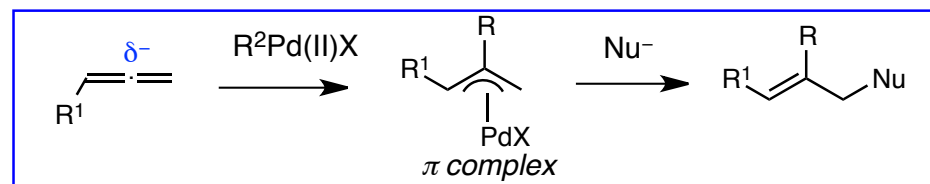
Becker et al., *Chem. Commun.* 1975, 277.

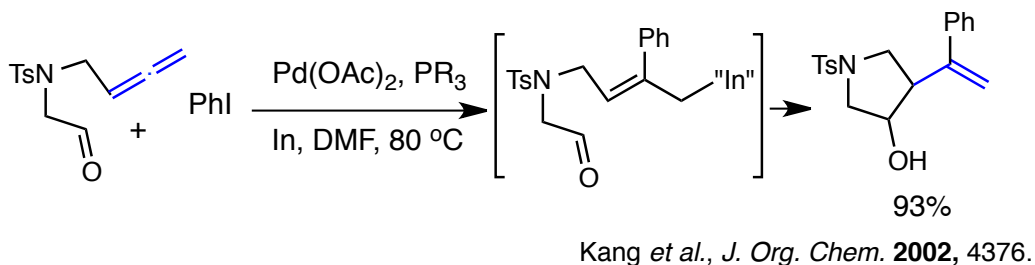
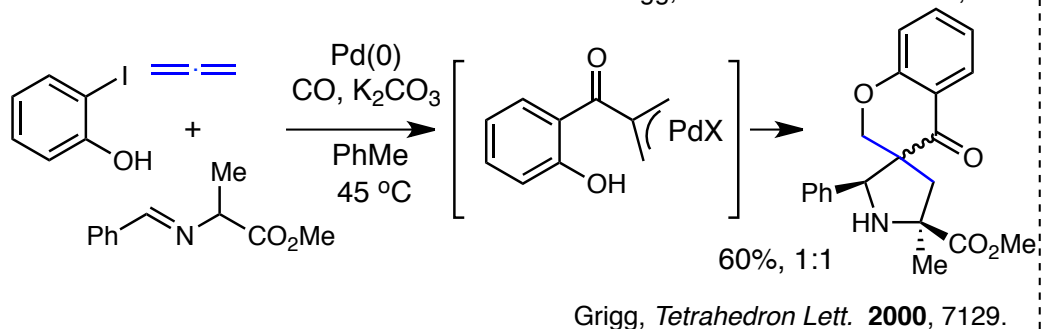
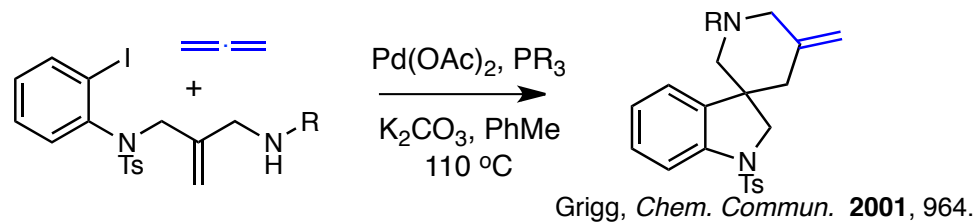
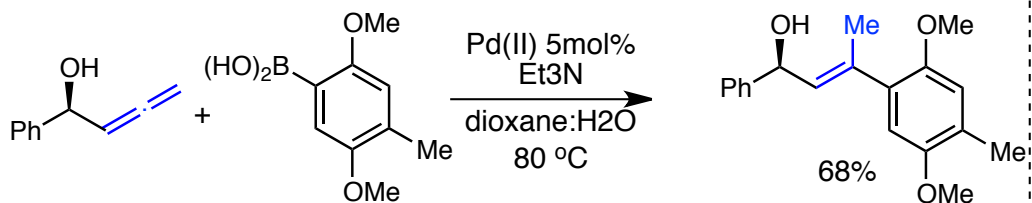
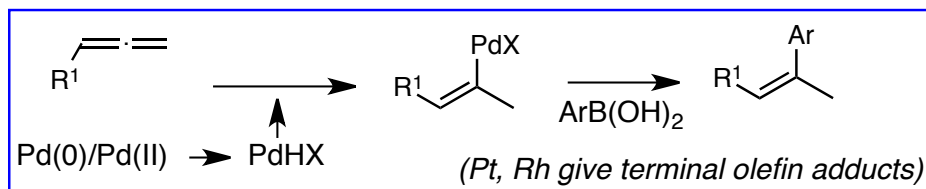
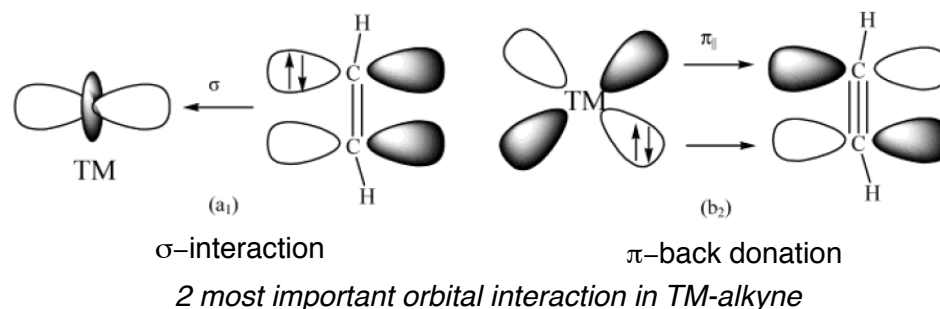
Free Radical Addition



Palladium-catalyzed Addition to Allenes

carbopalladation



**additions of arylboronic acid to allenes****Carbophylic Activation by *Sol* Lewis Acids**Rayon and Frenking *et al.*, *J. Phy. Chem. A* **2004**, 3134.**calculated data (Cu^I, Ag^I, Au^I):**

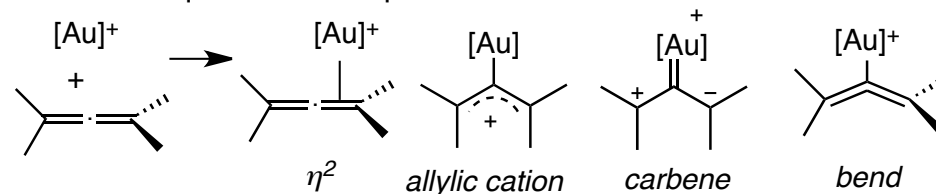
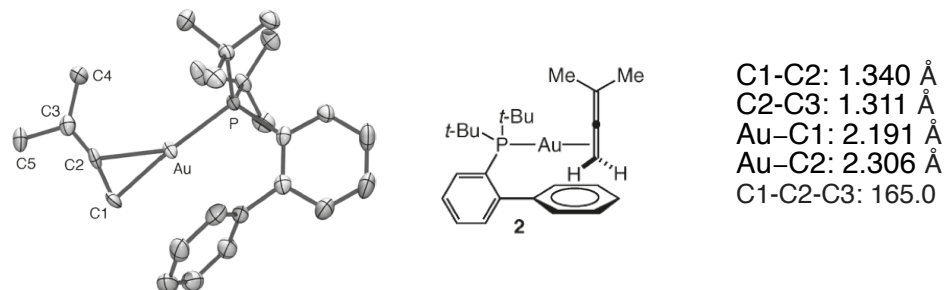
- ethylene ligand is slightly stronger bonded to TM⁺
- σ -interaction contributed to about 55-70%, π -back donation contributed to about 20-33% of covalent bonds.

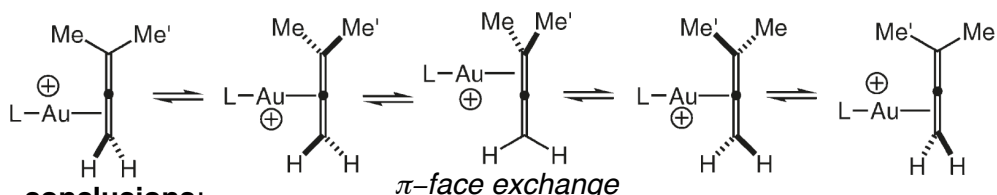
that means:

- reactions at the alkyne (allenes) vs. olefin sites are kinetic in origin (steric?)
 - TM interacted multiple bonds become more electrophilic
- Furstner and Davies, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 3410.

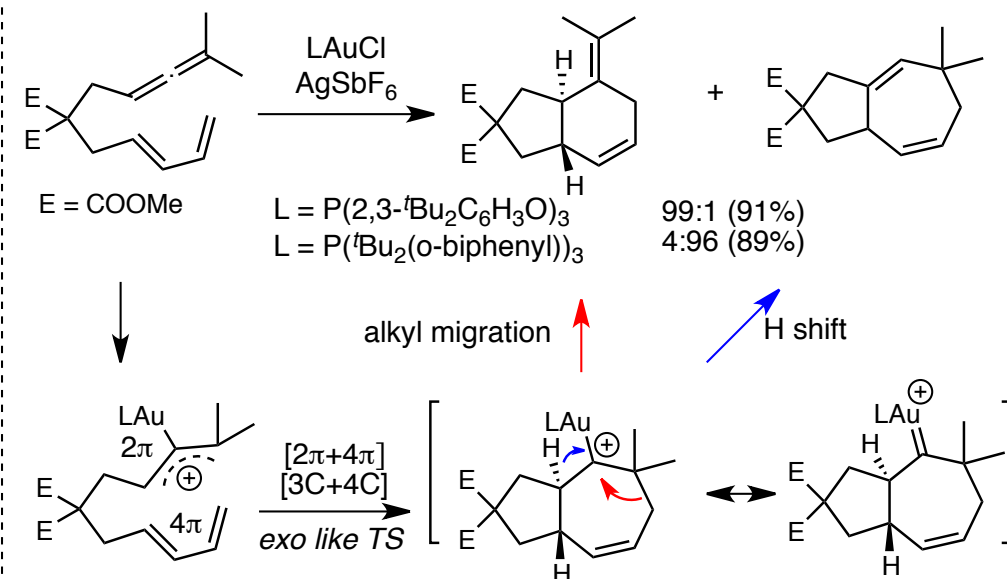
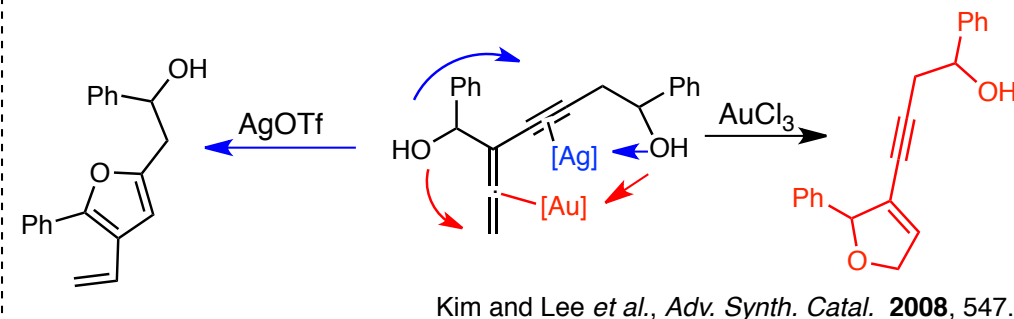
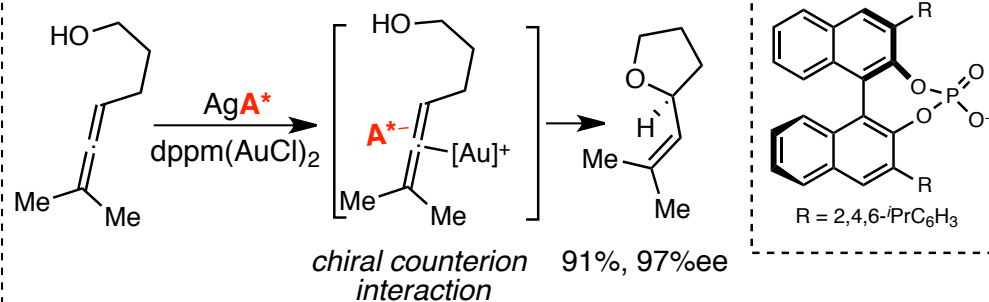
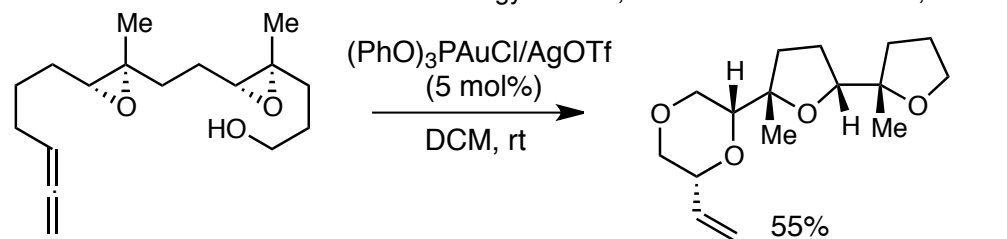
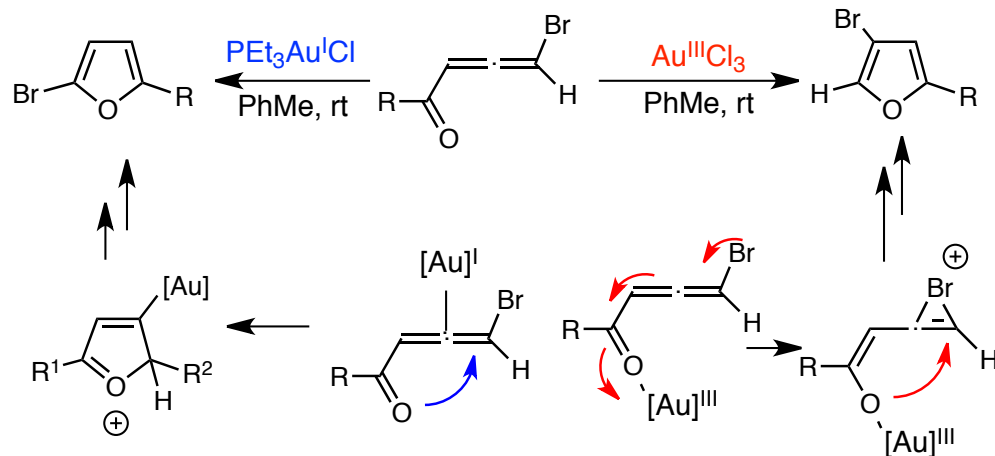
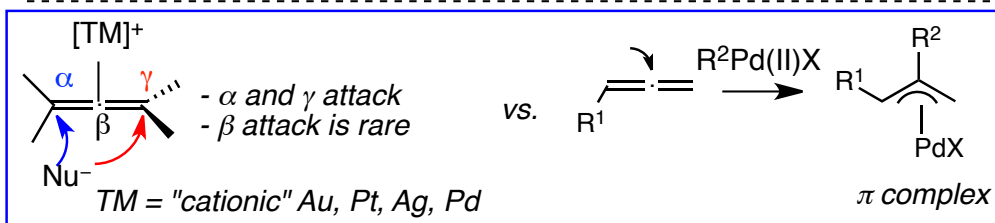
allenes vs. alkenes (and alkynes):

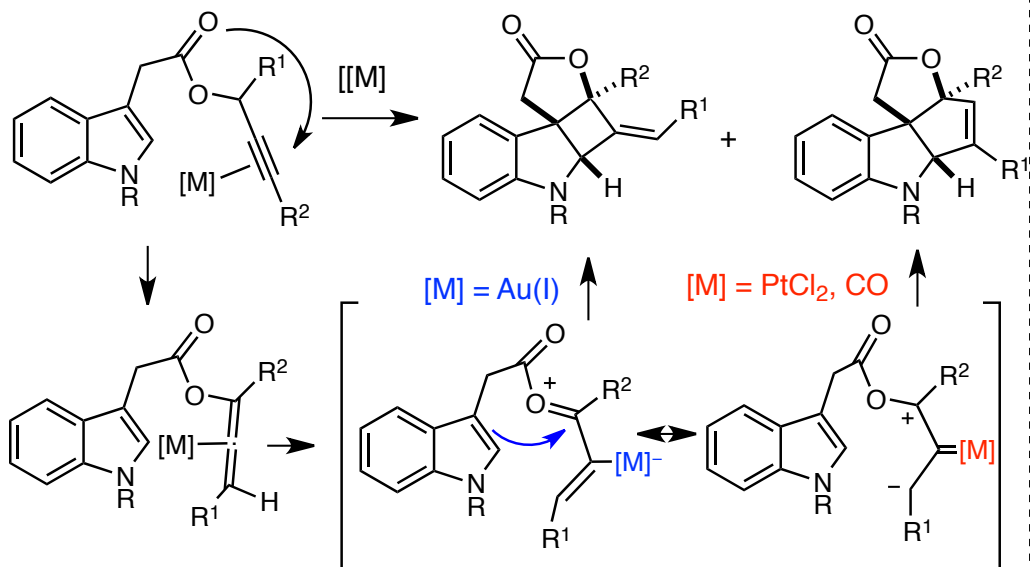
- alkynes and alkenes coordinate to TM in η^2 mode,
- allenes have η^2 and several η^1 modes

**X-ray and NMR studies of first gold allenes complexes**

**conclusions:**

- gold tends to bind to less substituted C=C
- fluxional behavior: π -face exchange via η^1 intermediate

Widenhoefer *et al.*, *Organometallic* **2010**, 4207.



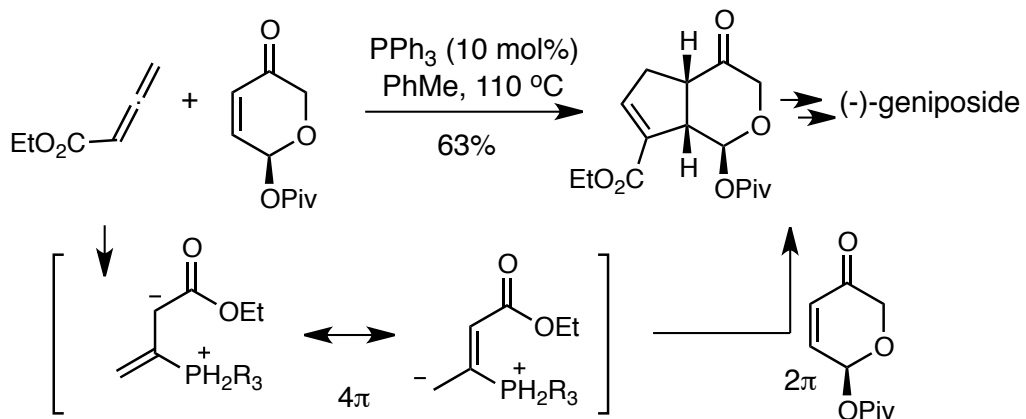
Pt cat. favors carbenoid mechanism vs. Au cat. via carbocationic intermediate

General conclusions (noble metals catalyzed reactions of allenes, alkynes):

- "importance of charge in synthetic design: introduction of a charged atom into a molecular skeleton undergoing bond reorganization usually lowers the activation of energy of the process, which leads to milder reaction conditions and greater selectivities"
- effect of noble metals on TS: play important roles in various points of the reaction (not just as soft Lewis acids).

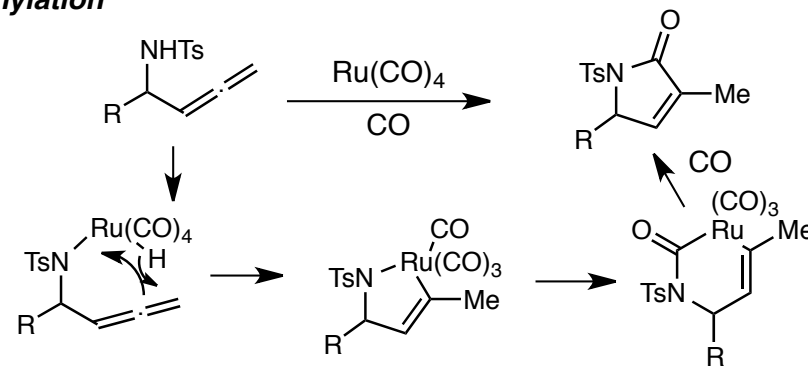
topics in current chemistry, 302, p125-6.

Phosphine-catalyzed Cycloaddition

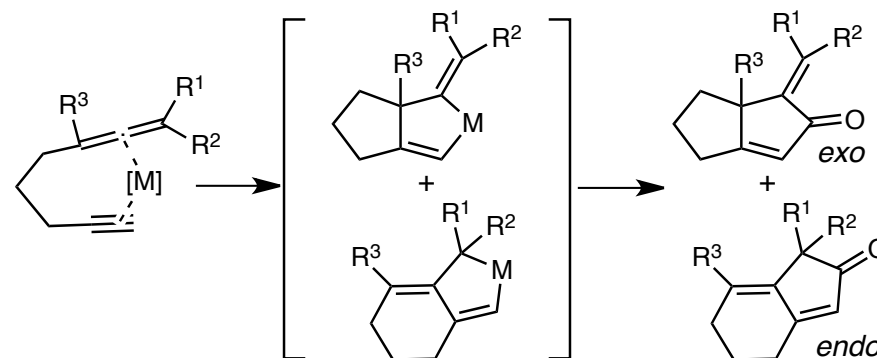


Carbonylation and Pauson-Khand Reaction

carbonylation

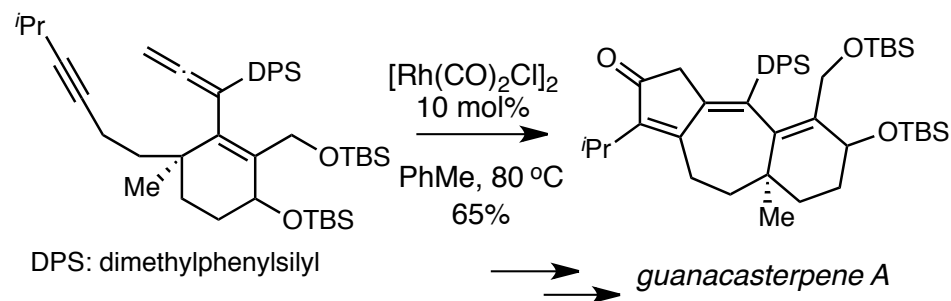


allenic Pauson-Khand reactions



general rules:

- Co₂(CO)₈ is not effective, causing polymerization
- Mo(CO)₆ favors *exo*-cyclized products
- [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ favors *endo*-cyclized products
- R₃ ≠ H: *endo* products are preferred



Brummond and Gao *et al.*, *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 3491.

other important topics: oxidation (including epoxidation), electrophilic additions...

Part 4. Important References

1. Modern allene chemistry, vol. 1 and 2; edited by Krause and Hashmi, *Wiley-VCH*, **2004**.
2. Computational mechanism of Au and Pt catalyzed reactions, topics in current chemistry, 302, Soriano and Marco-Cotelles, Springer, **2011**.
3. Allenes in organic synthesis, Schuster and Coppola, *Wiley*, **1984**.
4. Recent development in allene chemistry, *tetrahedron*, **1984**, 2805.
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