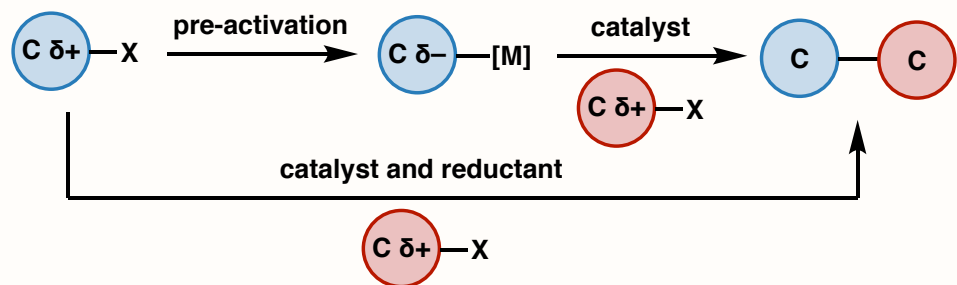


# Cross electrophile coupling



## Cross electrophile coupling (XEC) advantages

- Cuts down one step (making nucleophile)
- Safety (avoids pyrophoric e.g.  $RMgX$ , or toxic e.g.  $RSnR'_3$ )
- Easier to handle
- Increased stability/easier storage
- More commercial availability
- Better FG compatibility

### Commercially available (2011)

$R-B(OH)_2$	~ 5500
$R-I$	~ 80000
$R-Br$	~ 700000

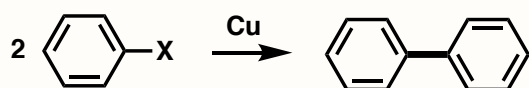
JACS 2012, 6146

## XEC Disadvantages

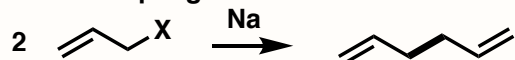
- Mostly heterogenous (elemental metals and salts)
- Sometimes sensitive to stir rates and purity and mesh size of metal
- Inherently less selective

## Electrophile coupling known for a long time: homodimerization

### Ullman coupling

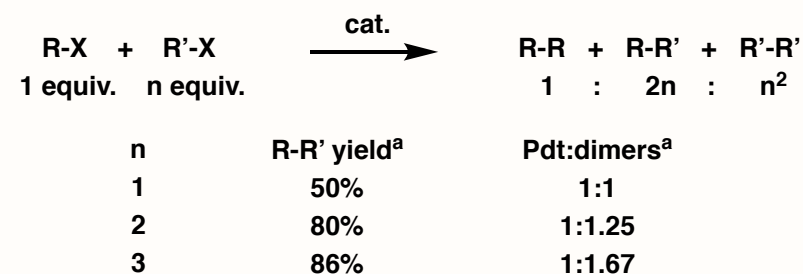


### Wurtz coupling



## XEC strategies

- xs of one reagent (not cross selective)
- Electronic differentiation/matching
- Steric differentiation/matching
- Distinct reactivity/mechanistic pathways

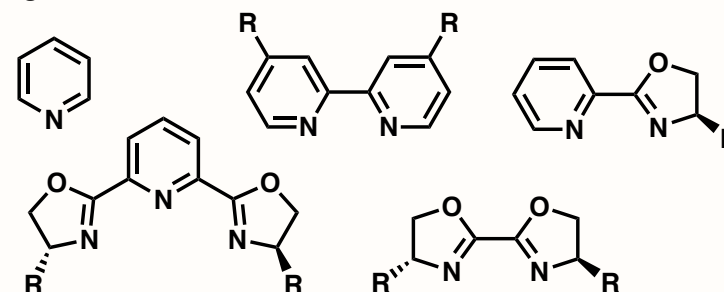


<sup>a</sup>Assuming complete rxn reversibility

JACS 2012, 6146

## Stars of the show:

### Ligands



### Reductants

Zinc  
Manganese  
Magnesium

### Catalysts

Nickel ( $NiX_2$ )

## Definition of XEC (for today)

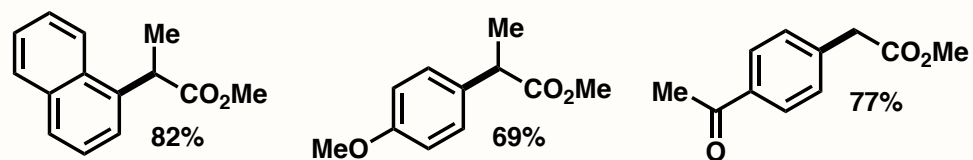
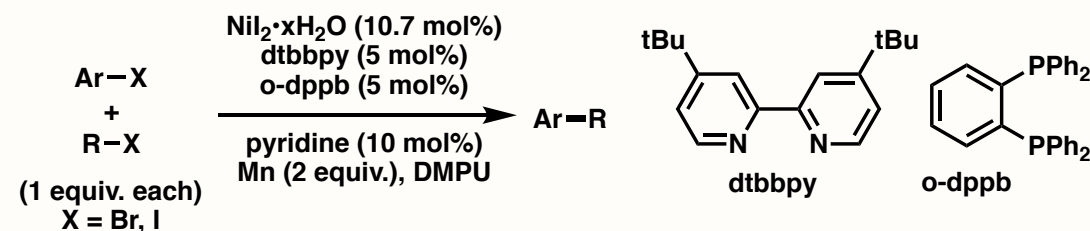
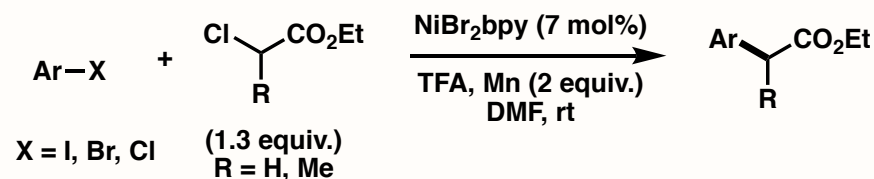
- No in situ formation of nucleophile
- Reductant acts on catalyst
- No addition into polar  $\pi$  systems (e.g. NHK)
- Will not be discussing electrochemical methods

## Outline

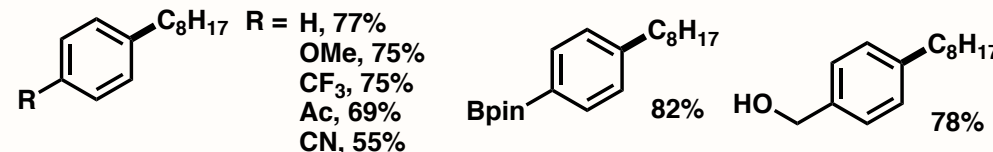
1. Aryl-alkyl
2. Allylation
3. Vinylation
4. Alkyl-alkyl
5. Aryl-aryl
6. Acylation
7. Epoxide/aziridine opening

## Cross electrophile coupling

## Aryl-alkyl

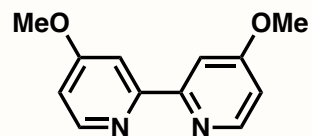
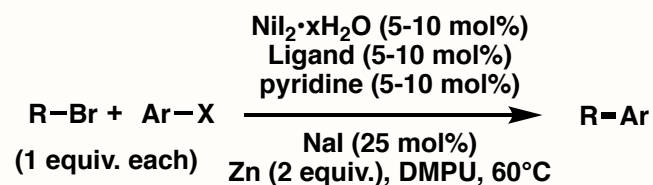


- 16 examples
- Aryl chlorides gave poor yields (20%)

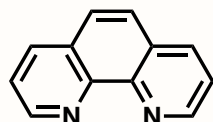
Gosmini. *JACS* 2007, 1146

- 16 examples

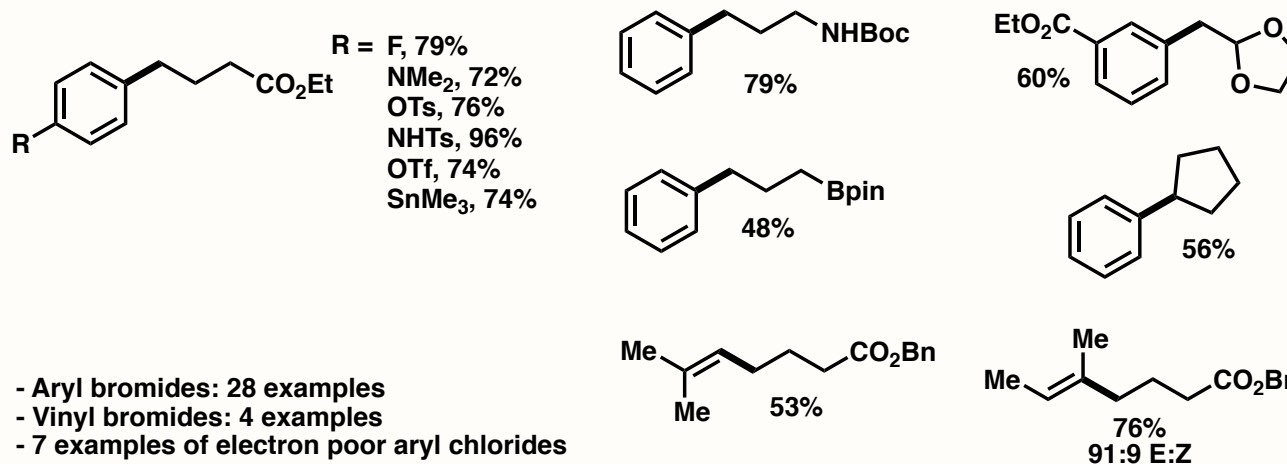
- Unexplained synergistic effects of two ligands
- Reaction postulated not to involve organomanganese species

Weix. *JACS* 2010, 920

dOMebpy: better for electron-rich arenes



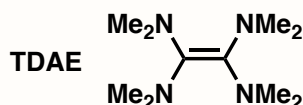
1,10-phenanthroline: better for electron-poor arenes



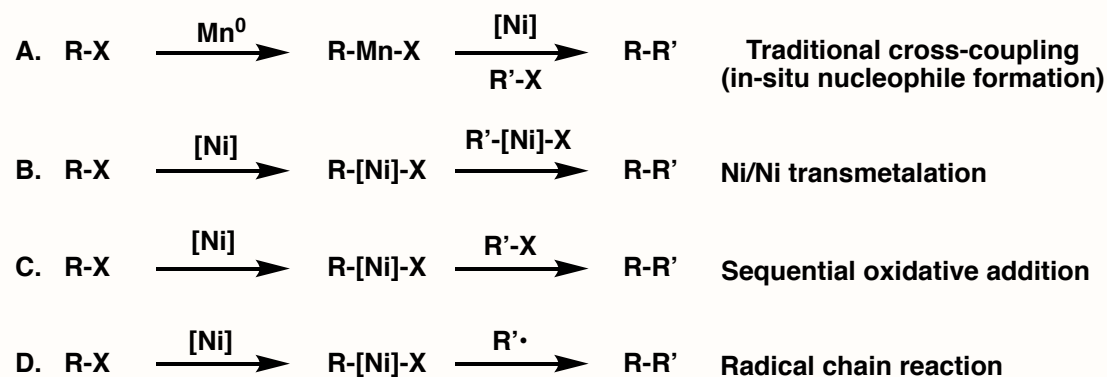
- Aryl bromides: 28 examples
- Vinyl bromides: 4 examples
- 7 examples of electron poor aryl chlorides

## Mechanistic insights

- RZnX and ArZnX slow to form under rxn conditions
- TDAE instead of Zn gives 54% yield for a representative reaction

Weix. *JACS* 2012, 6146

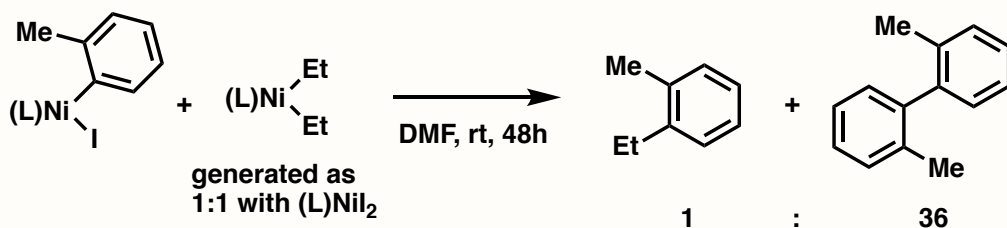
## Cross electrophile coupling



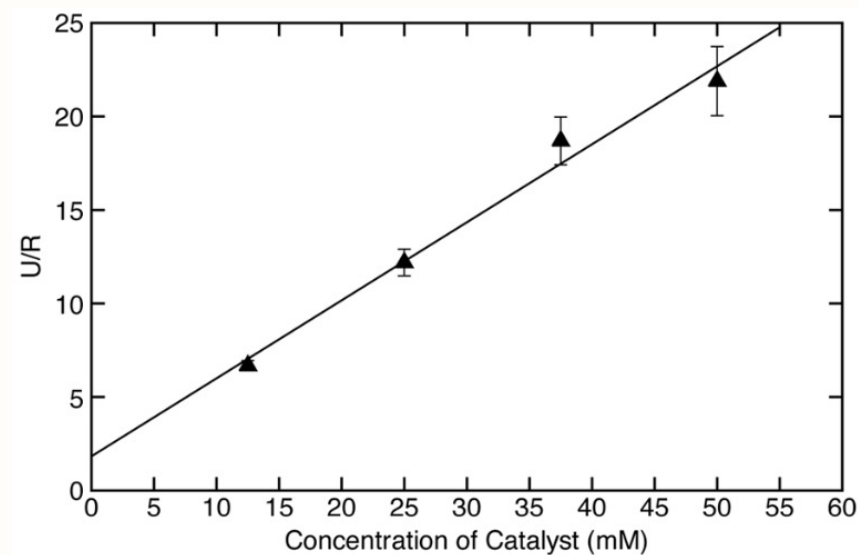
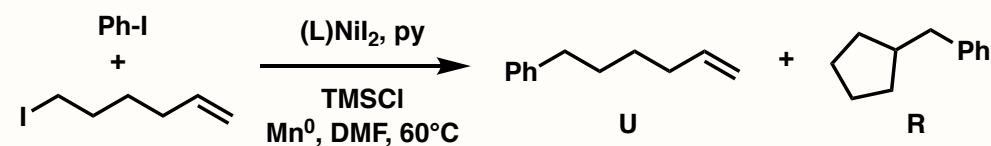
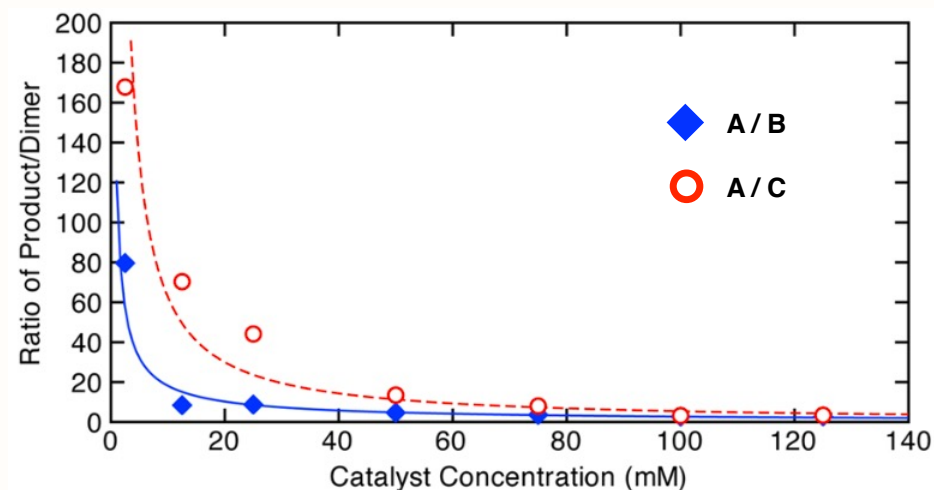
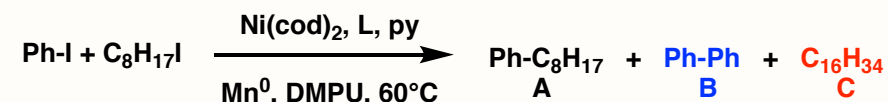
Quenching exp. and stoichiometric organonickel exp. supports initial ox. addn. of aryl halide, unfeasible for alkyl halide

But Ni cat. biaryl formation has transmet. mechanism and is 2nd order in Ni

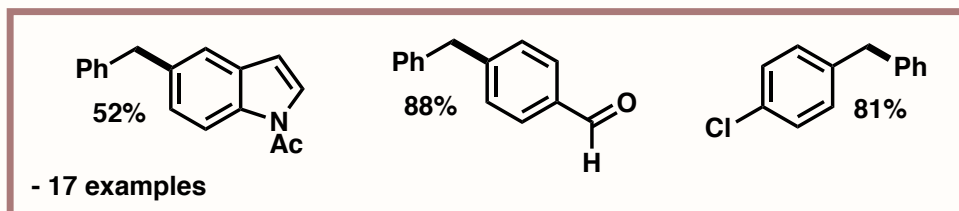
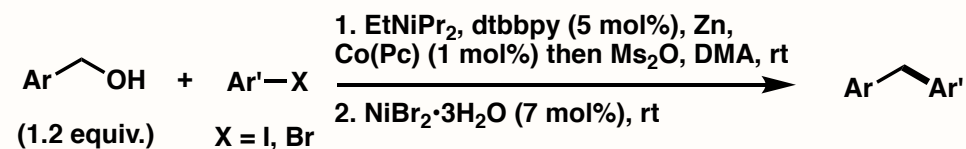
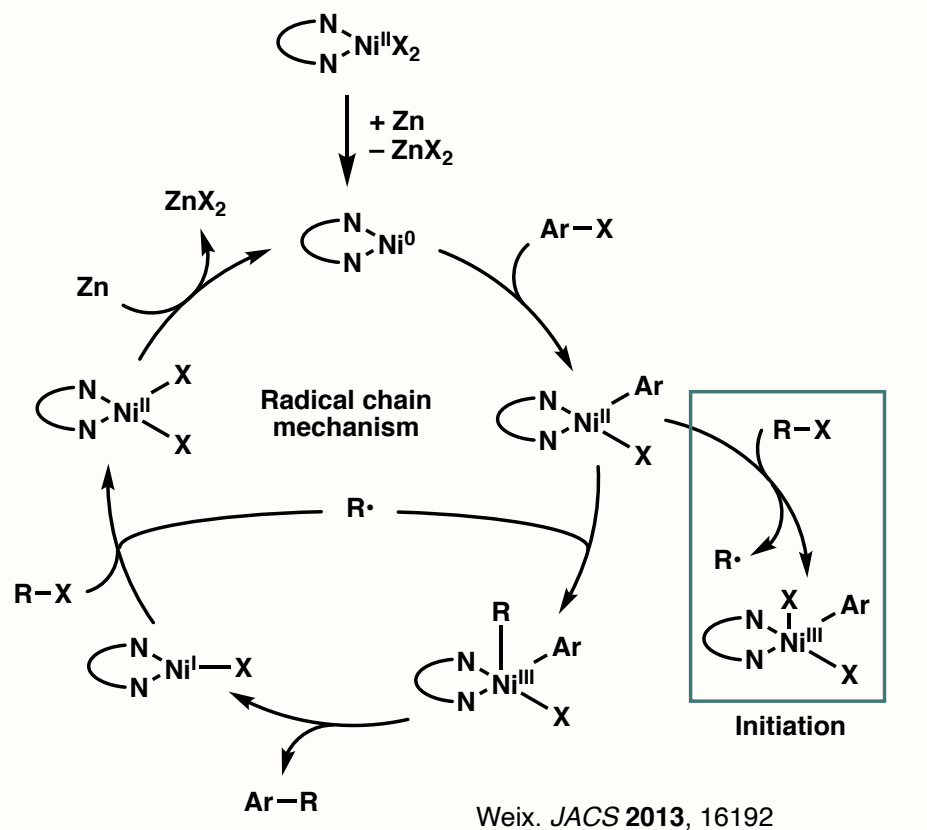
- *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1992**, 223



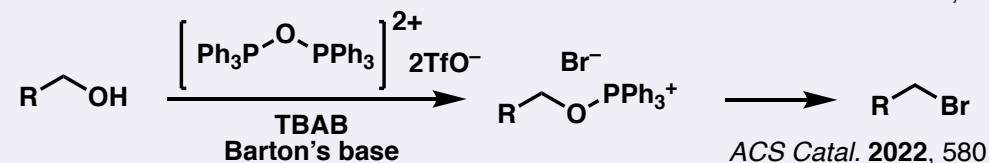
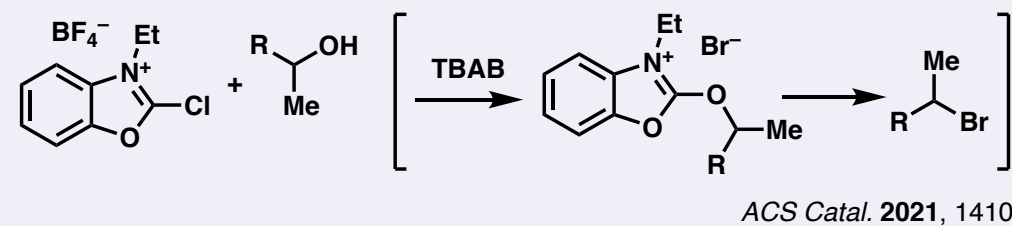
Weix. *JACS* **2013**, 16192



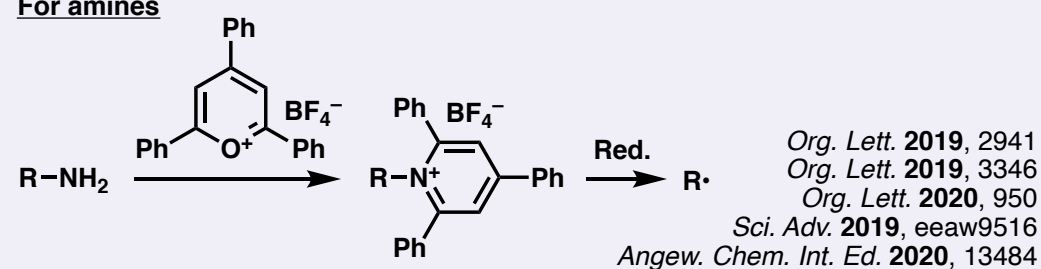
## Cross electrophile coupling

Weix. *Chem. Sci.* 2015, 1115

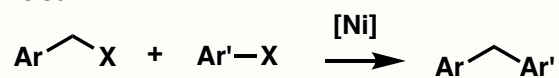
## Other similar alcohol coupling strategies



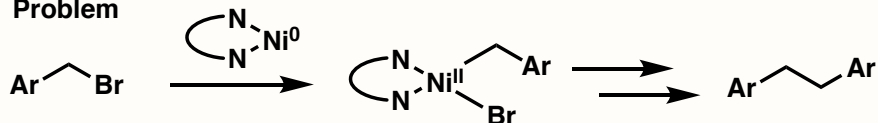
## For amines



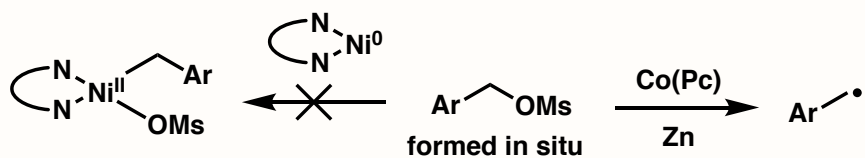
## Goal



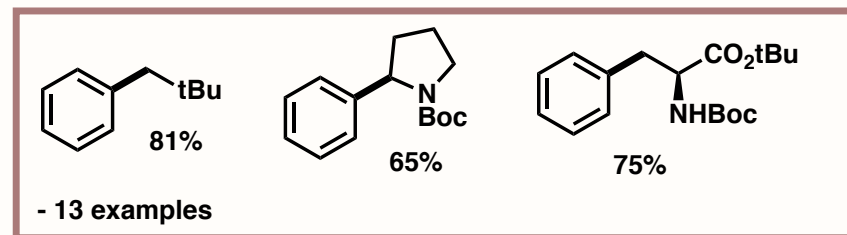
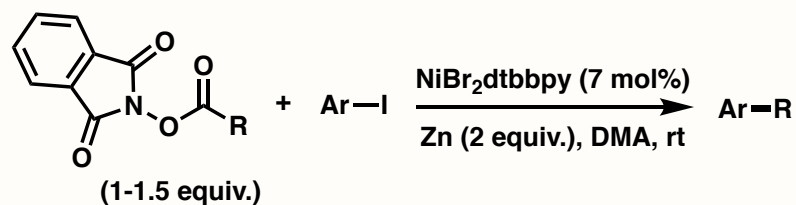
## Problem



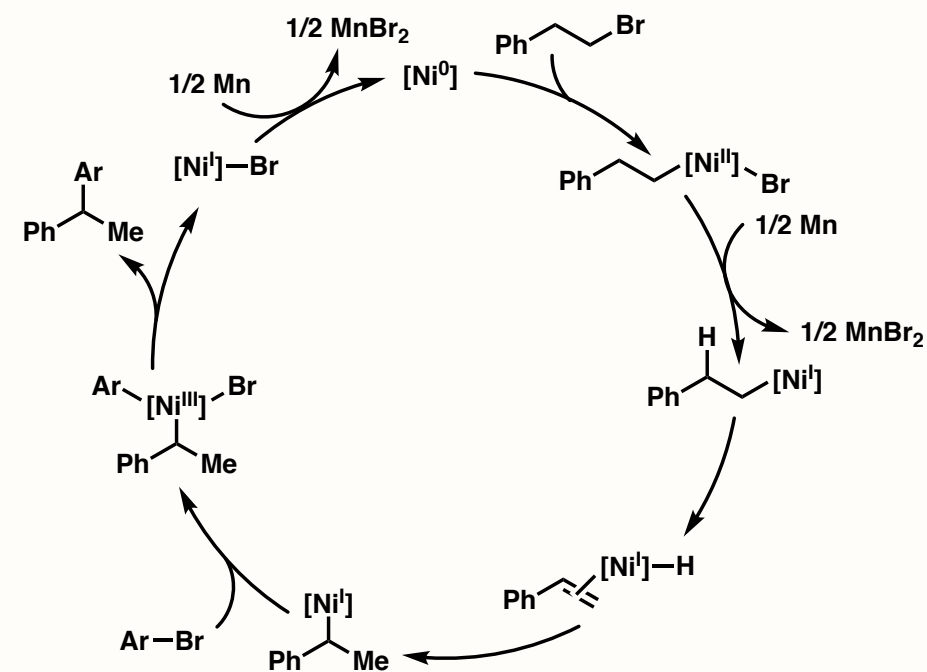
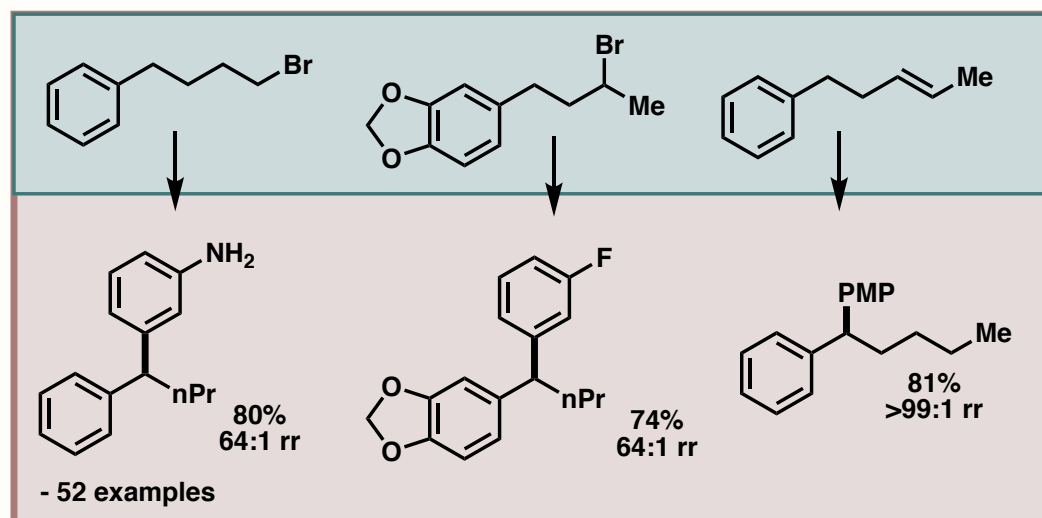
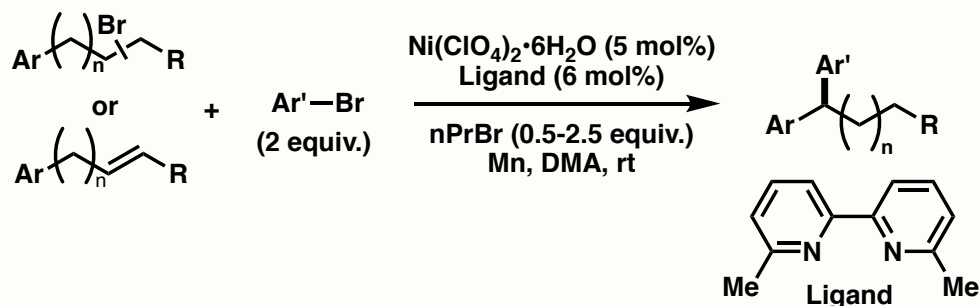
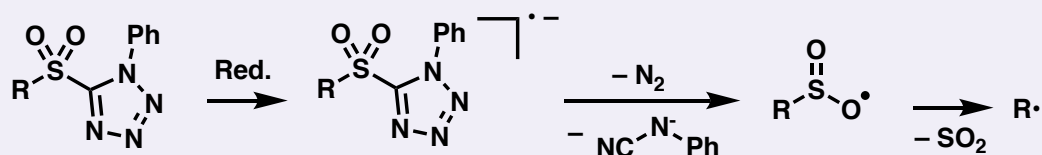
## Solution



## Cross electrophile coupling

Weix. *JACS* 2016, 5016

## Similar strategy

*Org. Lett.* 2019, 5650

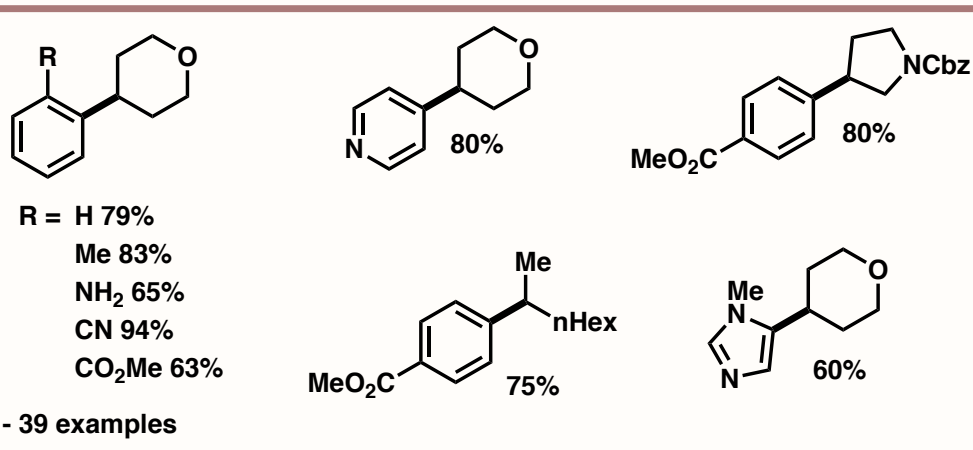
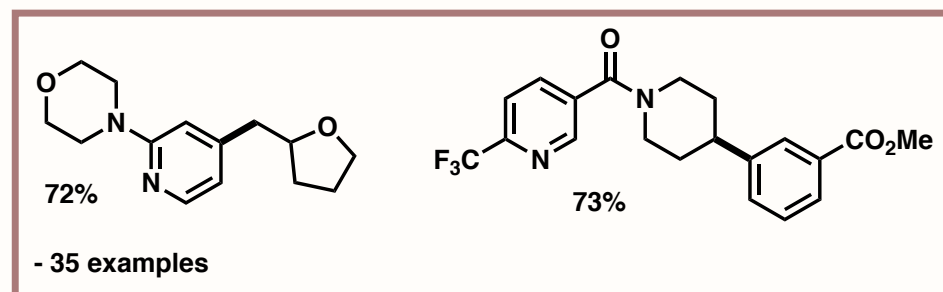
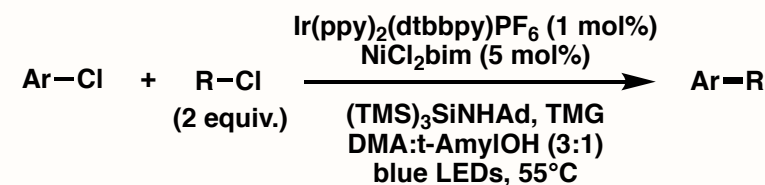
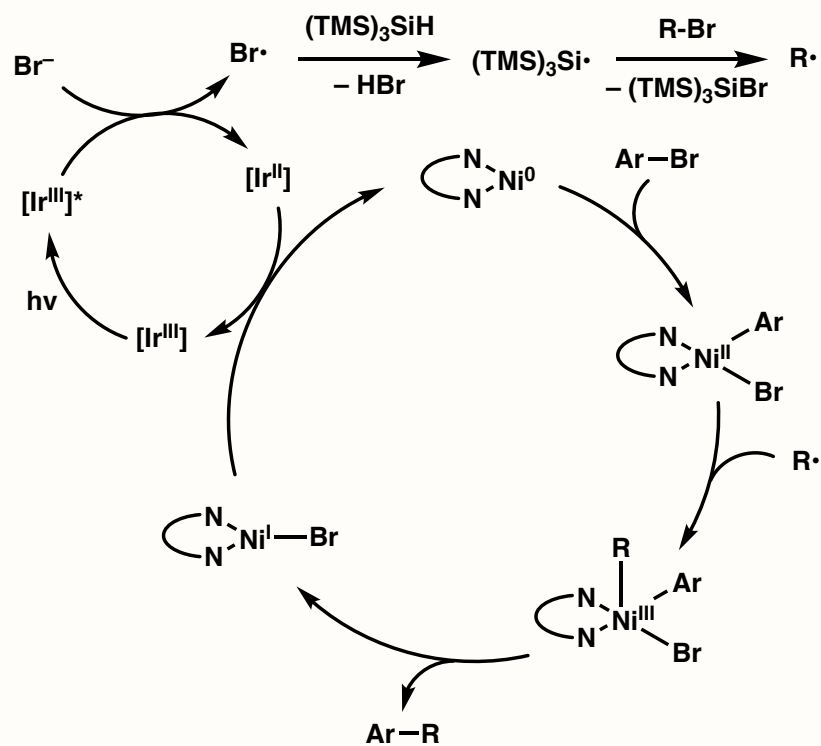
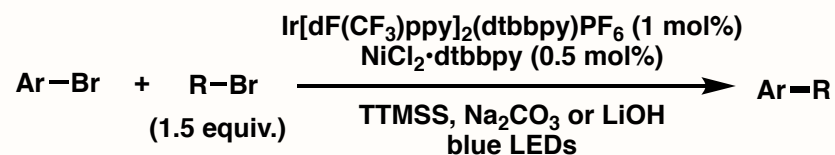
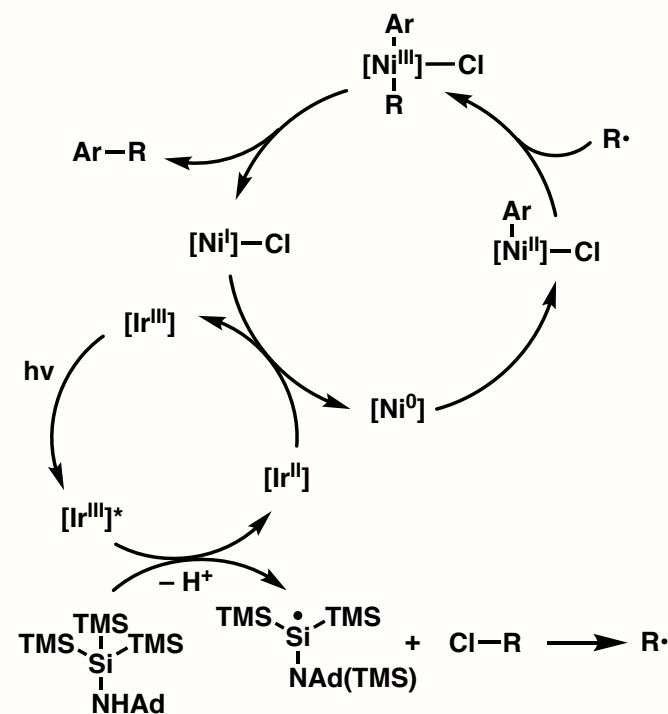
Initial oxidative addition to alkyl bromide seems unfounded

Zhu. *JACS* 2017, 13929

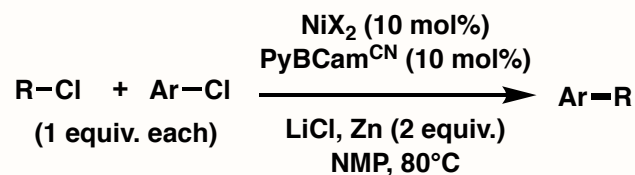
## Similar chain walking XECs:

*JACS* 2017, 1061 (initial report uses ArI and generates NiH with CsF and PMHS)  
*ACS Catal.* 2018, 310 (proposes initial OA to ArBr)

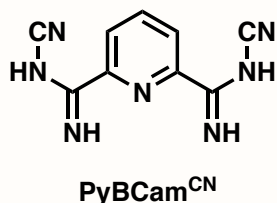
## Cross electrophile coupling

MacMillan. *JACS* 2016, 8084MacMillan. *JACS* 2020, 11691

## Cross electrophile coupling



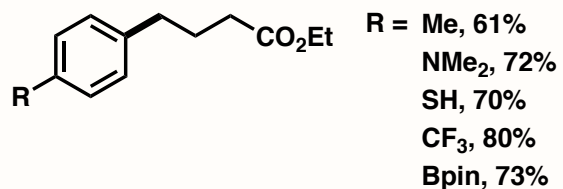
X = Br, I



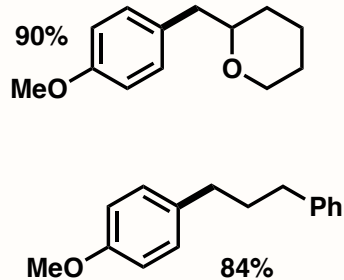
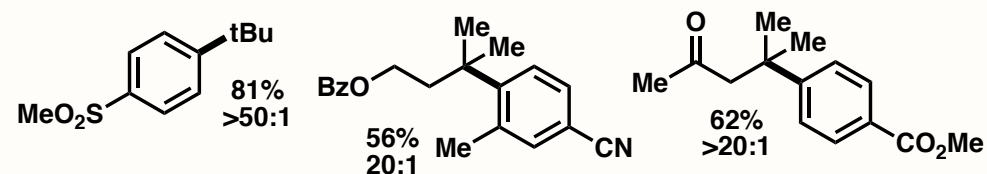
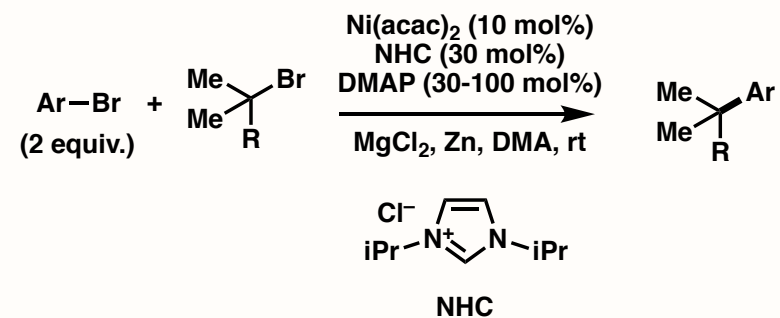
Crucial for reacting with both substrates at equal rate, suppressing both alkyl and aryl dimerization

Commercially available (2020)

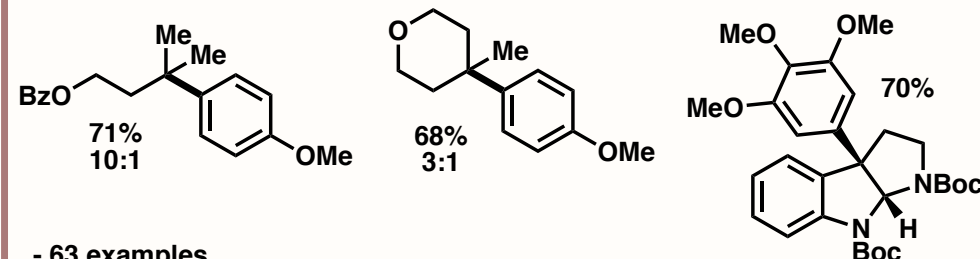
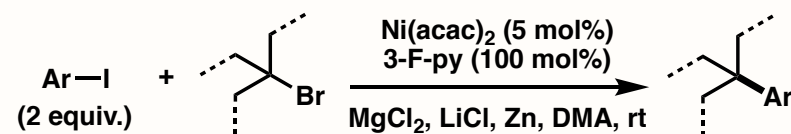
R-I	< 100000
R-Br	~ 841000
R-Cl	~ 1.8M



- 30 examples
- Appears limited to primary alkyl chlorides

Weix. *JACS* 2020, 9902

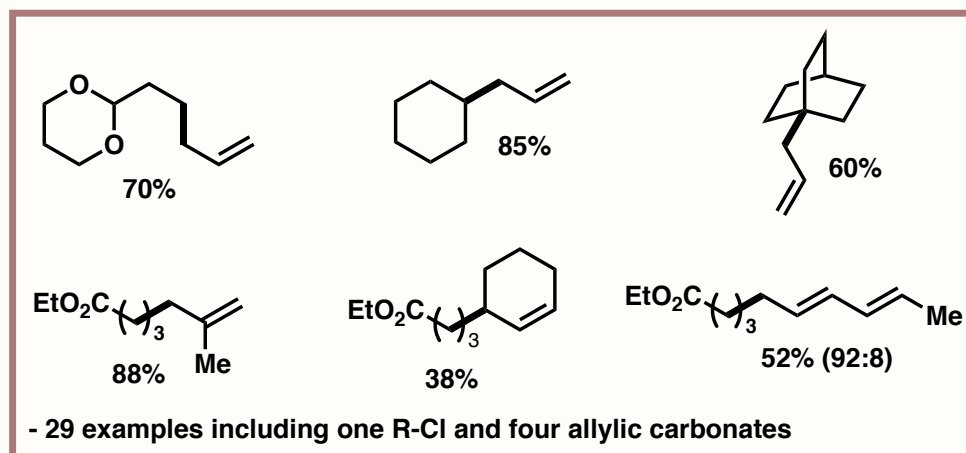
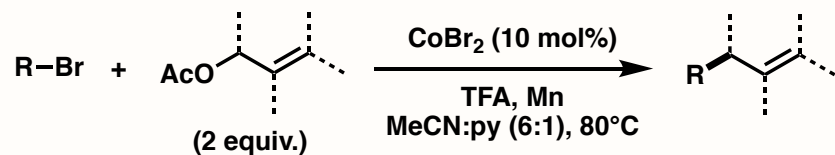
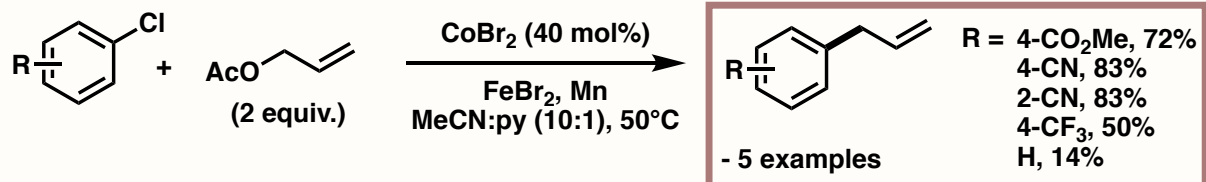
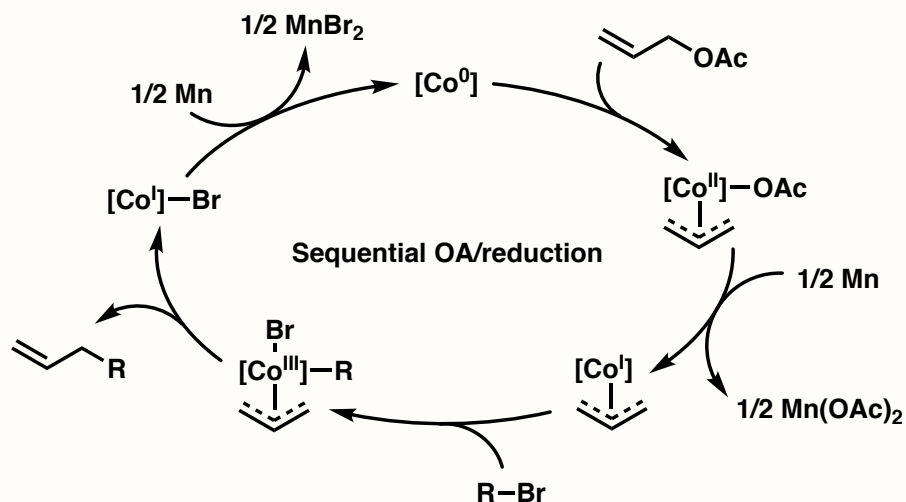
- 33 examples
- Only suitable for electron-poor arenes
- All yields within 12% of standard conditions if NHC omitted!
- Slight decrease in pdt/isomer without NHC

Gong. *JACS* 2015, 11562

- 63 examples

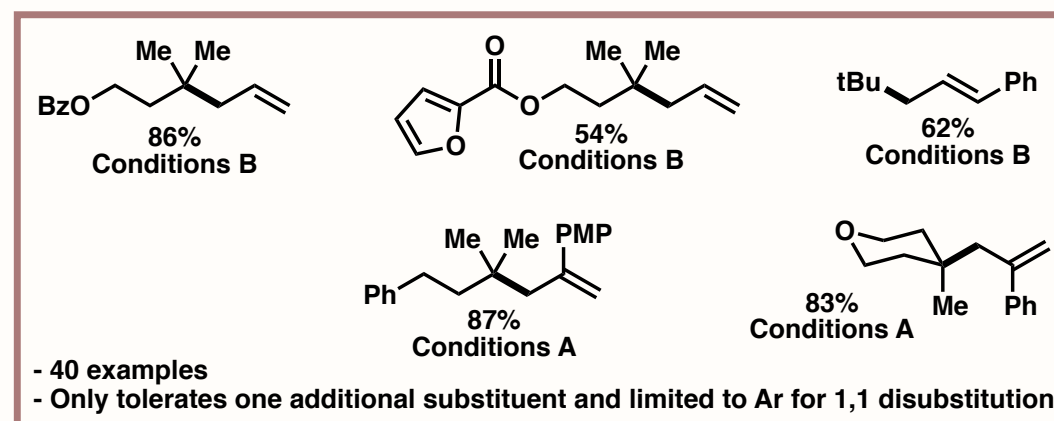
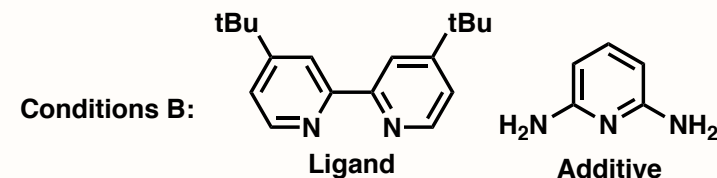
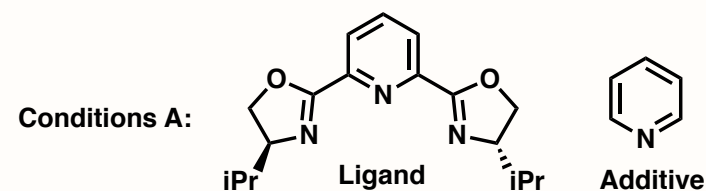
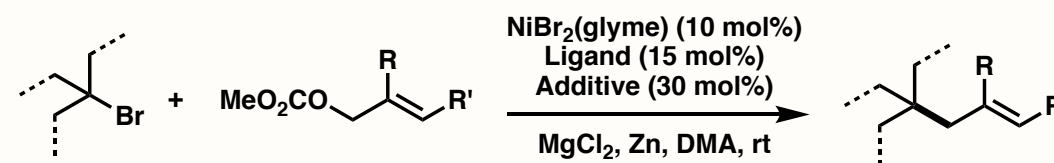
Gong. *JACS* 2018, 14490

## Cross electrophile coupling

Gosmini. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2011, 10402

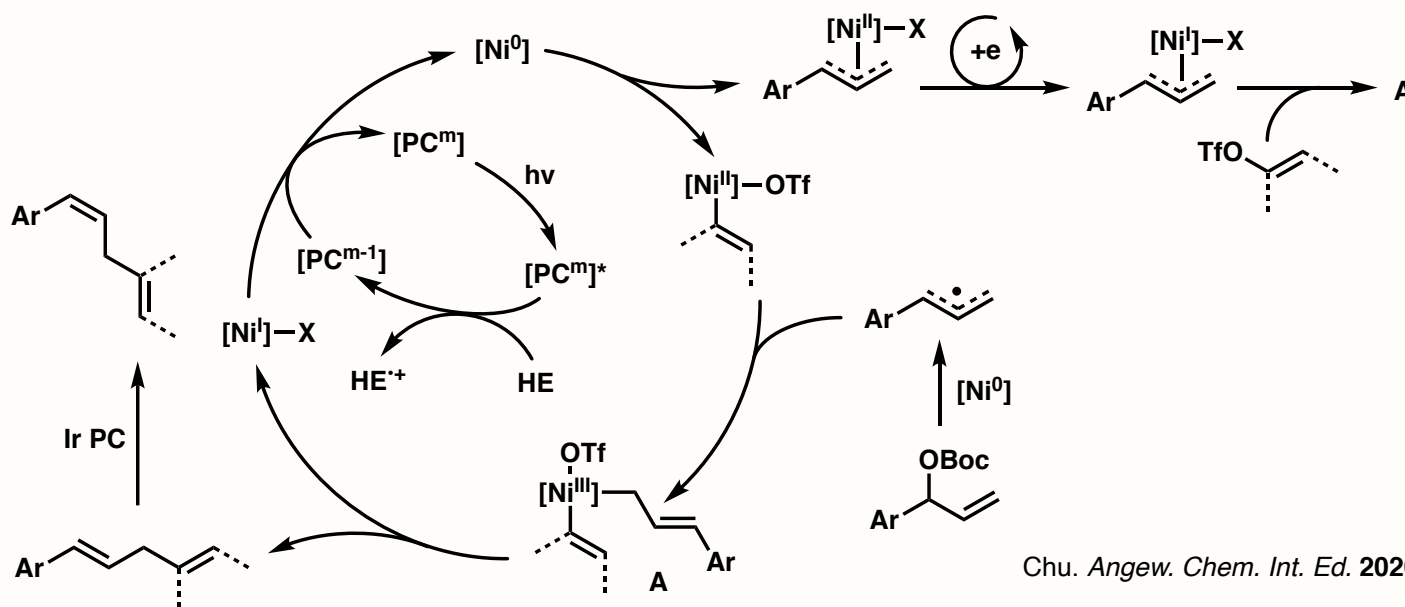
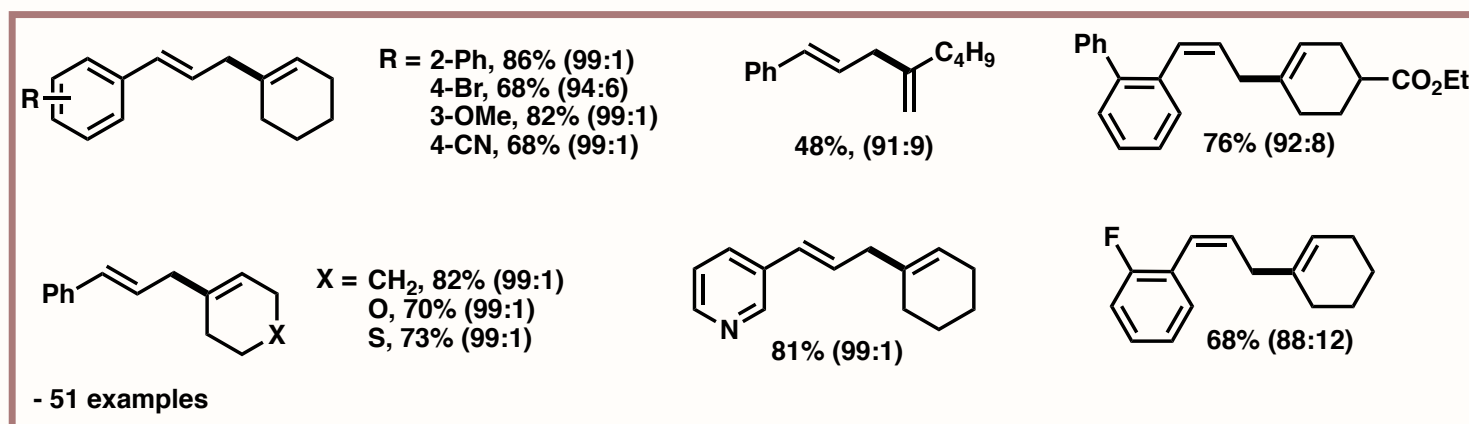
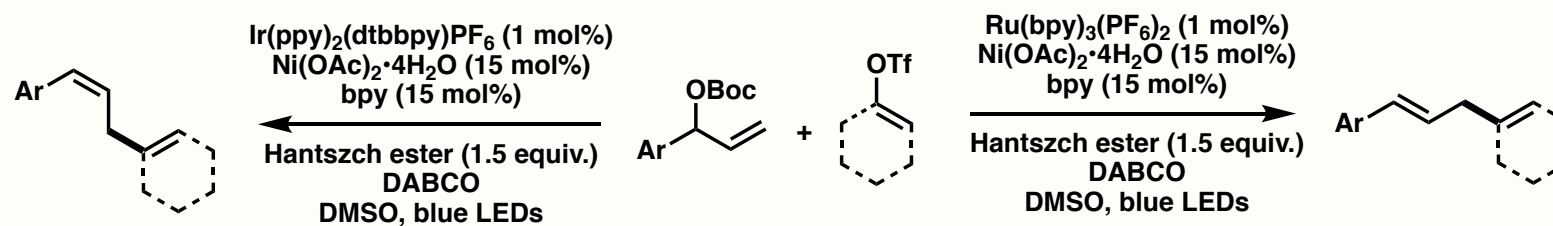
## Allylation

- Similar allylation with Ar-Br and Zn presumed to proceed through ArZnBr
- This allylation presumed a true XEC (no intermediate ArMnCl)
- Mechanism not speculated

Gosmini. *Org. Lett.* 2003, 1043Gong. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2017, 13103

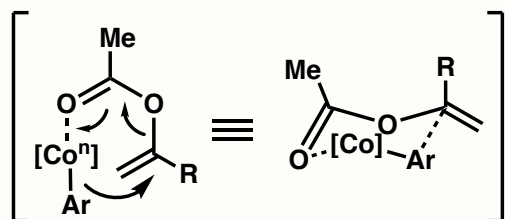
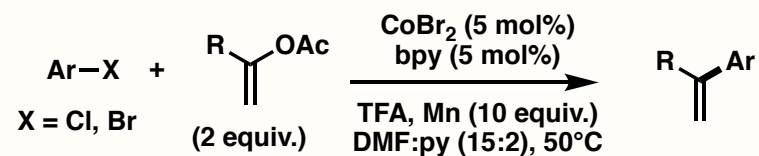


## Cross electrophile coupling

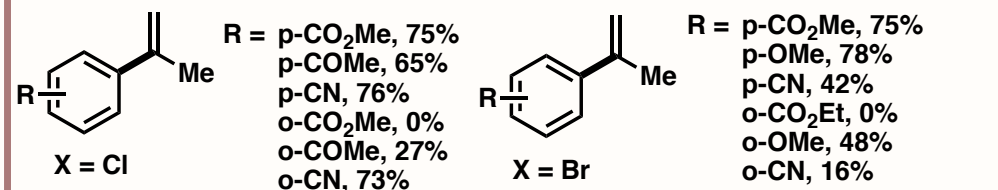


## Cross electrophile coupling

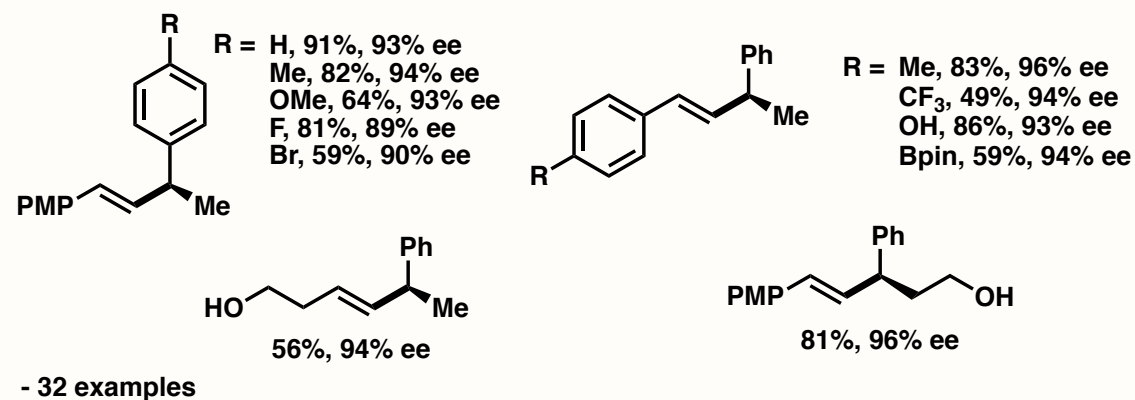
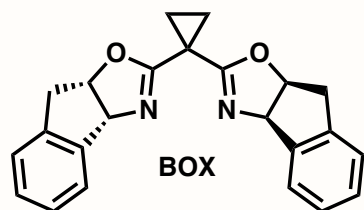
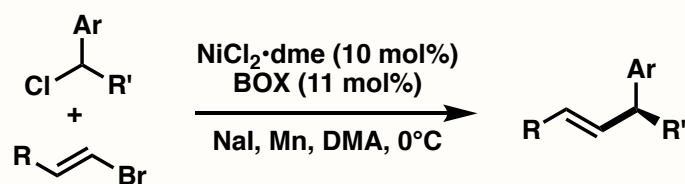
## Vinylation



- Proposed coupling TS following OA of aryl halide to cobalt
- Resulting Co<sup>II</sup> or Co<sup>III</sup> reduced by Mn



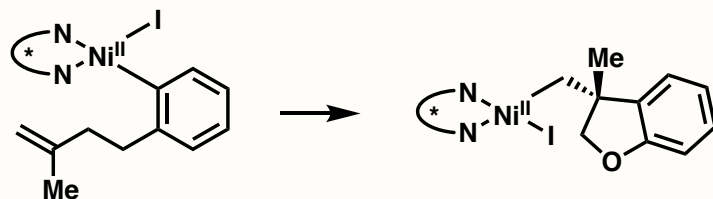
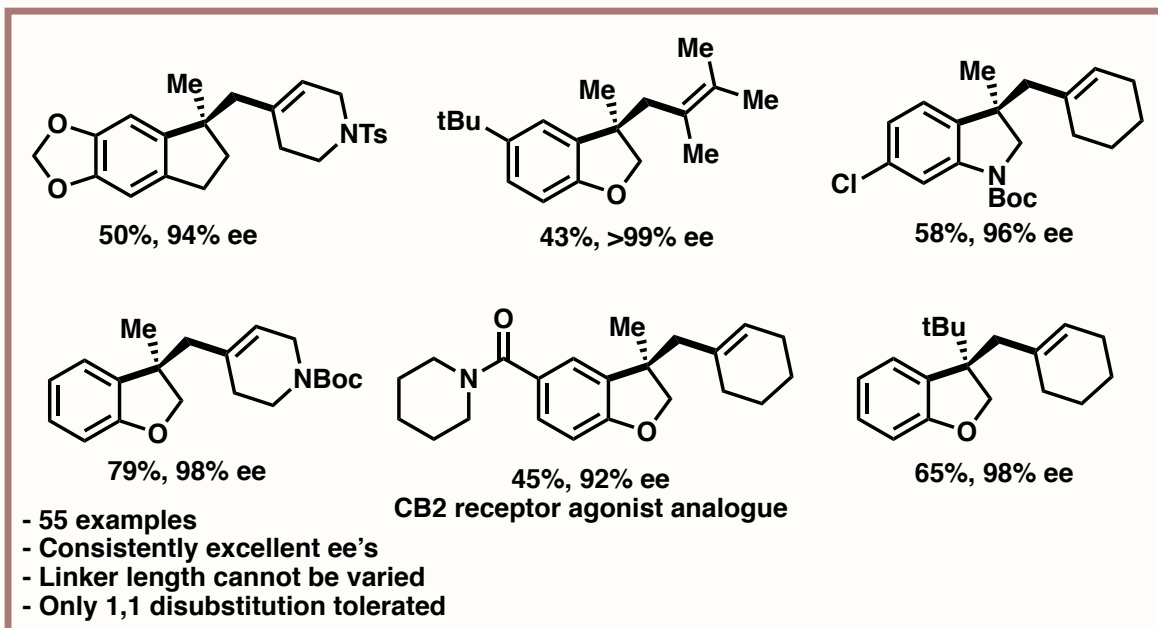
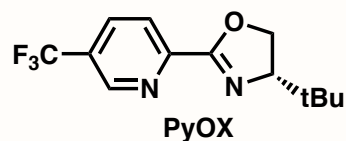
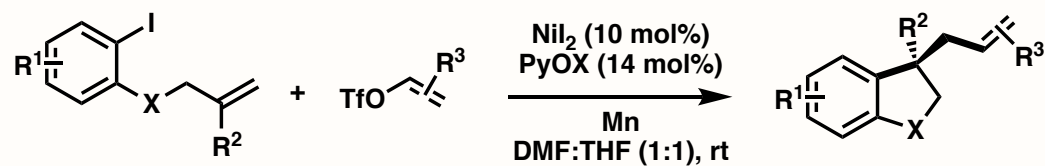
- 27 examples
- No clear trend in reactivity
- A few examples using vinyl- and cyclopentenyl acetate with varied success

Gosmini. *Eur. JOC* 2005, 989

- 32 examples

Reisman. *JACS* 2014, 14365

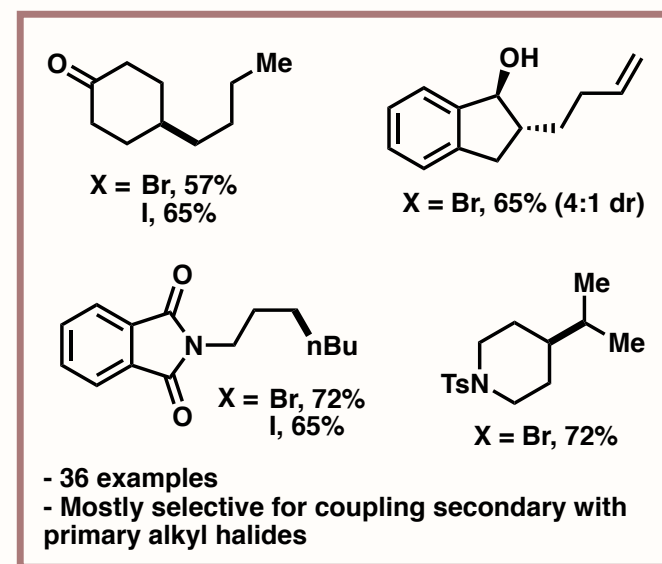
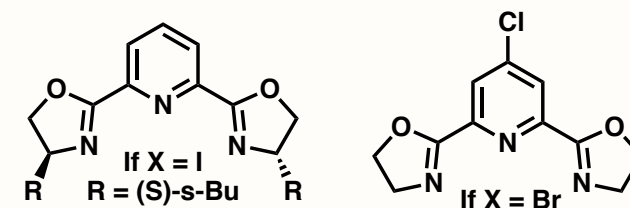
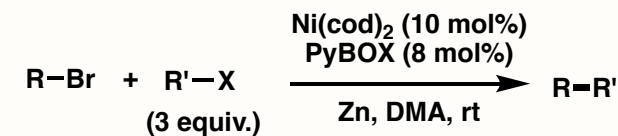
## Cross electrophile coupling



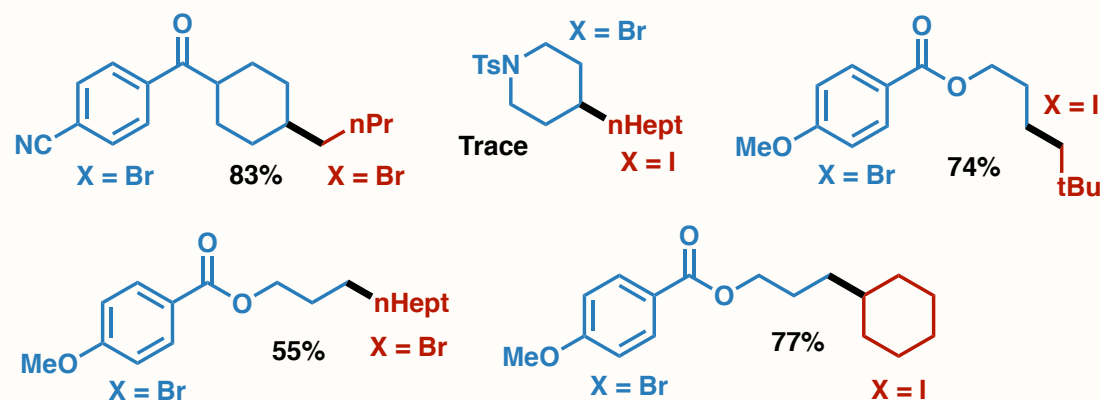
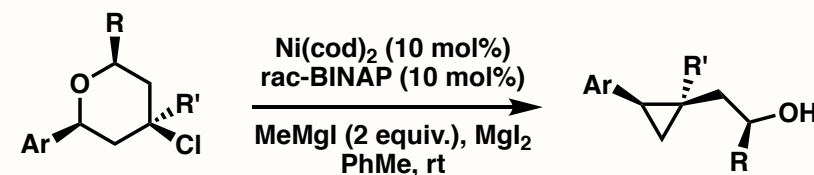
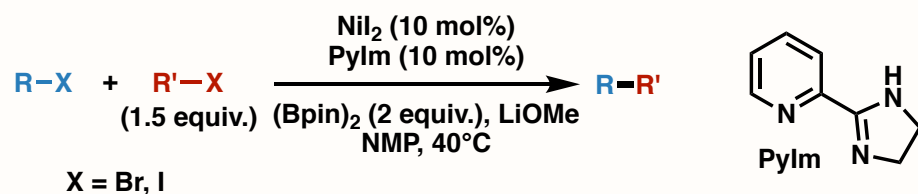
Sequential OA/reduction mechanism intercepted by migratory insertion

Shu. *JACS* 2019, 7637

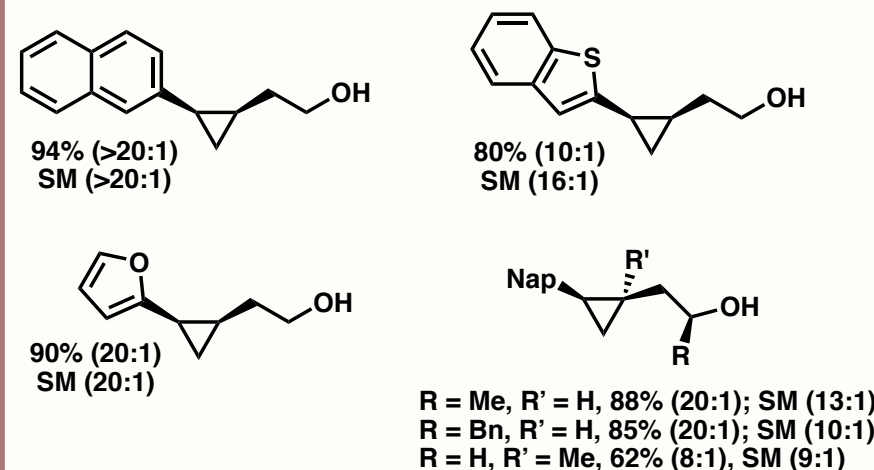
## Alkyl-alkyl

Gong. *Org. Lett.* 2011, 2138

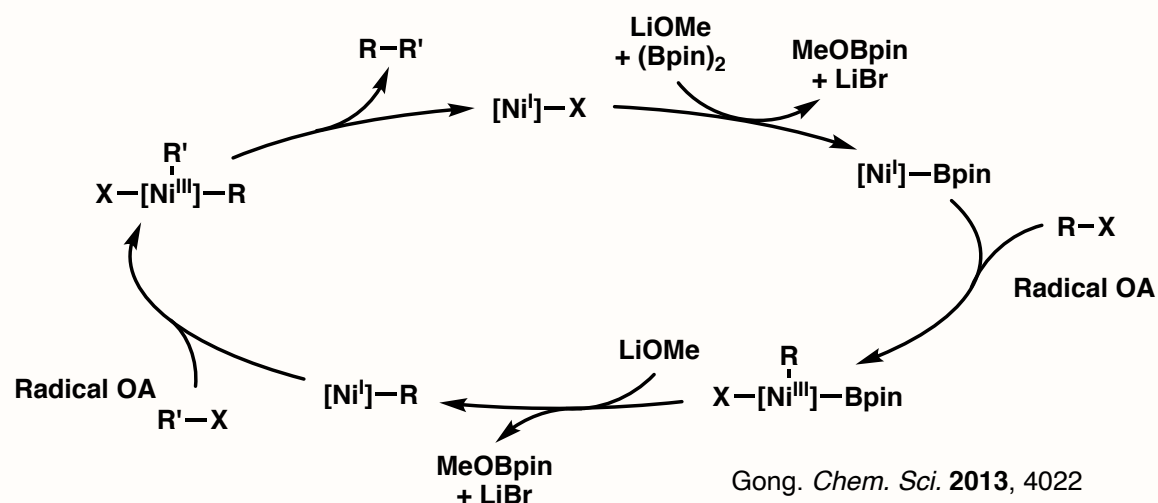
## Cross electrophile coupling



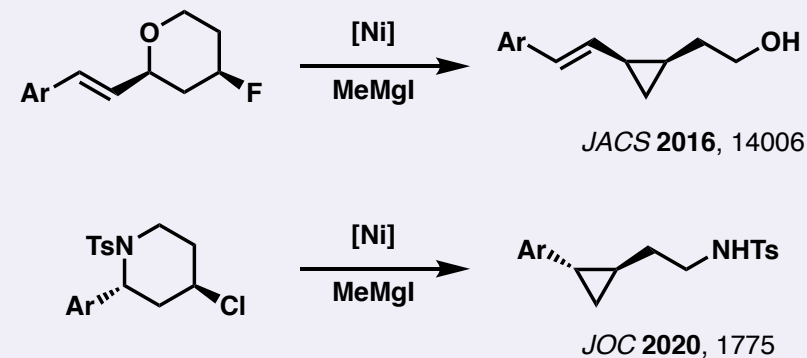
- 32 examples
- Selective for: 1° Alk-Br with 2° Alk-Br; 1° Alk-Br with 2° Alk-I and hindered 1° Alk-I
- Two 1° Alk-Br give moderate yields
- Two 2° Alk-X give v. poor yields
- Unhindered 1° Alk-I give trace yields with all Alk-Br



- 12 Examples
- Stereospecific, intramolecular S<sub>N</sub>2-like mechanism

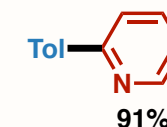
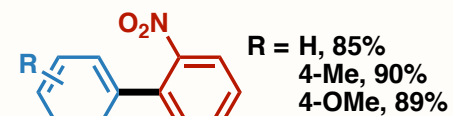
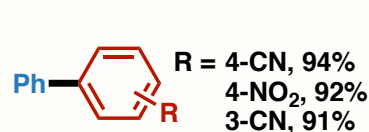
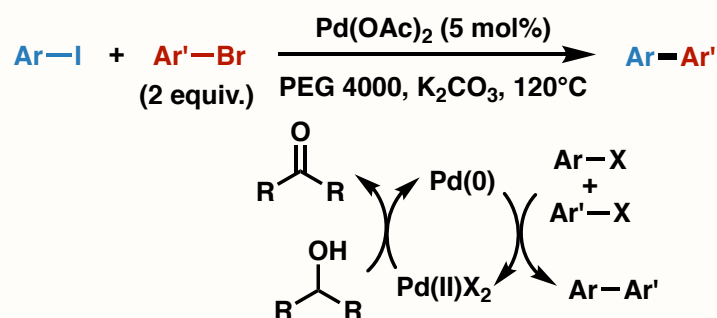
Jarvo. *JACS* 2015, 9760

## Similar methods by Elizabeth Jarvo



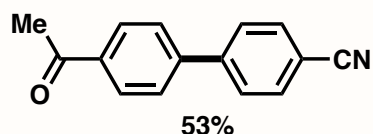
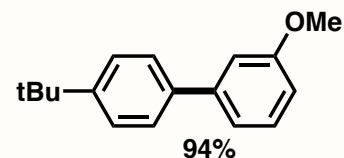
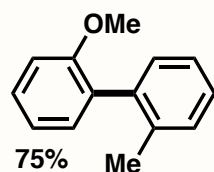
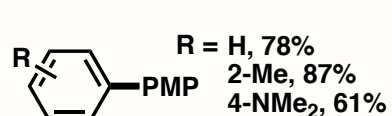
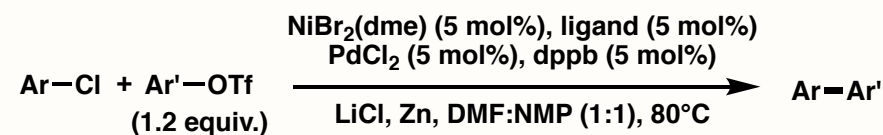
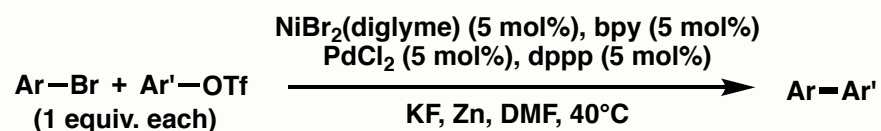
## Cross electrophile coupling

## Aryl-aryl

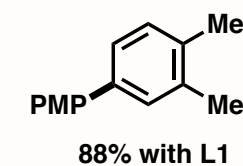
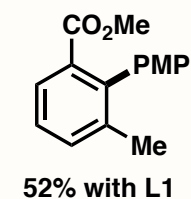
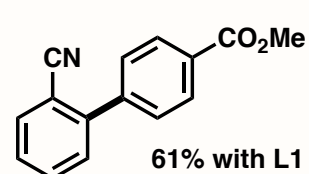
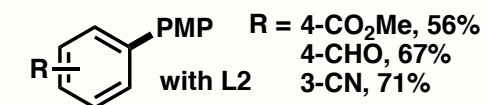
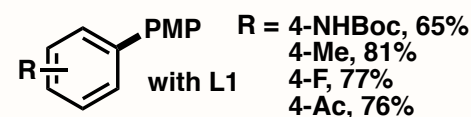
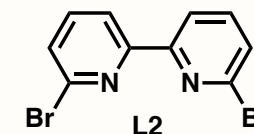
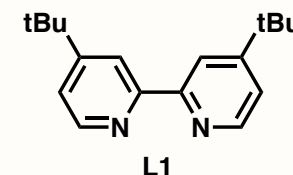


(using 4 equiv. of Ar'-Br)

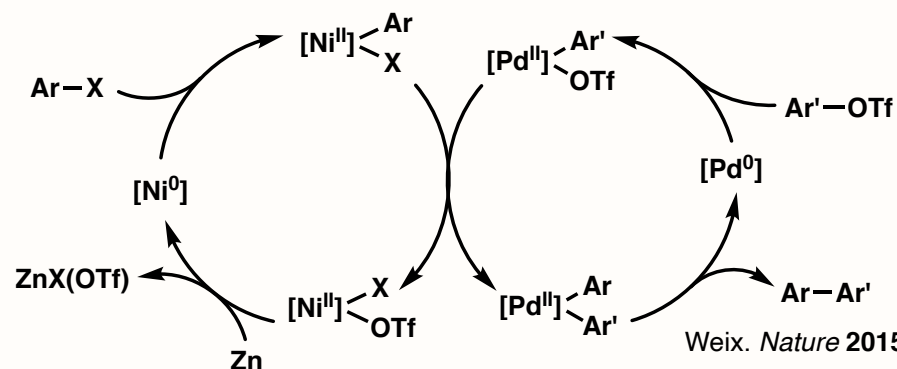
- 16 examples
- Selective for electron rich/neutral Ar-I with electron poor Ar'-Br
- Terminal PEG hydroxyl groups act as reductant
- PEG phase can be recycled up to 6 times without loss in reactivity

Wang. *JOC* 2006, 1284

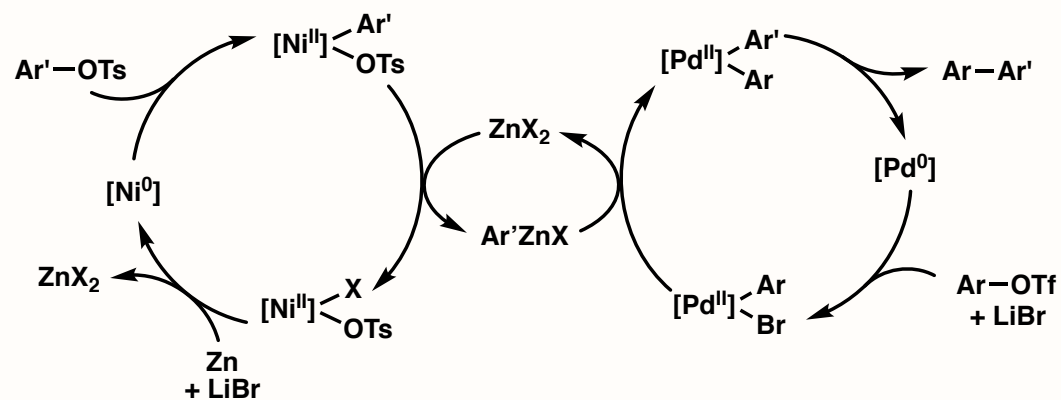
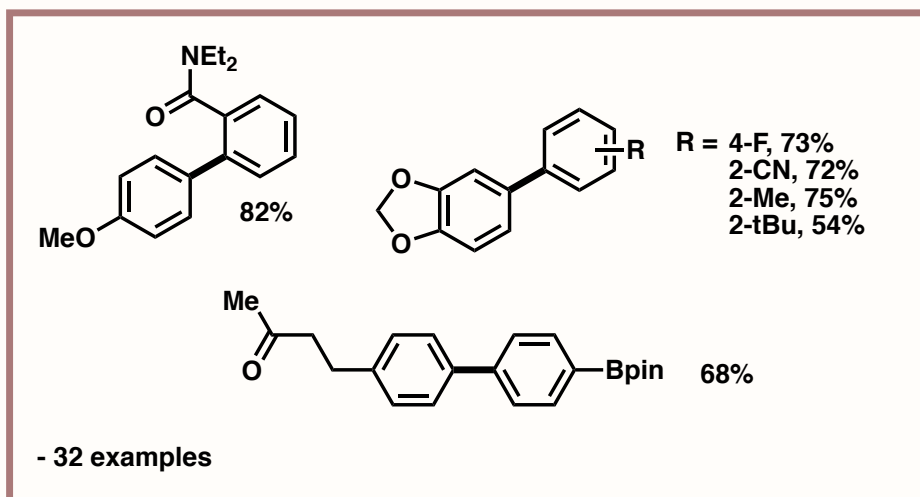
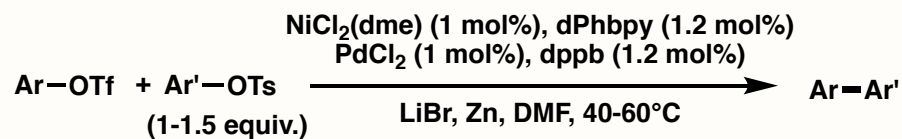
- 21 examples including 5 where Ar-I or Ar-Cl were used in place of Ar-Br

LiCl crucial for Ni(II)X<sub>2</sub> reduction at Zn surface

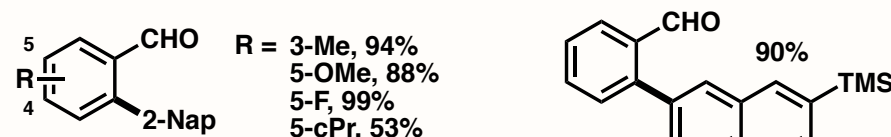
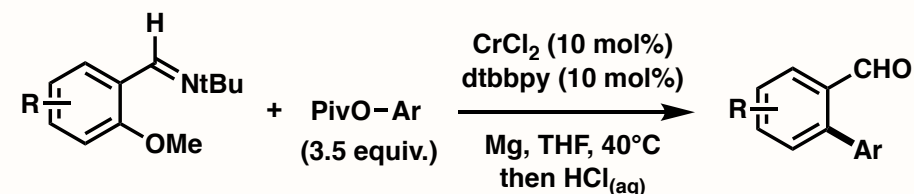
- 35 examples

Weix. *JACS* 2019, 10978

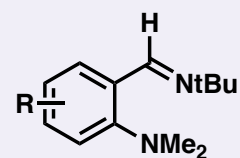
## Cross electrophile coupling



- XEC proceeds in diminished yield with Ni only (58% vs 76%)
- Inverted OA selectivity for Ni cat.
- Pd helps to consume Ar'ZnX and improves cross selectivity

Weix. *JACS* 2020, 10634

- 67 examples
- OPiv partner appears mostly limited to naphthyl and similar polyaromatics
- Proposed mechanism starts from Cr(0) and proceeds by sequential OA/reduction

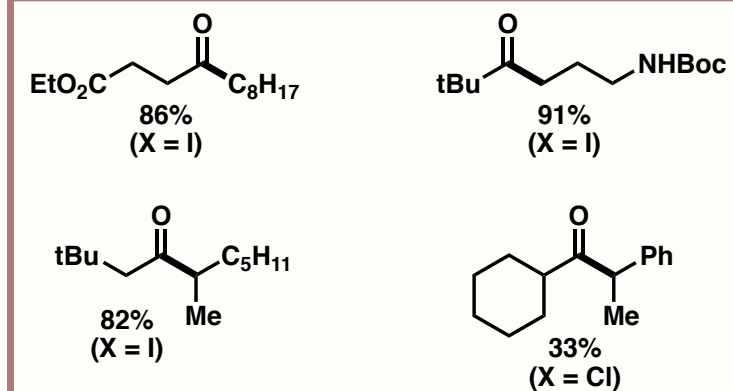
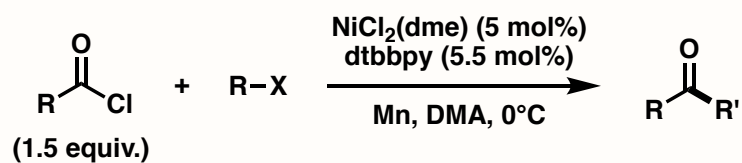
Zeng. *JACS* 2020, 7715

- Follow up report couples dimethyl anilines (C-N bond activation) with pivalates
- Identical conditions
- Similar substrate scope

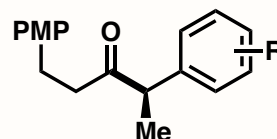
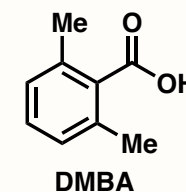
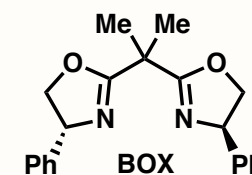
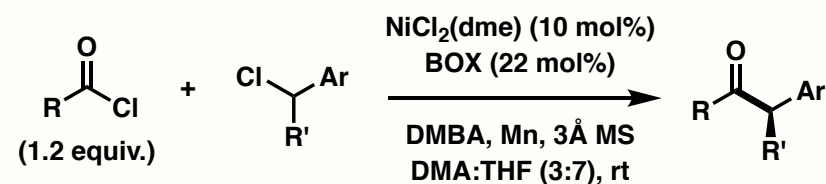
*JACS* 2020, 12834

## Cross electrophile coupling

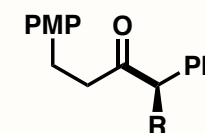
## Acylation



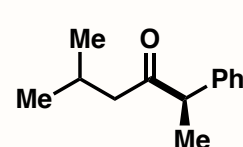
- 16 examples



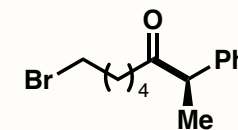
R = 2-Me, 35%, 72% ee  
 4-Me, 74%, 93% ee  
 4-OMe, 56%, 86% ee  
 4-Br, 73%, 86% ee  
 4-CF<sub>3</sub>, 64%, 82% ee



R = Me, 79%, 93% ee  
 Et, 50%, 94% ee  
 Bn, 79%, 92% ee  
 CH<sub>2</sub>OTBS, 51%, 89% ee



73%, 88% ee

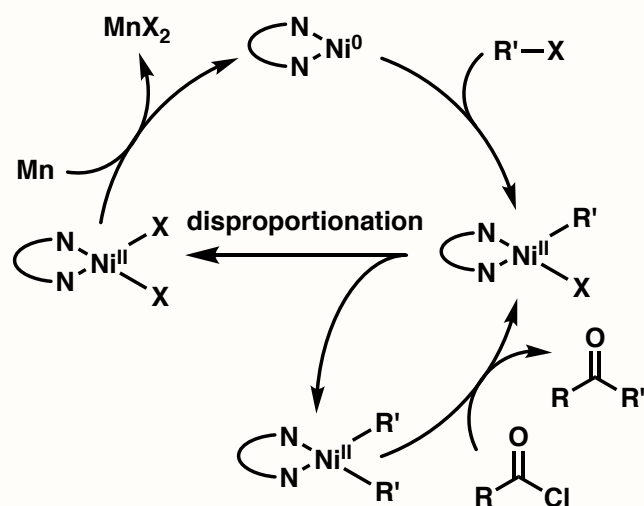


72%, 86% ee

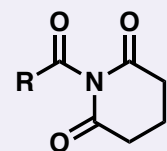
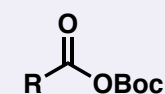
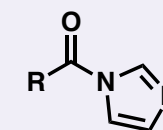
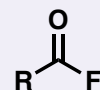
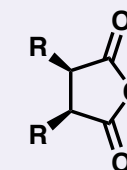
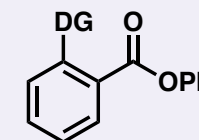
- 23 examples

Reisman. *JACS* 2013, 7442

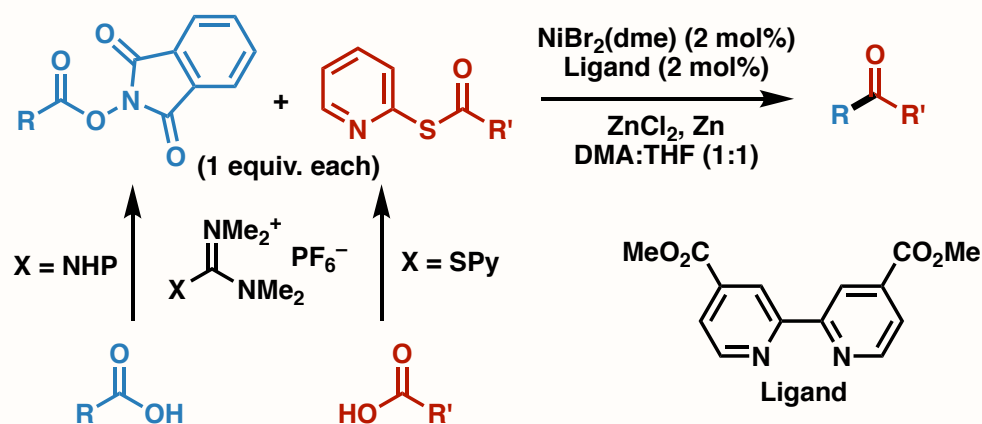
Sequential OA/reduction mechanism starting with OA of acid chloride

Weix. *Org. Lett.* 2012, 1476

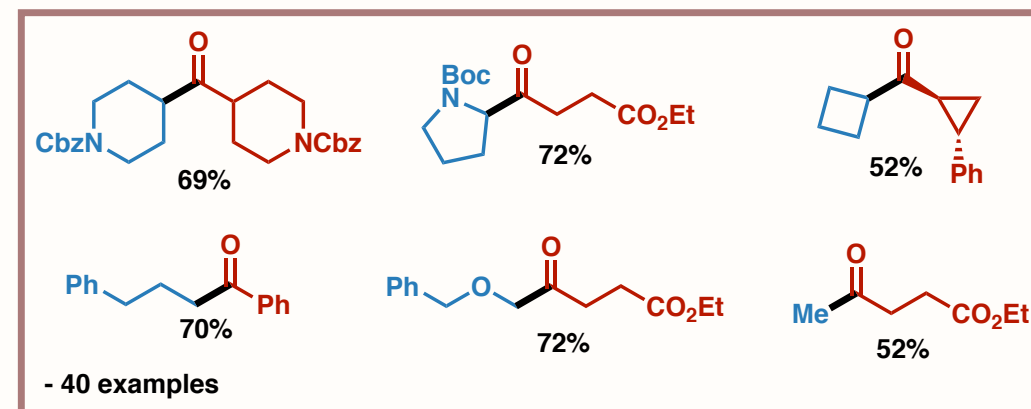
## Other activated acyl groups used in XEC

*Org. Lett.* 2017, 2536*Chem. Commun.* 2012, 7034*ACS Catal.* 2020, 3895*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2020, 13484*Org. Lett.* 2018, 1191*Org. Lett.* 2020, 9203

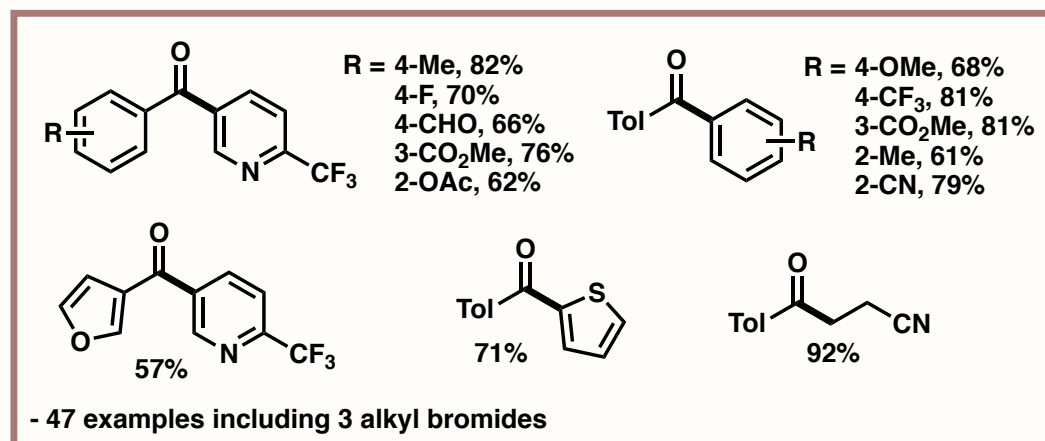
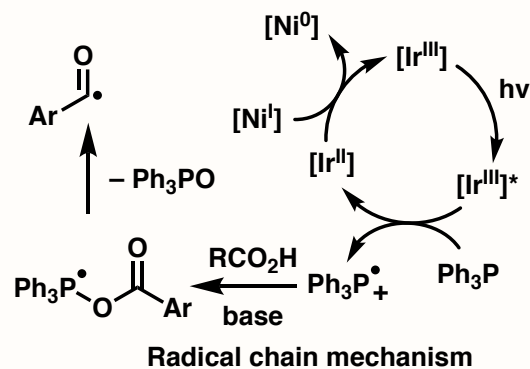
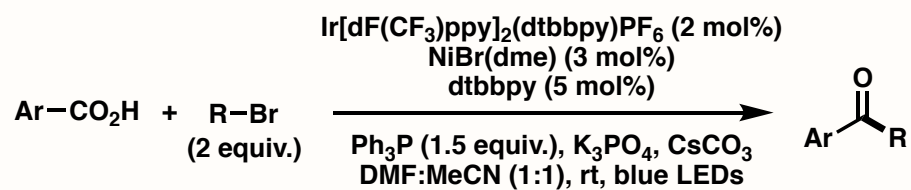
## Cross electrophile coupling



Filtration ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) and concentration gives minimal yield loss in XEC vs. purified reagents



Weix. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2019, 12081

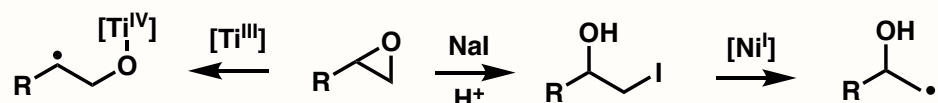
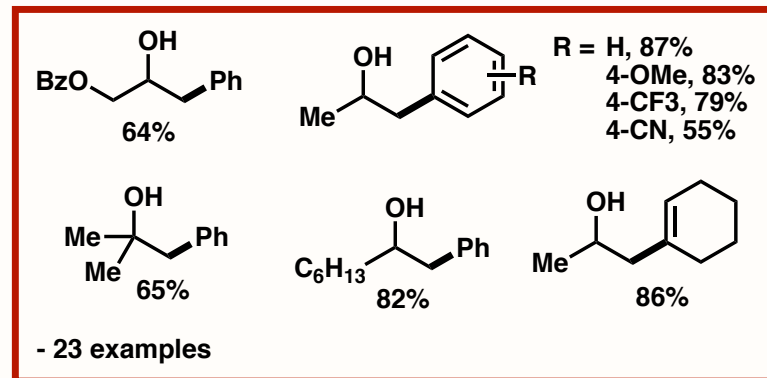
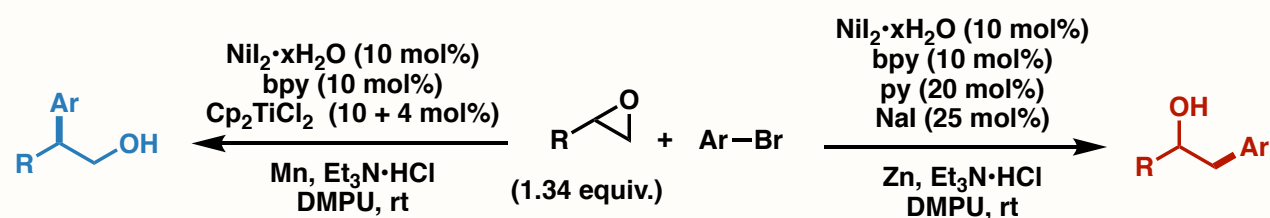
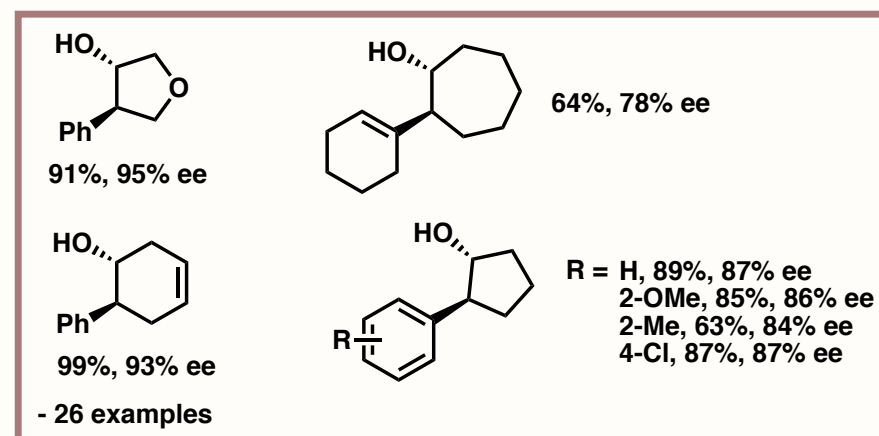
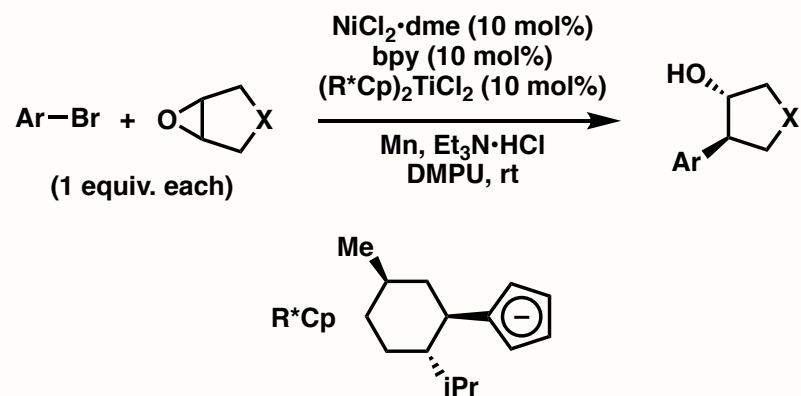
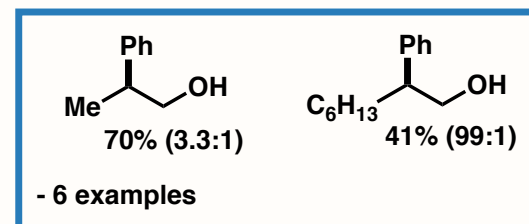


Xie. *Nat. Commun.* 2020, 3312

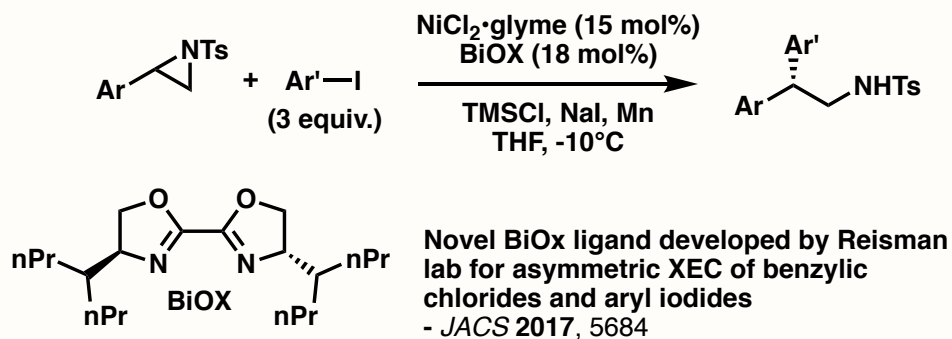


## Cross electrophile coupling

## Epoxide/aziridine opening

Weix. *JACS* 2014, 48Weix. *JACS* 2015, 3237

# Cross electrophile coupling



## Conclusions and outlook

XEC is field that has exploded in the last decade

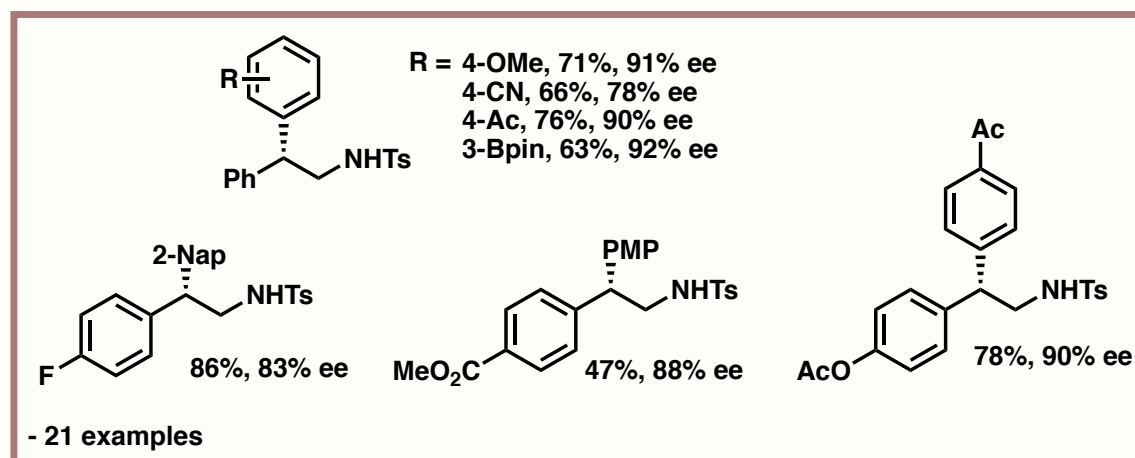
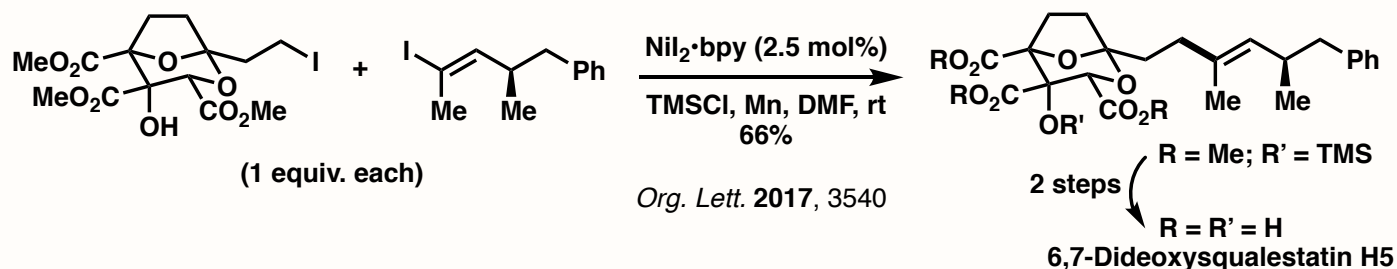
Holds many advantages of traditional cross coupling, mainly ubiquity of substrates and orthogonality of scope

Main challenge is selectivity

- xs reagent can be employed
- stereoelectronic matching
- selective mechanistic pathways: radical chain and sequential OA/reduction

Future work

- engage more chloride substrates
- make more hindered bonds (3° with 2°; 3° with 3°)
- lower equivalency of substrate (approaching 1:1)
- different metal catalysts
- use in total synthesis (currently limited)
- more intramolecular couplings/cyclizations



Simpler, racemic version run at rt also disclosed

Doyle. *JACS* 2017, 5688