

# Catalysis of Chemical Reactions involving Free Radicals

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**Group. Prof. Philippe Renaud**

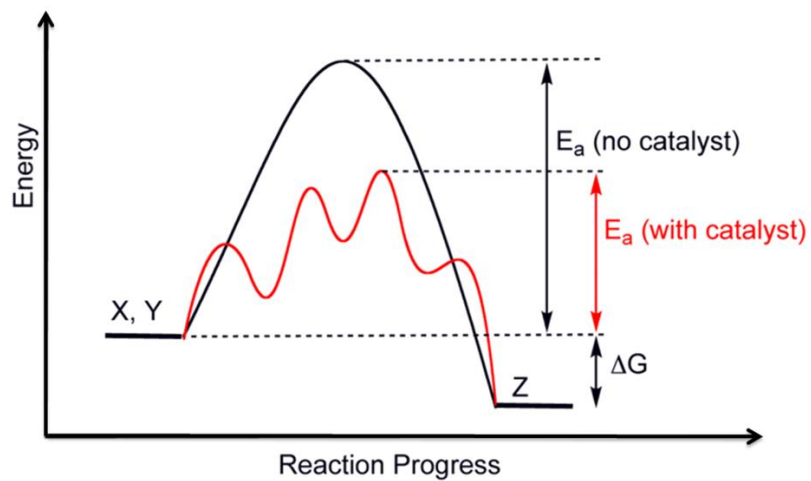
# Outline

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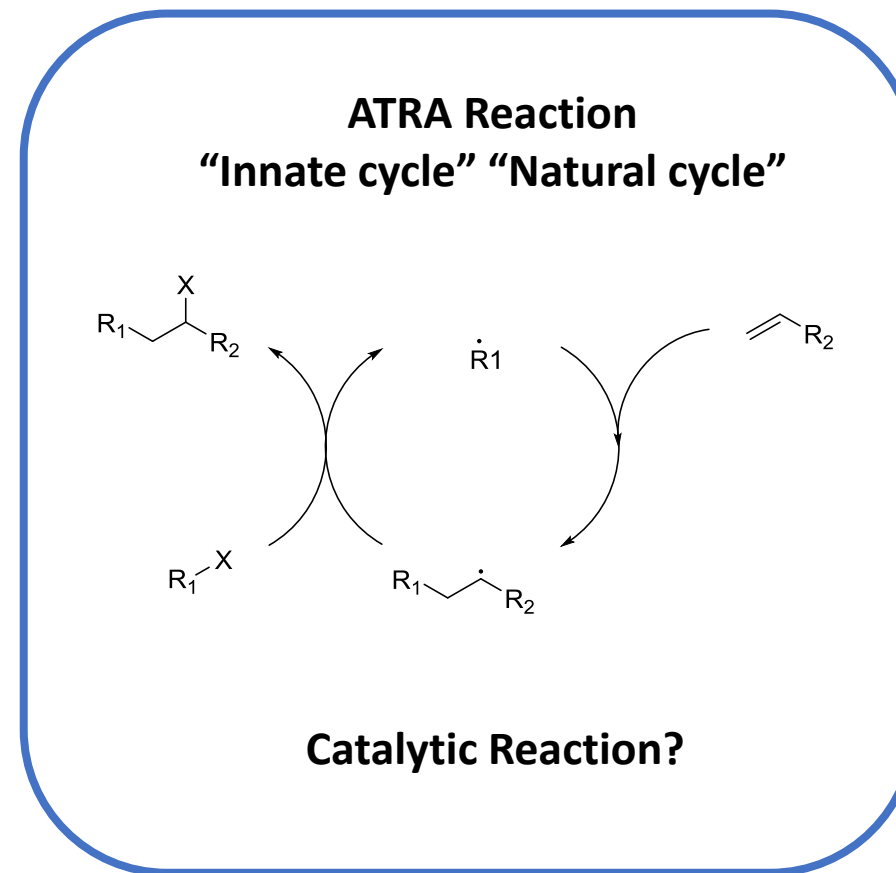
- **Generalities**
- **Catalysis of Initiation**
- **Catalysis of Chain Reactions**
- **Redox Catalysis (Chain-reactions)**
  - **Hole Catalysis**
- **Redox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions)**
  - **Photoredox Catalysis**

# Catalysis of Chemical Reactions involving Free Radicals

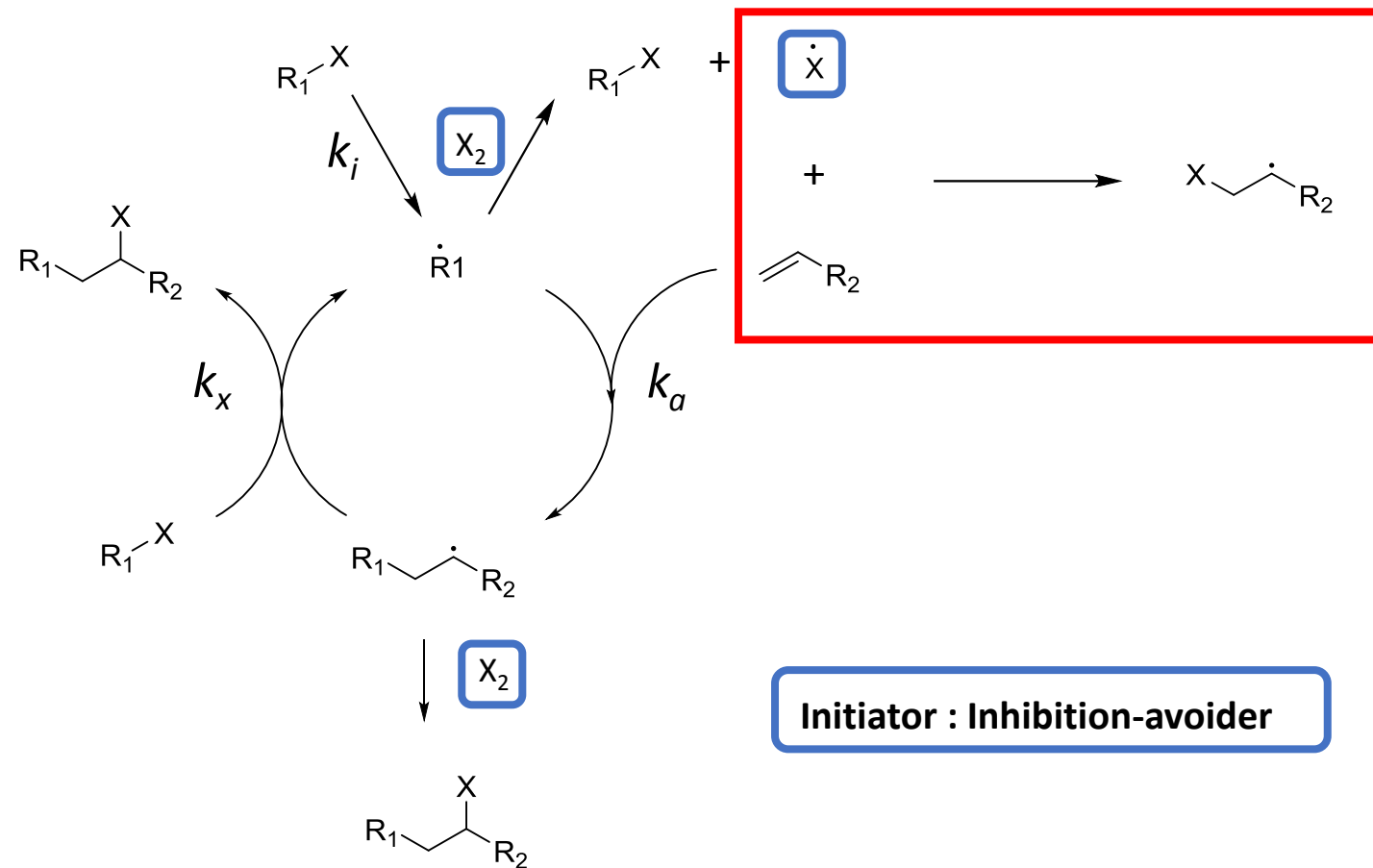
*Concept of "Catalysis" should be carefully applied to radical reactions*



**Every catalytic reaction is a cycle  
Not every cycle is catalytic**



# Catalysis of Chemical Reactions involving Free Radicals

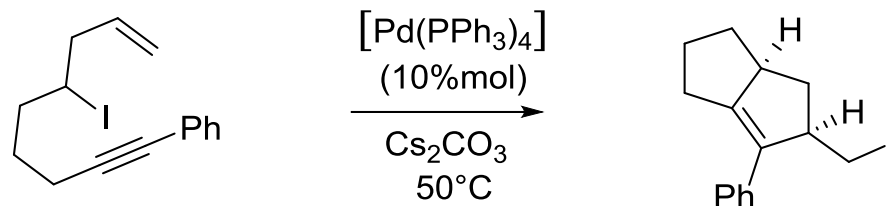


**Conditions for good propagation steps:**

- All rate constants  $\geq 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ 
  - Avoid inhibition

“Catalytic amount”    “Substoichiometric amount”

# Catalysis of Chemical Reactions involving Free Radicals



B. M. Monks, S. P. Cook, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52,14214–14218.

5-*exo-dig*, *trig* cyclization

$2 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$

Propane-ring-opening

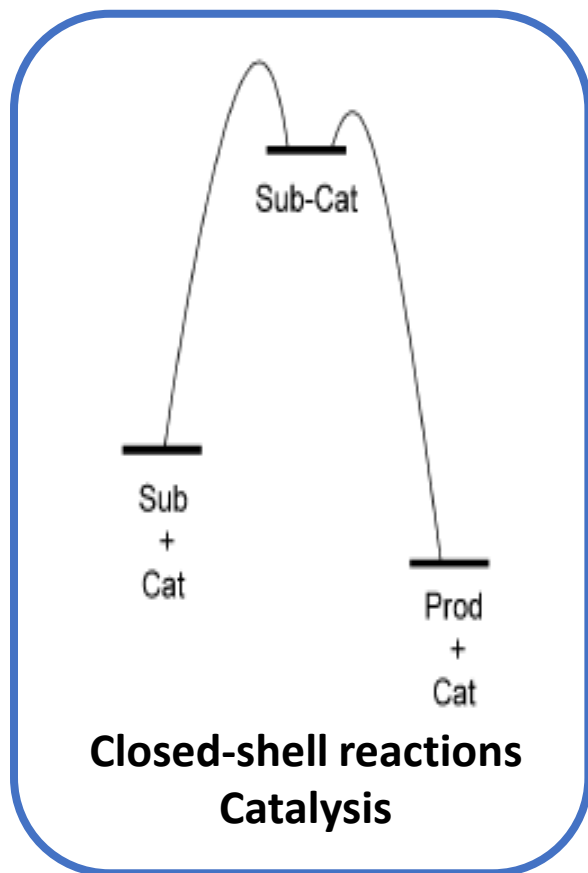
$2 \times 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$

**Catalytic reaction or innate chain?**

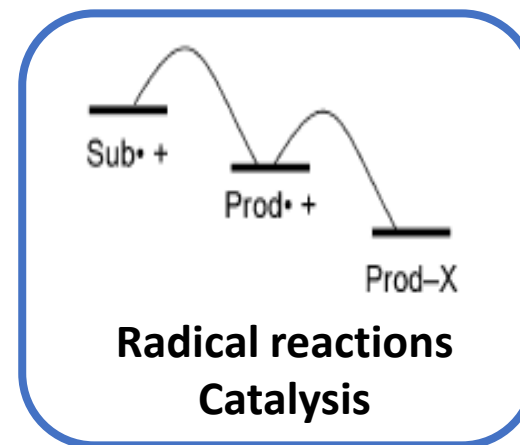


J. D. Nguyen, J. W. Tucker, M. D. Konieczynska, C. R. J. Stephenson, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 133, 4160–416.

# Catalysis of radical reactions drastically differs from closed-shell reactions



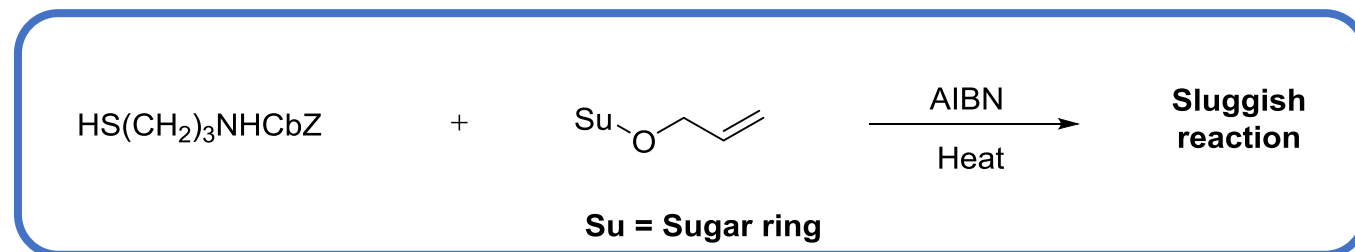
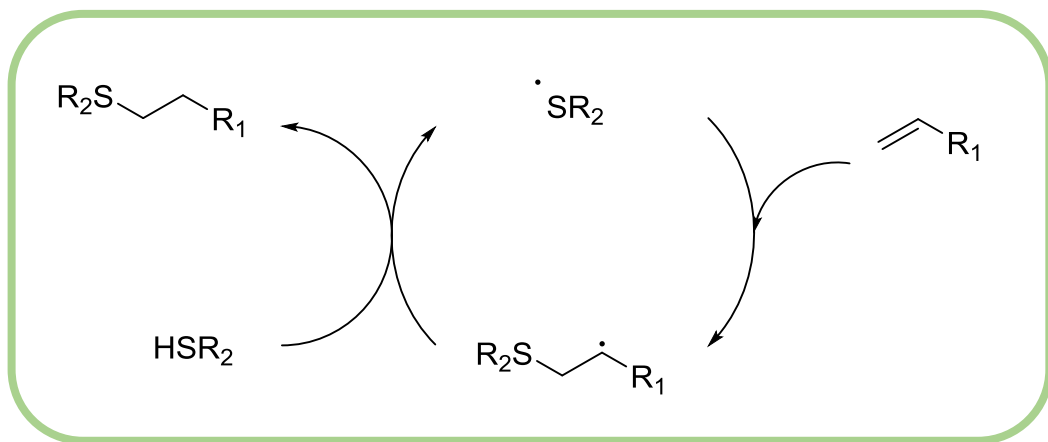
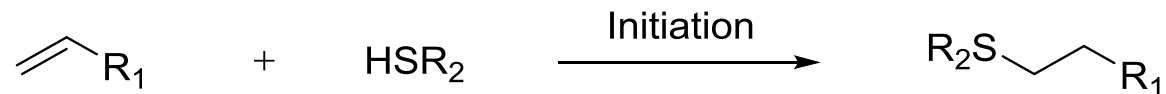
- Endothermic steps are well-tolerated



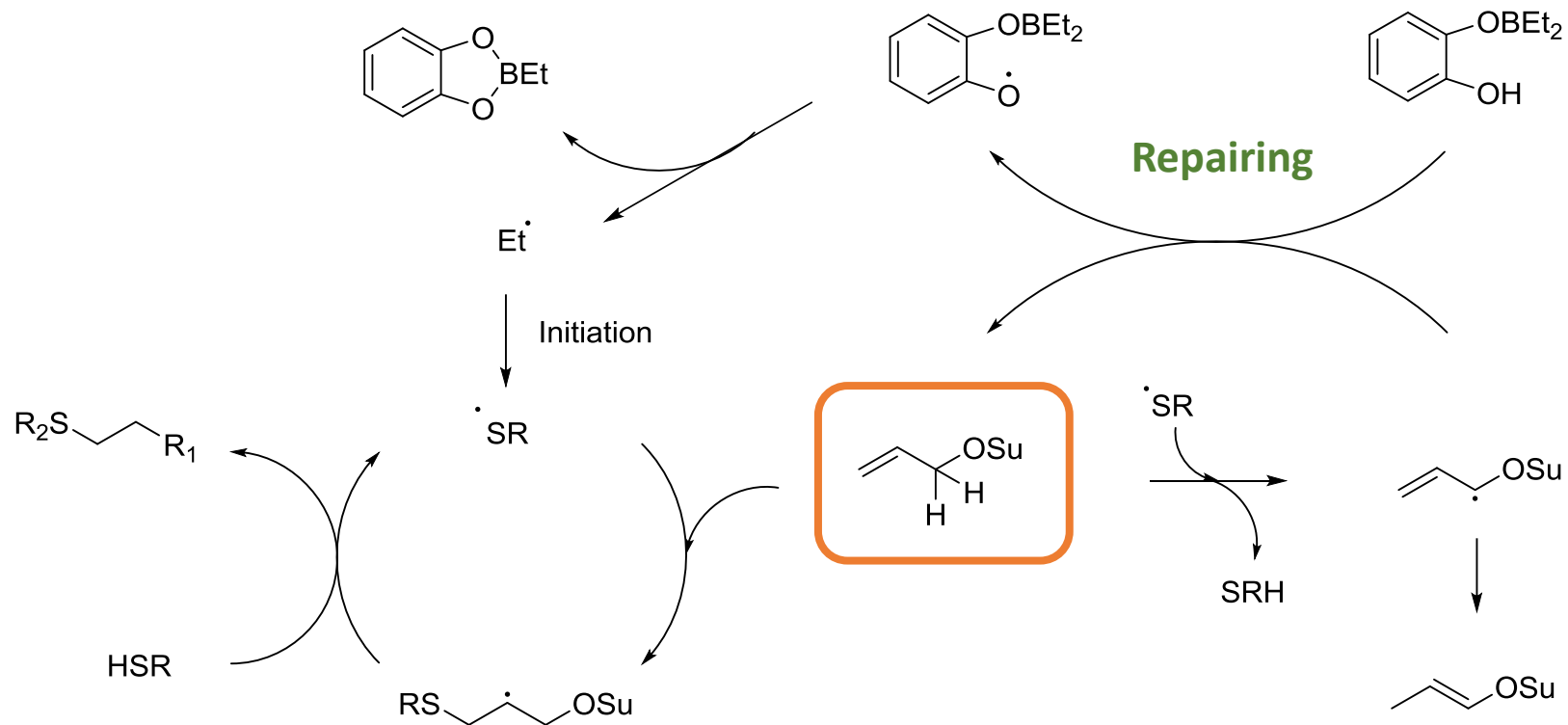
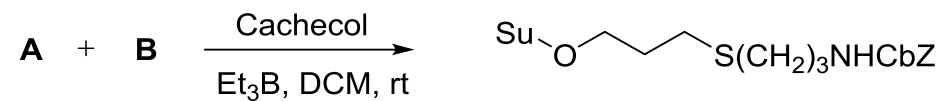
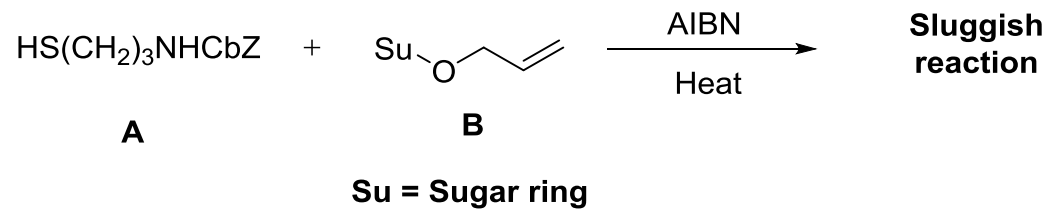
- High-energy species involved
- Remarkable tendency to reduce energy
- Slow, endothermic steps are not tolerated

# Making efficient an inefficient reaction without “catalysis”

## Thio-ene Reactions

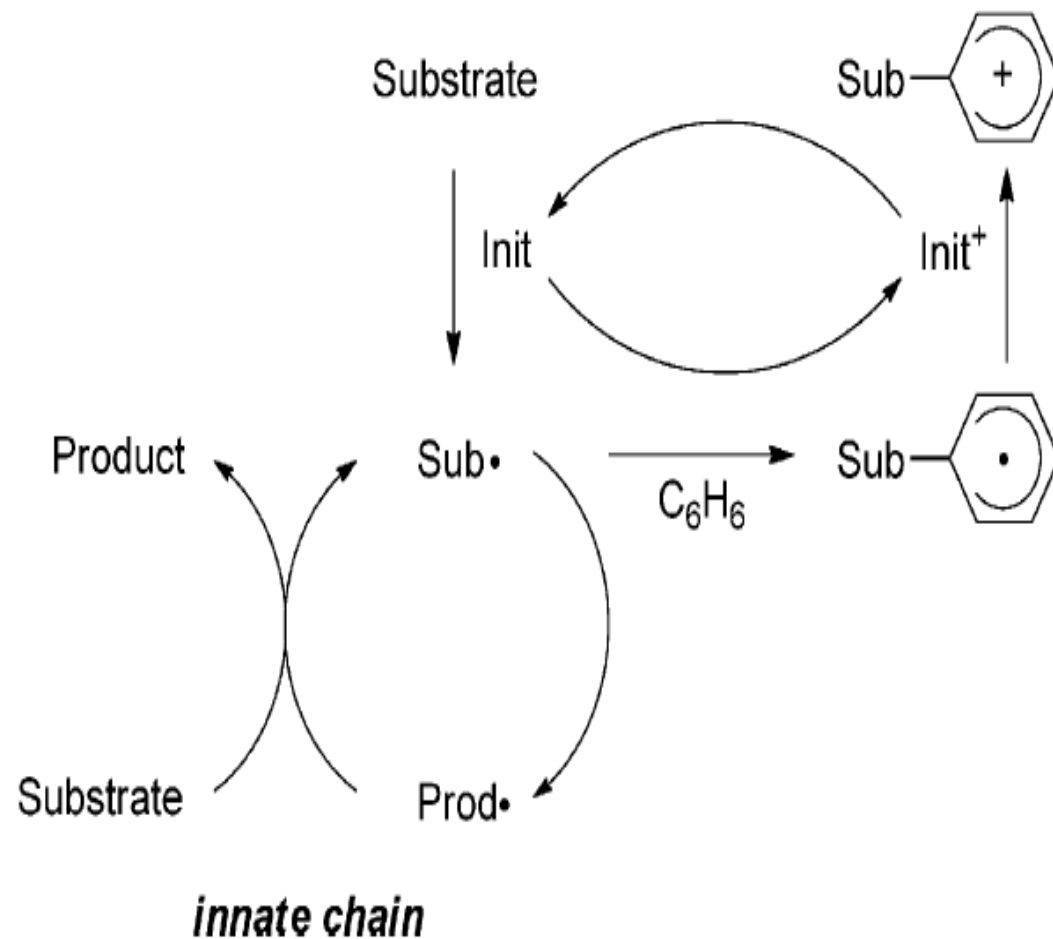


# Making efficient an inefficient reaction without “catalysis”

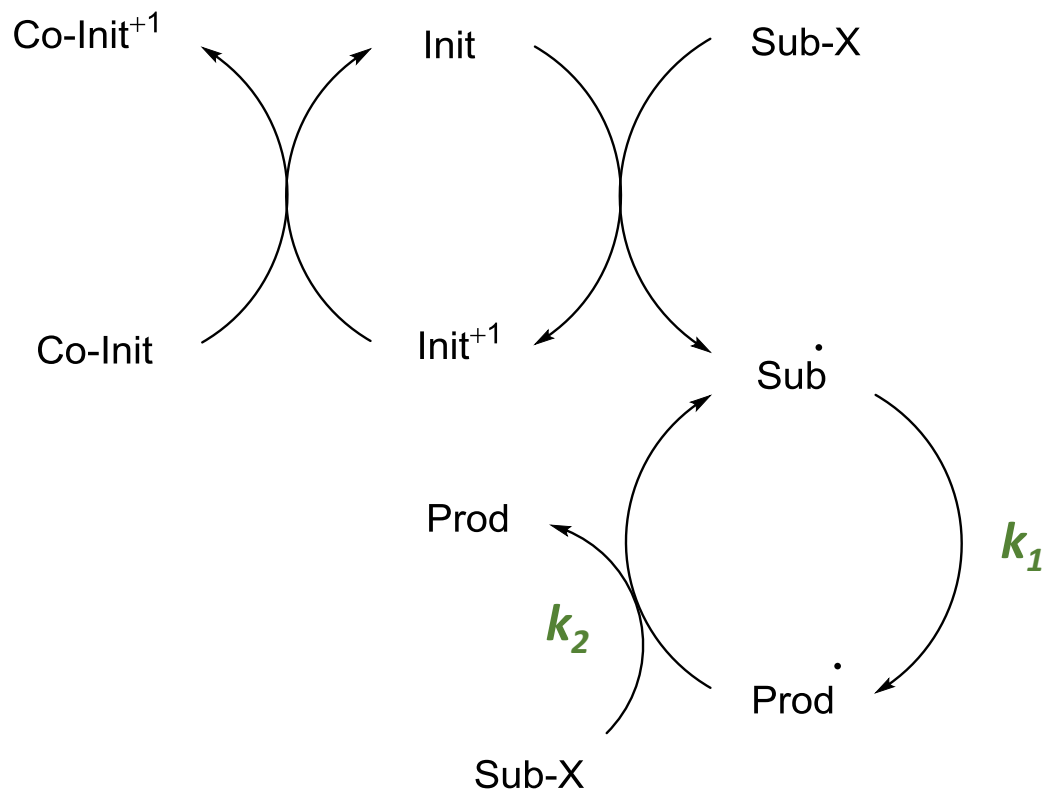




# Making efficient an inefficient reaction without “catalysis”



# Catalysis of Initiation

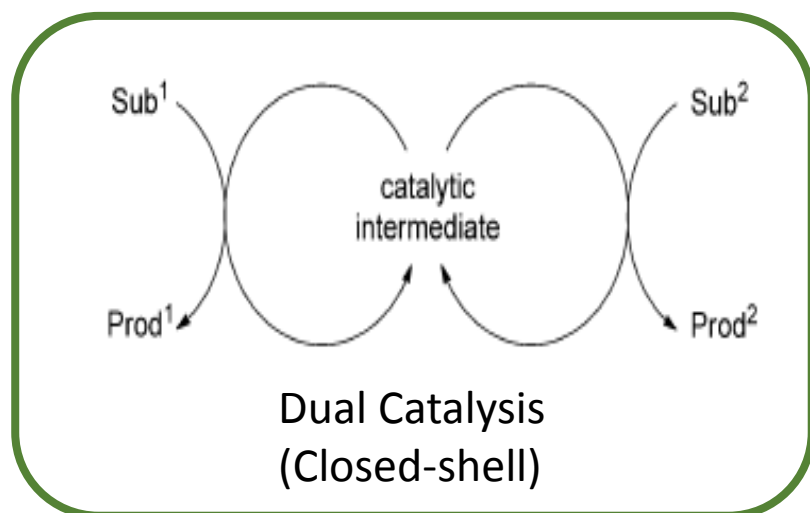


if  $k_1, k_2$  are not high enough,  
re-initiation could be needed

## Co-initiator (Smart initiation)

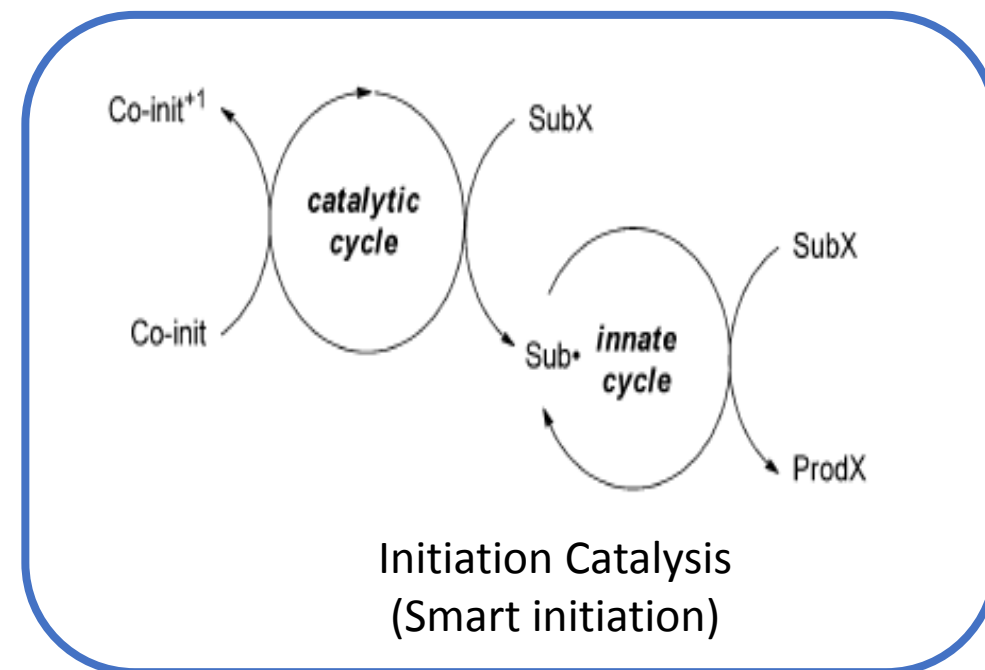
- Avoiding use of high-energy species (diazenes, peroxides)
- Use of expensive initiators (Substoichiometric quantity)
- Improving the performance of short-chain processes
  - Overcoming inhibition

# Catalysis of Initiation

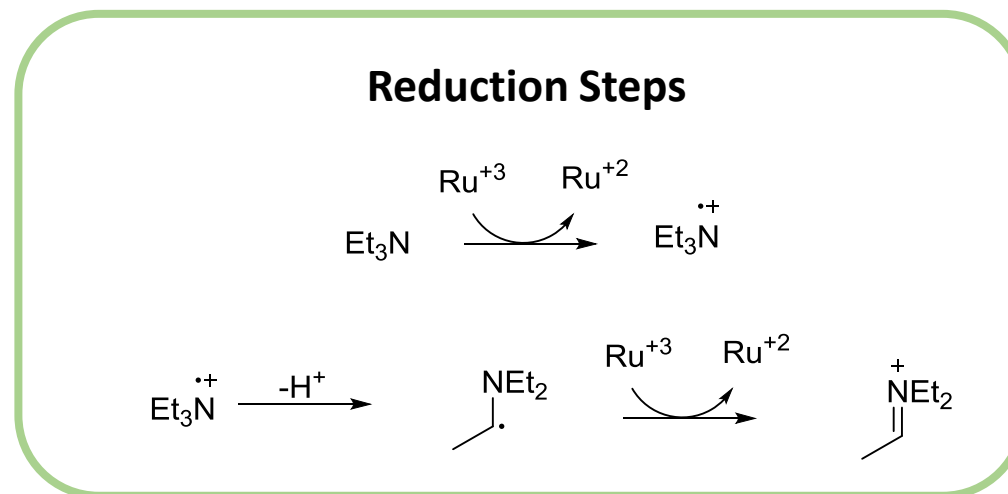
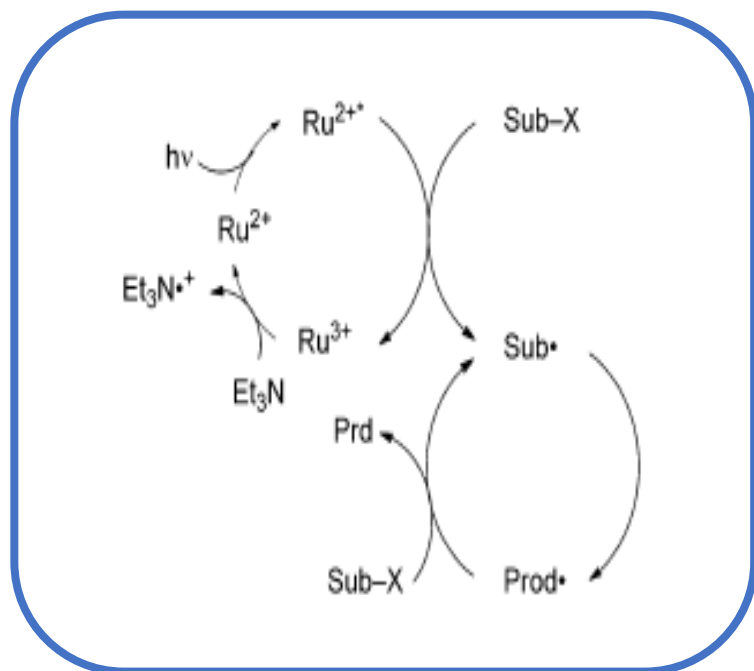
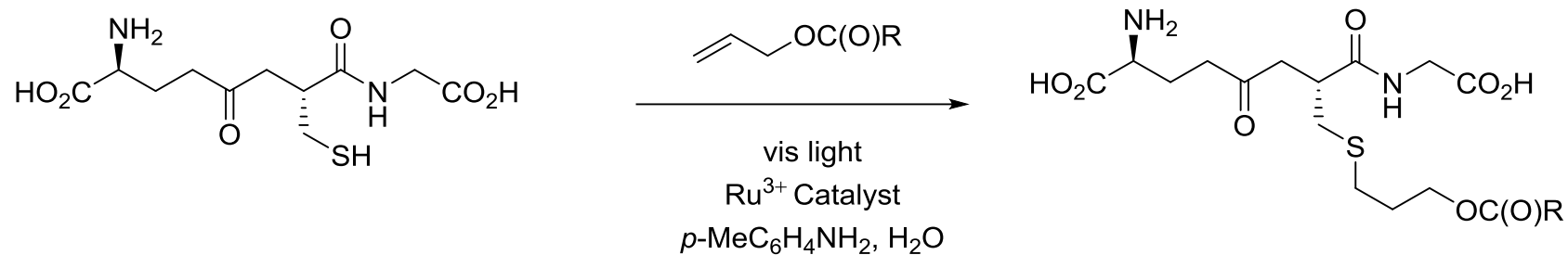


“One turn on one cycle  
triggers one turn in the other cycle”

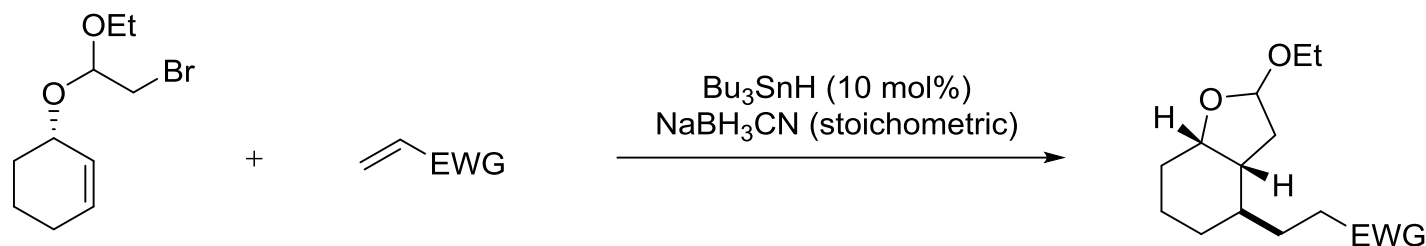
- The innate chain is free to run many times once Initiation takes place
  - Substrate itself helps initiation



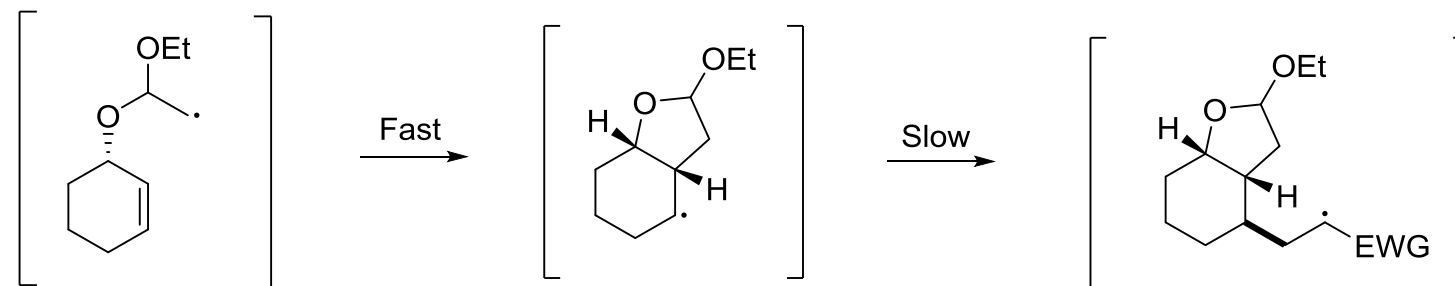
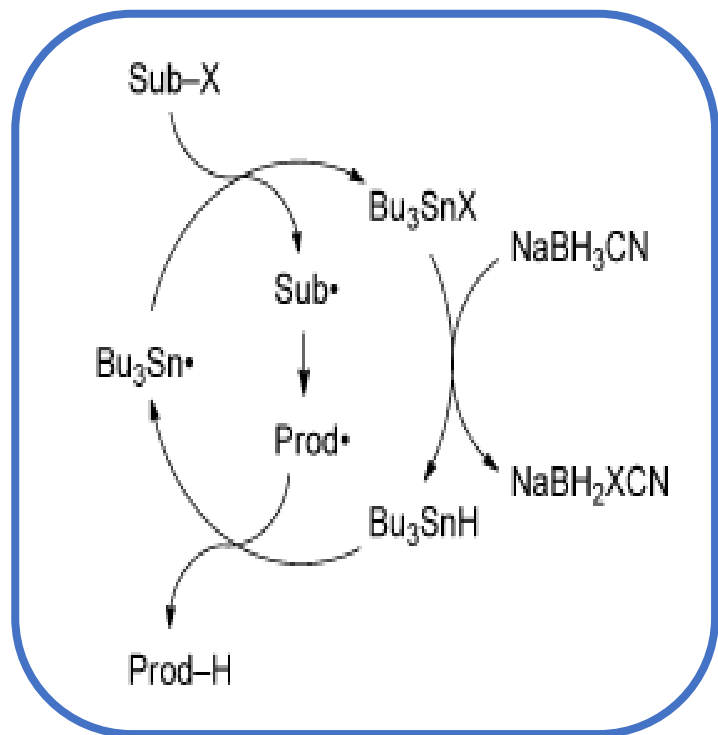
# Catalysis of Initiation (Examples)



# Catalysis of Chain Reactions (Examples)

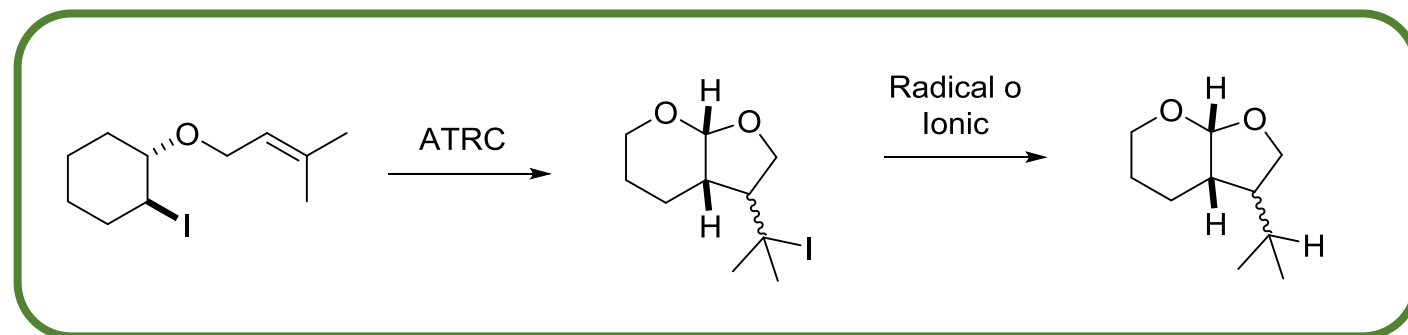
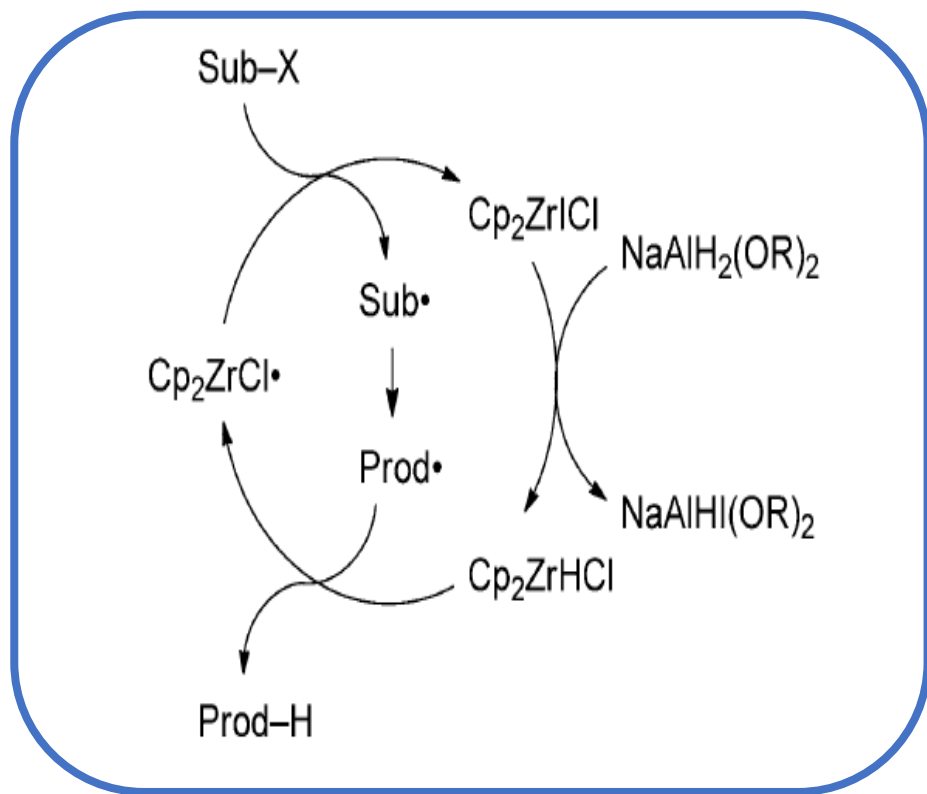
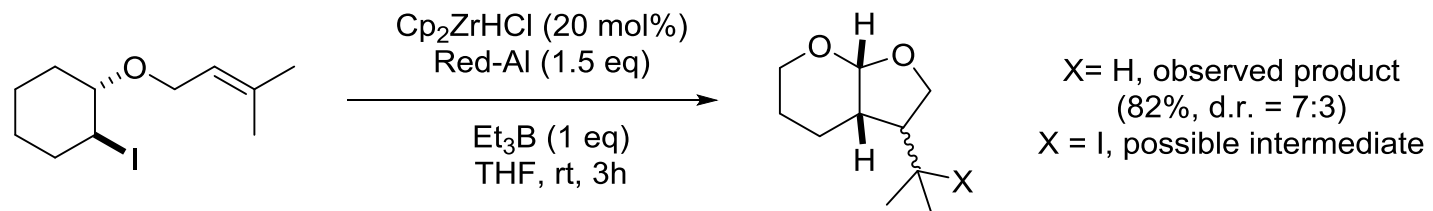


Avoiding inhibition  
Avoiding secondary non-propagating reactions

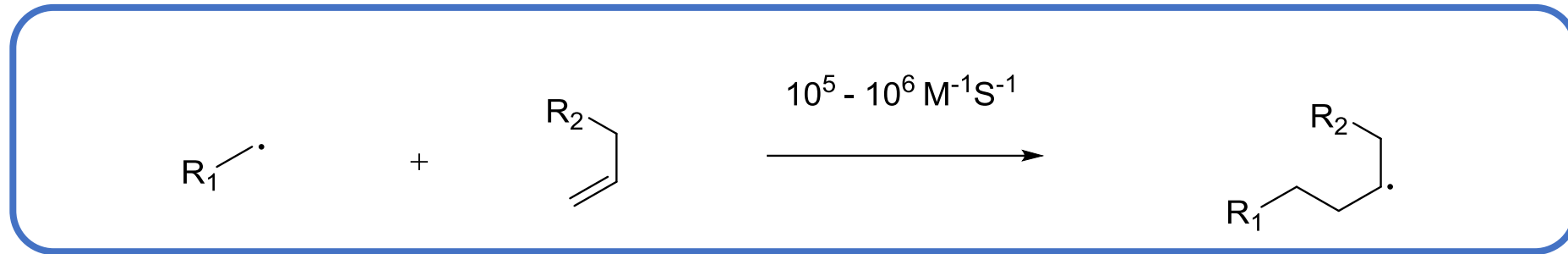


By maintaining low concentration of  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  premature H-transfer is avoided

# Catalysis of Chain Reactions (Examples)



# Lowering the TE-Energy of an innate Chain step (Catalysis approach)



“As faster a reaction, as harder to speed it up”

Maximum reached by using a catalyst:  $10^9 - 10^{10} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (diffusion control)

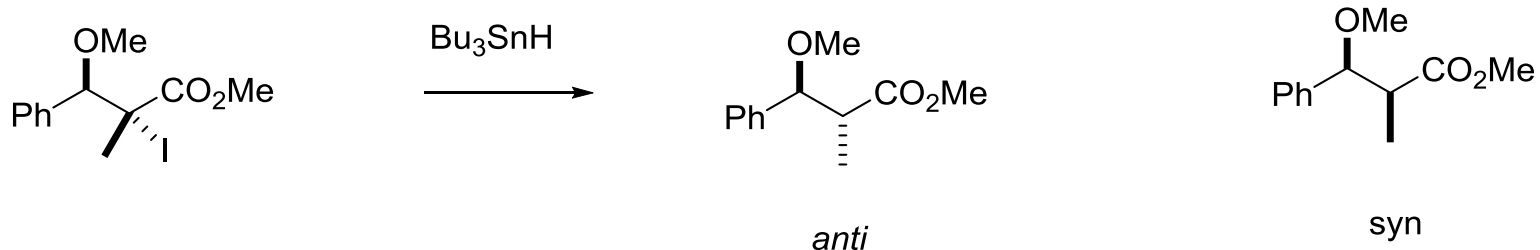
Amount of catalyst	Increasing
Stoichiometric	10000 times
10mol%	1000 times
1mol%	100 times

*Usually, large amounts of additive needed*

*Selectivity improvement rather than reactivity enhancement*

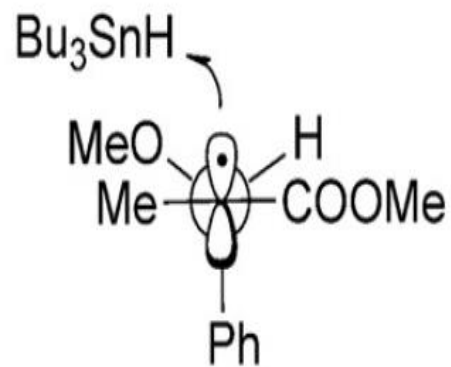
# Lowering the TE-Energy of an innate Chain step (Catalysis approach)

## Lewis-Acid Catalysis

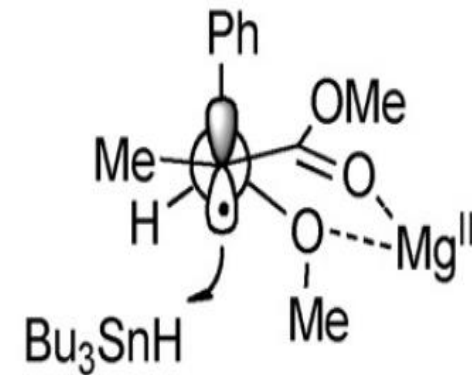


<b>Toluene, -78°C (90%)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DCM, MgBr<sub>2</sub>/OEt<sub>2</sub> (25mol%), -50°C (91%)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&gt;25</b>

*in absence of catalyst*

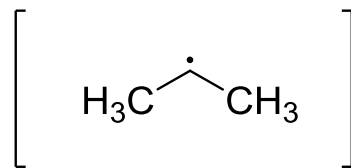


*in presence of catalyst*

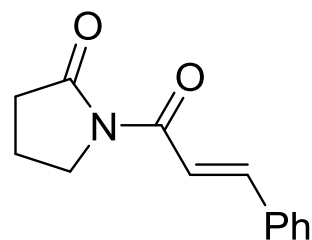




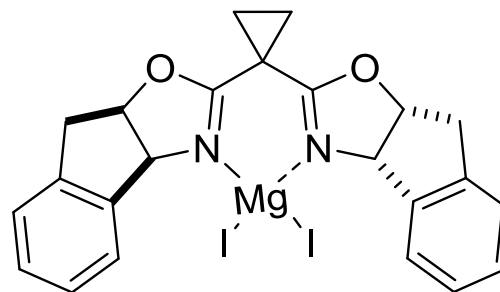
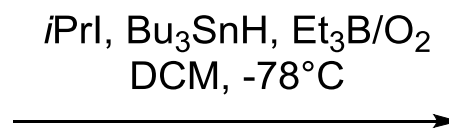
# Lowering the TE-Energy of an innate Chain step (Catalysis approach)



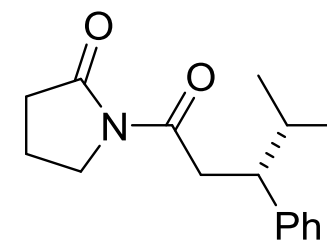
Reactive-nucleophilic radical



Reactive-electrophilic radical acceptor



10mol%

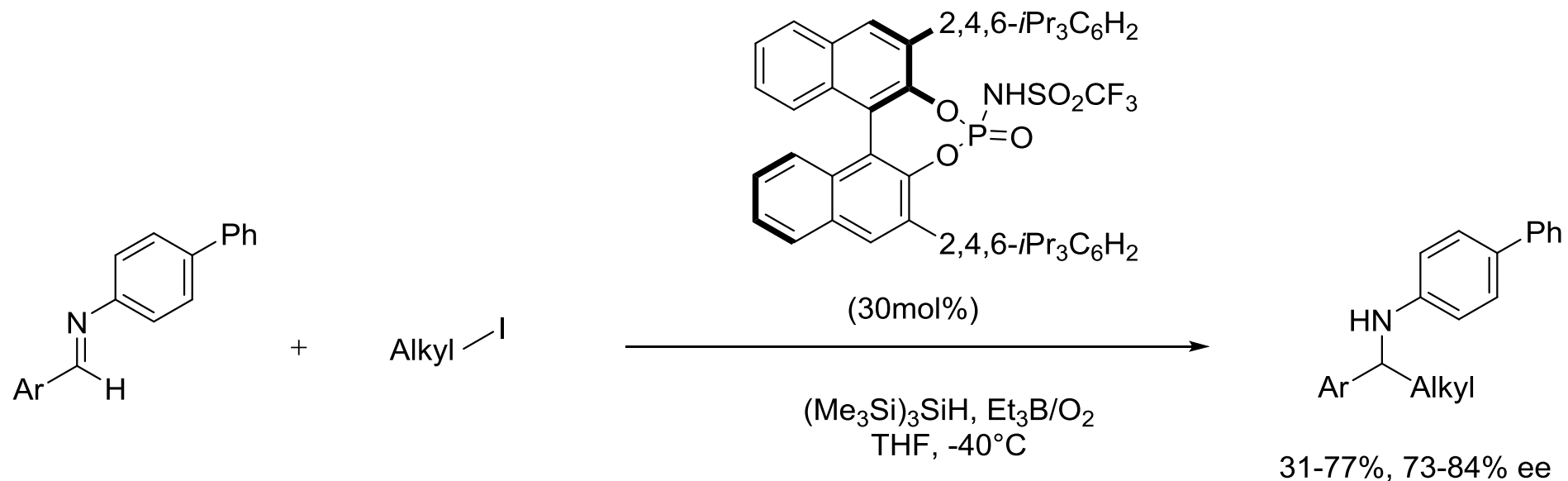


88% (95% *ee*)

Additional (small) activation of the acceptor  
Improvement of the stereoselectivity

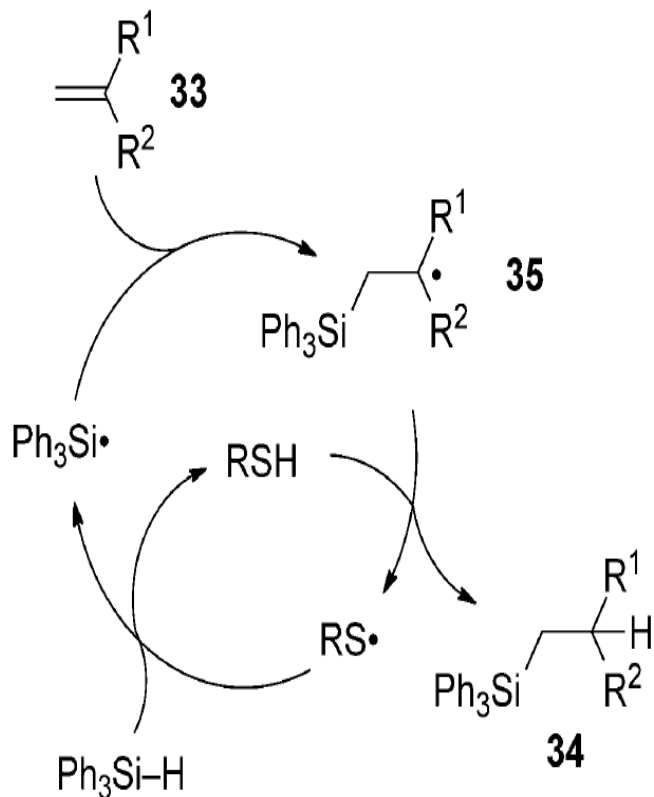
# Lowering the TE-Energy of an innate Chain step (Catalysis approach)

## Brønsted Acid Catalysis



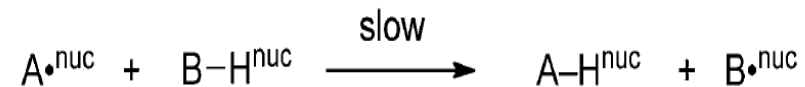
# Lowering the TE-Energy of an innate Chain step (Catalysis approach)

## Brønsted Acid Catalysis

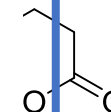
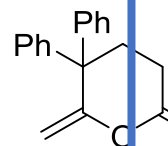
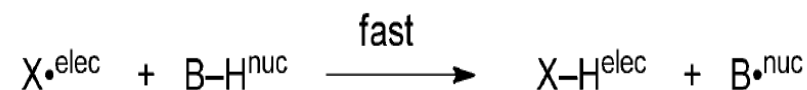
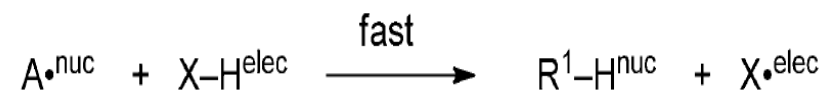


## Polarity-Reversal Catalysis

one slow, mis-matched reaction...



...is replaced by two fast, matched reactions that effect the same outcome



M. B. Haque, B. P. Roberts, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1996**, 37, 9123–9126

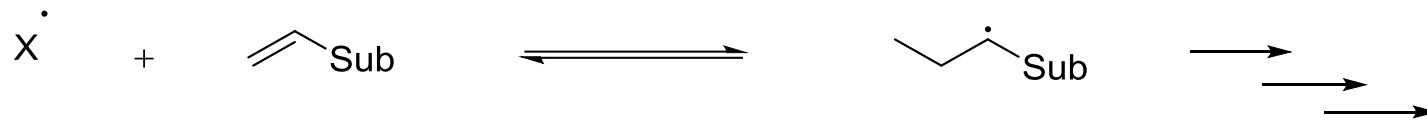
H.-S. Dang, B. P. Roberts, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1995**, 36, 2875–2878

R. P. Allen, B. P. Roberts, C. R. Willis, *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.* **1989**, 1387–1388;

H. Subramanian, R. Moorthy, M. P. Sibi, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 13660-13662

# Lowering the TE-Energy of an innate Chain step (Catalysis approach)

## Addition/Elimination

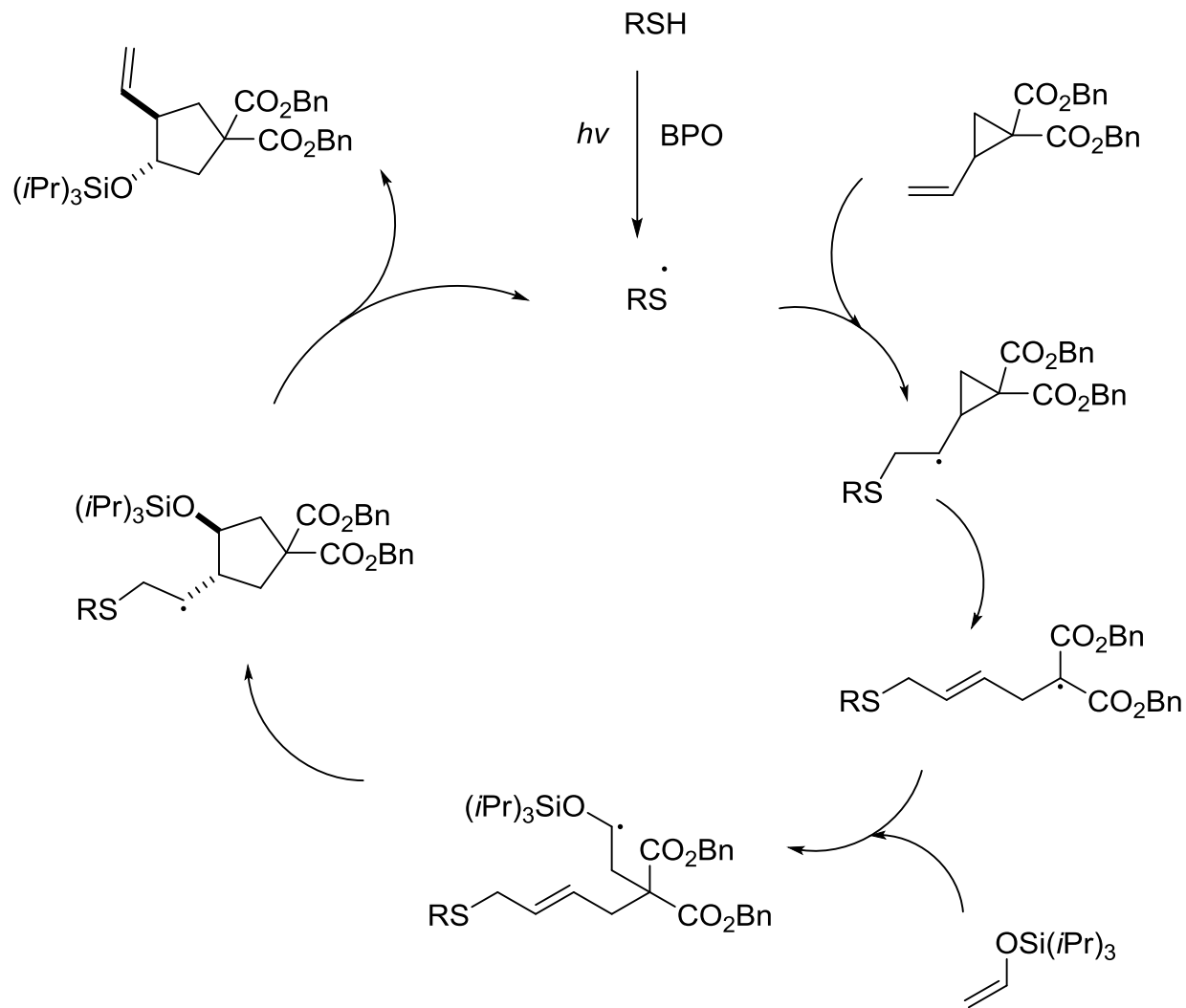
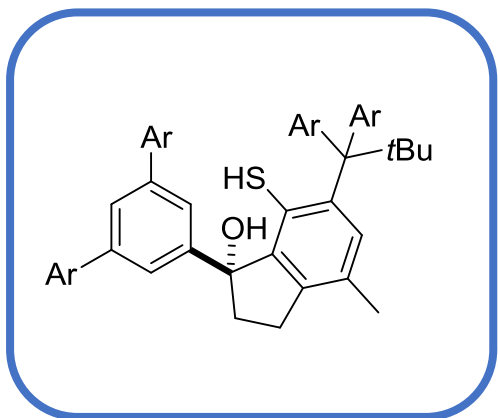


## Disadvantage?



# Lowering the TE-Energy of an innate Chain step (Catalysis approach)

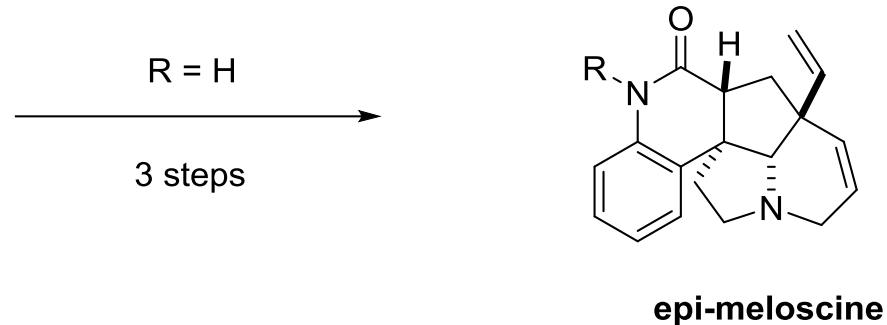
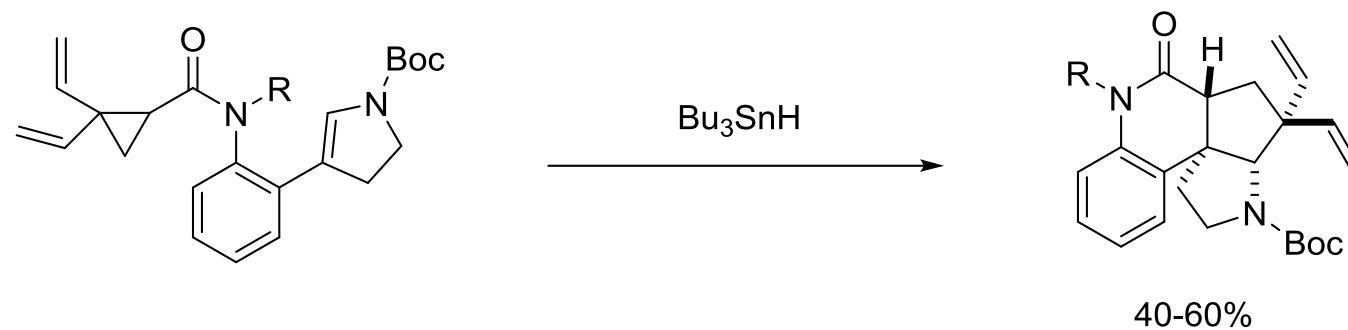
## Addition/Elimination



# Lowering the TE-Energy of an innate Chain step (Catalysis approach)

## Addition/Elimination

Application in the total synthesis  
Of natural products

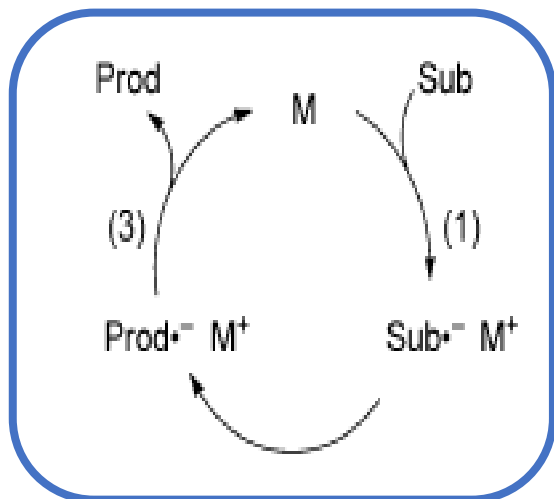


# Redox Catalysis (Chain-reactions)

## Redox Catalysis

Electron Catalysis

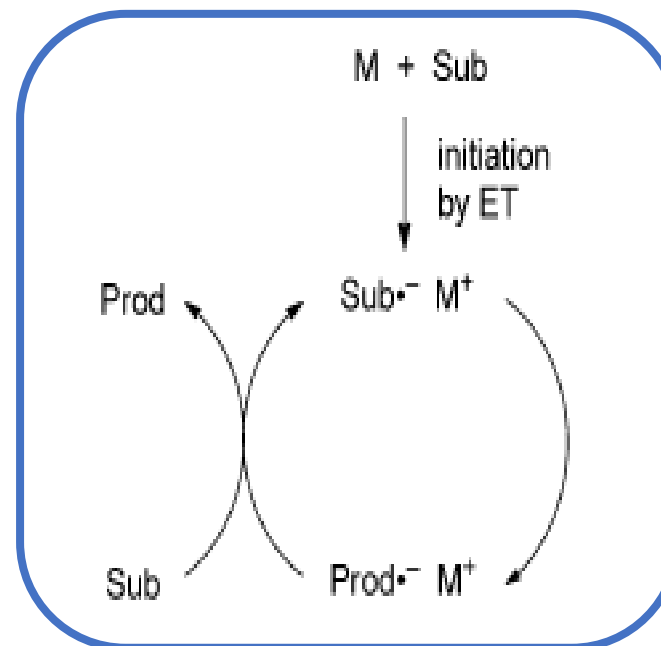
Hole Catalysis



Metal involved acts as a catalyst

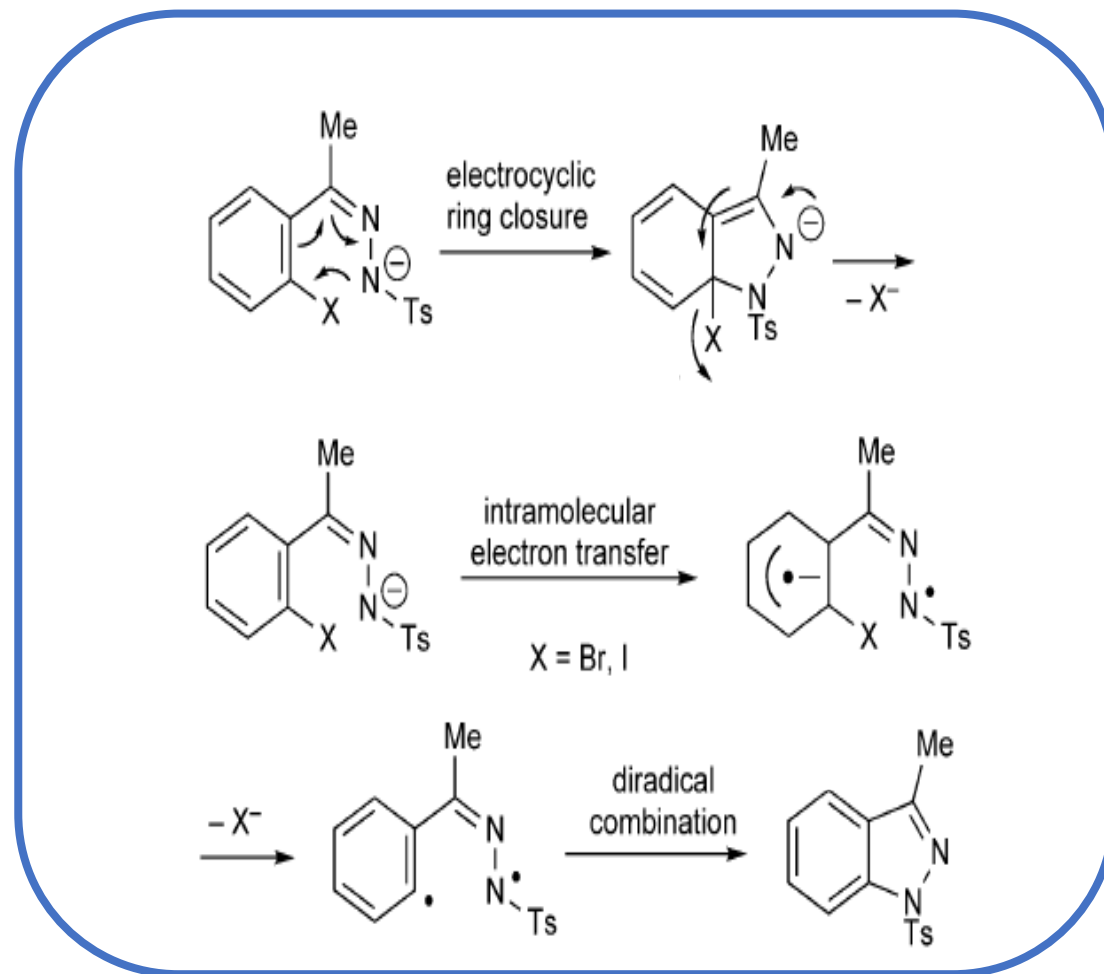
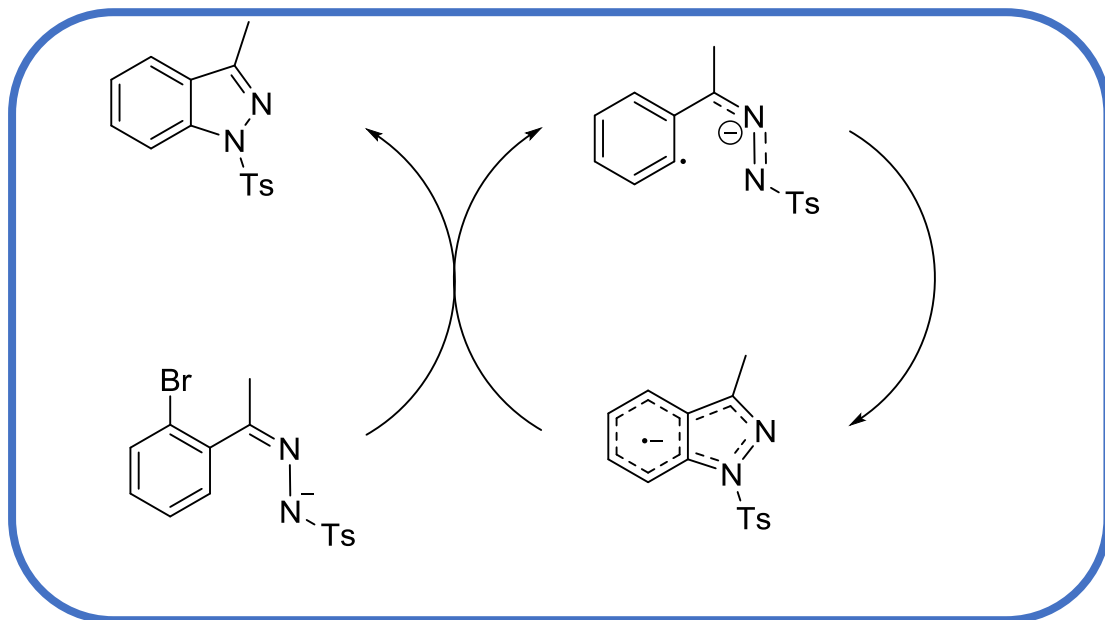
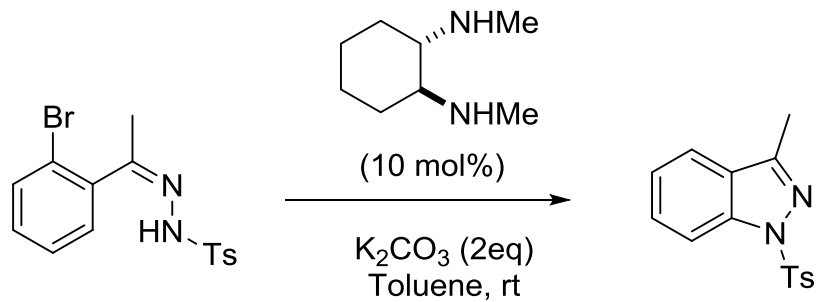


Are metals in redox processes true catalyst?



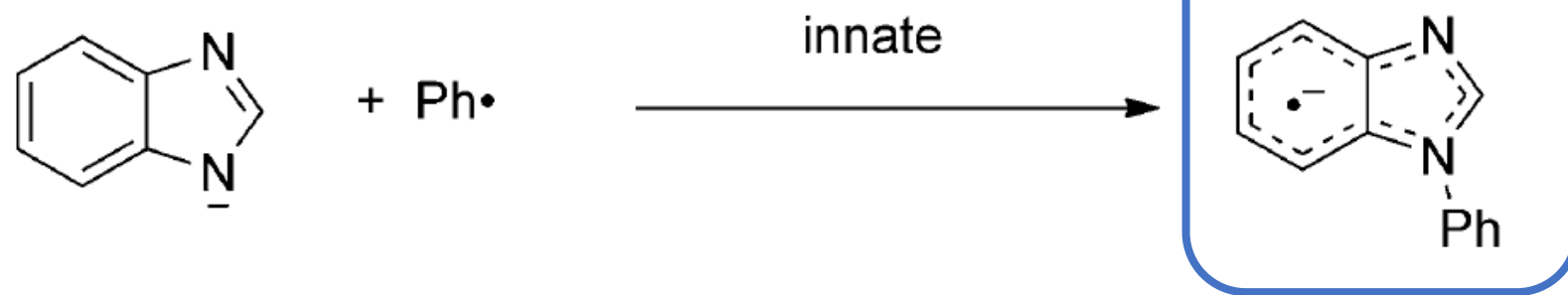
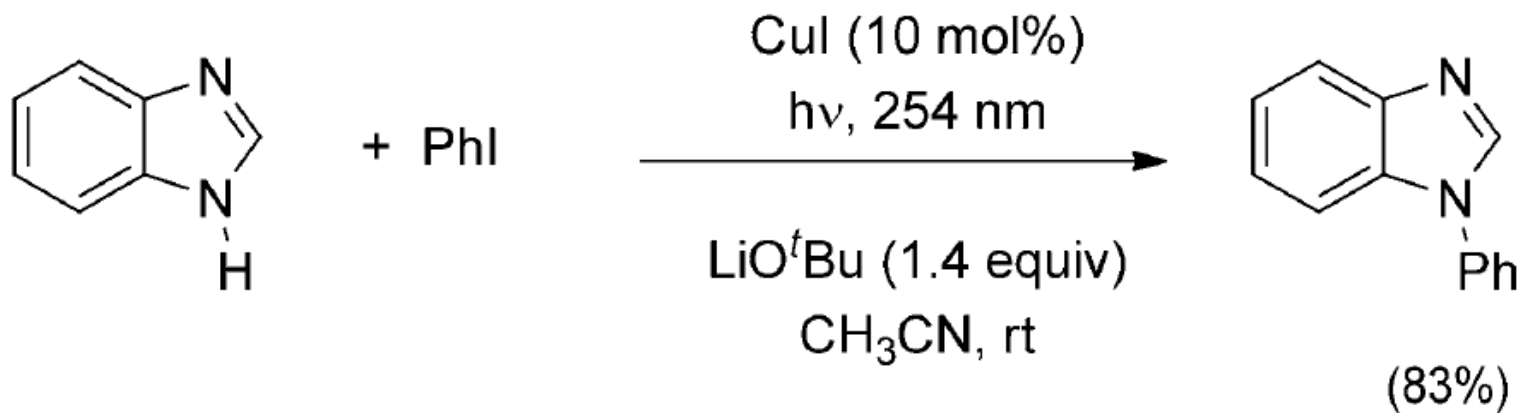
Metal involved is  
An initiator  
A single electron is the  
True catalyst

# Redox Catalysis (Chain-reactions, electron catalysis)





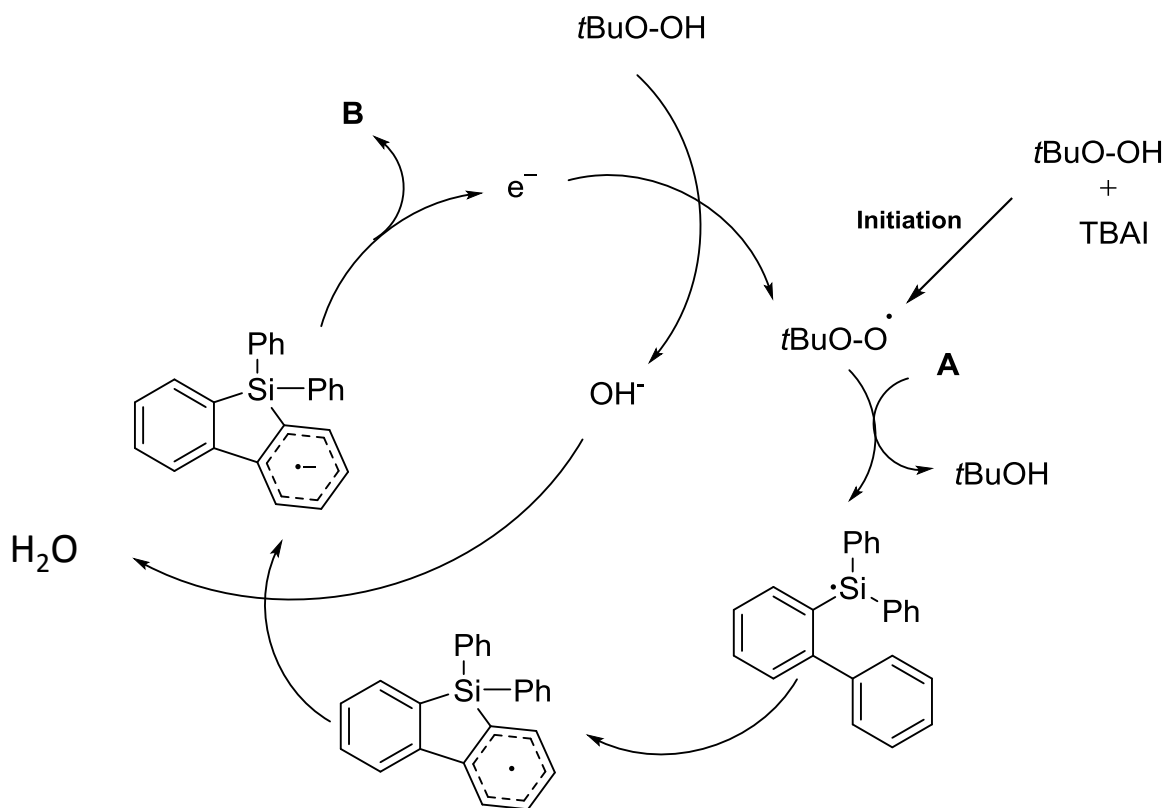
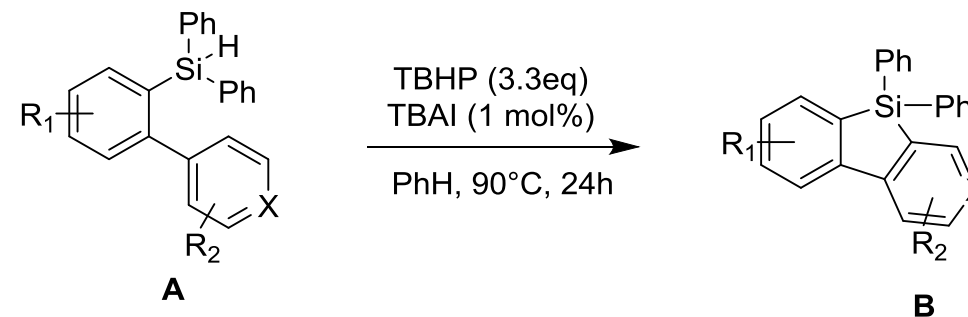
# Redox Catalysis (Chain-reactions)



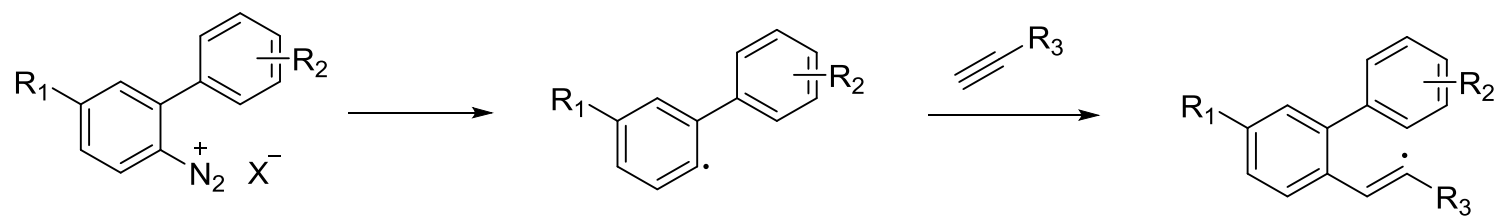
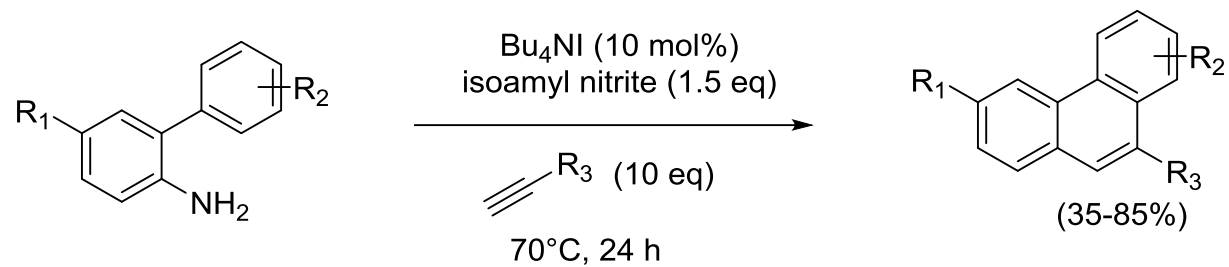
Electron-transfer to PhI (metal-initiated, Electron-catalyzed)

Electron-transfer to Cu (Redox-catalyzed, Metal-catalyzed)

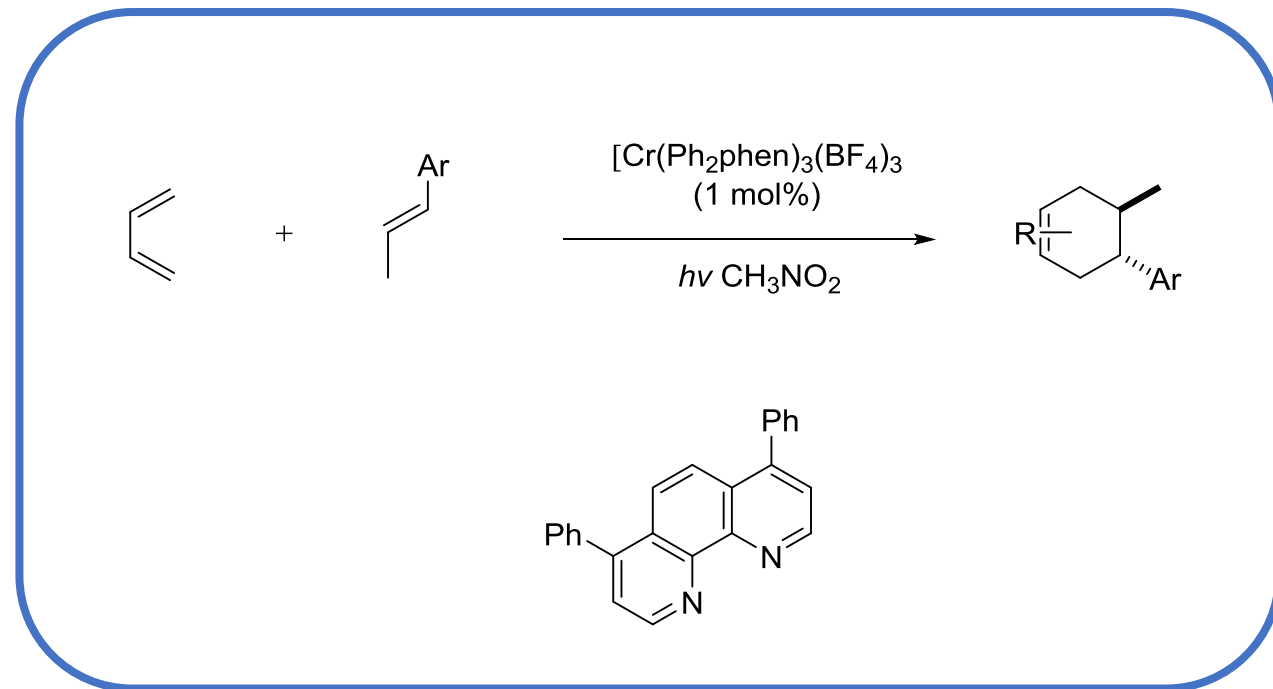
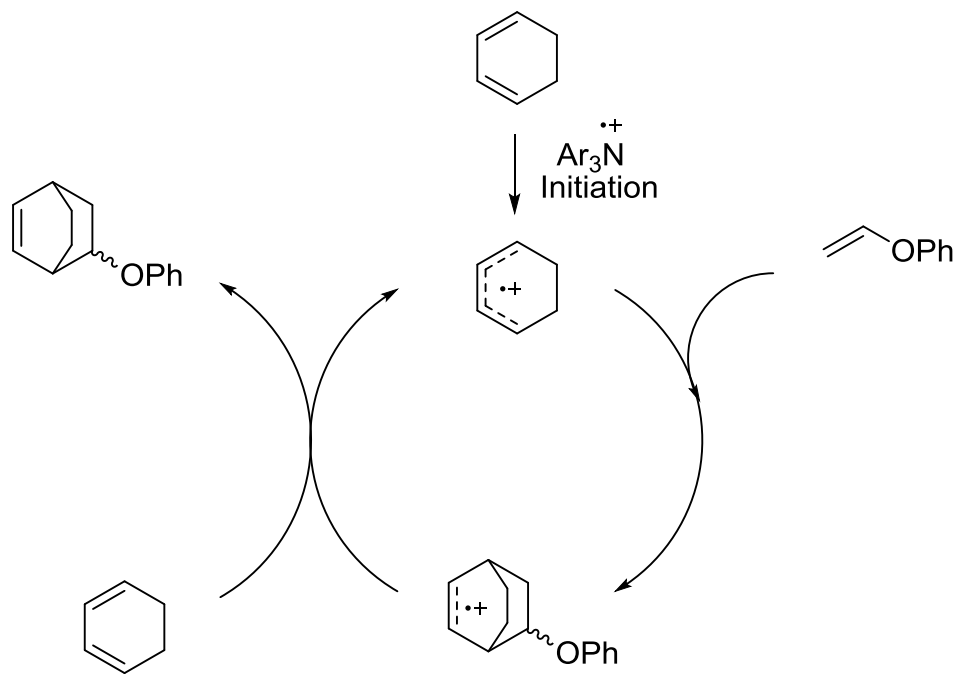
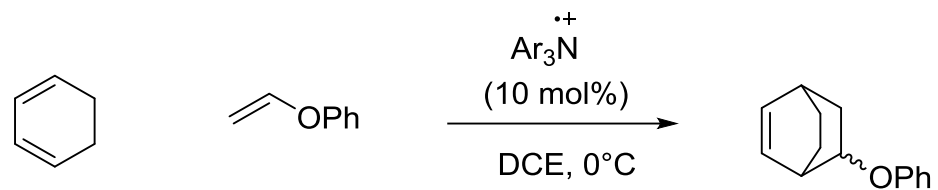
# Redox Catalysis (Chain-reactions, electron catalysis)



# Redox Catalysis (Chain-reactions, Chain-reactions, electron catalysis)



# Hole Catalysis

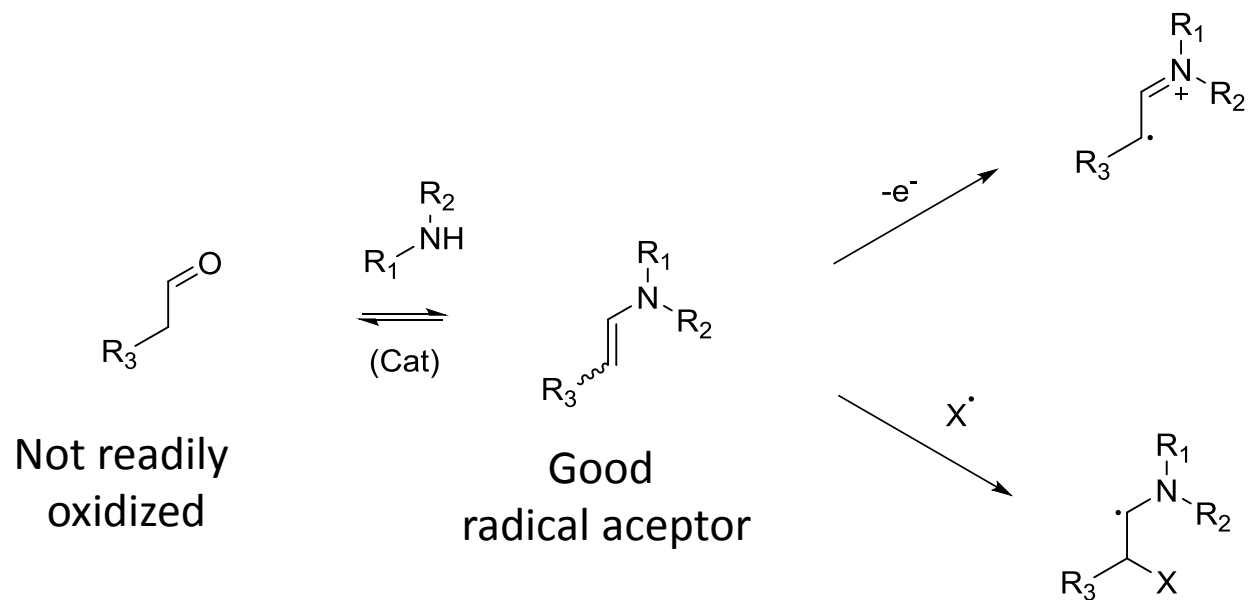
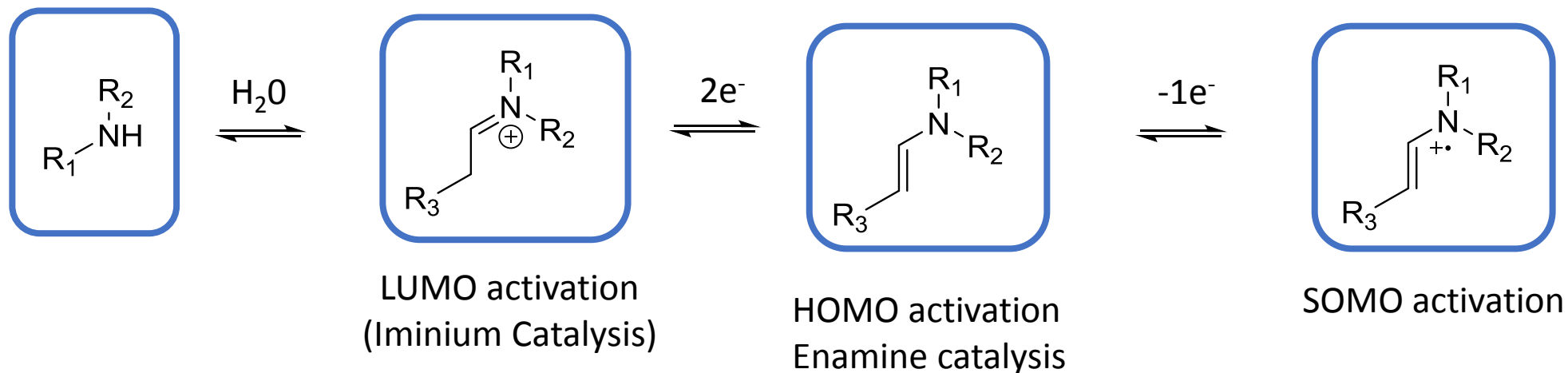


N. L. Bauld, in *Advances in Electron Transfer Chemistry*, Vol. 2 (Ed.: P. S. Mariano), Jai Press, Greenwich, CT, 1992, pp. 1–66

N. L. Bauld, *Tetrahedron* **1989**, *45*, 5307–5363

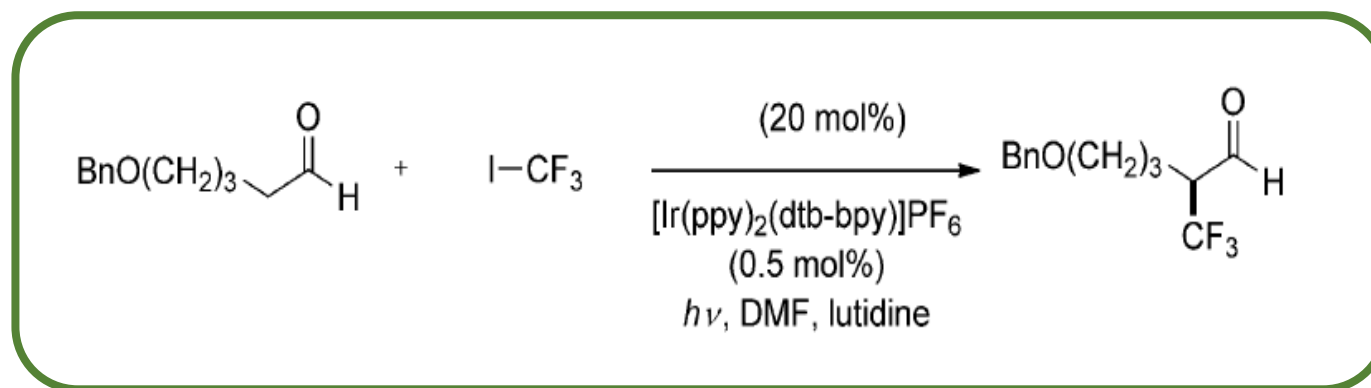
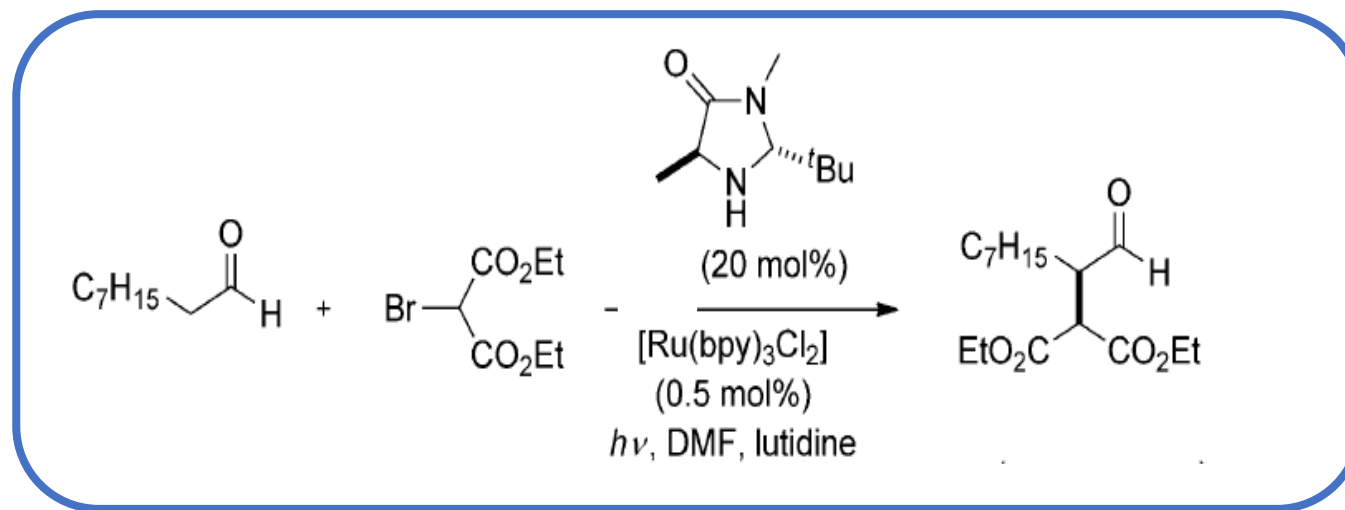
S. M. Stevenson, M. P. Shores, E. M. Ferreira, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 6506–6510; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 6606–6610.

# Amine Catalysis (Innate chains involving enamines)



***SOMO Activation  
Innate Chain?***

# Amine Catalysis (Innate chains involving enamines)

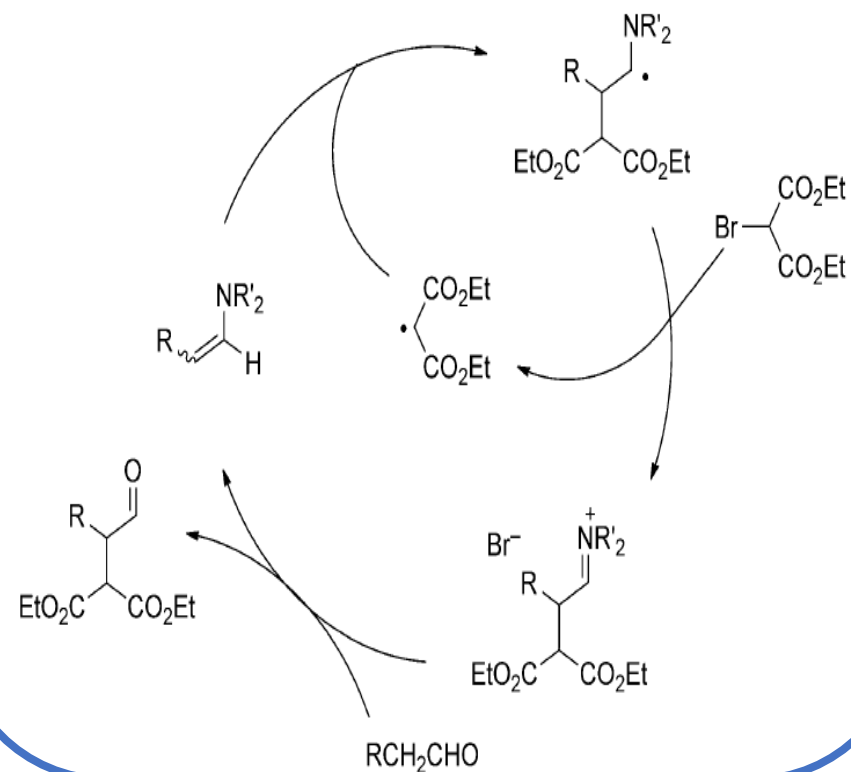
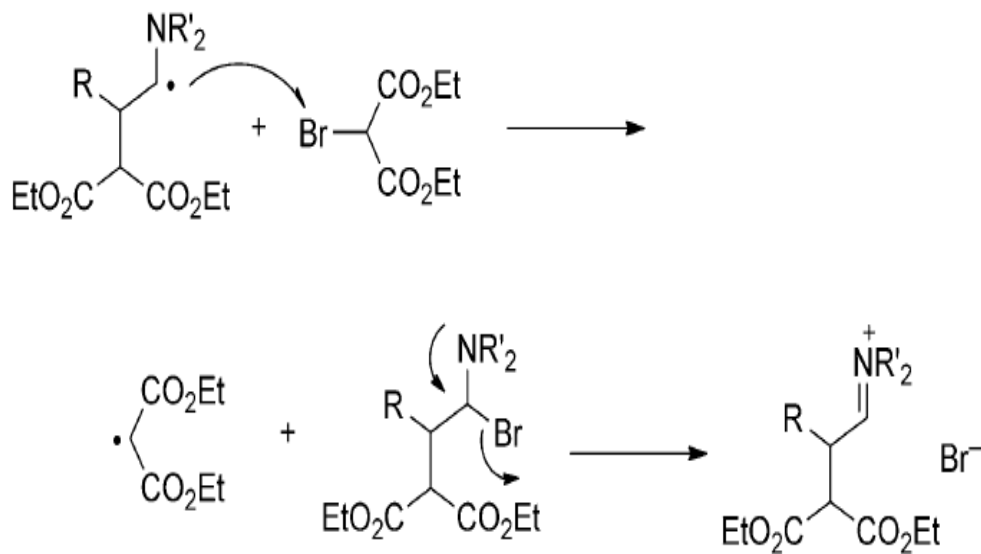
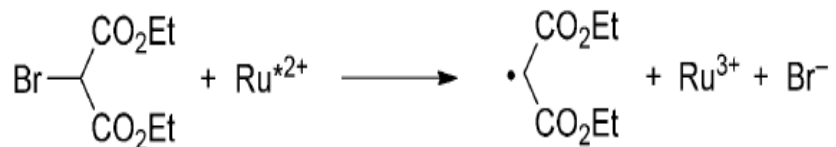


D. A. Nicewicz, D. W. C. MacMillan, *Science* **2008**, 322, 77– 80.

D. A. Nagib, M. E. Scott, D. W. C. MacMillan, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 10875–10877..

# Amine Catalysis (Innate chains involving enamines)

Initiation



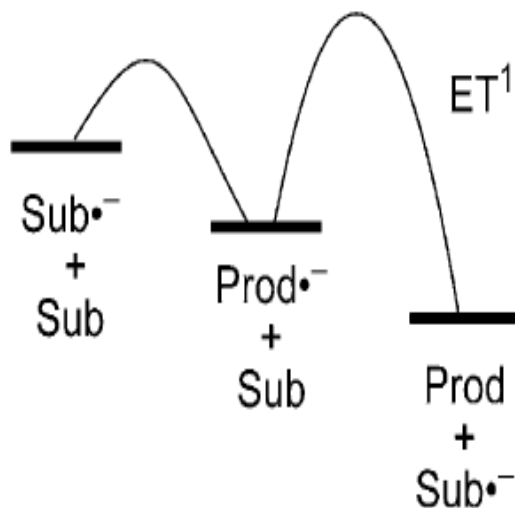
D. A. Nicewicz, D. W. C. MacMillan, *Science* **2008**, 322, 77– 80.

D. A. Nagib, M. E. Scott, D. W. C. MacMillan, *J. Am. Chem.Soc.* **2009**, 131, 10875–10877.

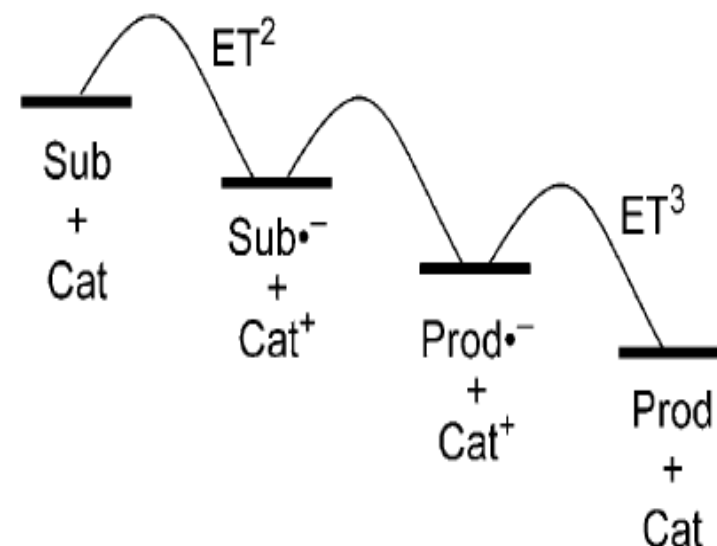
# Redox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions)

## Electron-transfer or Atom-transfer reactions

*Reaction coordinate of electron catalysis with an exothermic ET step that is too slow to support the chain*



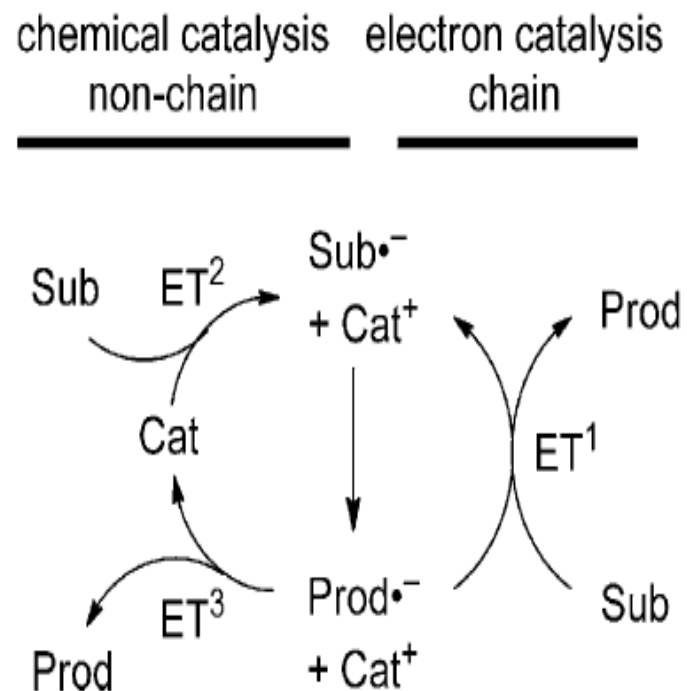
*Reaction coordinate diagram of redox catalysis cycle in which two fast steps replace the slow step*



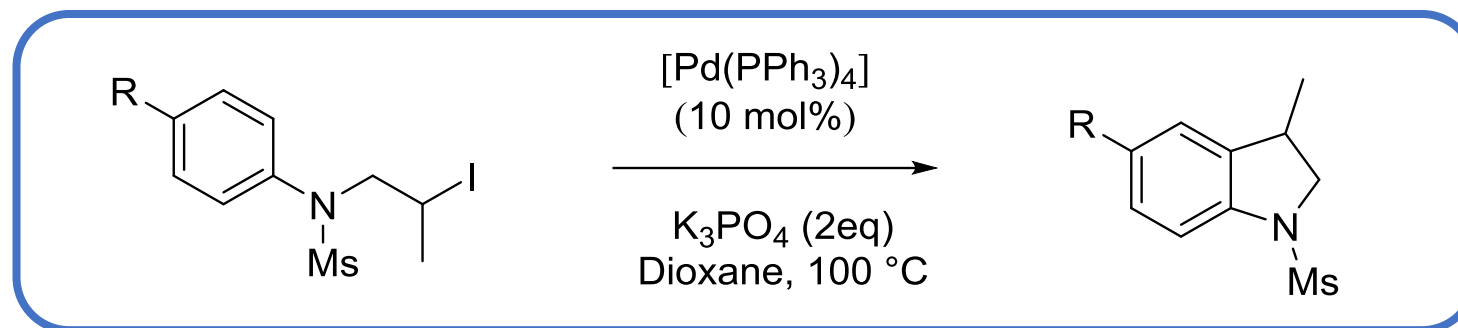
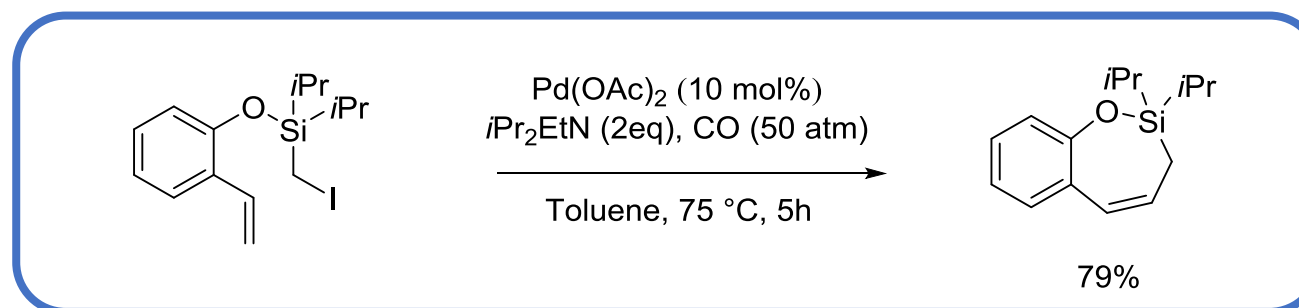
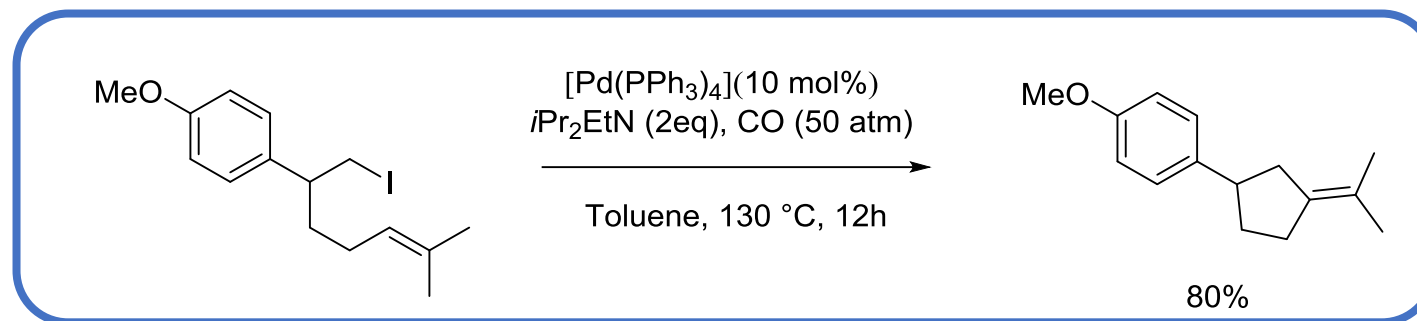


# Redox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions) / Intertwined mechanisms

*Chemical catalysis competes with electron catalysis*



# Redox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions) / Intertwined mechanisms

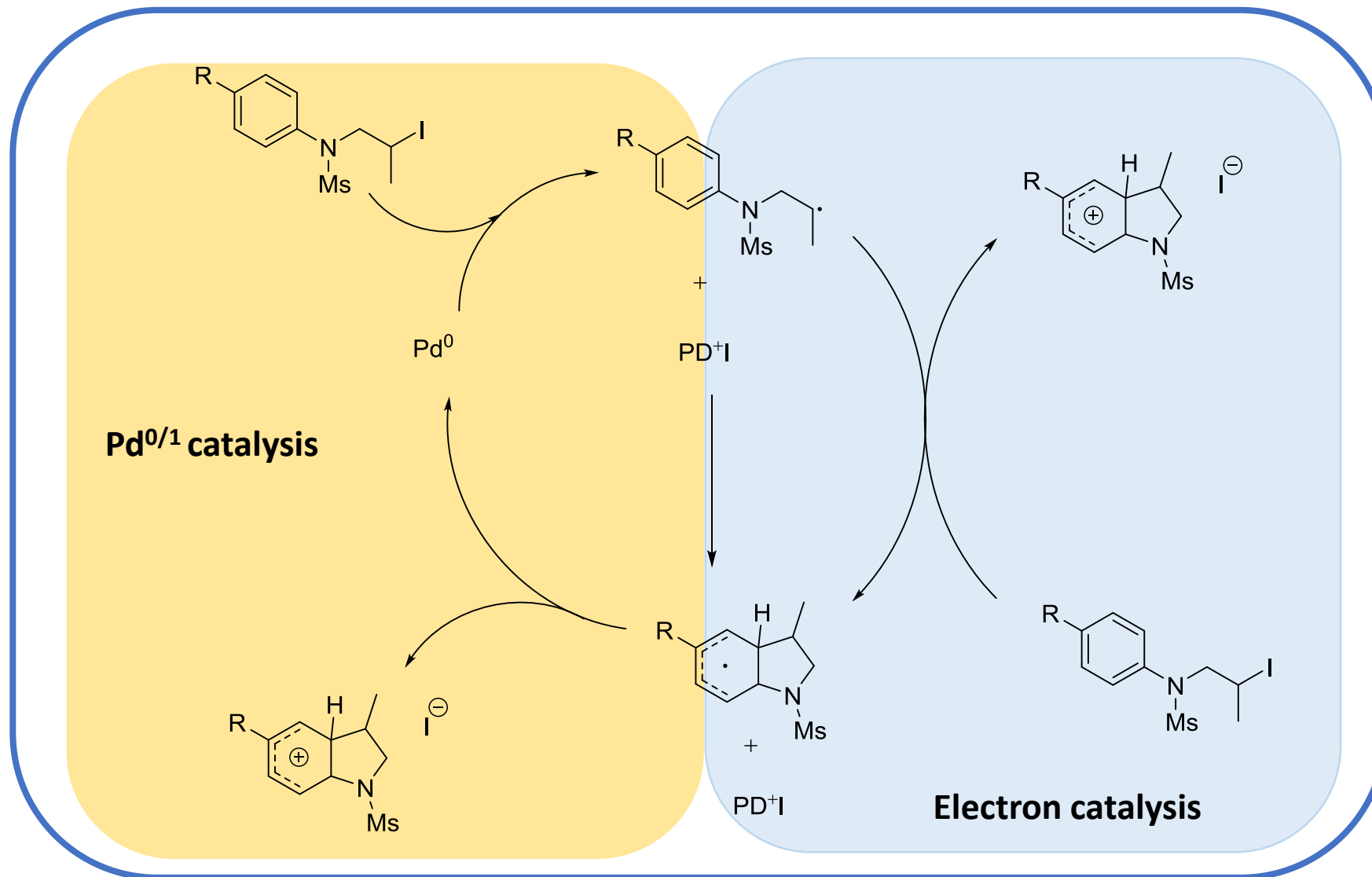


K. S. Bloome, R. L. McMahan, E. J. Alexanian, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 20146–20148.

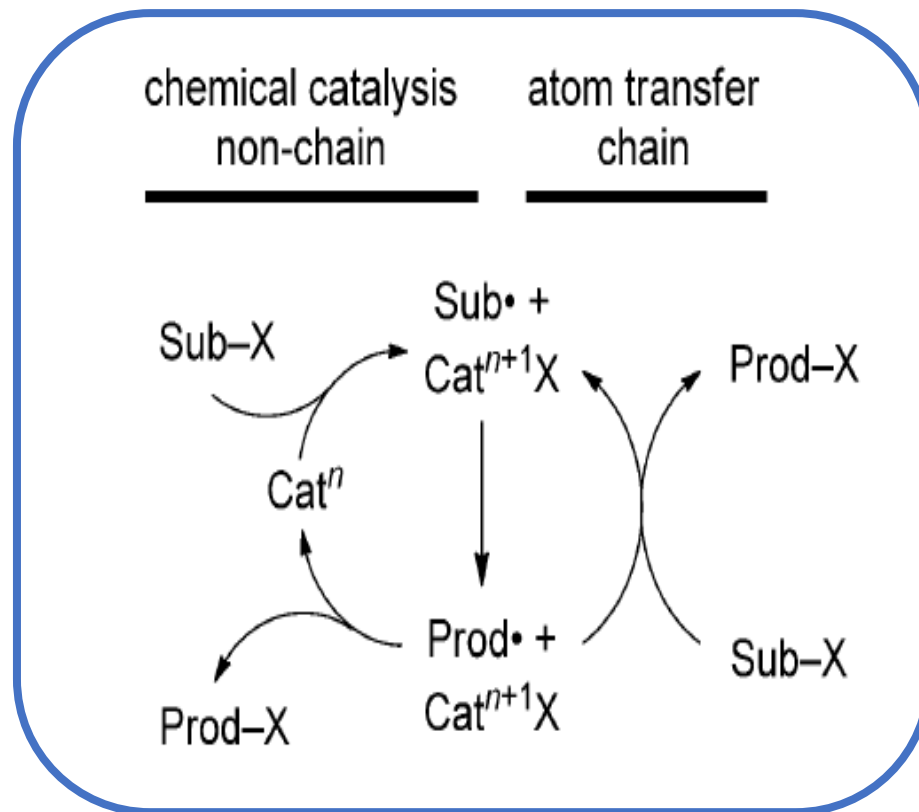
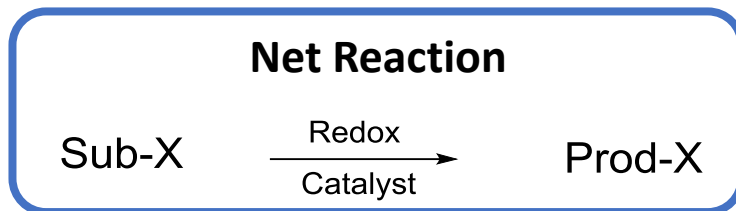
M. Parasram, V. O. Iaroshenko, V. Gevorgyan, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 17926–17929.

A. R. O. Venning, P. T. Bohan, E. J. Alexanian, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2015**, *137*, 3731–3734

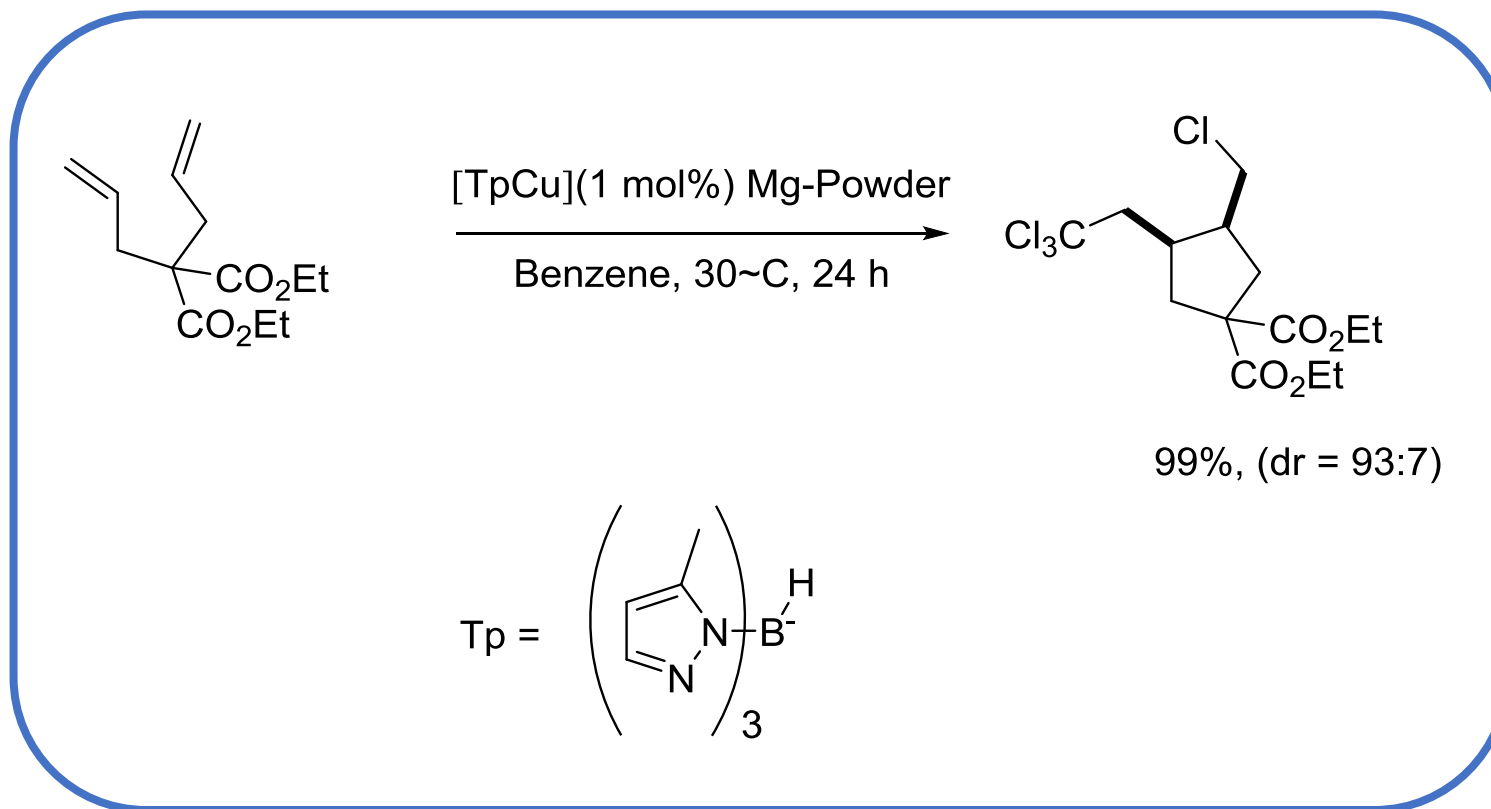
# Redox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions)



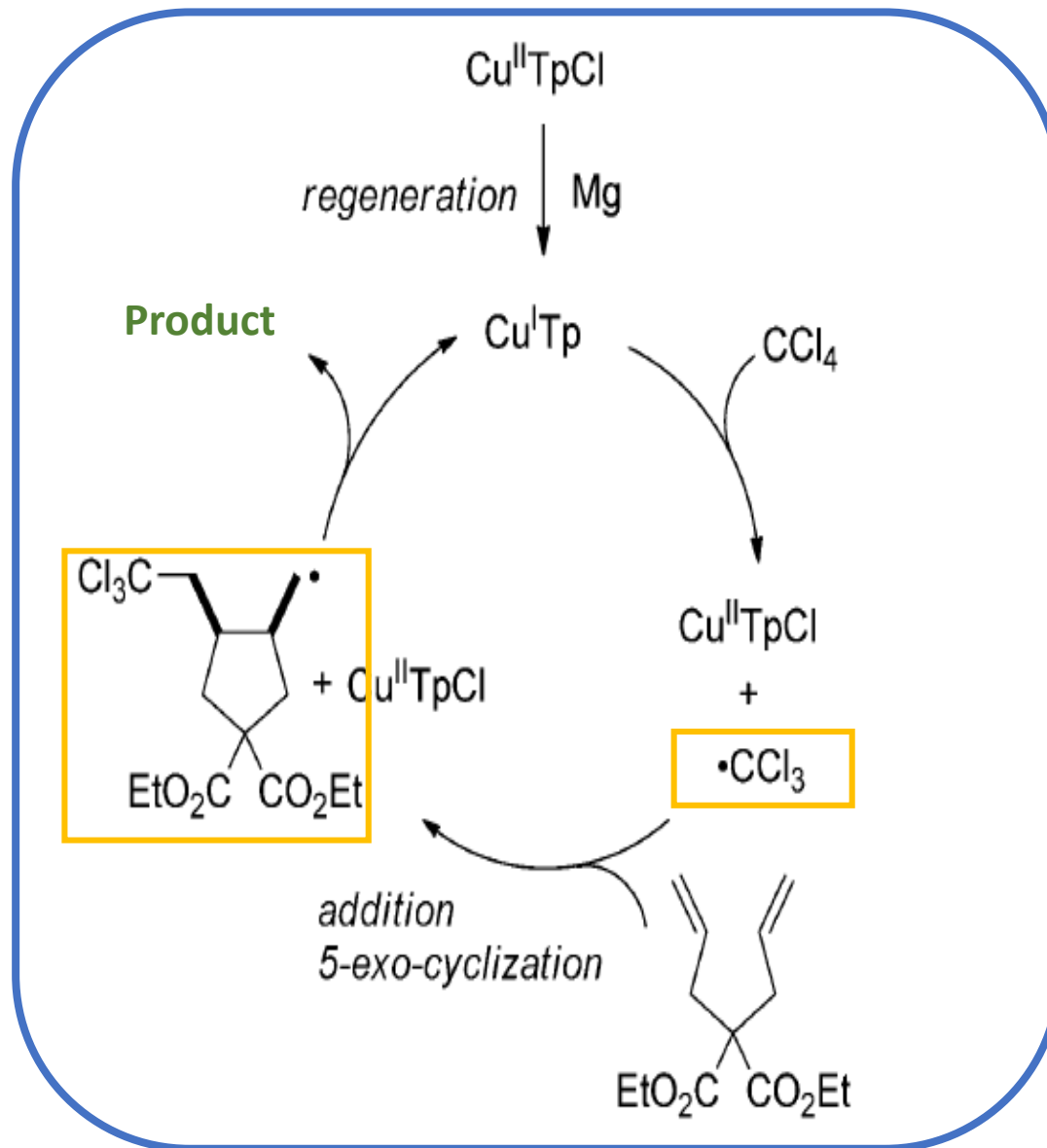
# Redox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions) / Atom-transfer reactions



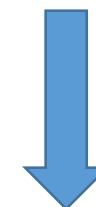
# Redox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions) / Atom-transfer reactions



# Redox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions) / Atom-transfer reactions



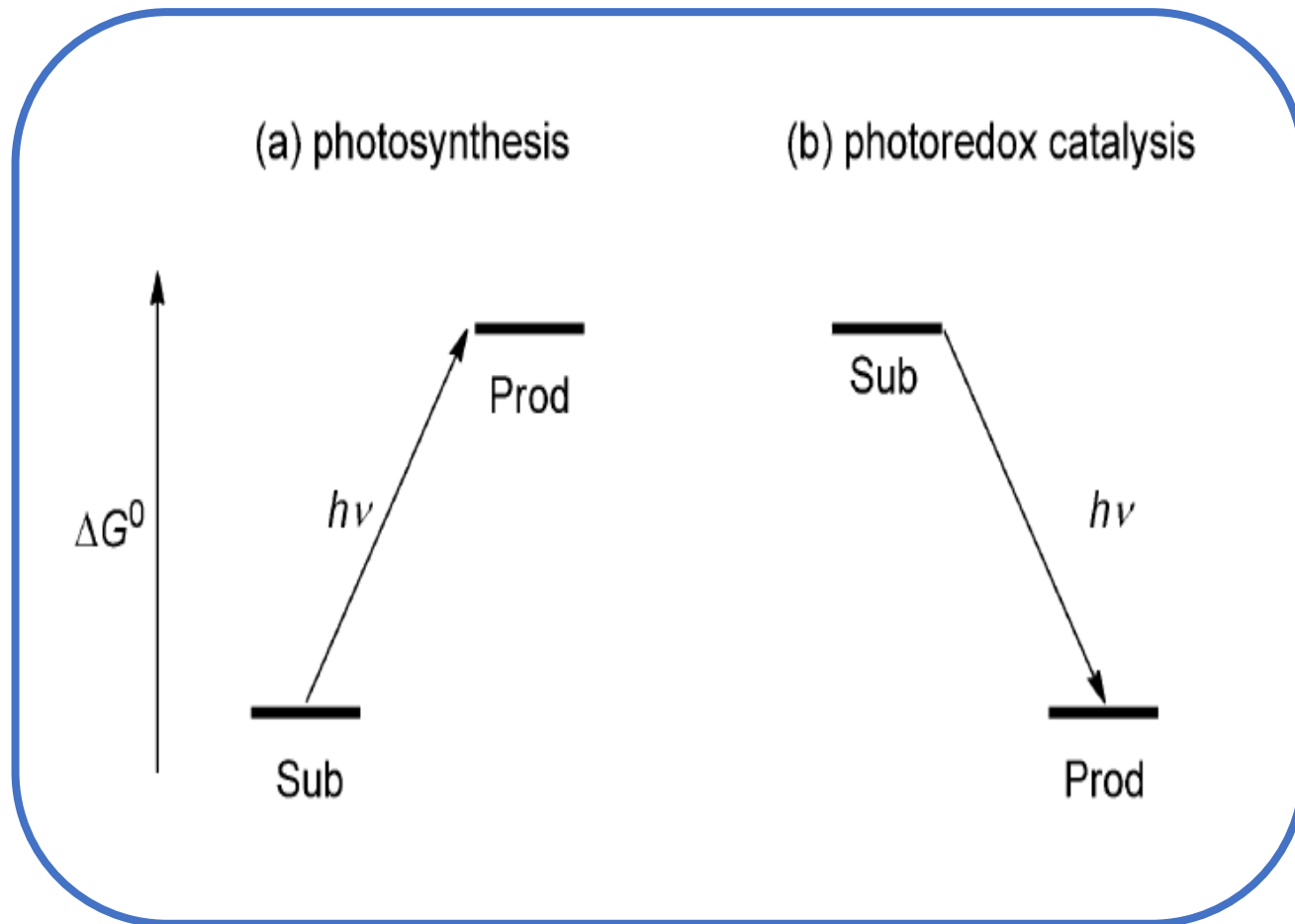
Transient radicals can dimerize



Accumulation of  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}\text{TpCl}$   
The chain breaks

# Photoredox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions)

*Photoredox is not photosynthesis...*



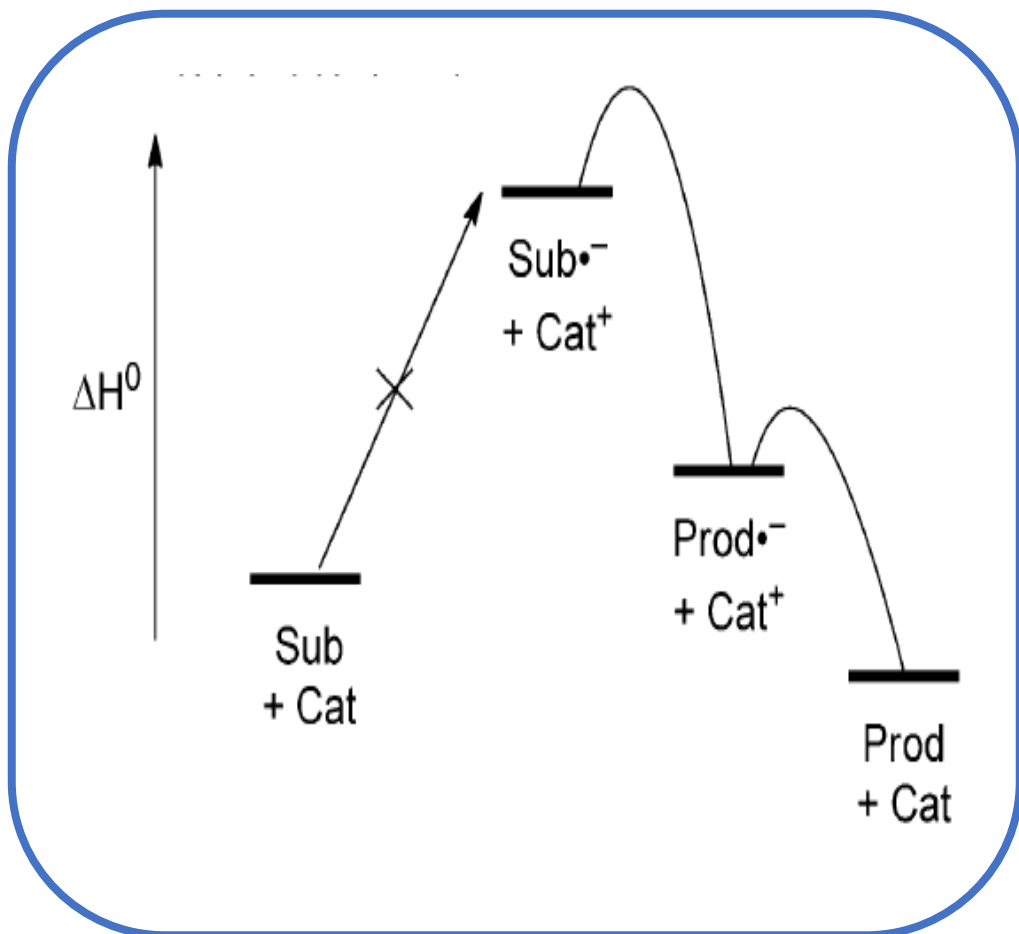
**Redox-cat: exothermic process**

**The coupled reaction is usually an innate chain**

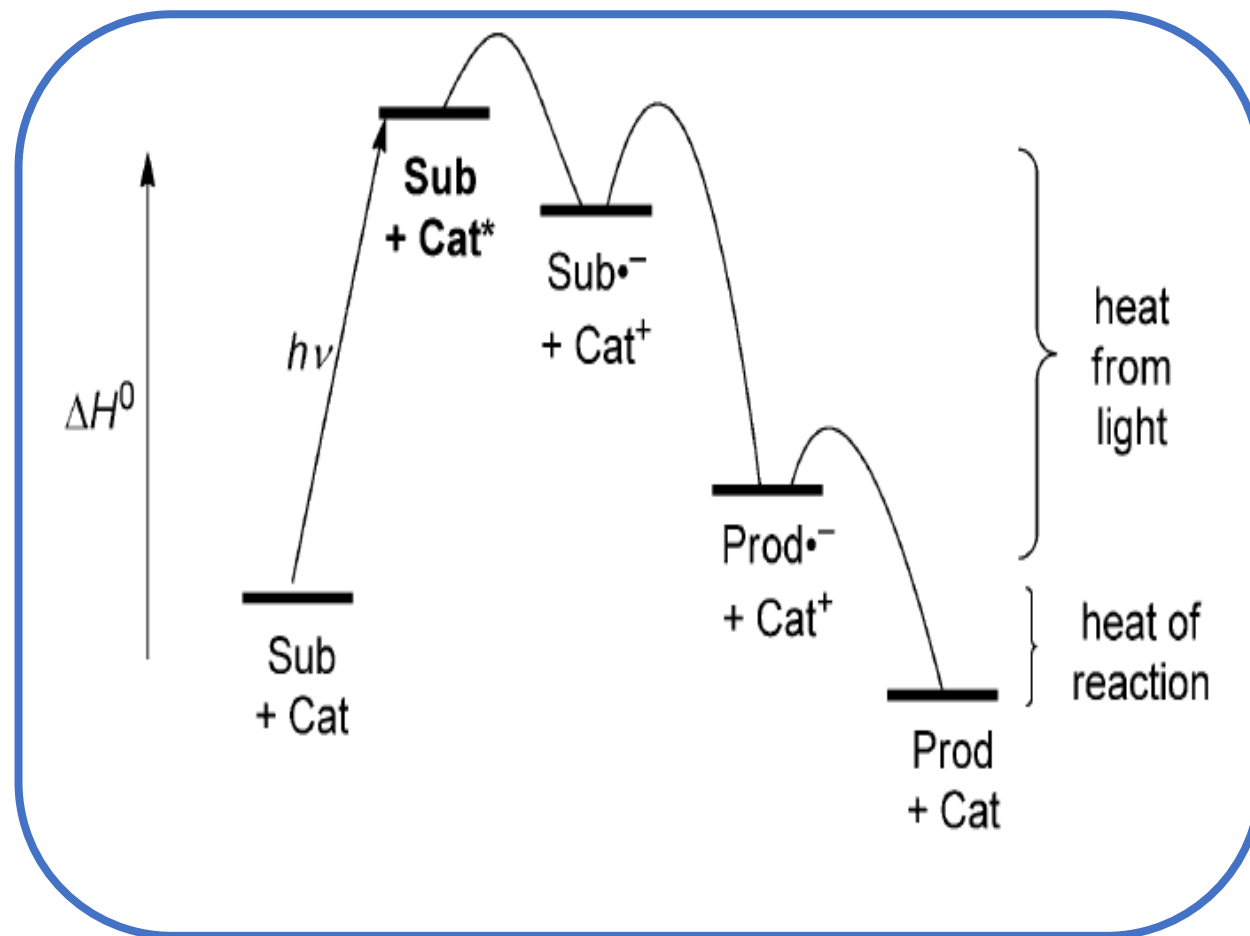
**Catalysis or Activation?**

# Photoredox Catalysis (Non-Chain reactions)

Thermal redox catalysis fails.

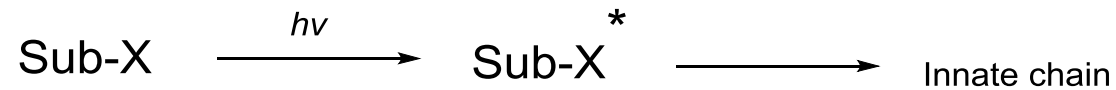
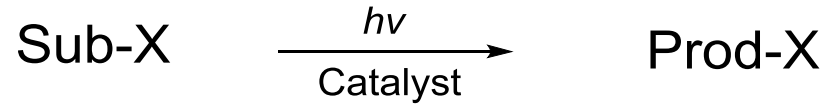


Photoinduced formation of a new reactive intermediate.



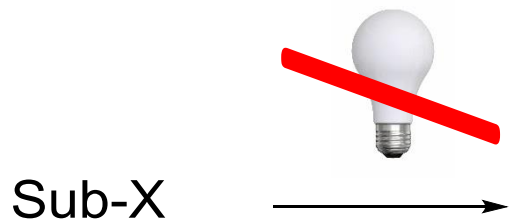


# Photoinitiation or Photocatalysis?



**Photoinduced reaction**

## Common misunderstandings:



**Photocatalyzed reactions stops**

- Light-driven (endothermic reaction)
- Light-activated (exothermic reactions)



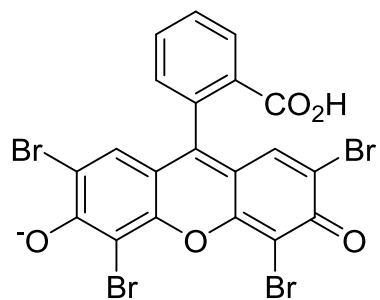
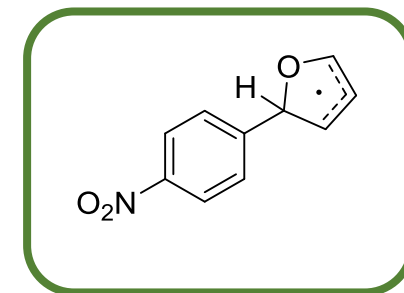
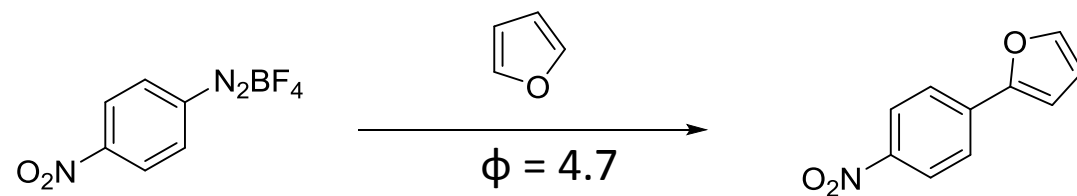
**“light-promoted  
light-induced  
light-mediated”**

**Photoinduced reactions succeeds**

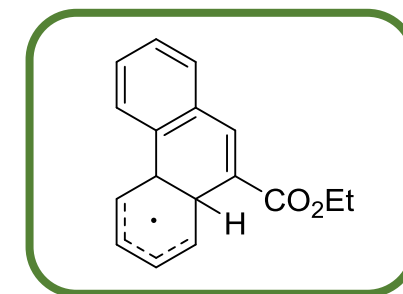
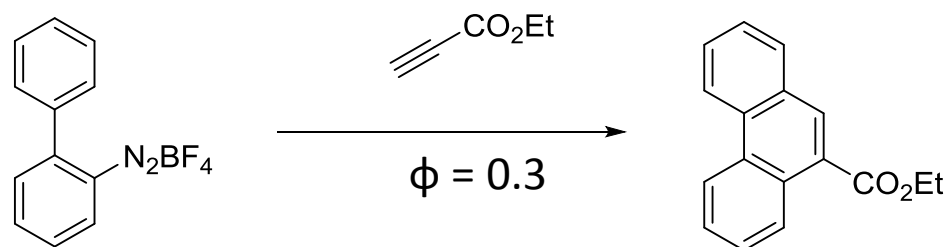
**Light-initiated (chain reactions)**

# Photoinitiation or Photocatalysis? (Quantum yield)

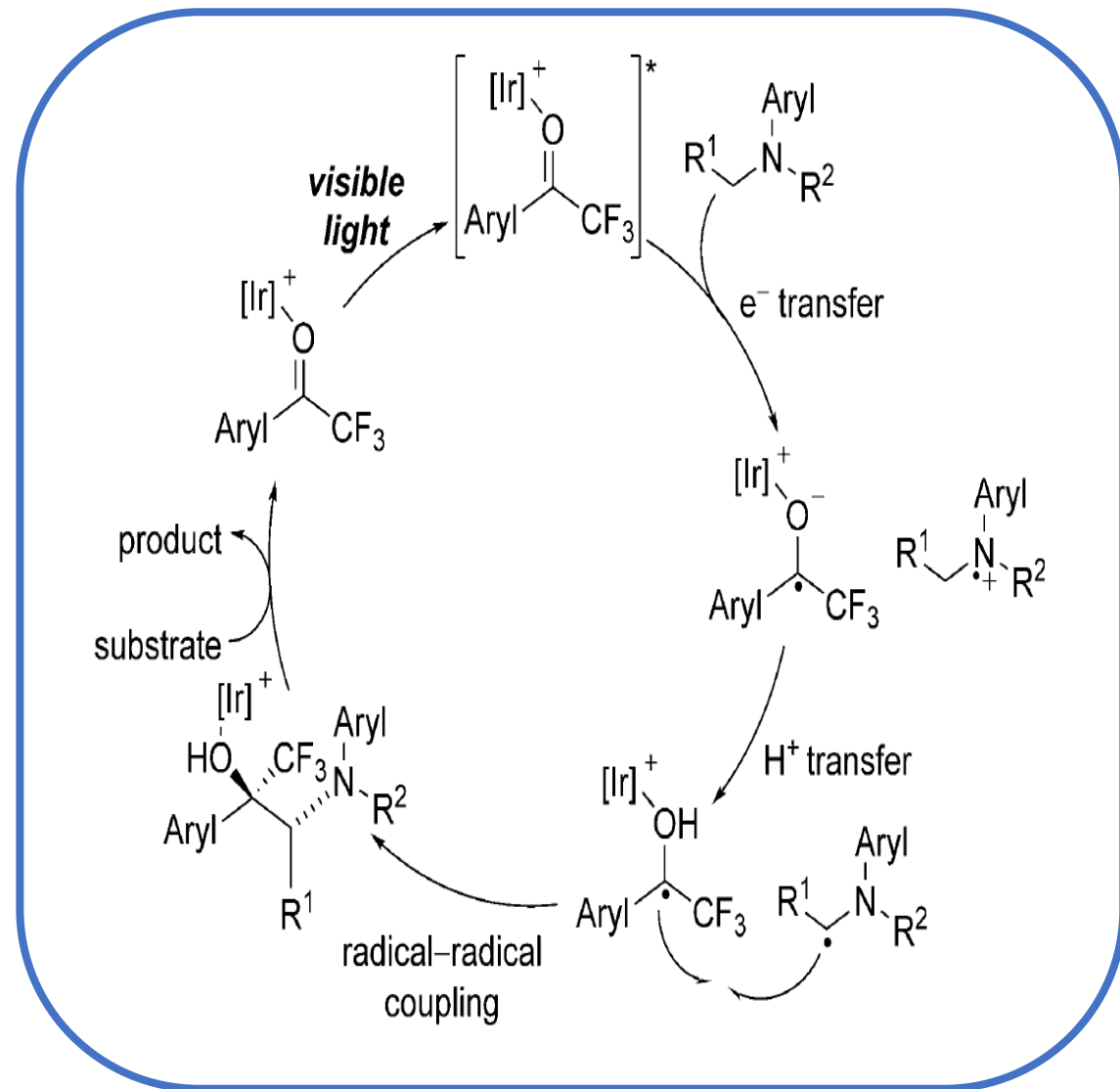
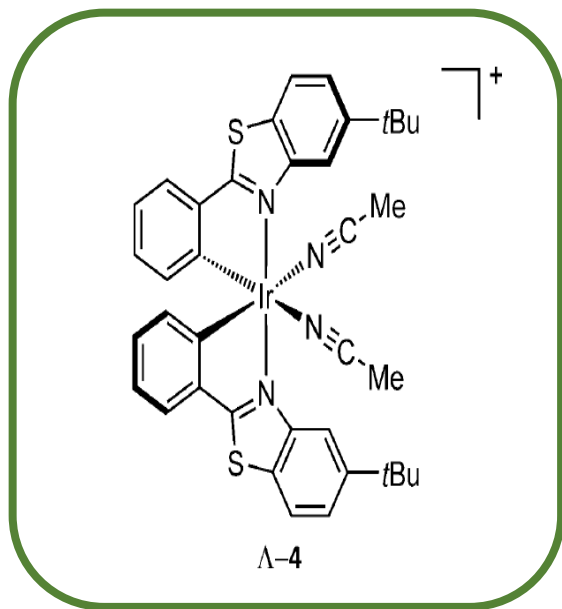
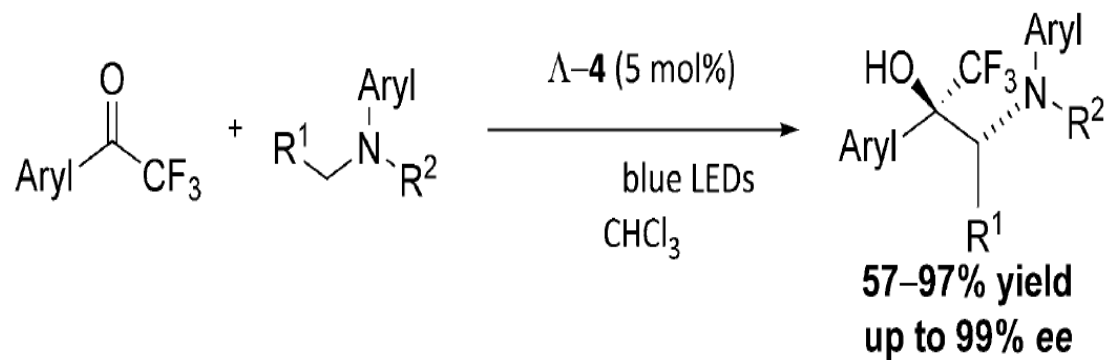
Quantum yield ( $\phi$ ) = number of substrates consumed / photon absorbed



**Eosyn Y**



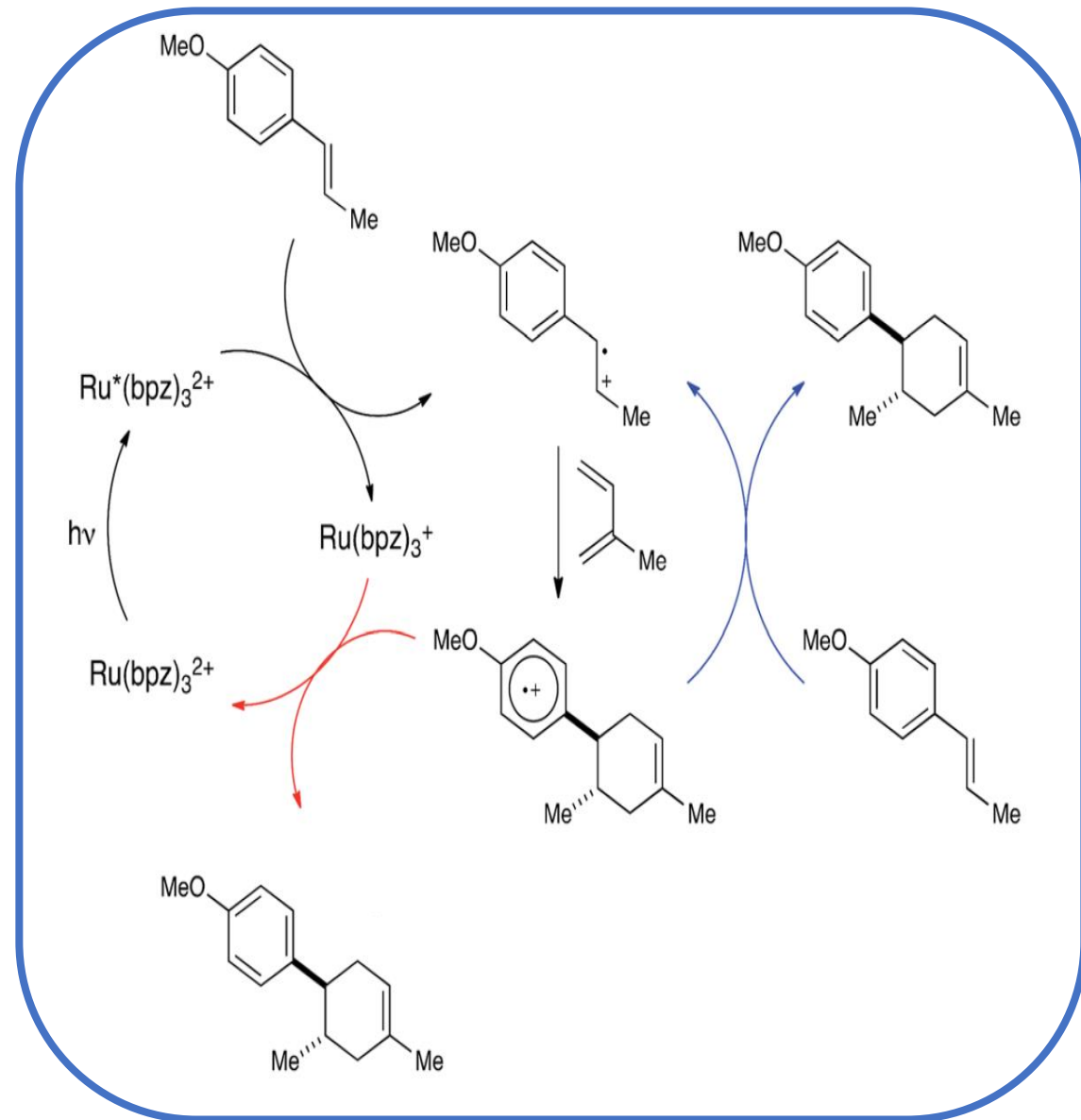
# Selected examples



# Selected examples

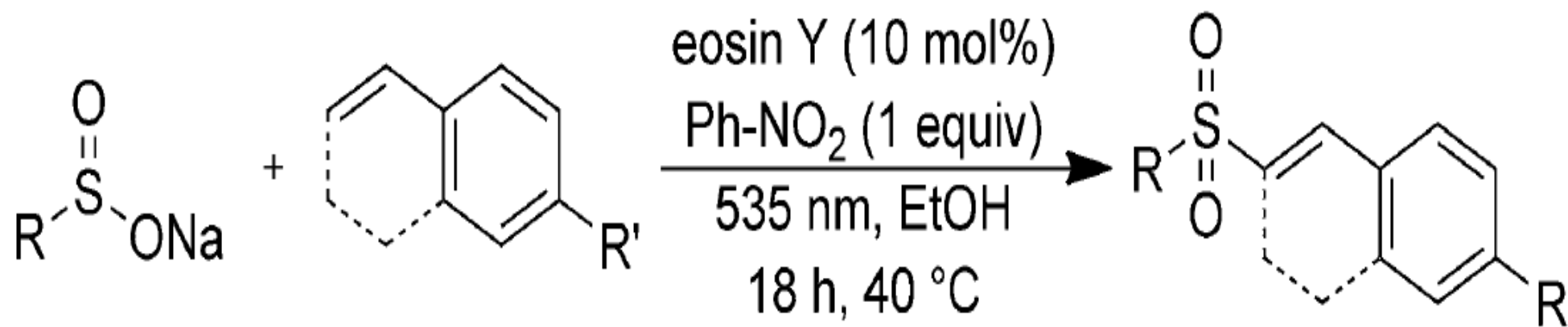


$\phi = 44$



# Selected examples

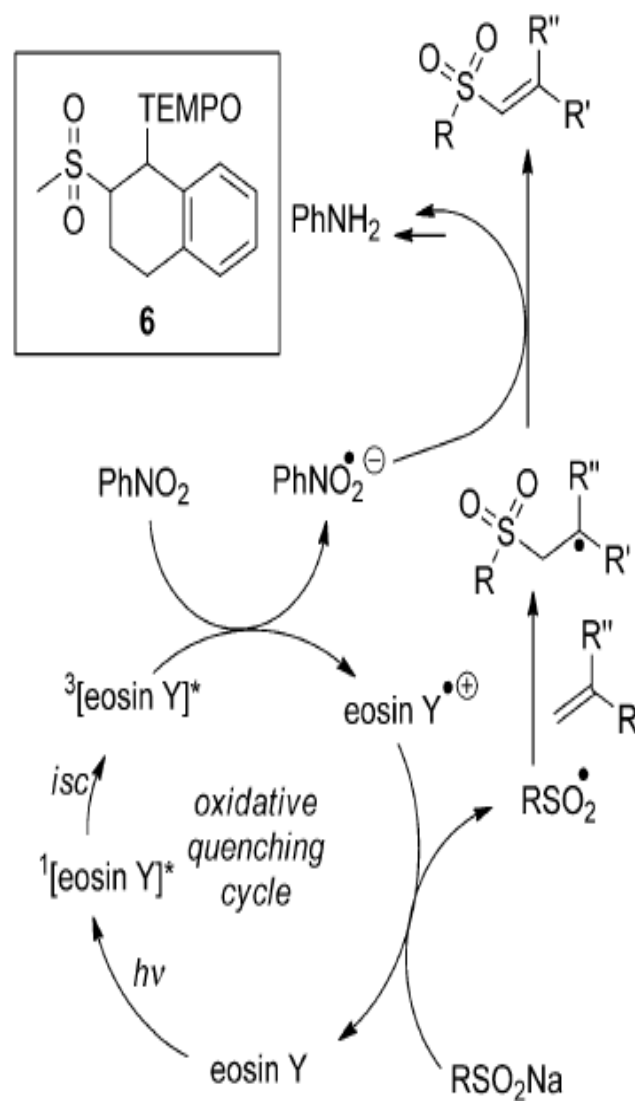
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# Selected examples

$$\phi = 1.3 \pm 0.4 \%$$

Photoinitiated or photocatalyzed?



# Conclusions

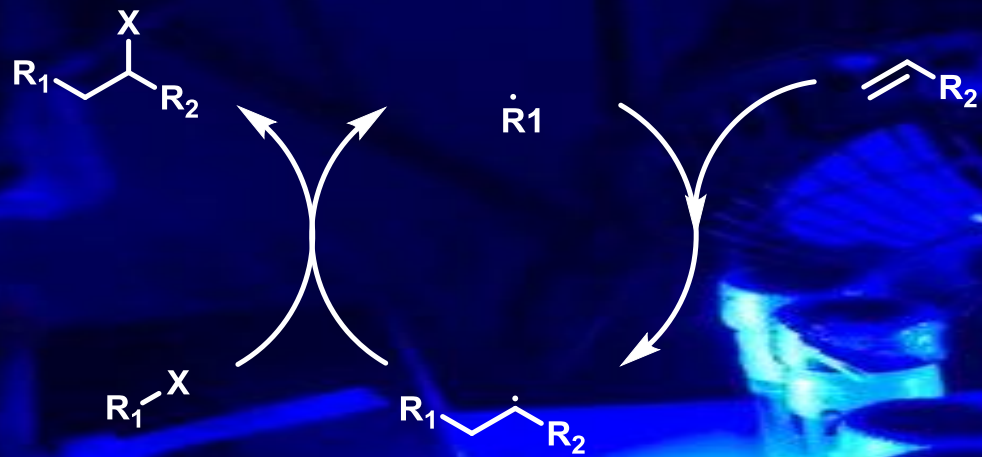
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**Chain reactions are innate cycles that can occur without a catalyst**

**The catalytic cycles in radical chemistry commonly have one or several innate reactions ("catalyst-free" intermediates -Free radicals- in the cycle)**

**Smart initiation and redox (or photoredox) catalysis are in competition in various kinds of reactions.**

**It may not be easy to develop a mechanism for such transformations with standard kinds of control experiments**

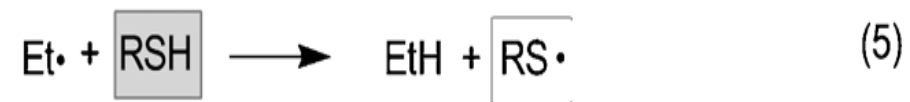
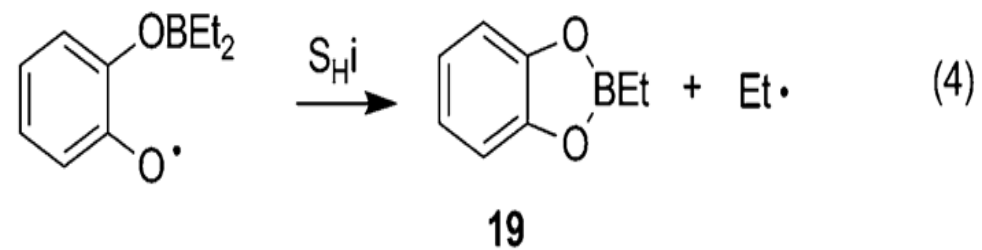
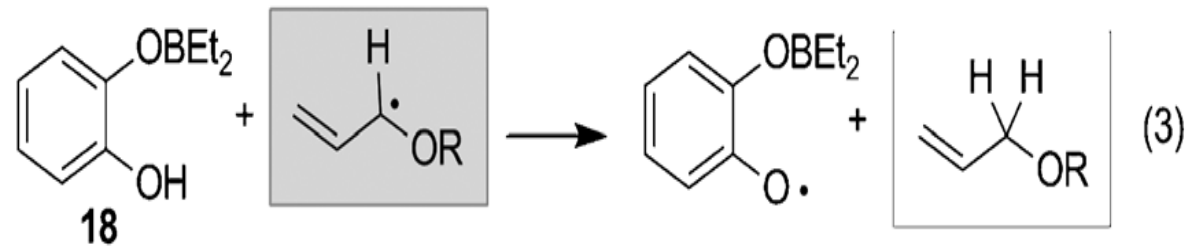
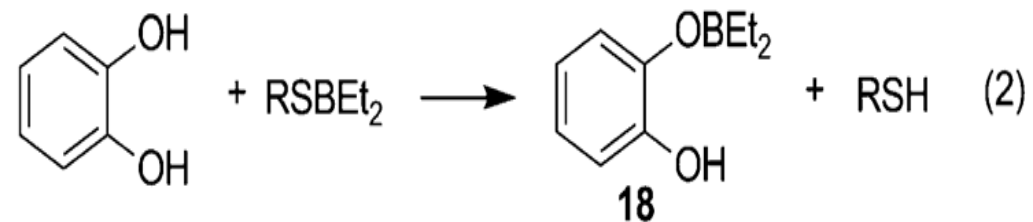


**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

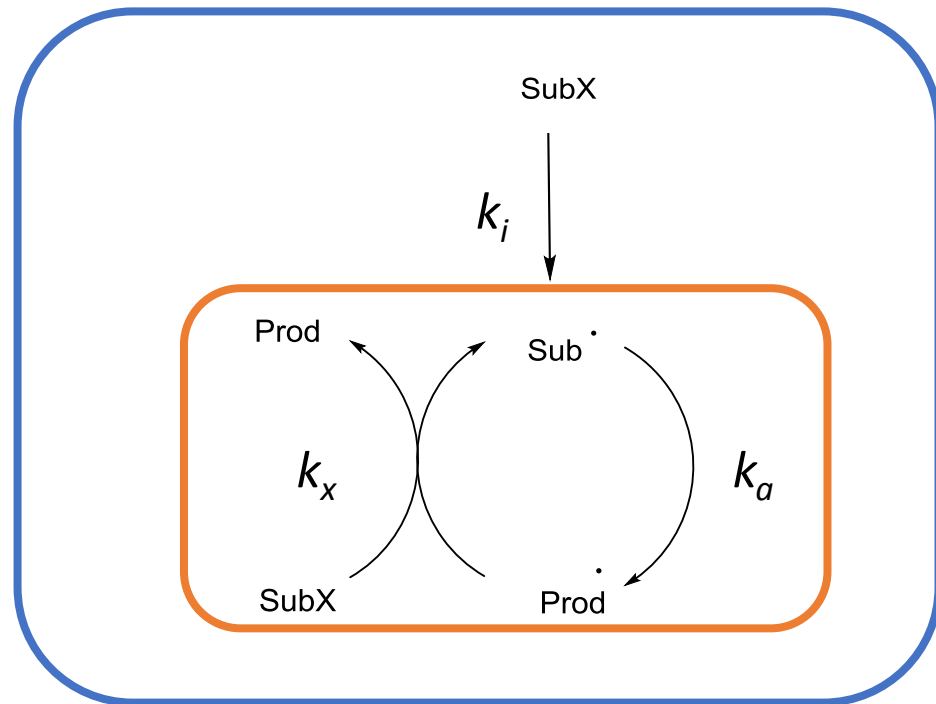








# Redox Processes



**Conditions for good propagation steps “Innate chain”:**

- All rate constants  $\geq 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ 
  - Inhibition avoided

$$k_{cat} > k_x, k_a$$

# Redox Processes

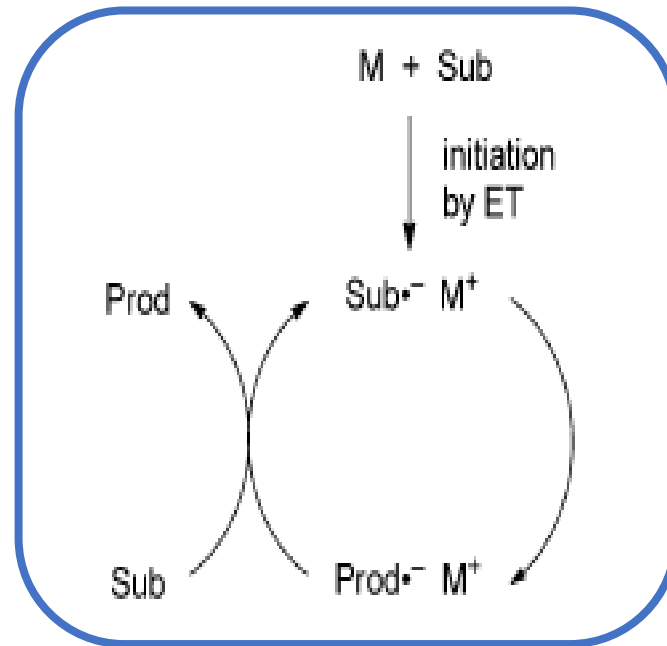
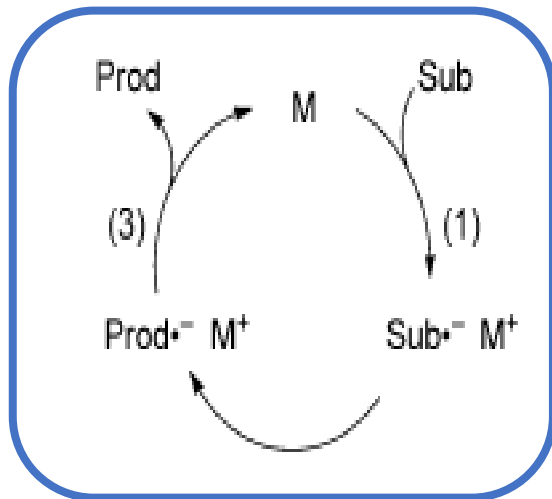


Electron Transfer ET

“Hole” transfer

## Metals as Initiators

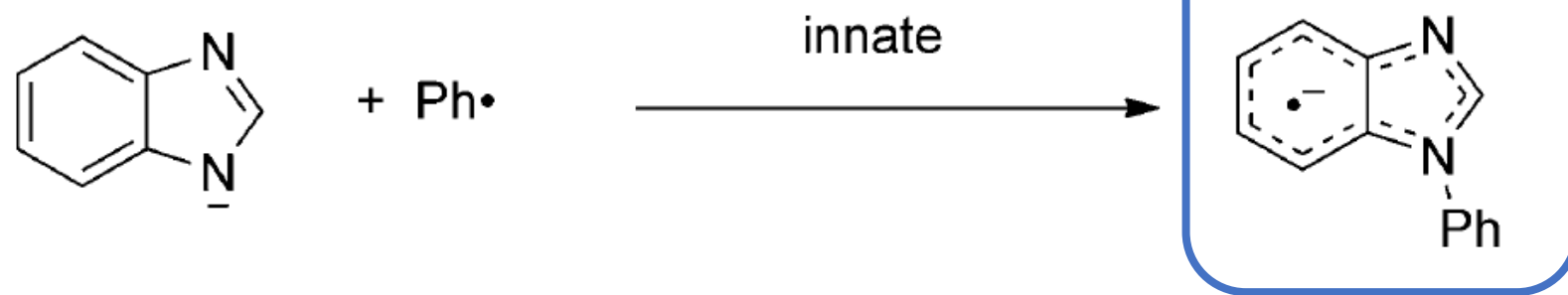
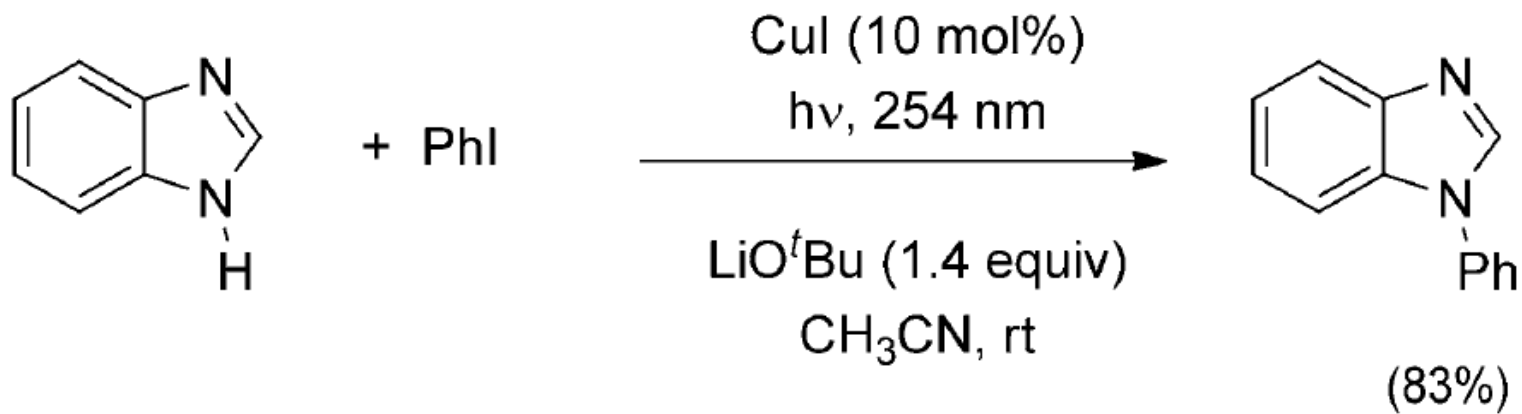
### Metals as catalyst



*...What is the true catalyst?*

electron catalysis and well-established Brønsted acid catalysis. The electron behaves as a catalyst in radical cascades in a way that is loosely similar to a proton acting as a catalyst in ionic transformations. We posited that diverse radical cascade

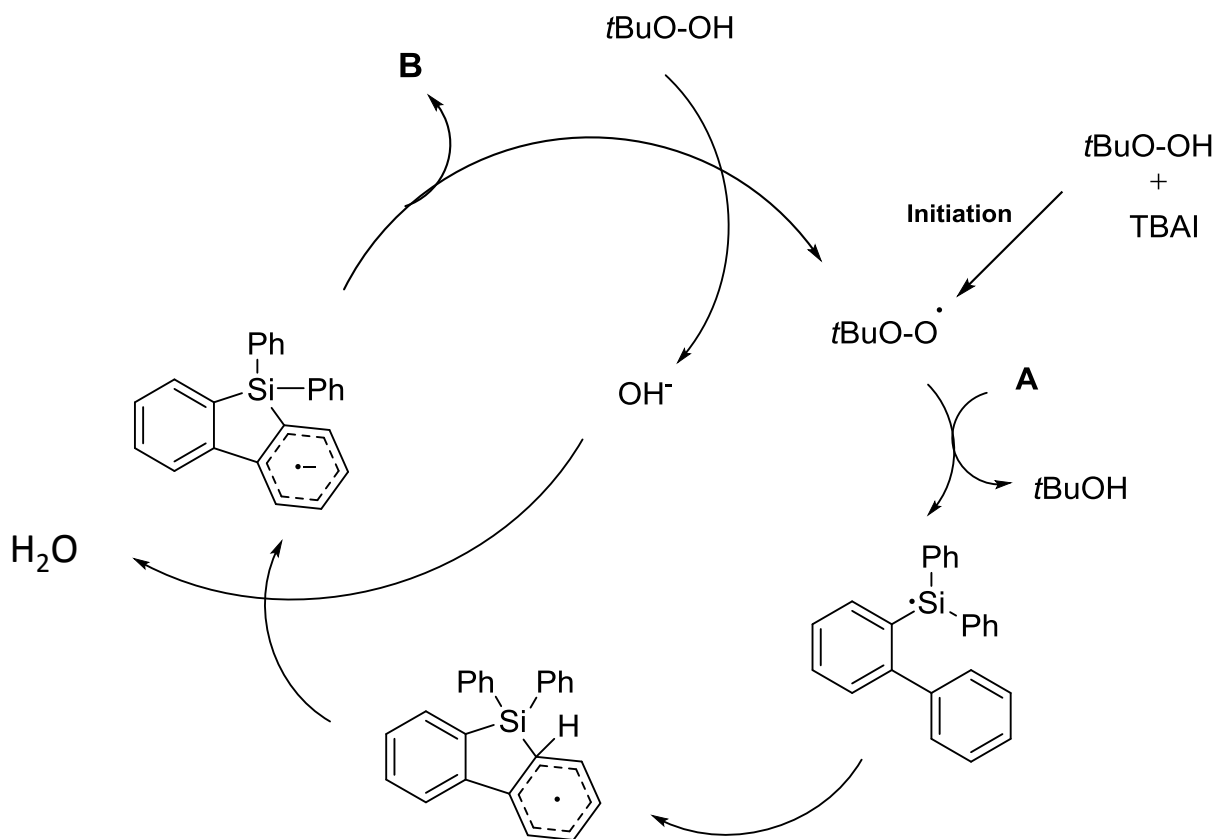
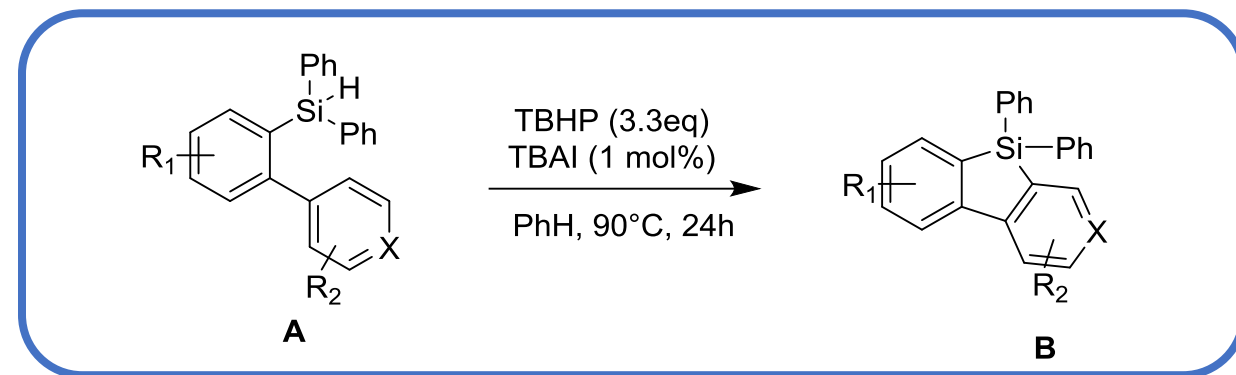
# Redox Processes



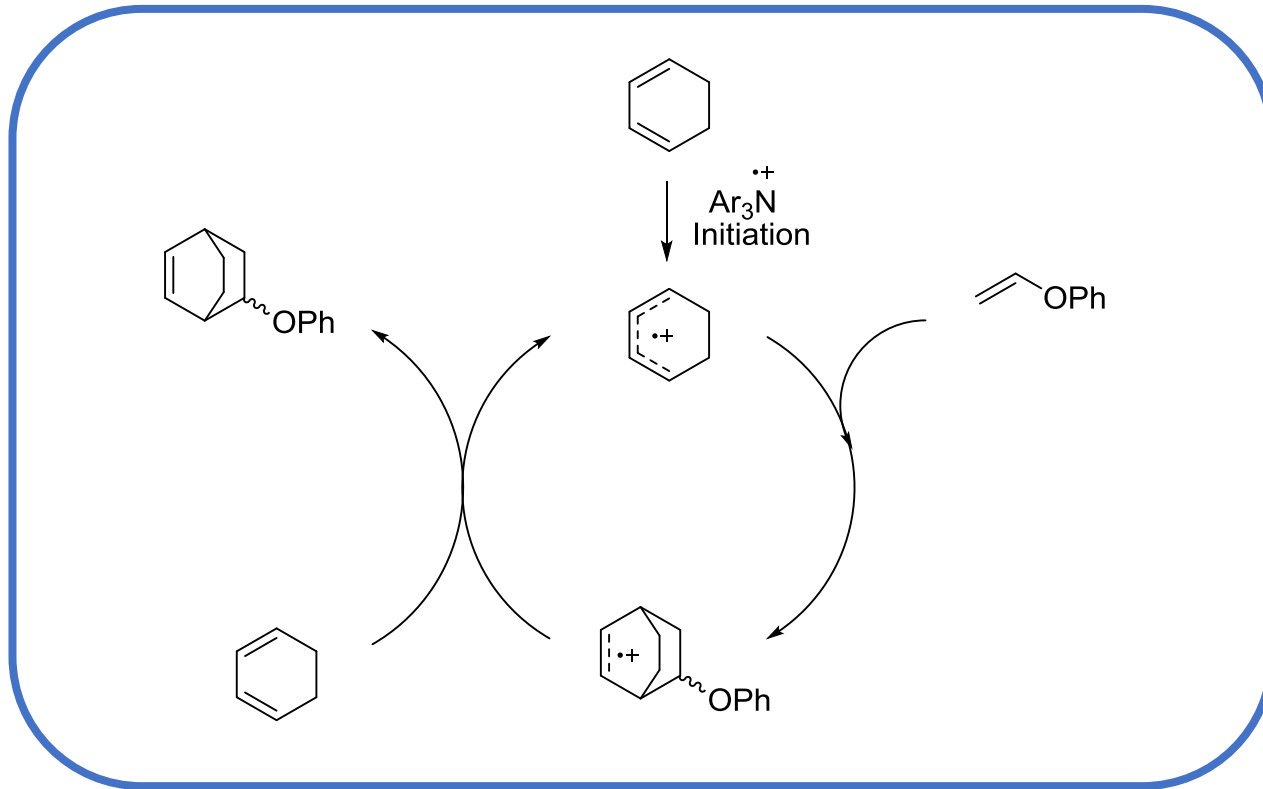
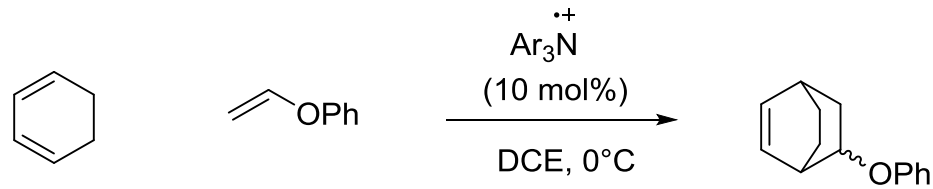
Electron-transfer to PhI (metal-initiated, Electron-catalyzed)

Electron-transfer to Cu (Redox-catalyzed, Metal-catalyzed)

# Redox Processes



# Redox Processes



Amine-catalyzed?

Amine-initiated?

N. L. Bauld, in *Advances in Electron Transfer Chemistry*, Vol. 2 (Ed.: P. S. Mariano), Jai Press, Greenwich, CT, 1992, pp. 1–66

N. L. Bauld, *Tetrahedron* **1989**, *45*, 5307–5363

S. M. Stevenson, M. P. Shores, E. M. Ferreira, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 6506–6510; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 6606–6610.



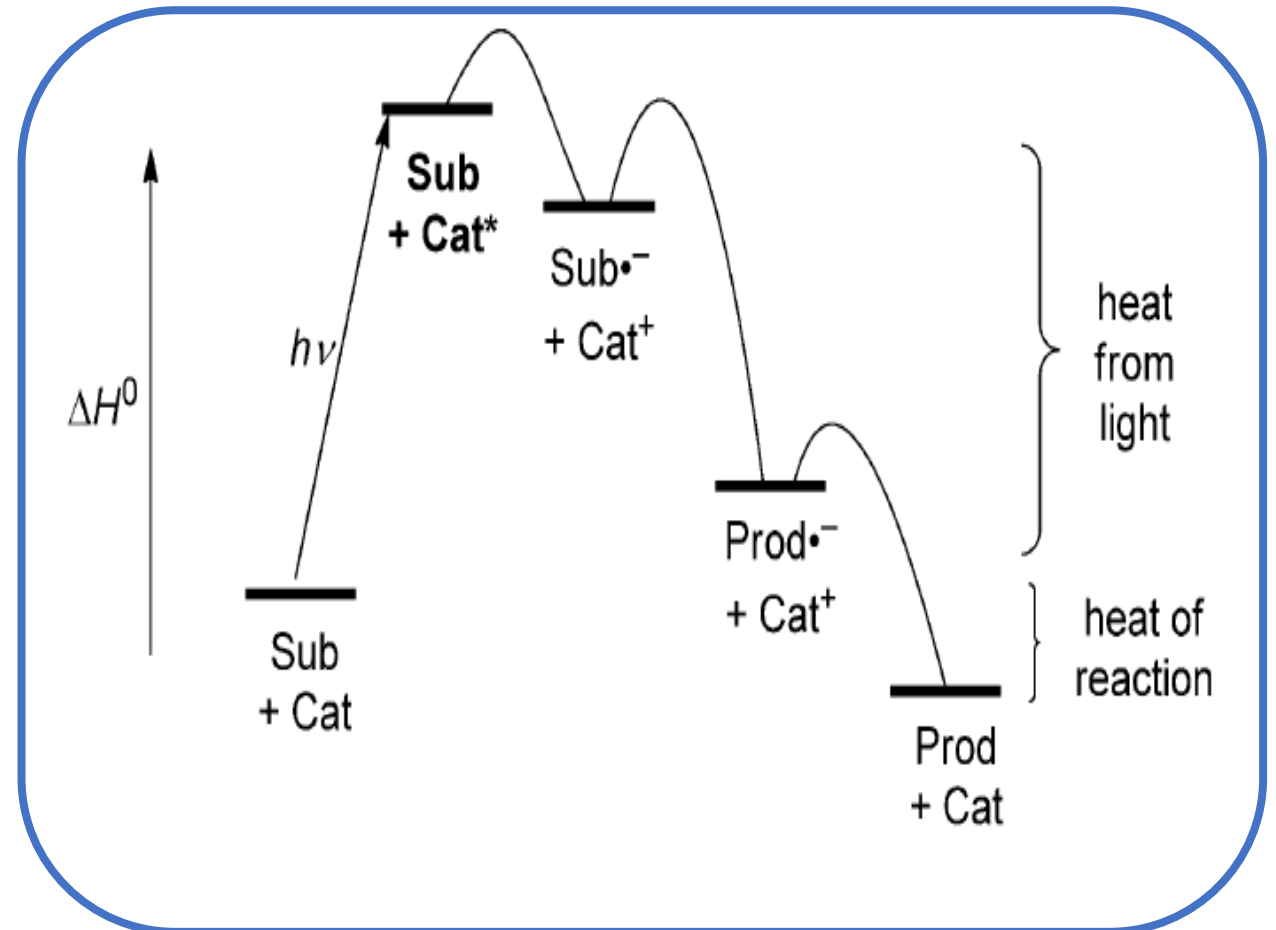
# Photoredox

## Photoinduced formation of a new reactive intermediate.

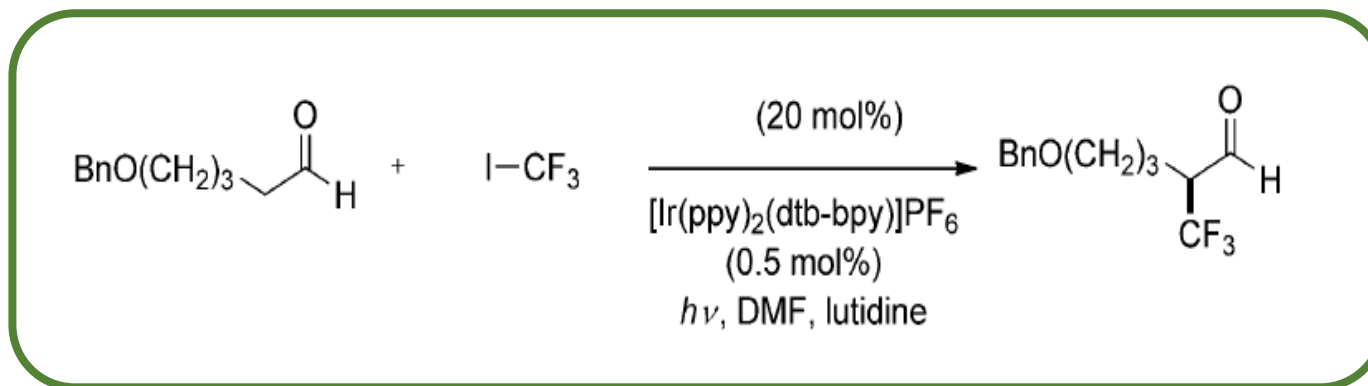
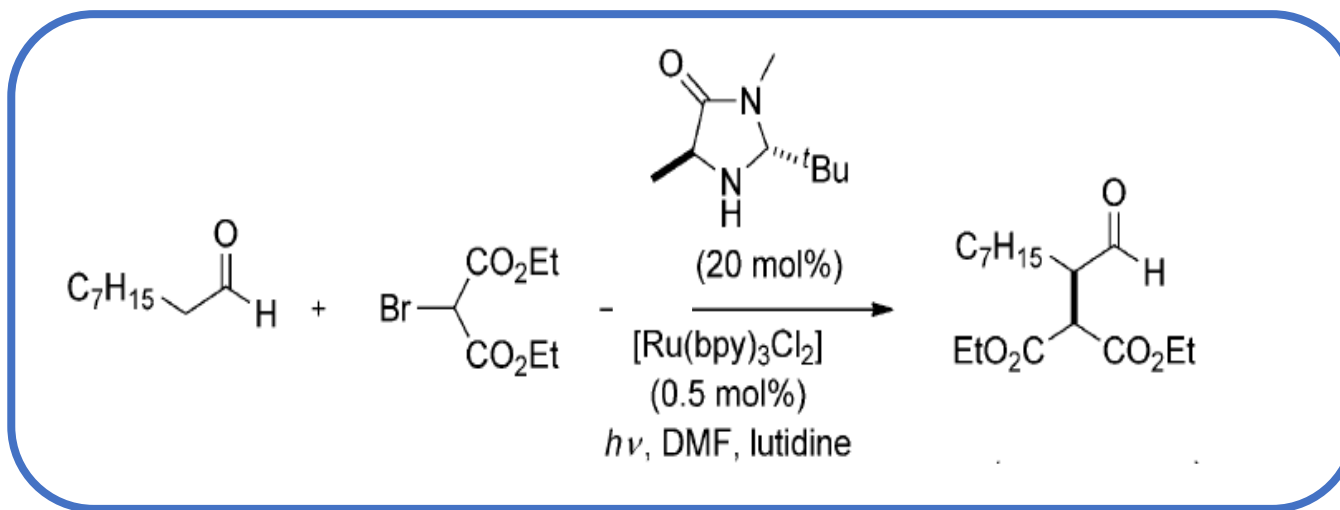
Redox-cat: exothermic process

The coupled reaction is usually an innate chain

Catalysis or Activation?



# Photoredox

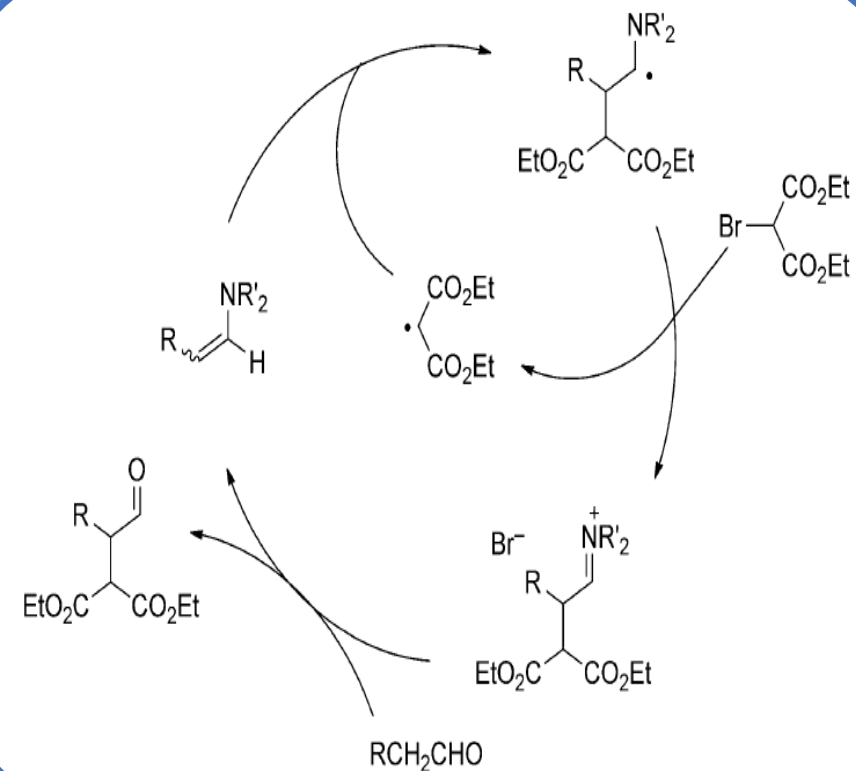
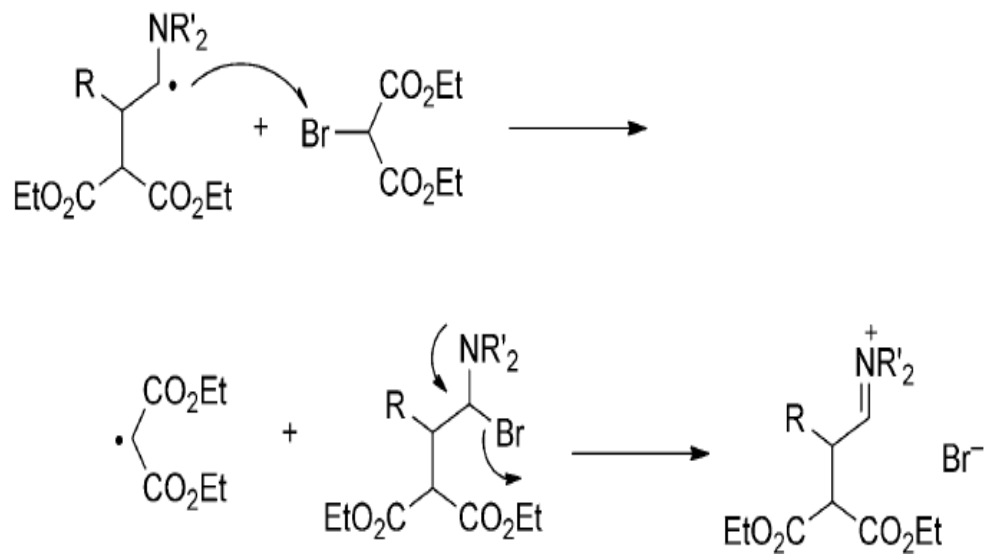
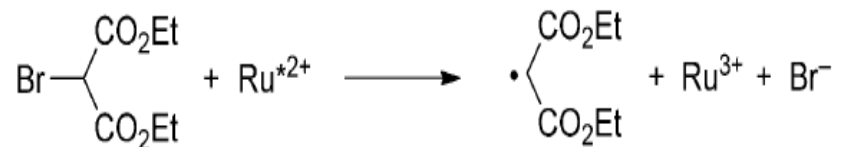


D. A. Nicewicz, D. W. C. MacMillan, *Science* **2008**, 322, 77– 80.

D. A. Nagib, M. E. Scott, D. W. C. MacMillan, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 10875–10877..

# Photoredox

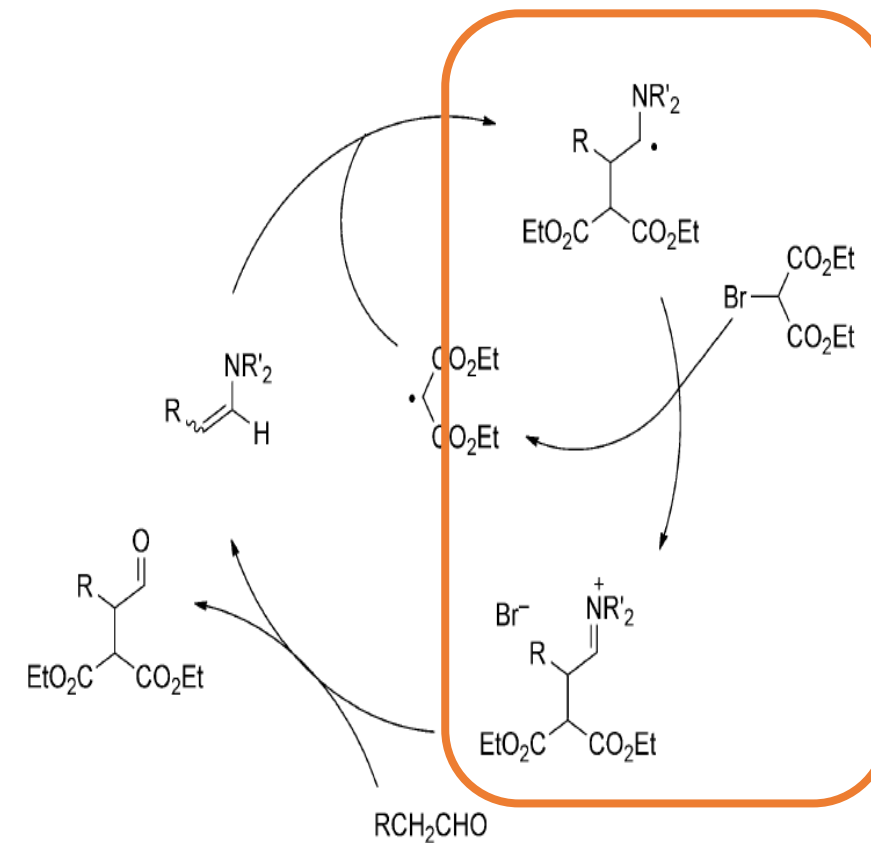
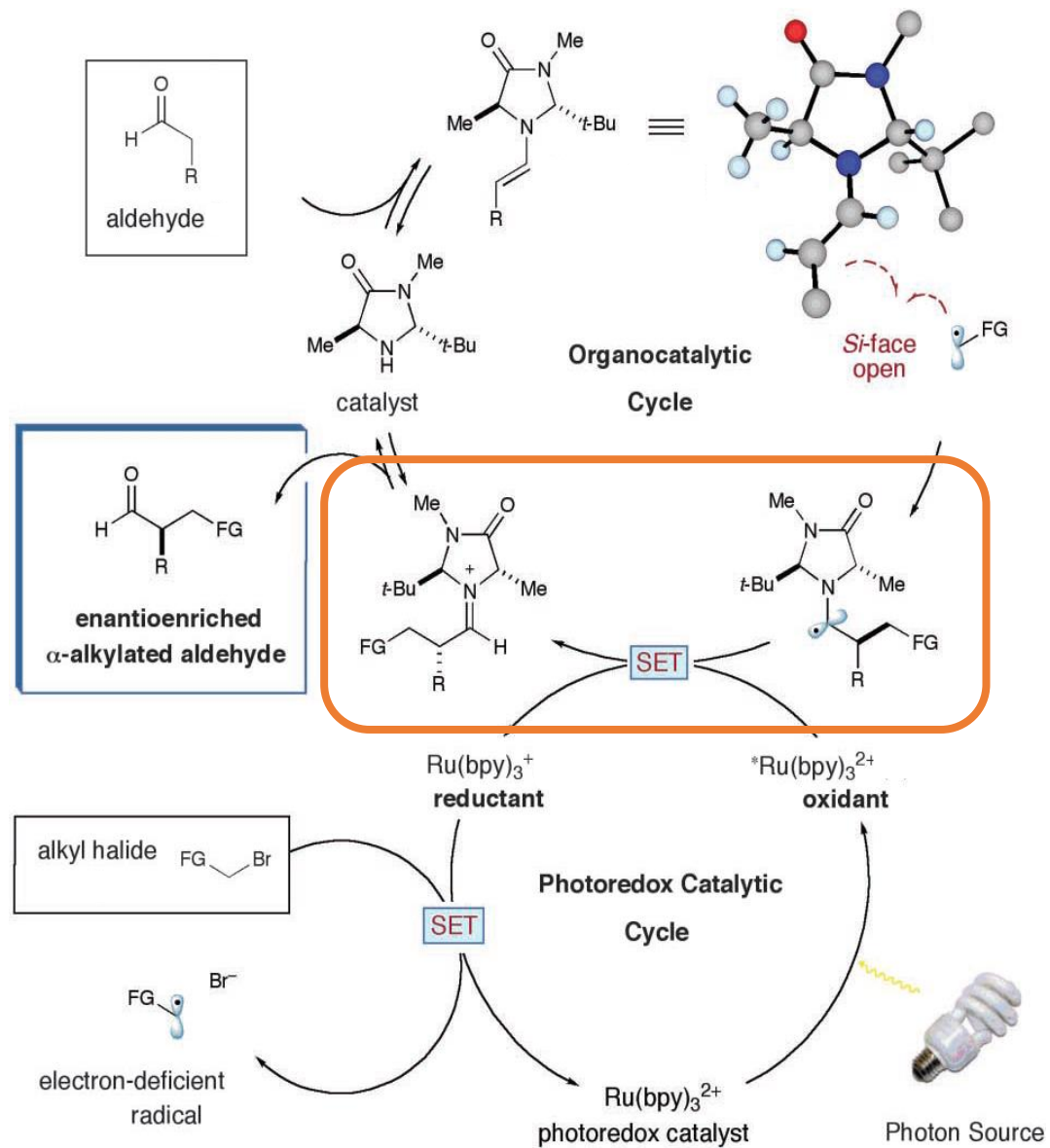
Initiation



D. A. Nicewicz, D. W. C. MacMillan, *Science* **2008**, 322, 77– 80.

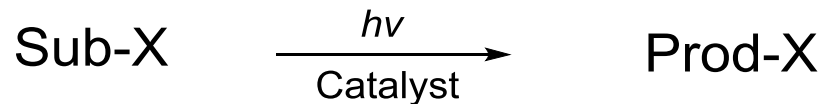
D. A. Nagib, M. E. Scott, D. W. C. MacMillan, *J. Am. Chem.Soc.* **2009**, 131, 10875–10877.

# Photoredox



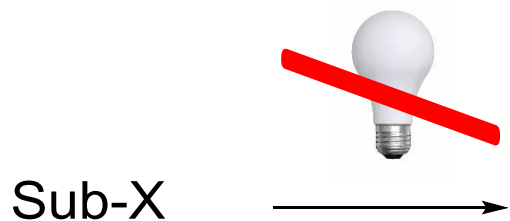
**“Continuous irradiation is needed”**

# Photoinitiation or Photocatalysis?



**Photoinduced reaction**

Common misunderstandings:



Photocatalyzed  
reactions stops



Photoinduced  
reactions succeeds

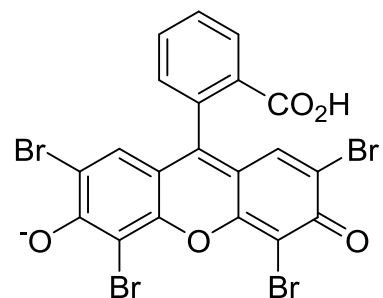
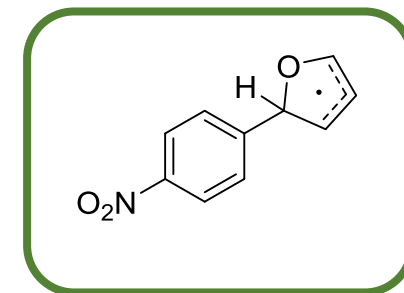
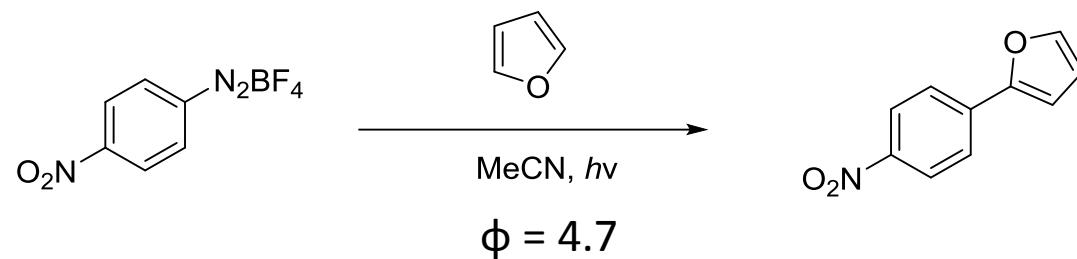
- Light-driven
- Light-activated

“light-promoted  
light-induced  
light-mediated”

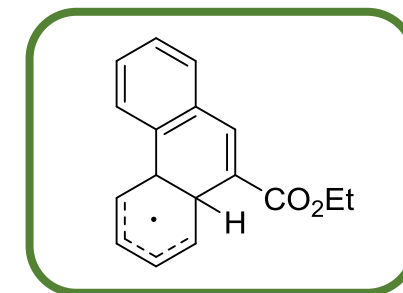
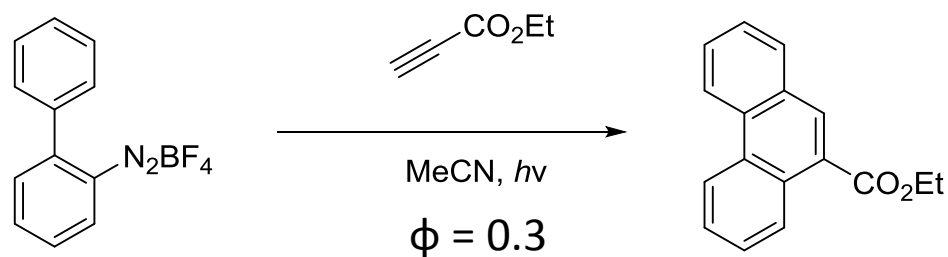
Light-initiated (chain reactions)

# Photoinitiation or Photocatalysis? (Quantum yield)

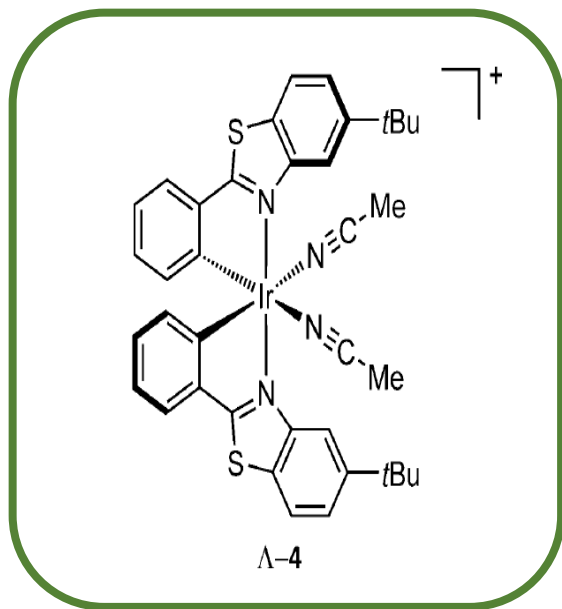
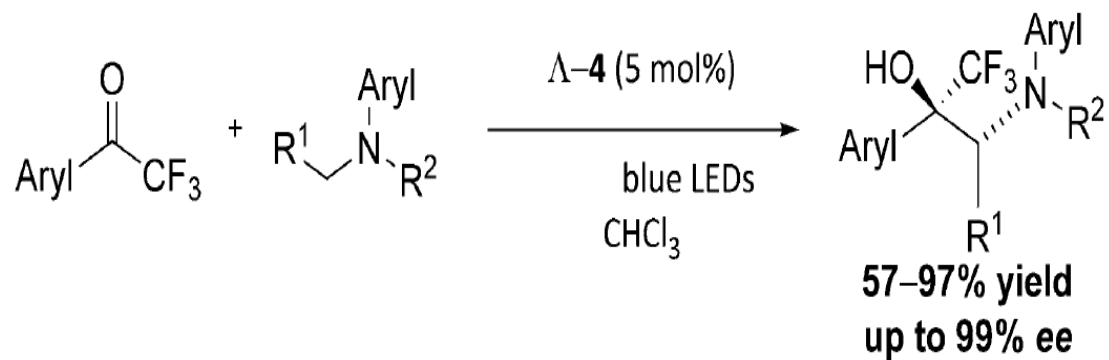
Quantum yield ( $\phi$ ) = number of substrates consumed / photon absorbed



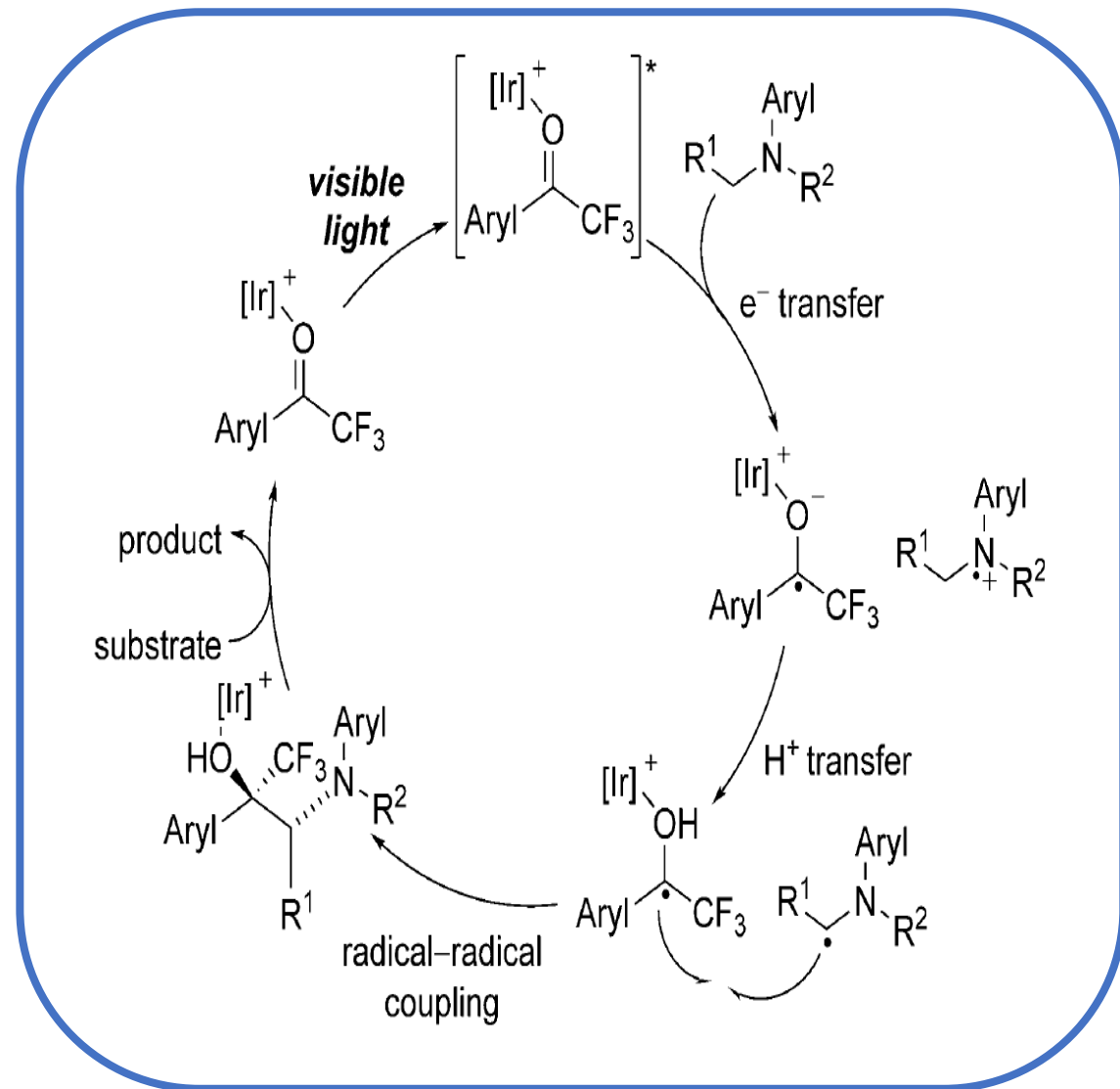
**Eosyn Y**



# Selected examples



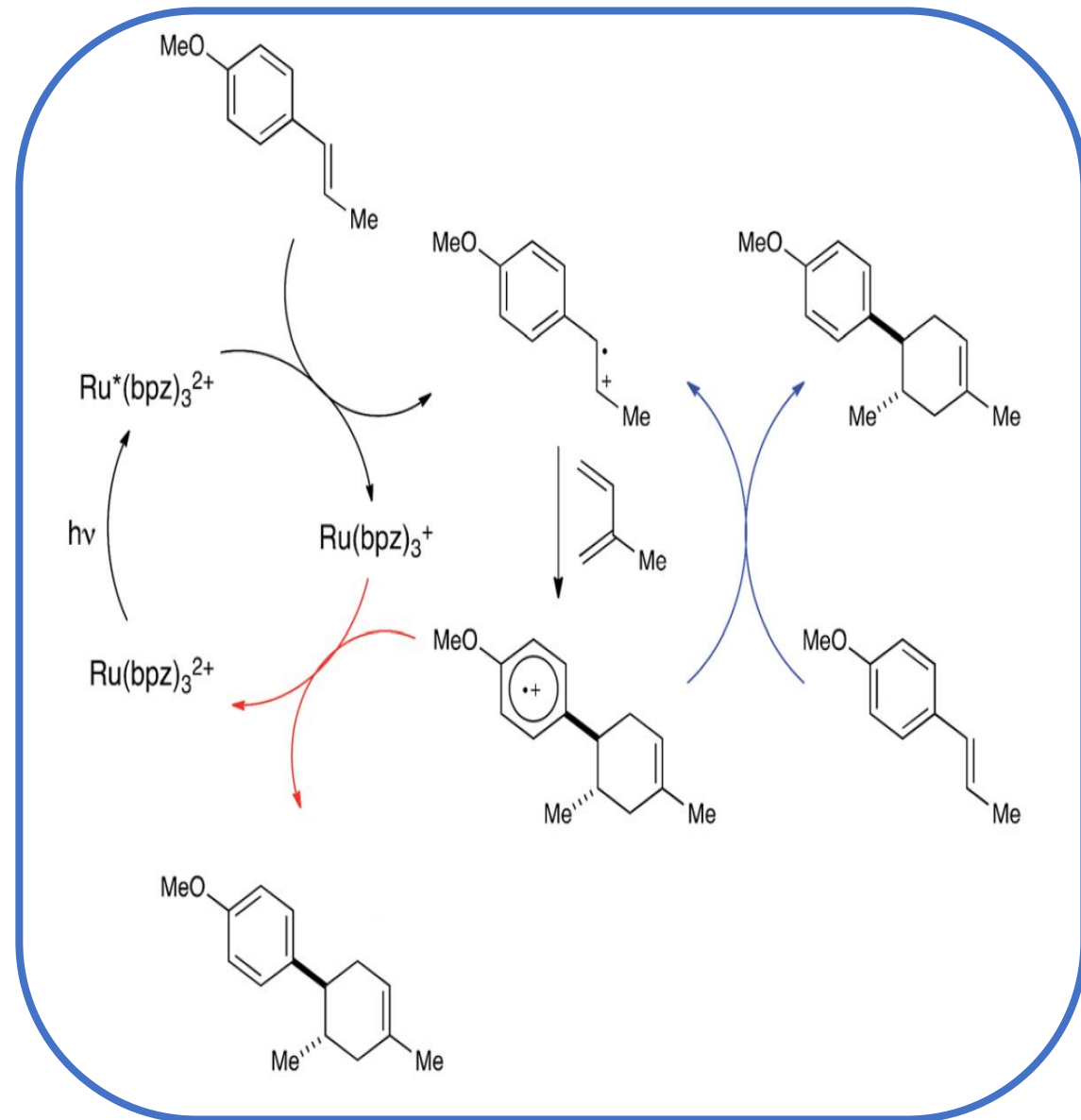
Quantum yield  
Not calculated



# Selected examples



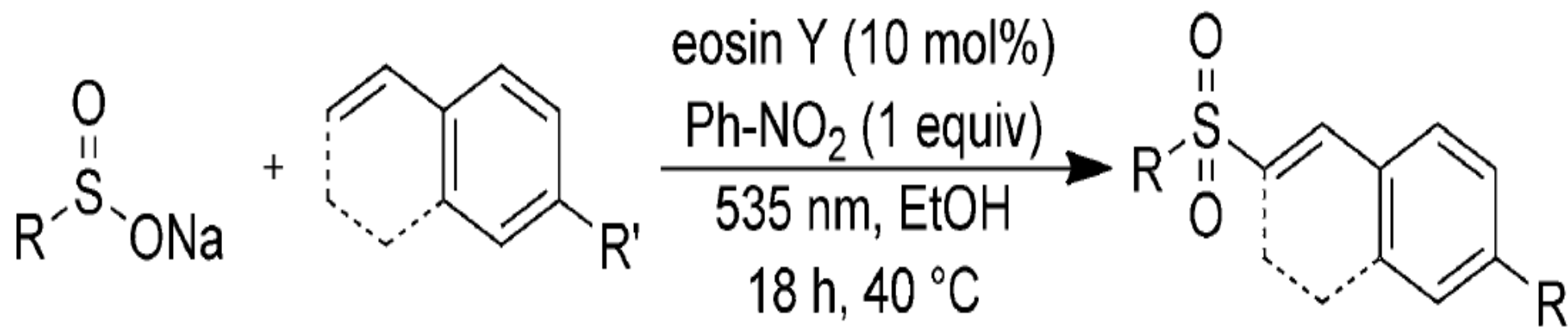
$\phi = 44$





# Selected examples

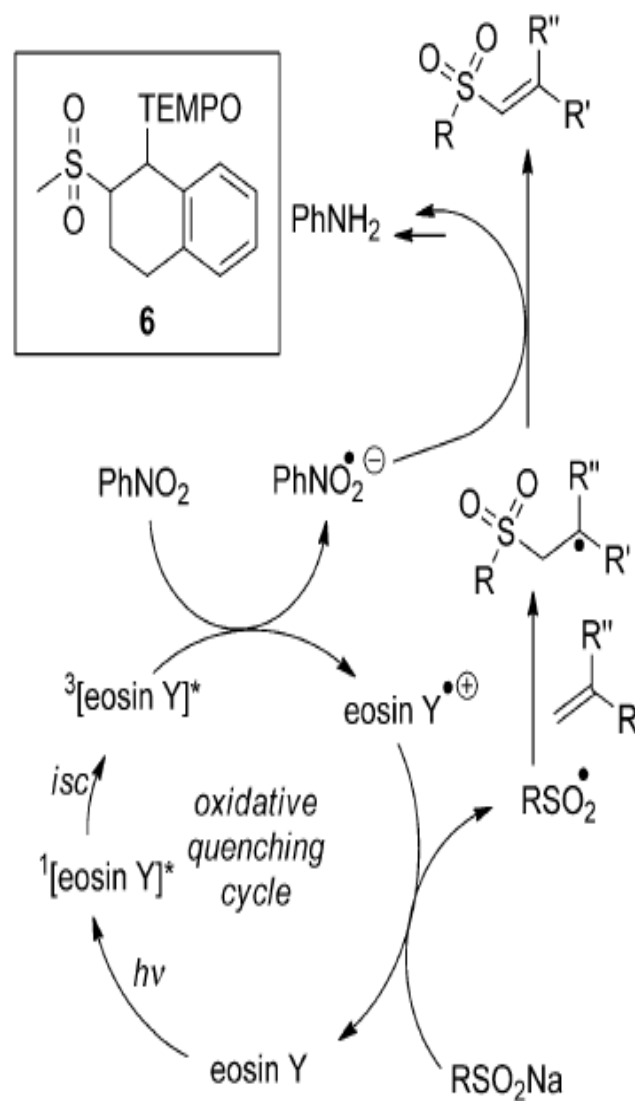
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# Selected examples

$$\phi = 1.3 \pm 0.4 \%$$

Photoinitiated or photocatalyzed?



# Conclusions

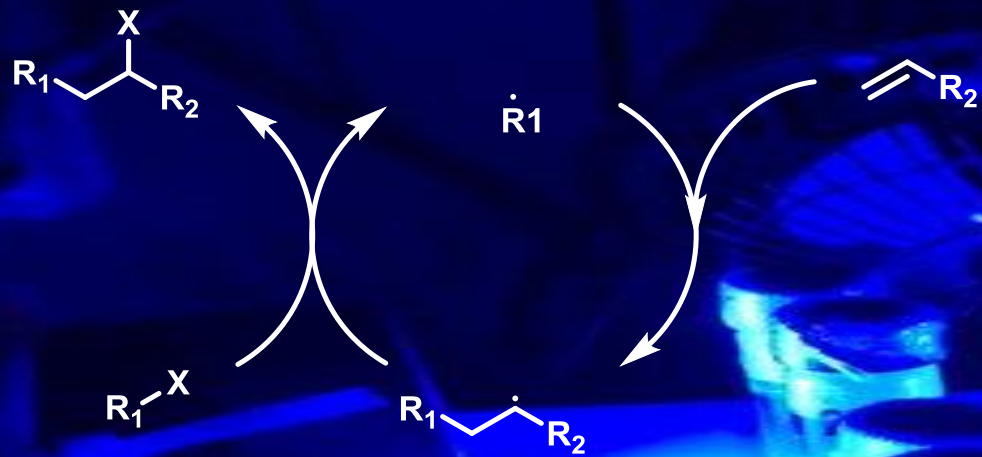
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**It may not be easy to develop a mechanism for such transformations with standard kinds of control experiments**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

