

Asymmetric Catalysis for Fine Chemical Synthesis

Presentation: *Angew. Chem.* **2023**, 135, e202213913

May 26, 2025

Alec Gagnebin, Miquel Angel Perez, Thomas Cohen

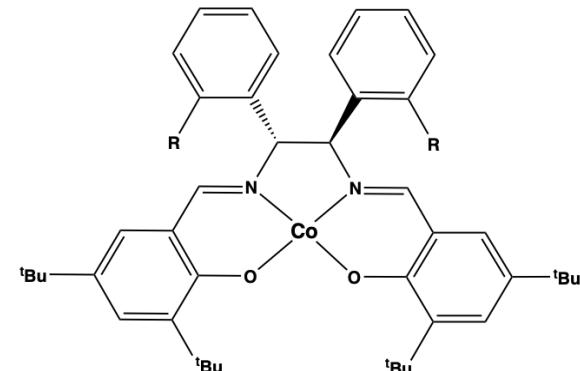
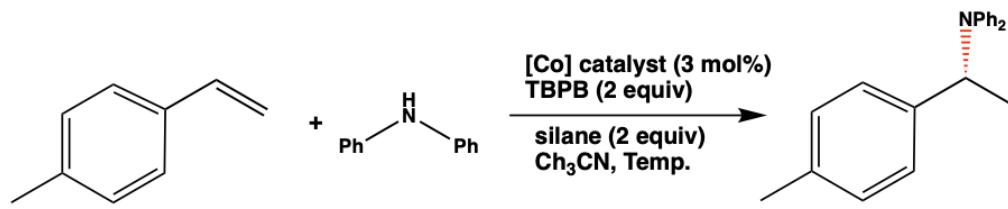


Cobalt-Catalyzed Enantioselective Hydroamination of Arylalkenes with Secondary Amines

H. Miao, M. Guan, T. Xiong, G. Zhang, Q. Zhang

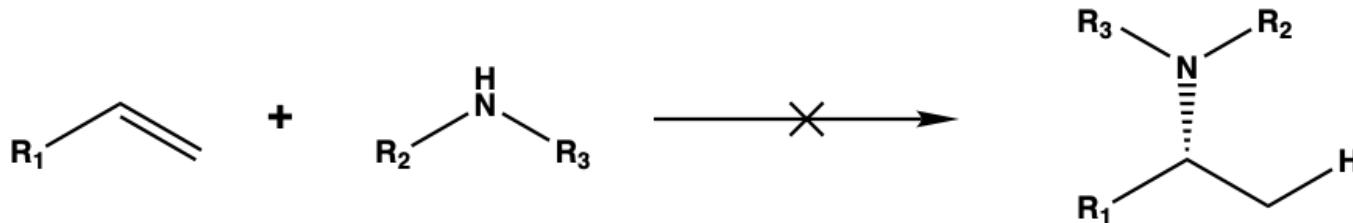
Introduction: Reaction and Reactivity

Hydroamination of Arylalkenes



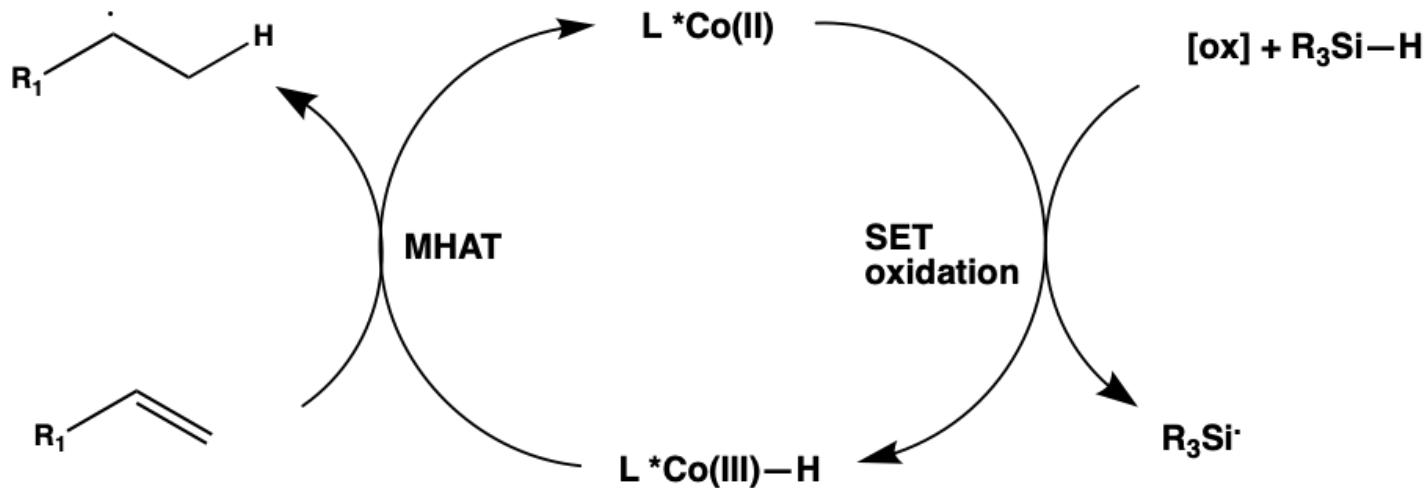
- This reaction is a **Markovnikov hydroamination of Arylalkenes**
- **Nucleophile:** Free secondary aryl/alkyl amines
- **Electrophile:** Arylalkenes
- **Catalyst:** Chiral salen-cobalt(II) complex
- **Bond formation:** Free amine attack on the diastereomeric alkylcobalt(IV) complex

Principle of activation



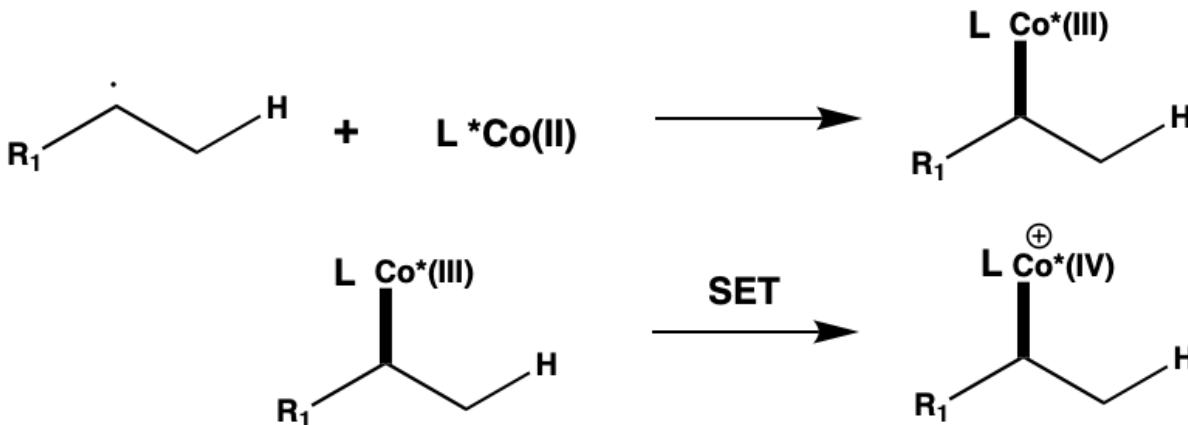
- Reaction challenge : **inert alkene and coordinating secondary amine** \longrightarrow require activation

Principle of activation



- Reaction challenge : **inert alkene** and **coordinating secondary amine** \longrightarrow require activation
- Radical activation : **Metal Hydride-hydrogen Atom Transfer (MHAT)** to alkene

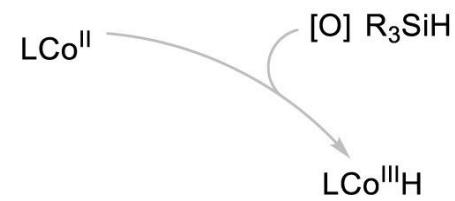
Principle of activation



- Reaction challenge : **inert alkene** and **coordinating secondary amine** \longrightarrow require activation
- Radical activation : **Metal Hydride-hydrogen Atom Transfer (MHAT)** to alkene
- SET oxidation of **Co(III)-alkyl** to **Co(IV)-alkyl** activates the intermediate for nucleophilic substitution.
- Enantioselectivity: **ligand-controlled radical capture**, followed by **SN2-like** that leads to an inversion of configuration.

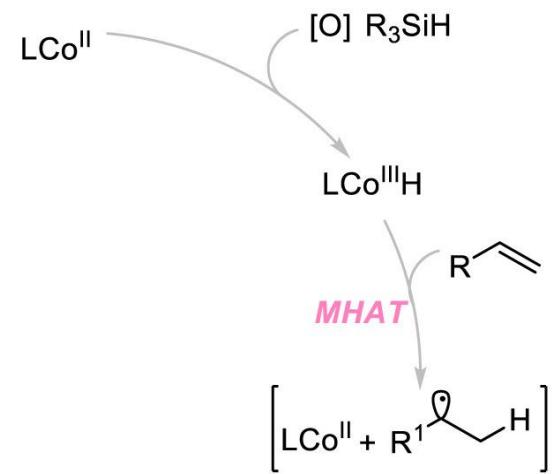
Catalytic Cycle

- **Cat. (re)activation** by reaction of Co^{II} precursor with the oxidant and silane *in situ*.



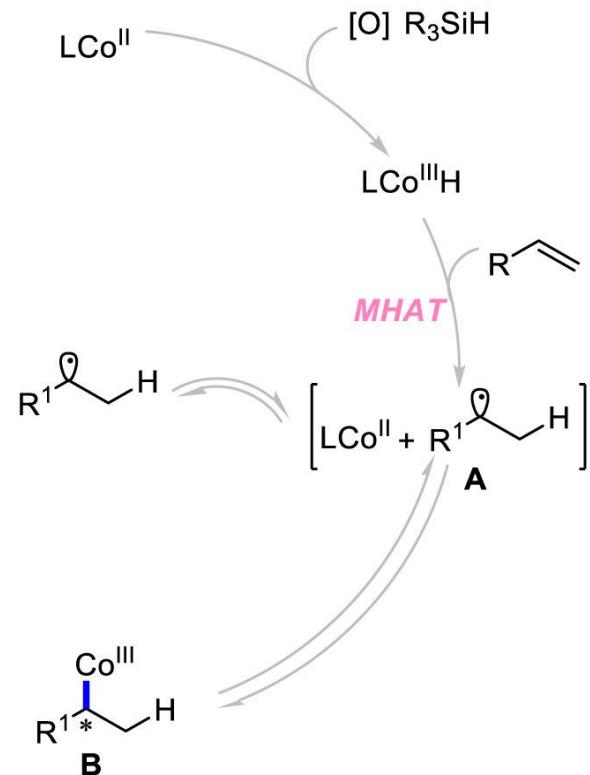
Catalytic Cycle

- **Cat. (re)activation** by reaction of Co^{II} precursor with the oxidant and silane *in situ*.
- **MHAT** to alkene.



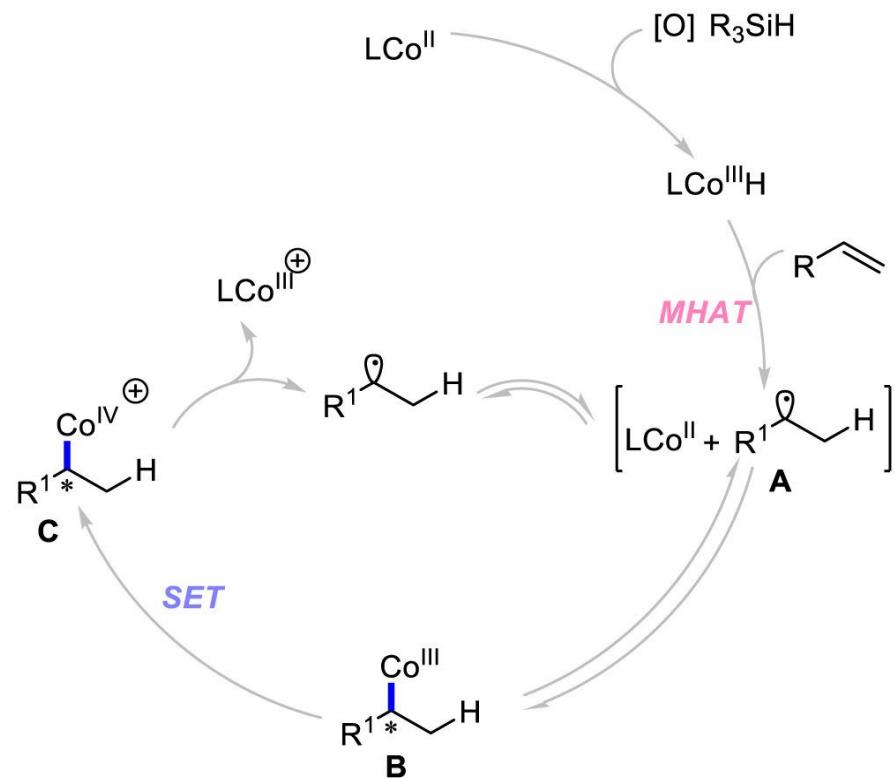
Catalytic Cycle

- **Cat. (re)activation** by reaction of Co^{II} precursor with the oxidant and silane *in situ*.
- **MHAT** to alkene
- **Radical capture** to form alkylcobalt(III)



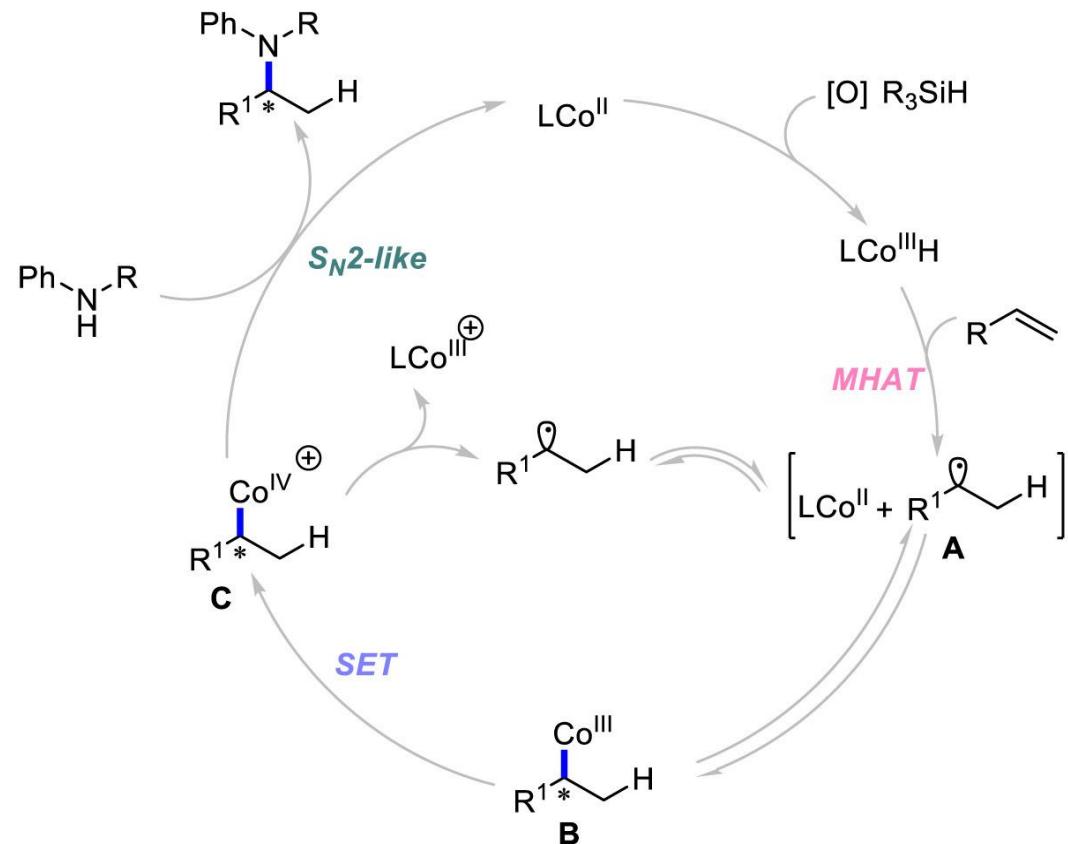
Catalytic Cycle

- **Cat. (re)activation** by reaction of Co^{II} precursor with the oxidant and silane *in situ*.
- **MHAT** to alkene
- **Radical capture** to form alkylcobalt(III)
- SET oxidation to generate **LUMO-activated** complex alkylcobalt(IV)

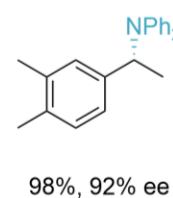
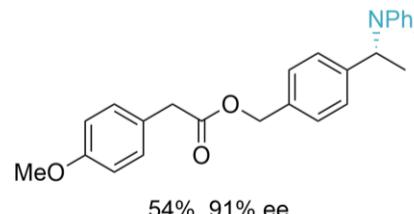
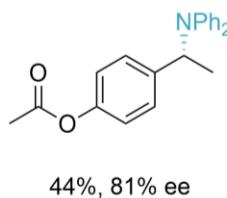
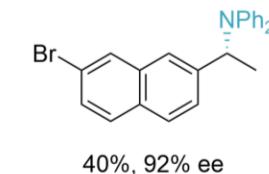
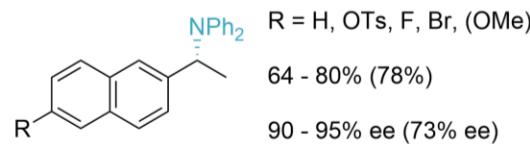
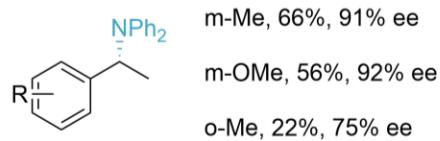
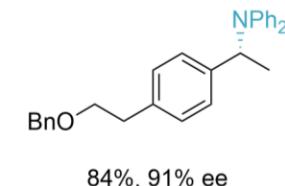
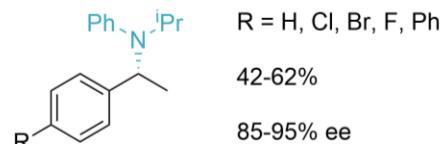
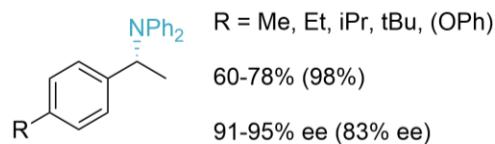
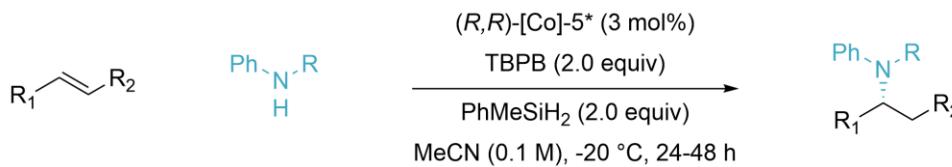


Catalytic Cycle

- **Cat. (re)activation** by reaction of Co^{II} precursor with the oxidant and silane *in situ*.
- **MHAT** to alkene
- **Radical capture** to form alkylcobalt(III)
- SET oxidation to generate **LUMO-activated** complex alkylcobalt(IV)
- **Bond Formation & Catalyst turnover** via $S_N2\text{-like}$ amination of the diastereomeric alkylcobalt(IV)

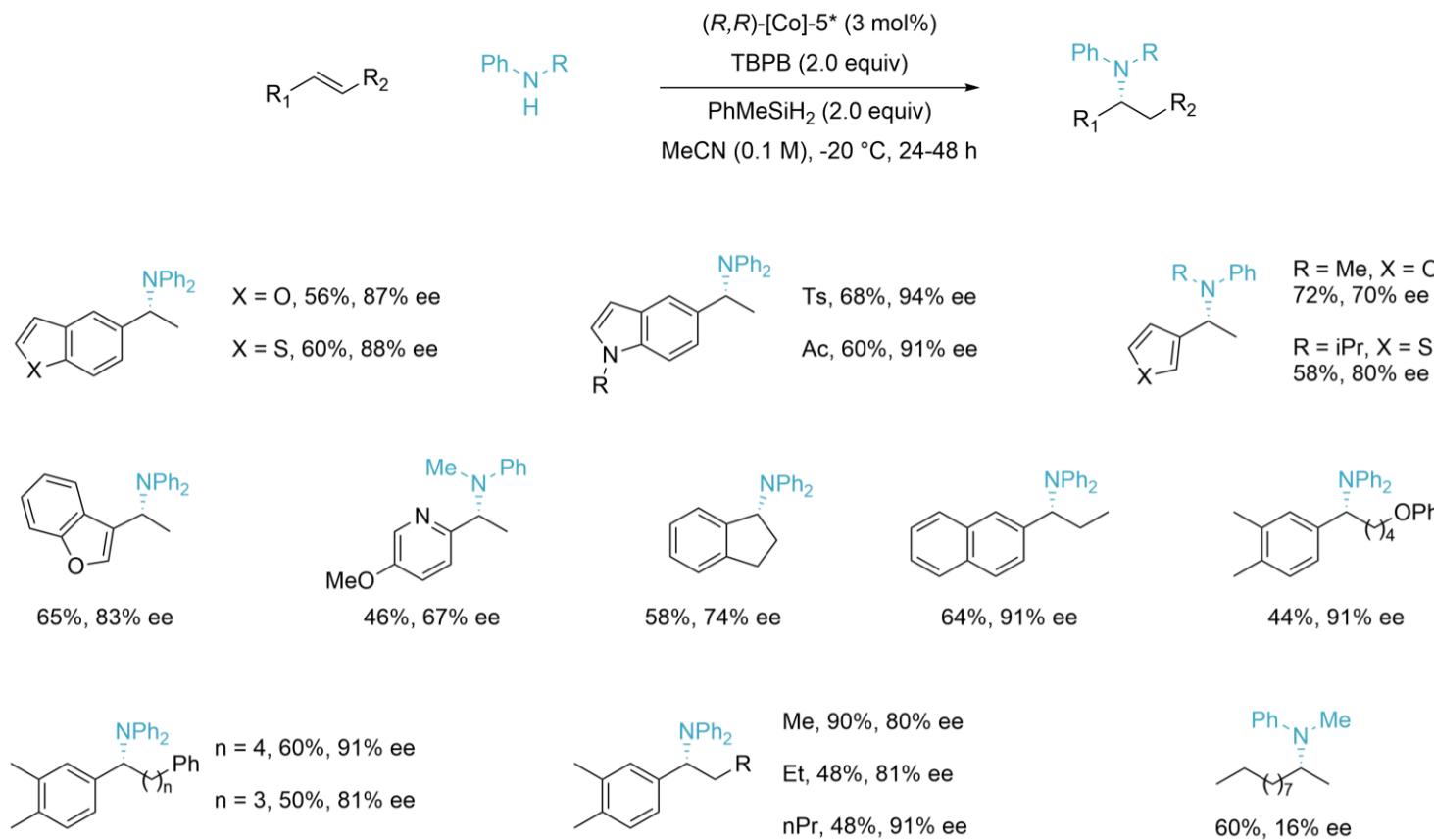


Scope and limitations



- Wide range of substitution are tolerated on phenyl/naphthyl
- O-substitution has low yield, moderate ee (likely steric)
- Electron poorer styrene dimerize: overcome with e- rich *i*Pr-aniline

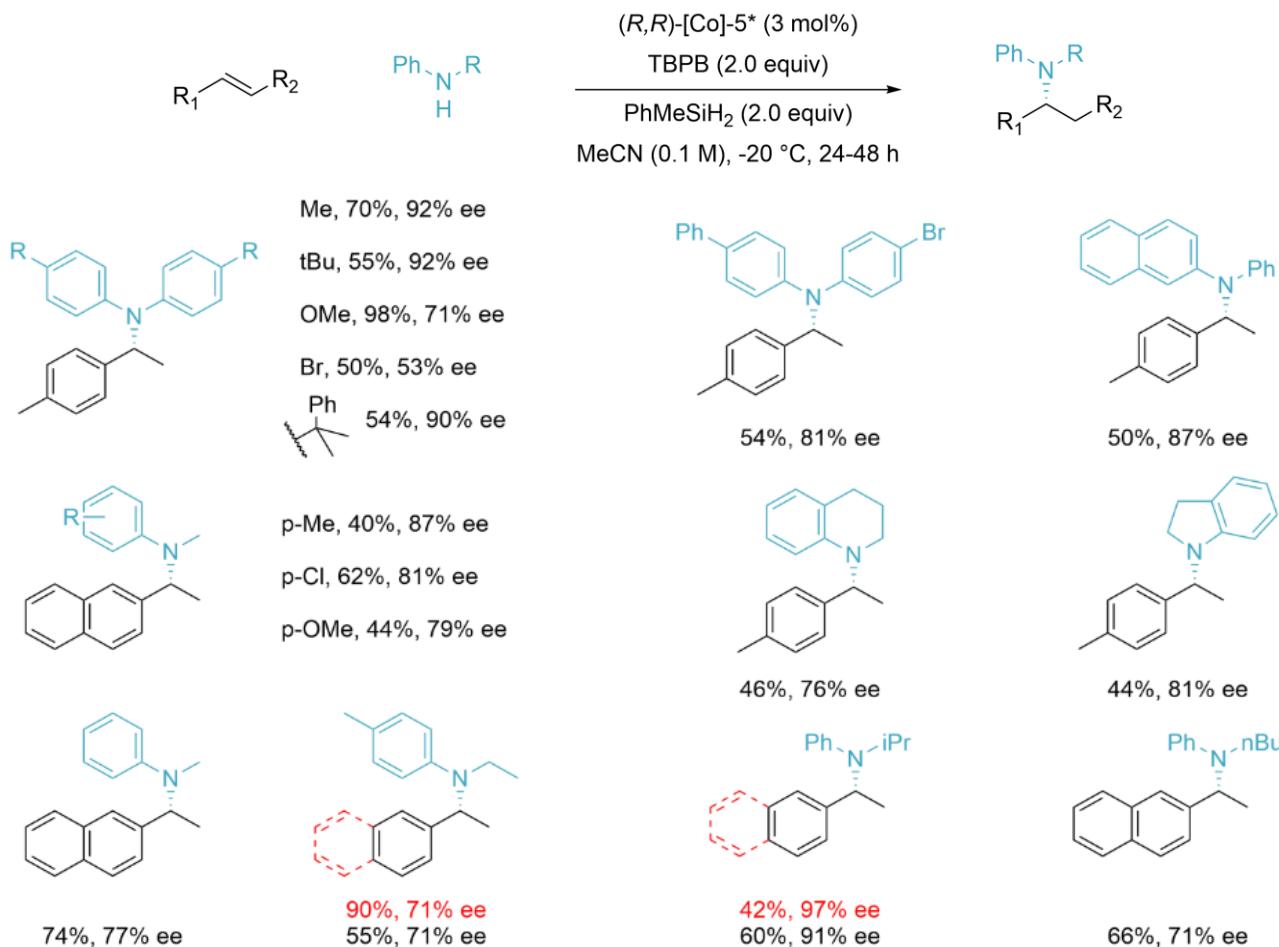
Scope and limitations



- Heteroaromatics and β -substituted arylalkene well supported
- Unactivated alkene works, but low ee

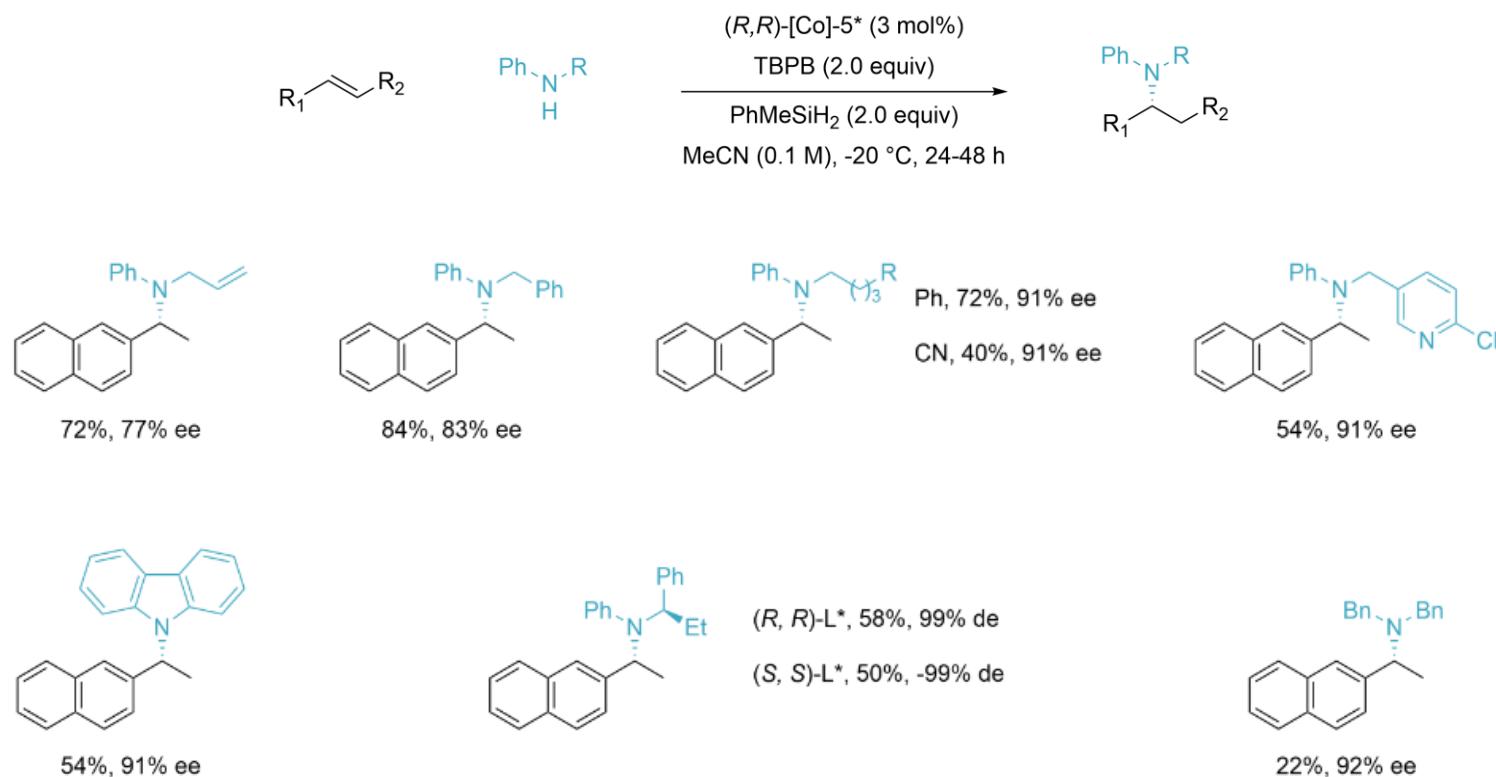
=> low differentiability between the alkyl chains

Scope and limitations



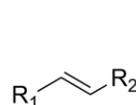
- Broad scope of N-substituted aryl and aliphatic aniline
- More bulky, better stereocontrol
- Electronics of the alkene have low impact on ee (naphthyl vs phenyl)

Scope and limitations

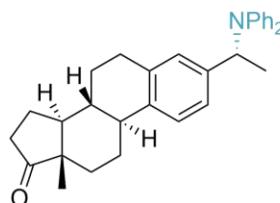
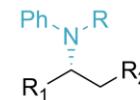


- Ph, CN, pyridyl well tolerated despite potential coordination to Co
- Stereocontrol not influenced by chiral amine
- Dibenzylamine required cat. $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$
- Dialkylamine not tolerated: too Lewis basic

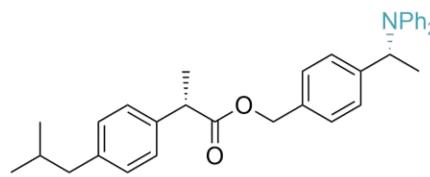
Scope and limitations



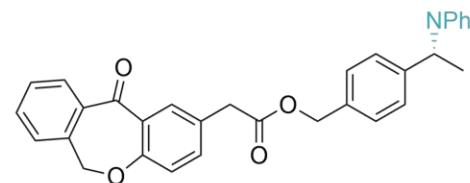
(R,R) -[Co]-5* (3 mol%)
TBPB (2.0 equiv)
PhMeSiH₂ (2.0 equiv)
MeCN (0.1 M), -20 °C, 24-48 h



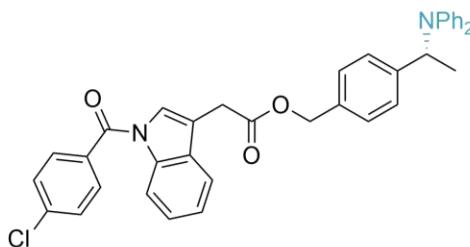
Estrone, 88%, 96% de



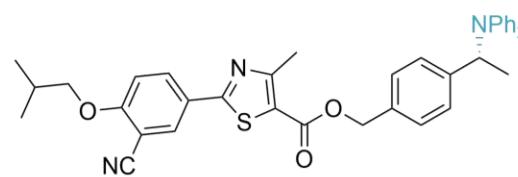
(+)-ibuprofen, 42%, 92% de



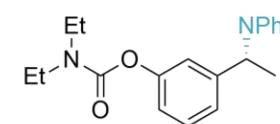
Isoxepac, 61%, 93% ee



Indomethacin, 76%, 85% ee



64%, 91% ee



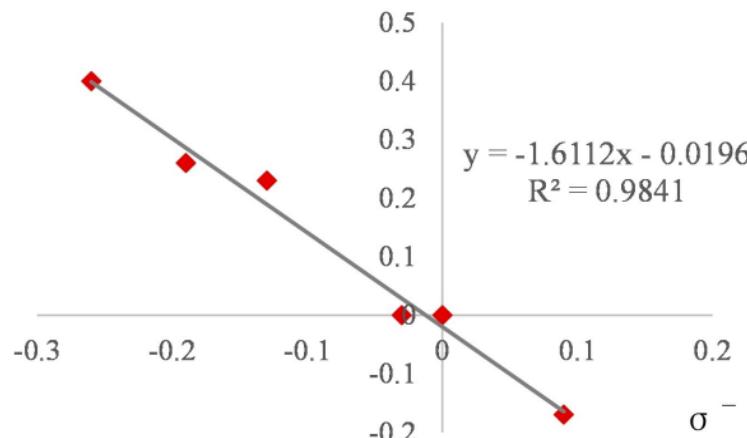
Rivastigmin analogue
46%, 85% ee

- Works also well with complex alkene and bioactive molecule

Mechanistic experiments

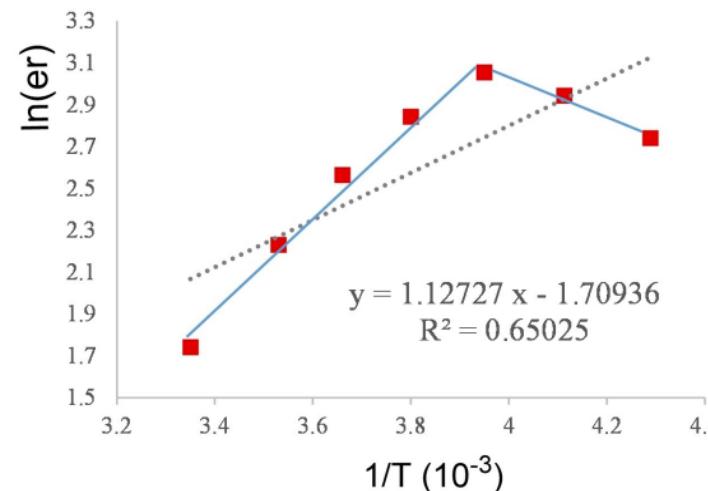
A

$\log(K_{Ar}/K_{Ph})$

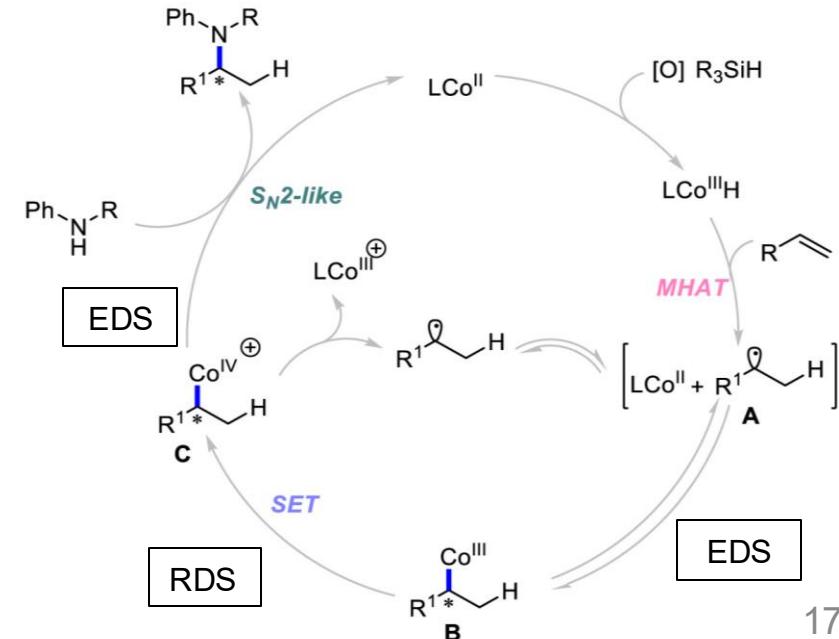


B

Eyring plot



- Hammett analysis:** $\rho < 0$ support cationic $[\text{Co}^{\text{IV}}]^+$
- Kinetic experiments:** RDS is formation of $[\text{Co}^{\text{IV}}]^+$
- Eyring:** suggest 2 enantiodetermining steps (EDS)



Critical analysis: Novelty

Strong points

- Opened enantioselective hydroamination of alkene to large variety of secondary arylamines
- Usage of Co
- MHAT for enantioselective hydroamination with amines

Weaker points

- Hydroamination of alkenes is a well-established subject
- Cobalt hydrofunctionalization of alkene *via* MHAT and cationic alkylcobalt (IV) species are known

Critical analysis: Practicability

Strong points

- Mild conditions
- Use of Cobalt, a cheap and available metal
- Good functional group tolerance
- Allows late-stage modification of bioactive compounds
- Good enantioselectivity

Weaker points

- Radical mechanism : potential side reaction => moderate yield
- Relatively long reaction time
- Methodology limited to arylalkenes and certain secondary amines

Critical analysis: Sustainability

Strong points

- Use of Earth-abundant Metal as Catalyst w/ Relative Low Loading (3 mol%)
- Easy accessible Ligand synthesis
- Catalyst MeCN is OK (classified as <yellow> solvent)

Weaker points

- Requires Cooling (-20 °C)
- Stoichiometric amounts of Oxidant and Reductant
- Poor Atom Economy

Asymmetric Catalysis for Fine Chemical Synthesis

Thanks for your attention

Angew. Chem. 2023, 135, e202213913.

May 26, 2025

Alec Gagnebin, Miquel Angel Perez, Thomas Cohen

Questions

Question 1

The first reaction of the alkene with the metal-hydride is not following the classical insertion mechanism: What is the mechanism and is this process reversible or not?

Question 2

What is the experimental evidence for the presence of radical intermediates?

Question 3

What could be the rate limiting step and what is the evidence for it?