

Half-Sandwich d⁶-Metal (Co^{III}, Rh^{III}, Ir^{III}, Ru^{II})-Catalyzed Enantioselective C–H Activation

Pu-Fan Qian^{△,a} Jun-Yi Li^{△,a}Yi-Bo Zhou^{△,a}Tao Zhou^{*a}Bing-Feng Shi^{*a,b,c,d,e} 

^a Center of Chemistry for Frontier Technologies, Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, P. R. of China
 bfshi@zju.edu.cn
 taozhou@zju.edu.cn

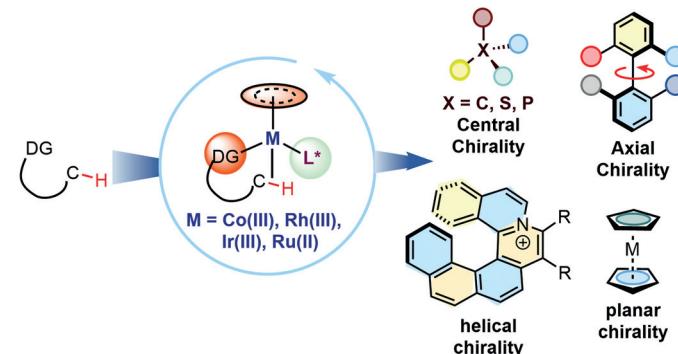
^b College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, Henan, 450001, P. R. of China

^c School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Henan Normal University, Xinxiang 453007, P. R. of China

^d College of Material, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hangzhou Normal University, Hangzhou 311121, P. R. of China

^e School of Biotechnology and Health Sciences, Wuyi University, Jiangmen, Guangdong 529020, P. R. of China

△ These authors contributed equally



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Abstract Transition-metal-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation provides a straightforward strategy to synthesize chiral molecules from readily available sources. In this graphical review, we summarize the progress on half-sandwich d⁶-metal (Co^{III}, Rh^{III}, Ir^{III}, Ru^{II})-catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization reactions. The review is categorized according to the type of metal catalyst and chiral ligand employed. Representative enantio-determining models and catalytic cycles are presented.

Keywords enantioselectivity, C–H activation, half-sandwich, cobalt, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium, chiral carboxylic acid

Direct asymmetric C–H activation, which is a process capable of transforming C–H bonds into C–C or C–X bonds and generating new stereocenters in a single step, is a particularly attractive strategy for the concise synthesis of chiral molecules from readily available sources. To date, one of the most successful methods is directing-group-assisted enantioselective C–H activation using high-valent metal catalysts. In 2008, pioneering work was reported by Yu and co-workers on Pd(II)-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation using monoprotected amino acids (MPAAs) as chiral ligands.¹ The use of MPAAs or related bidentate ligands realized various en-

antioselective C(sp²)–H and C(sp³)–H functionalization reactions. Furthermore, mechanistic studies indicated that chelation of the MPAAs or related bidentate ligands at the square planar Pd center with four coordination sites is key to the high enantiocontrol. However, the bidentate monoprotected amino acids and related ligands could not be applied to piano-stool Co^{III}, Rh^{III}, Ir^{III}, and Ru^{II} catalysts as there is only one coordination site available for an external chiral ligand.

On the other hand, half-sandwich d⁶ metals (e.g., Co^{III}, Rh^{III}, Ir^{III}, Ru^{II}) have attracted significant attentions due to their versatile reactivity and selectivity, good functional group tolerance, and stability. Through the continuous efforts of chemists, three main strategies have been developed to enable half-sandwich d⁶-metal-catalyzed asymmetric C–H activation. The first strategy involves the use of tailor-made chiral Cp^x ligands to bind with Co^{III}, Rh^{III}, or Ir^{III}, or chiral arene ligands to bind with Ru^{II}. The chiral Cp^x or chiral arene pre-coordinating strategy is powerful for its broad substrate scope and various functionalization. Besides, several types of well-designed monodentate chiral carboxylic acids (CCAs) have also been developed to realize half-sandwich d⁶-metal-catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization reactions. The third strategy takes advantage of a chiral transient directing group (cTDG). Some other specialized strategies have also been disclosed, including enantioselective alkylation of olefins enabled by disulfonates, transition-metal/organocatalyst synergetic catalysis and so on. These works has greatly promote the development of enantioselective C–H activation and provide efficient and convenient methods to access diverse chiral skeletons. In this graphical review, we have summarized the rapid progress made on half-sandwich d⁶-metal-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation in the past years, which was categorized according to different metal catalysts. We hope that this graphical review will stimulate further researches on the development of novel chiral ligands and strategies in this emerging research topic.²

Biographical Sketches

from left to right

Pu-Fan Qian was born in Zhejiang, China. He joined the research group of Prof. Dr. Bing-Feng Shi in 2019 and received his B.Sc. degree from Zhejiang University in 2022. He is currently a Ph.D. student at Zhejiang University under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Bing-Feng Shi. His research interests focus on transition-metal-catalyzed asymmetric C–H functionalization.

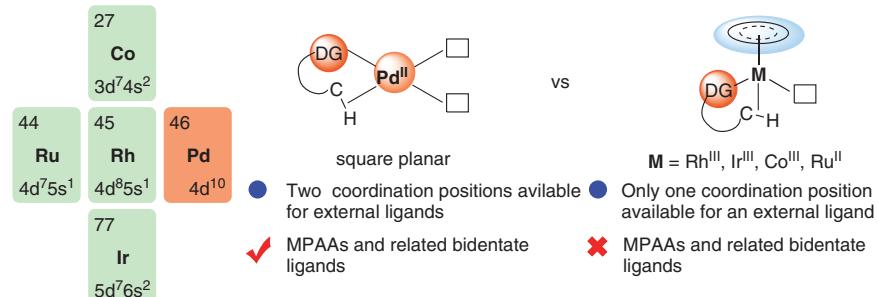
Jun-Yi Li was born in 2000 in Zhejiang Province, China. He received his B.Sc. degree from Zhejiang University in 2022. In the same year, he joined the Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University for his Ph.D. studies in the laboratories of Prof. Dr. Bing-Feng Shi. His research interests focus on transition-metal-catalyzed asymmetric C–H functionalization.

Yi-Bo Zhou was born in Henan, China. He joined the Bing-Feng Shi group in 2020 and received his B.Sc. degree from Zhejiang University in 2022. He is currently a Ph.D. student at the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research interests focus on asymmetric C–H functionalization.

Tao Zhou was born in Hubei, China. He received his B.Sc. degree in 2012 at Shandong University and his Ph.D. in 2017 from Nankai University under the supervision of Professor Bai-Quan Wang. He subsequently worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the group of Prof. Bing-Feng Shi at Zhejiang University, and was promoted to associate professor in 2021. His current research interests are focused on transition-metal-catalyzed asymmetric C–H activation.

Bing-Feng Shi was born in Shandong, China. He received his B.S. degree from Nankai University in 2001 and his Ph.D. in 2006 from the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences under the guidance of Professor Biao Yu. Following a period as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, San Diego (2006–2007), he moved to The Scripps Research Institute working with Professor Jin-Quan Yu as a research associate. In 2010, he joined the Department of Chemistry at Zhejiang University as a professor. His research focus is directed towards transition metal-catalyzed C–H functionalization and its application in the synthesis of biologically important small molecules.

Development of high-valent-metal-catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization



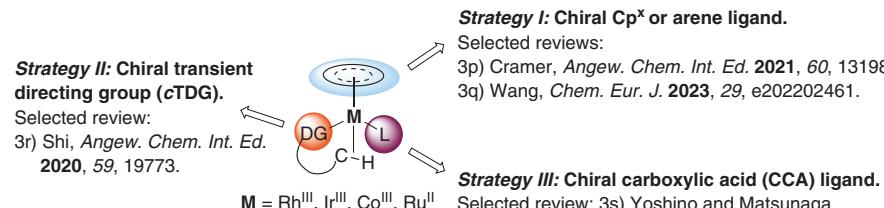
Selected reviews on transition-metal-catalyzed asymmetric C–H activation

- 3a) Yu, *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2009**, *38*, 3242.
 3b) Colobert, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2013**, *19*, 14010.
 3c) You, *RSC Adv.* **2014**, *4*, 6173.
 3d) Cramer, *Chem. Rev.* **2017**, *117*, 8908.
 3e) Yu, *Science* **2018**, *359*, eaao4798.
 3f) Ackermann, *Chem. Rev.* **2019**, *119*, 2192.
 3g) Cramer, *Trends Chem.* **2019**, *1*, 471.
 3h) Yoshino and Matsunaga, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2020**, *26*, 7346.
 3i) Shi, *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2021**, *54*, 2750.
 3j) Shi, *Trends Chem.* **2022**, *4*, 220.

Selected reviews on applications of C–H activation in organic synthesis

- 3k) Gaunt, *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2011**, *40*, 1885.
 3l) Baran, *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2011**, *40*, 1976.
 3m) Yamaguchi and Itami, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 8960.

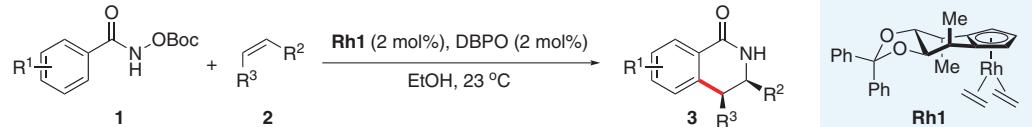
Three main strategies for half-sandwich d⁶-metal-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation



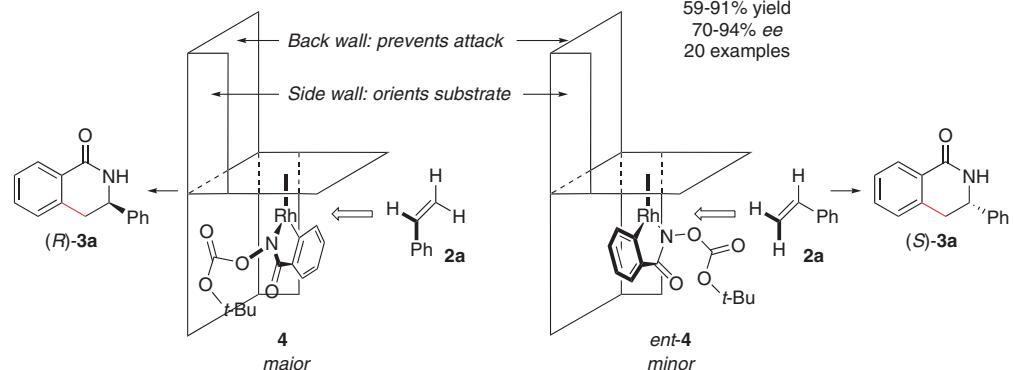
Other selected reviews on half-sandwich metal-catalyzed asymmetric C–H activation

- 3t) Cramer, *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2015**, *48*, 1308.
 3u) Waldmann, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2020**, *6512*.
 3v) Maiti, *ACS Catal.* **2020**, *10*, 13748.
 3w) You, *Sci. Bull.* **2021**, *66*, 210.
 3x) You, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2021**, *19*, 7264.
 3y) Liao and Shi, *ACS Catal.* **2022**, *12*, 9359.
 3z) Yoshino, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **2022**, *95*, 1280.
 3aa) Zhou and Shi, *Synthesis* **2022**, *54*, 4784.

Two pioneering reports on half-sandwich metal-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation with Cp^XRh catalysts Using a chiral Cp^X ligand as the enantiocontrol element

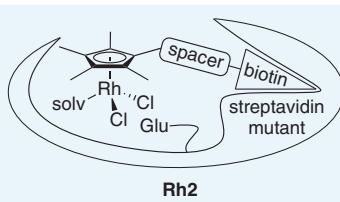
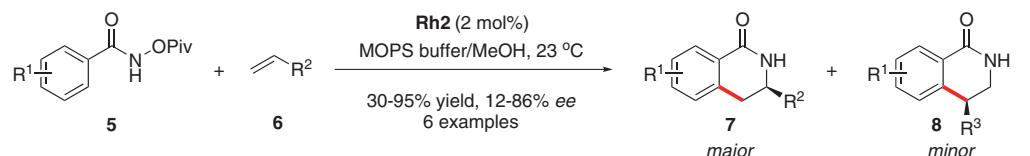


Stereoselectivity-determining model

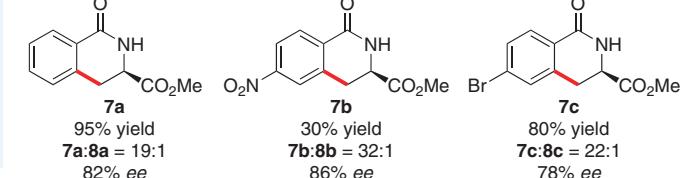


3ab) Cramer, *Science* **2012**, *338*, 504.

Using biomimetic catalysis to control the enantioselectivity of C–H functionalization



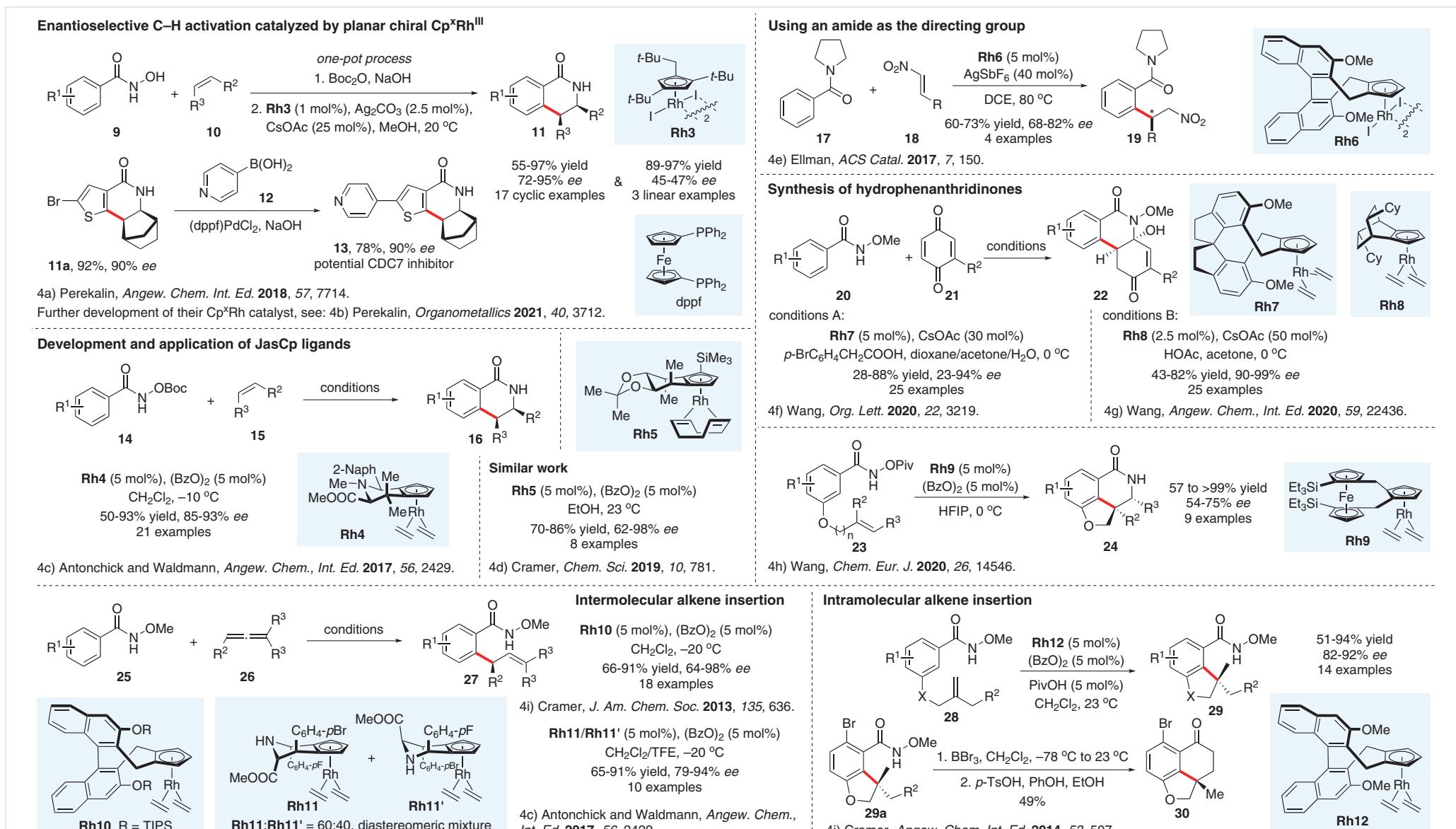
Selected examples

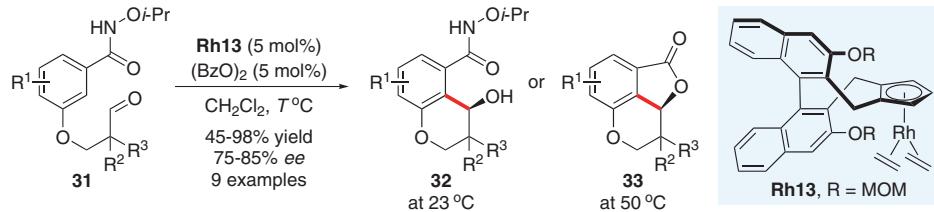


3ac) Ward and Rovis, *Science* **2012**, *338*, 500.

For a further development of biomimetic catalysis, see: 3ad) McNaughton and Rovis, *J. Am. Soc. Chem.* **2019**, *141*, 4815.

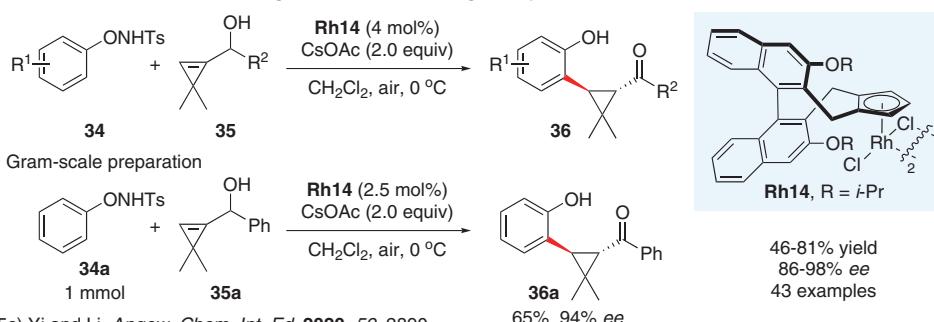
Figure 1 The development and challenges of half-sandwich d⁶-metal (Co^{III}, Rh^{III}, Ir^{III}, Ru^{II})-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation and two pioneering reports on Rh-catalyzed asymmetric C–H activation in 2012^{3a–ad}.



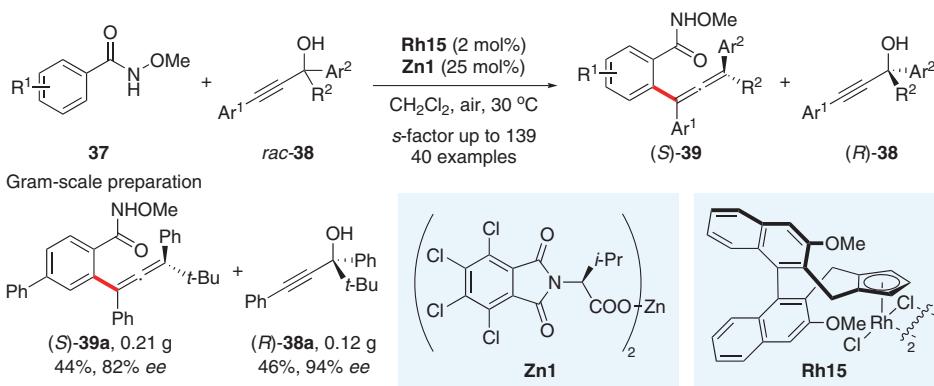
Intramolecular C–C coupling via enantioselective C–H activation

32 could be converted into 33 under the standard conditions at 50 °C.

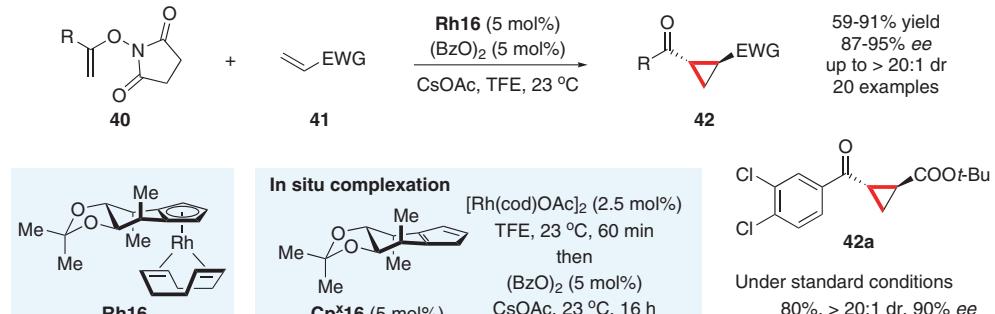
5a) Cramer, *Synlett* 2015, 26, 1490. Also see: 5b) Wang, *Org. Lett.* 2020, 22, 3586.

Construction of two C-stereogenic center in a single step

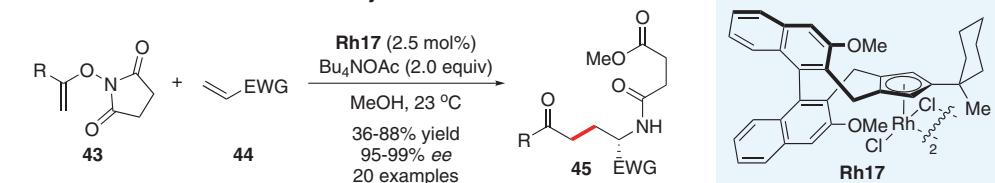
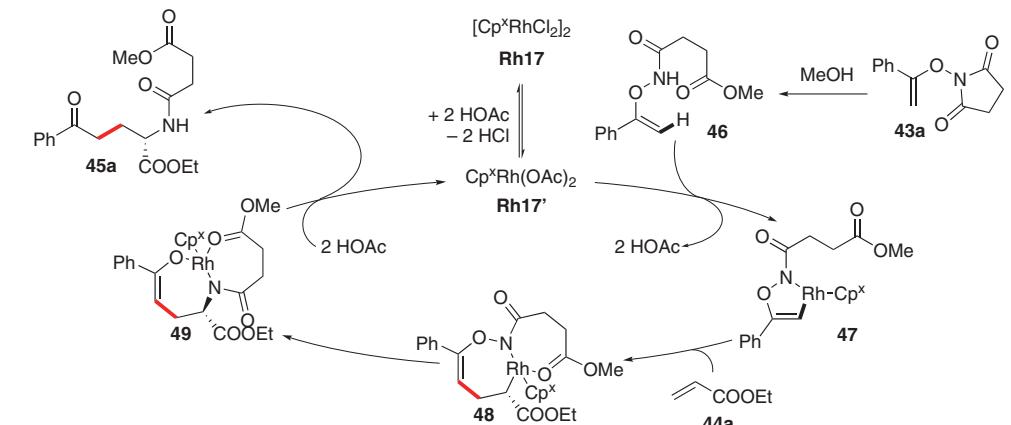
5c) Yi and Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2020, 59, 2890.

Construction of compounds with different classes of chirality via kinetic resolution

5d) Deng and Li, *Org. Lett.* 2021, 23, 7038.

Construction of two C-stereogenic centers via [2+1] annulation

5e) Cramer, *Chem. Sci.* 2019, 10, 2773.

Intermolecular carboamination via vinylic C–H activation**Suggested mechanism**

5f) Cramer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2020, 59, 14129.

Figure 3 Chiral Cp^xRh-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation/nucleophilic addition with alkenes, alkynes and aldehydes^{5a–f}

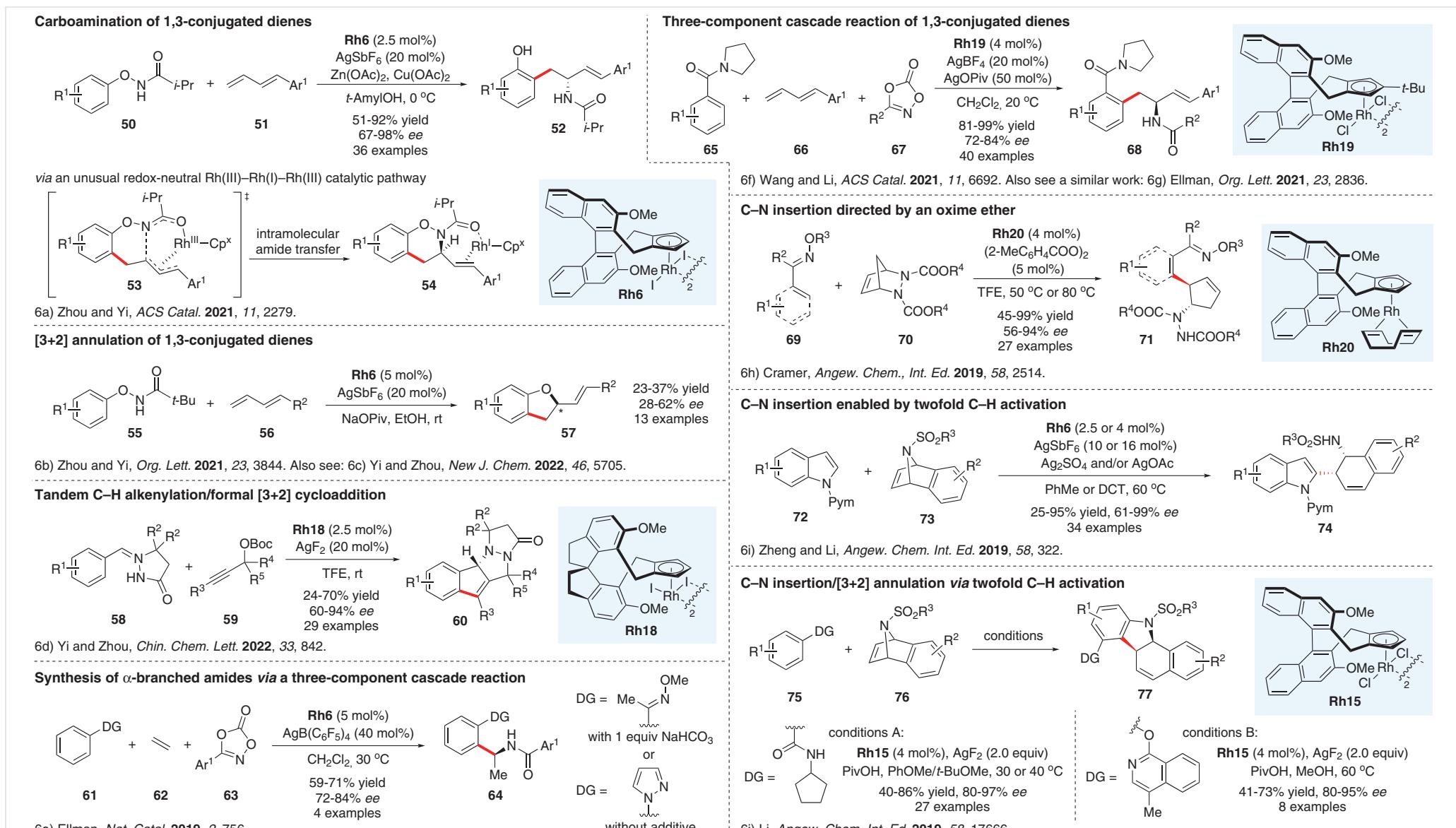
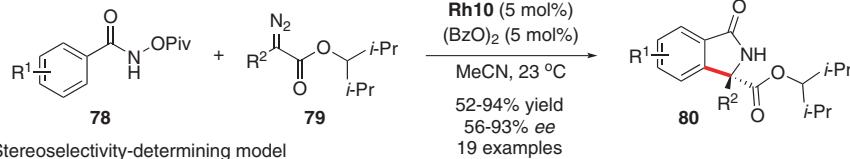
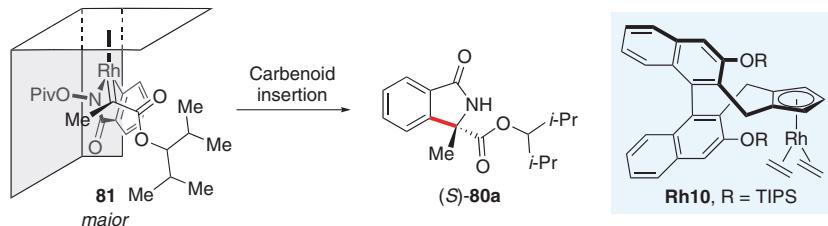
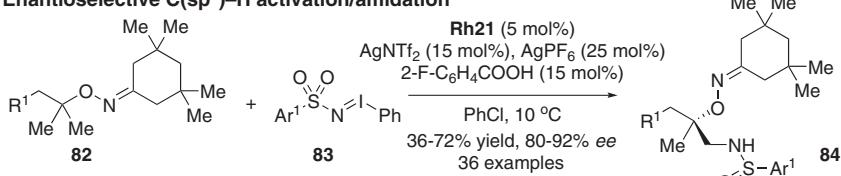
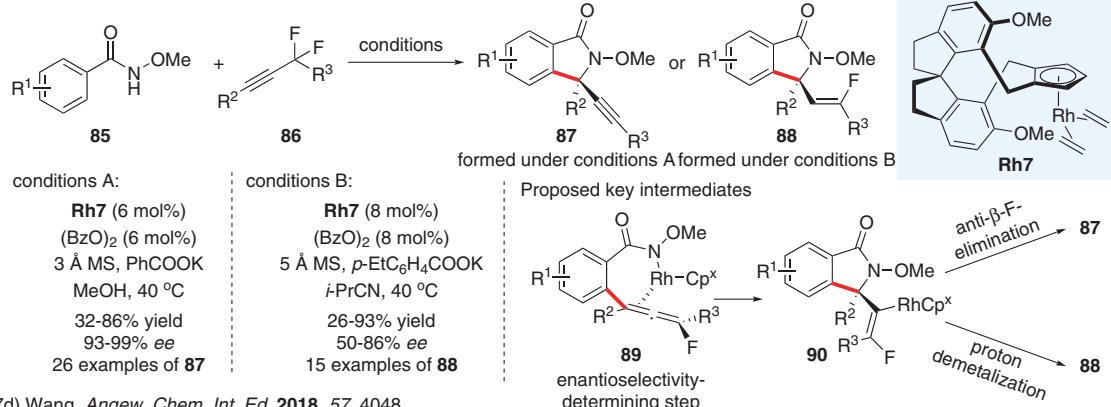
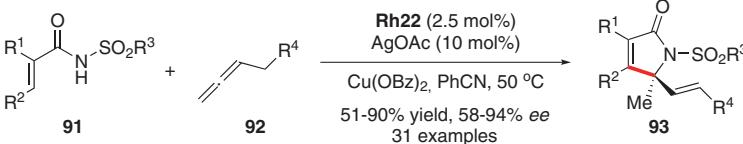
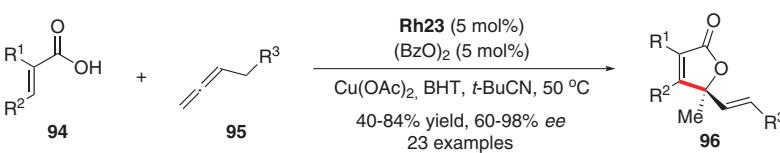
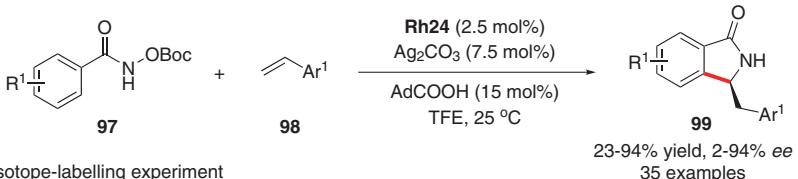


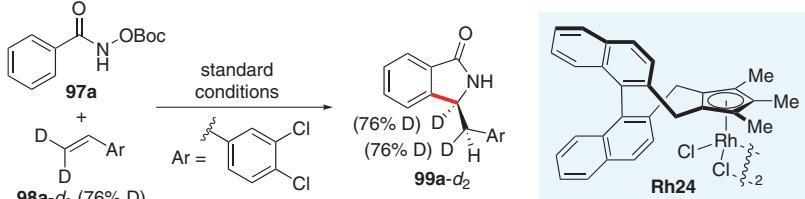
Figure 4 Chiral Cp^xRh-catalyzed asymmetric synthesis of chiral amides and heterocycles^{6a-j}

Asymmetric synthesis of isoindolines via carbenoid insertion

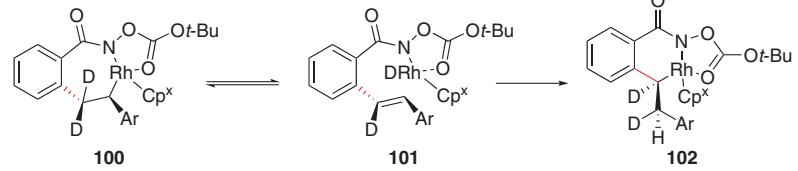
Stereoselectivity-determining model

7a) Cramer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 7896. Also see: 7b) Song, *ACS Catal.* **2017**, *7*, 2392.**Enantioselective C(sp³)-H activation/amidation**7c) Liu, Chang and Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2021**, *60*, 8396.**Asymmetric formation of alkynyl and alkenyl isoindolinones regulated by solvents**7d) Wang, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2018**, *57*, 4048.**Asymmetric [4+1]-annulation of acrylamides and allenes**7e) Cramer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2019**, *58*, 18136.**Formation of chiral L-lactones via [4+1]-annulation**7f) Cramer, *ACS Catal.* **2020**, *10*, 8231.**Asymmetric synthesis of isoindolines via [4+1]-annulation**

Isotope-labelling experiment



Proposed key intermediates

7g) You, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2020**, *142*, 7379.**Figure 5** Enantioselective [4+1]-annulations of acrylamides/acids catalyzed by chiral Cp^xRh catalysts^{7a-g}

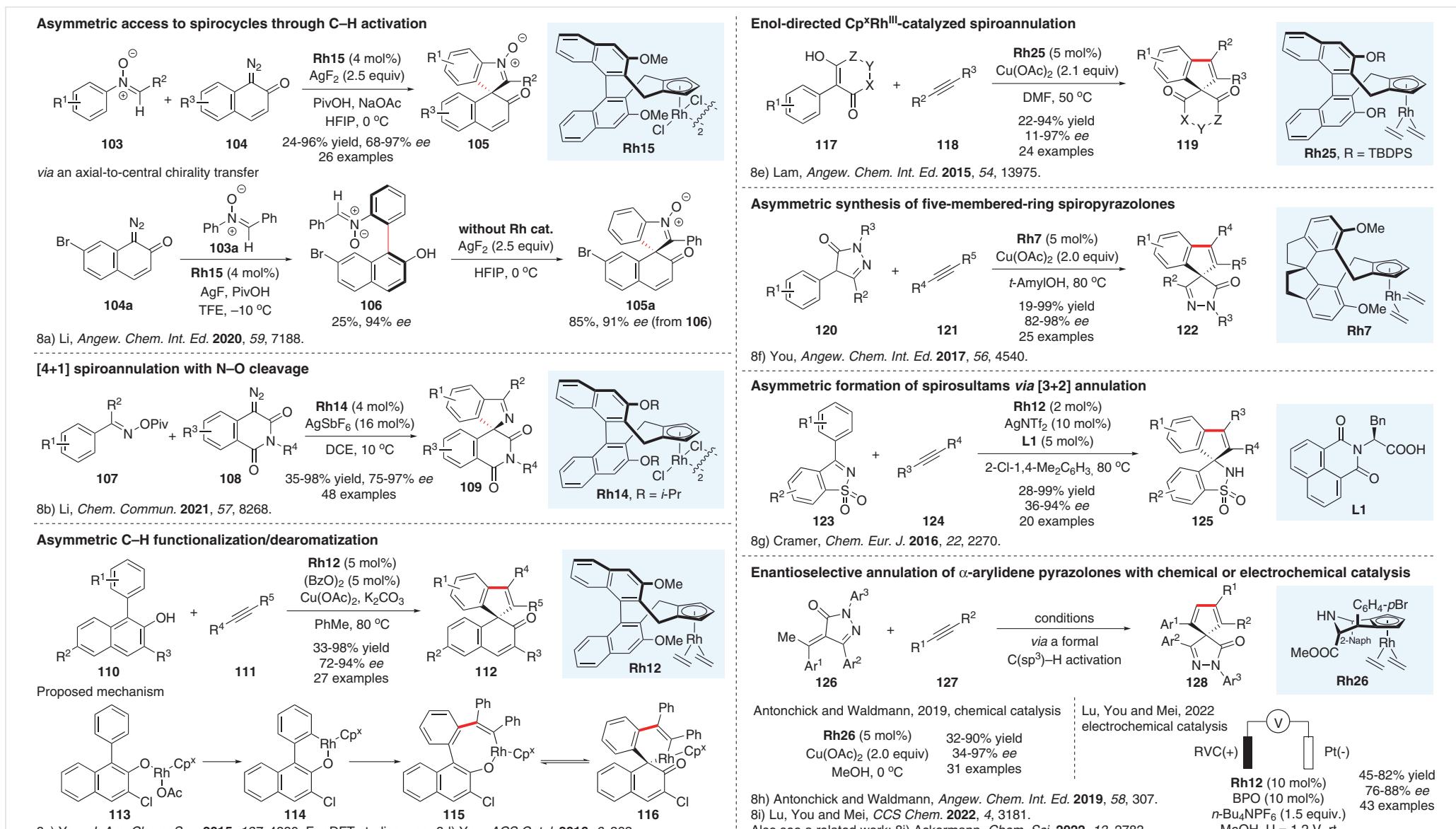
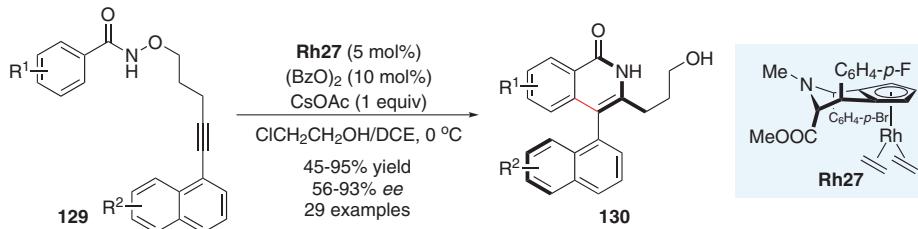
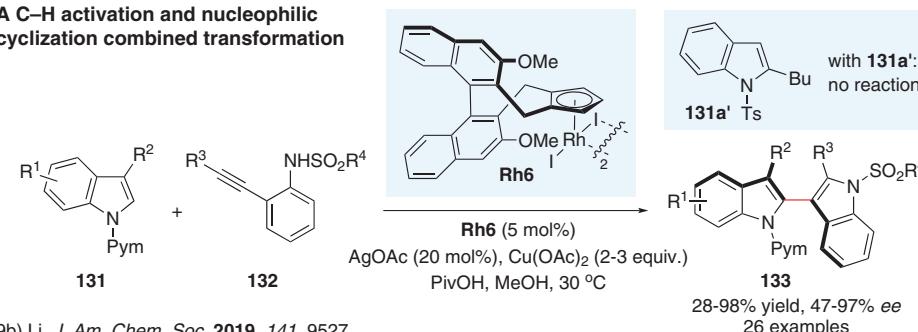
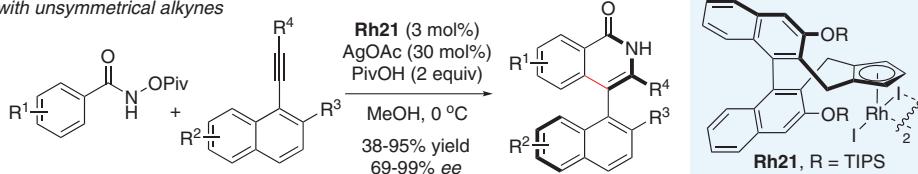
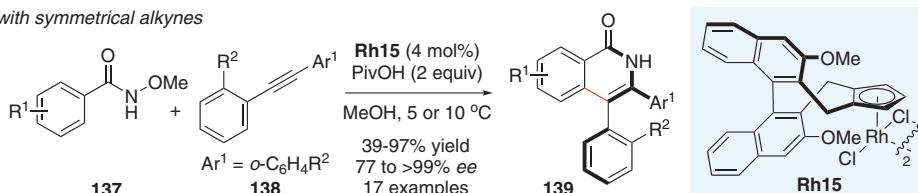
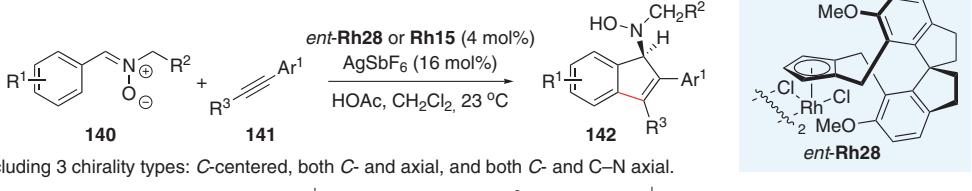
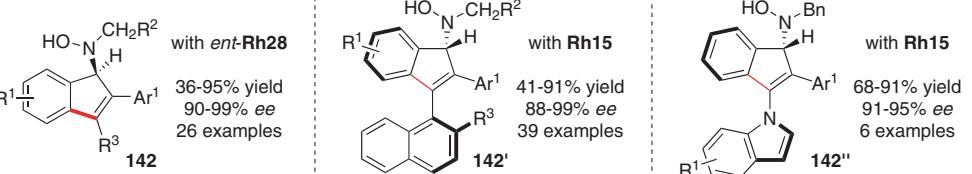
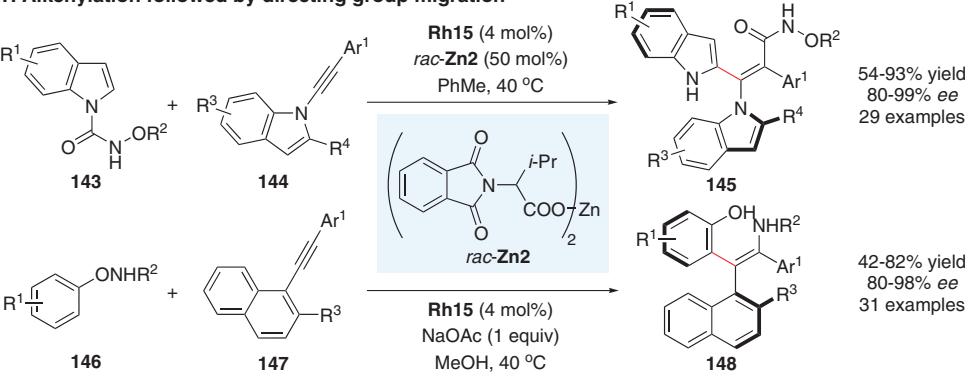
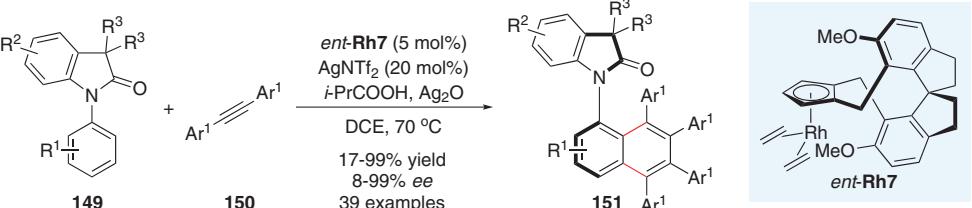
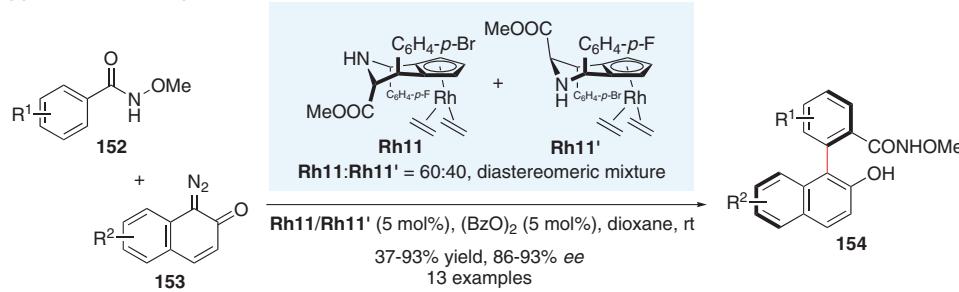
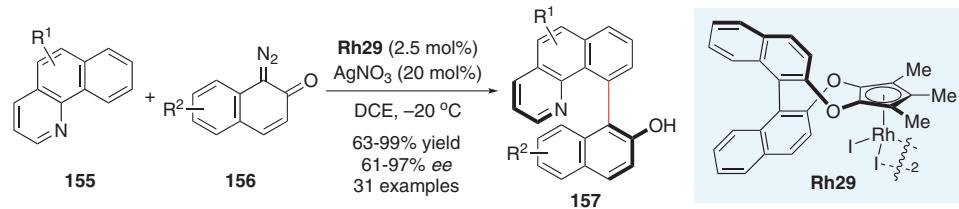
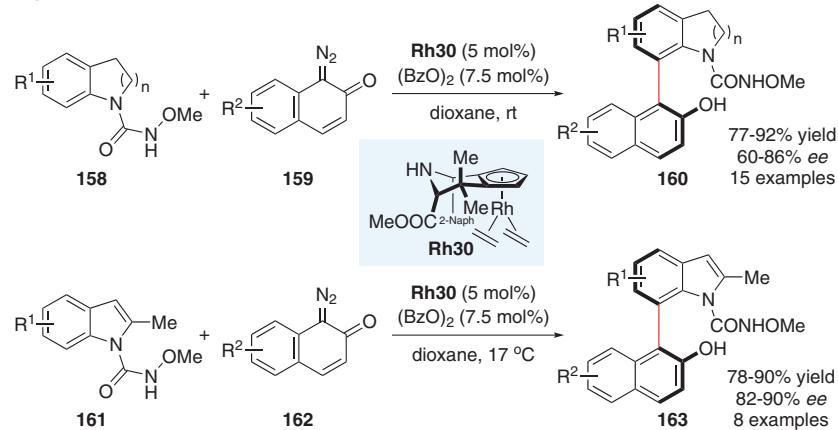
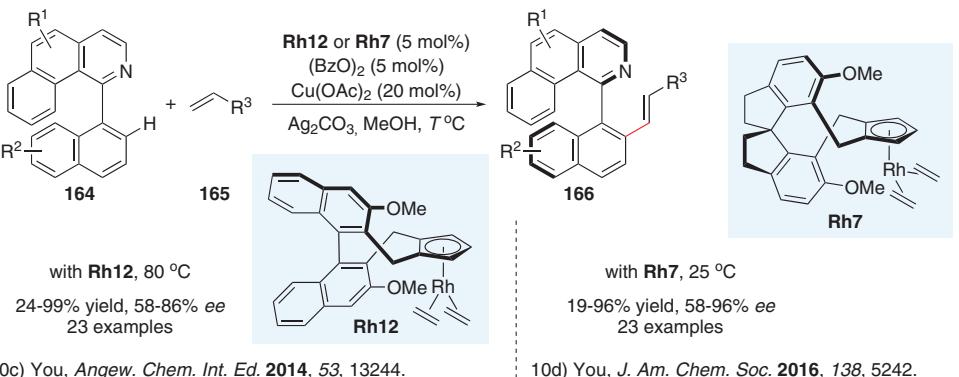
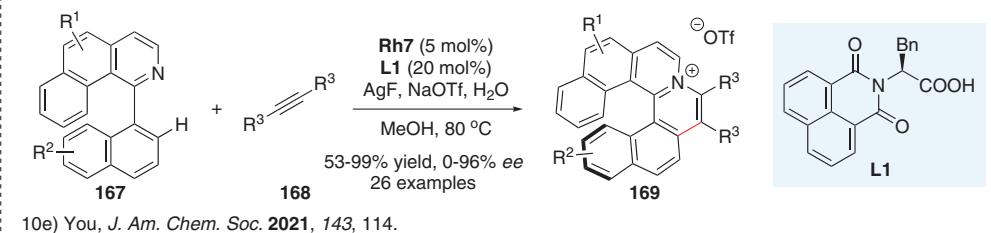
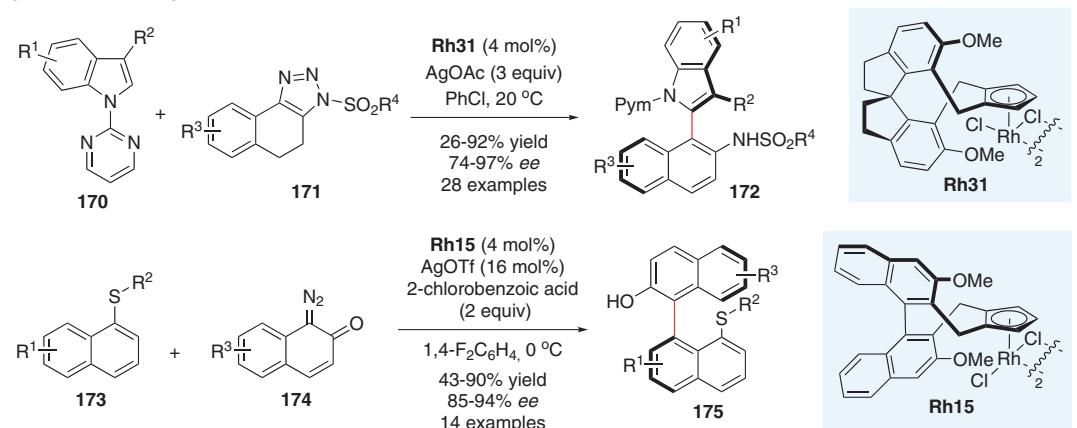


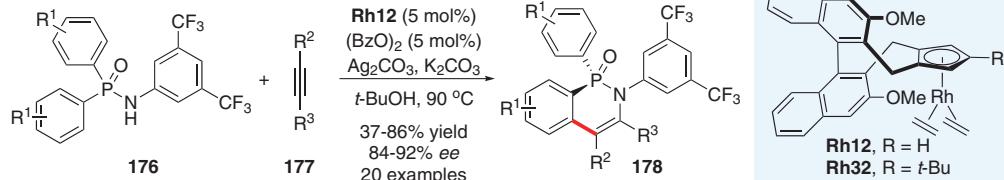
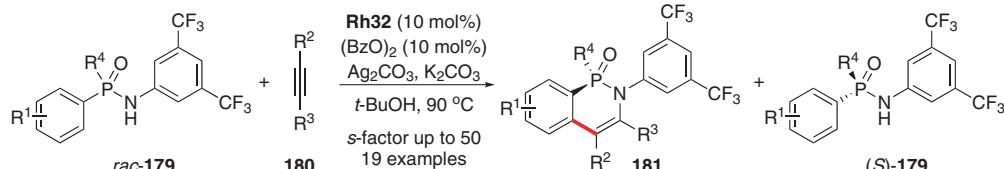
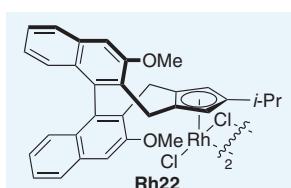
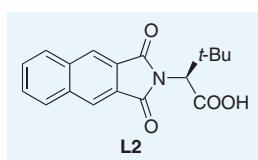
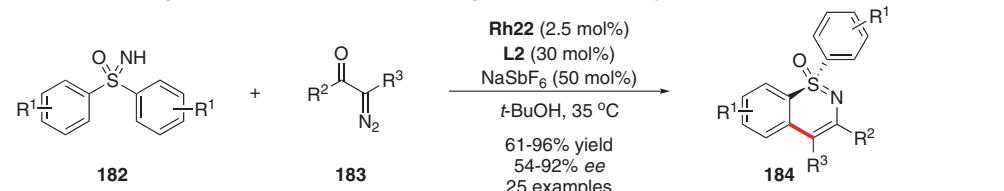
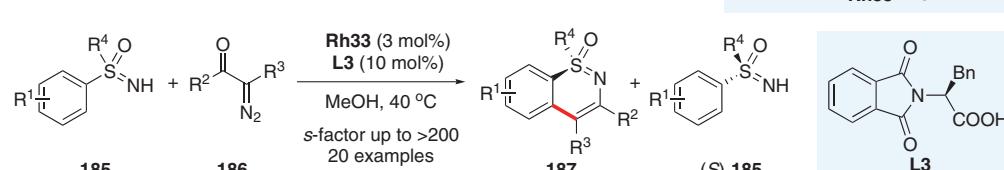
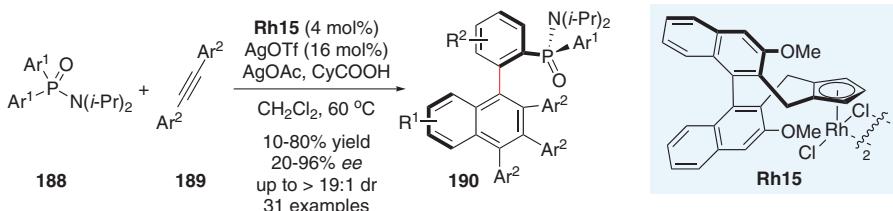
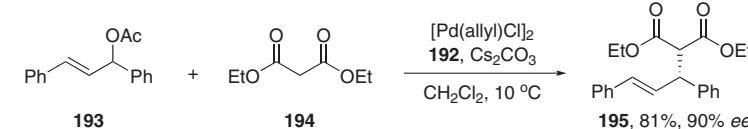
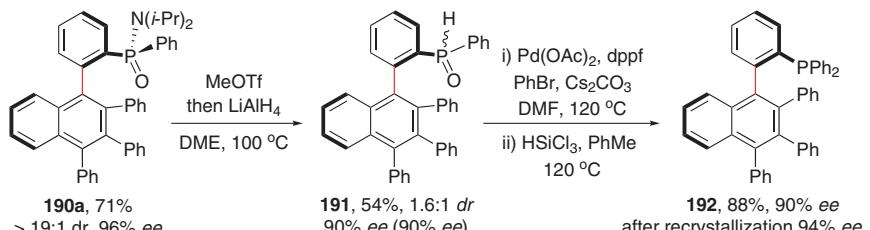
Figure 6 Asymmetric construction of quaternary carbon centers in spirocyclic compounds via chiral Cp^xRh-catalyzed annulations^{8a–j}

Asymmetric access to heterocyclic atropisomers9a) Antonchick and Waldmann, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2018, 57, 14250.**A C–H activation and nucleophilic cyclization combined transformation**9b) Li, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2019, 141, 9527.**Intermolecular [4+2] annulation with sterically hindered alkynes with unsymmetrical alkynes****with symmetrical alkynes**9c) Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2020, 59, 13288.**Construction of axially and centrally chiral indenes**

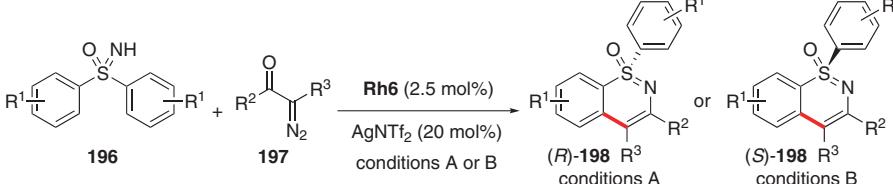
Including 3 chirality types: C-centered, both C- and axial, and both C- and C–N axial.

9d) Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2021, 60, 16628.**C–H Alkenylation followed by directing group migration**9e) Wang and Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2022, 61, e202111860.**Formation of aryloxindoles via twofold C–H activation**9f) Wang, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2019, 58, 6732. Also see: 9g) Wang, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2022, 61, e202201522.**Figure 7** Asymmetric construction of axially chiral compounds via chiral Cp^xRh-catalyzed annulations with alkynes^{9a–g}

Application of JasCp4c) Antonchick and Waldmann, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2017, 56, 2429.**Asymmetric C–H arylation catalyzed by O-linked Cp^xRh^{III}**10a) You, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2021, 60, 15510.**Atroposelective functionalization of indolines and indoles**10b) Waldmann, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2022, 28, e202103365.10c) You, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2014, 53, 13244.**Enantioselective construction of azoniahelicenes**10e) You, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2021, 143, 114.**Asymmetric C–H arylation with carbenoids**10f) Li, *Org. Lett.* 2022, 24, 3189.**Figure 8** Chiral Cp^xRh-catalyzed asymmetric formation of axially chiral compounds and chiral helicenes^{4c,10a-f}

Enantioselective synthesis of phosphamides *via* desymmetrization*via* kinetic resolution11a) Cramer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2017, 56, 364. 11b) Cramer, *Chem. Sci.* 2018, 9, 2981.Enantioselective synthesis of sulfoximines *via* desymmetrization and parallel kinetic resolution*via* kinetic resolution11c) Cramer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2018, 57, 15539. 11d) Cramer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2019, 58, 8902.Construction of both *P*-chiral and axially chiral compoundsConversion and application of the *P*-chiral phosphine amides11e) Wang and Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2021, 60, 20424.

Enantioselectivity inverted by switching the achiral carboxylic acid

11f) Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2018, 57, 15534.Figure 9 Synthesis of *P*- and *S*-stereogenic compounds *via* chiral Cp*Rh-catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization^{11a–f}

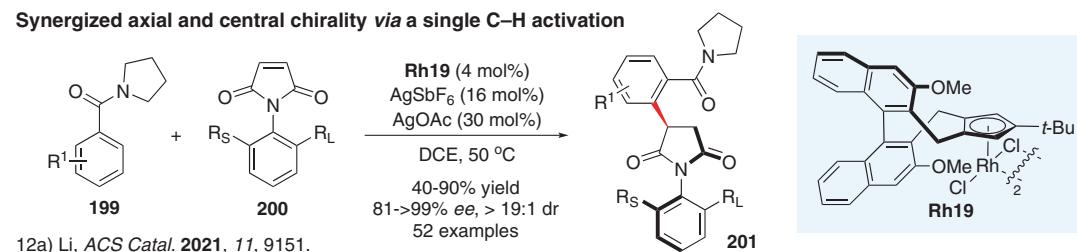
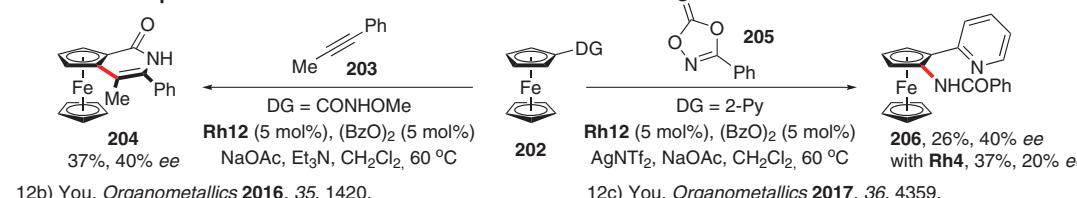
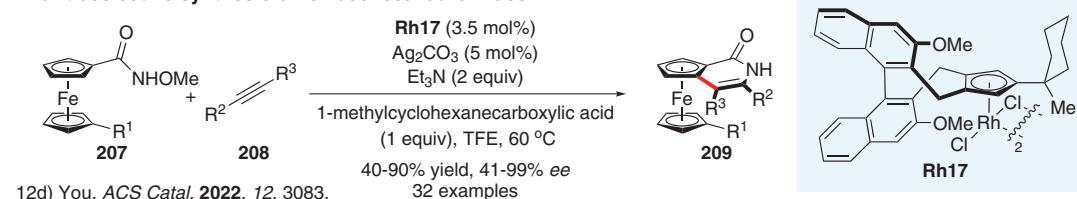
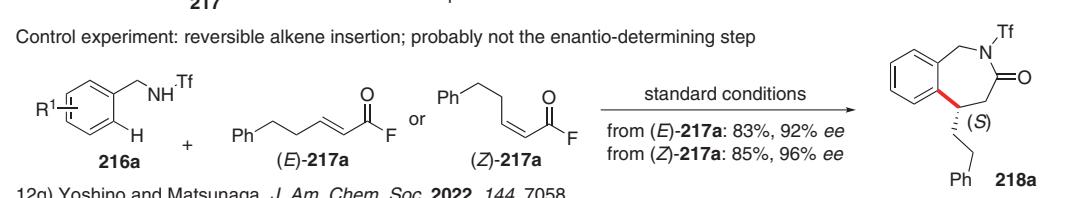
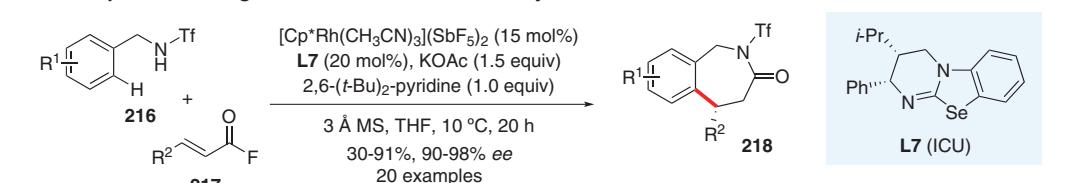
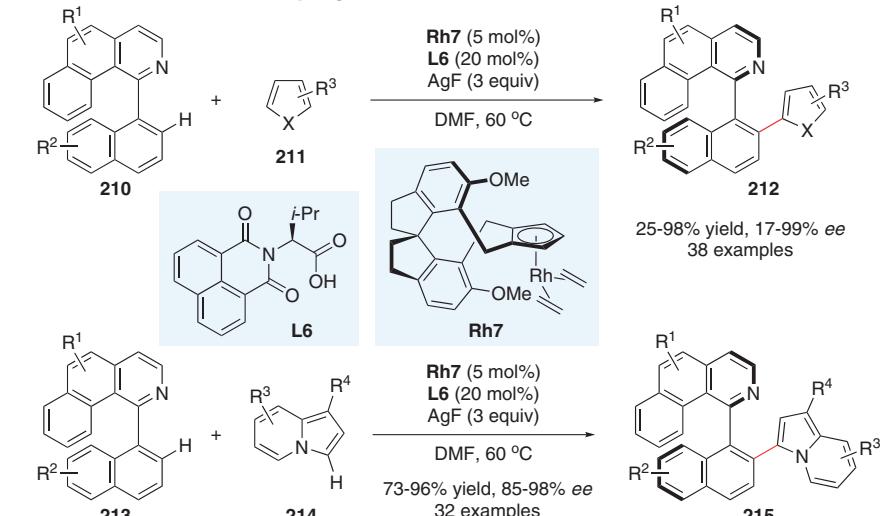
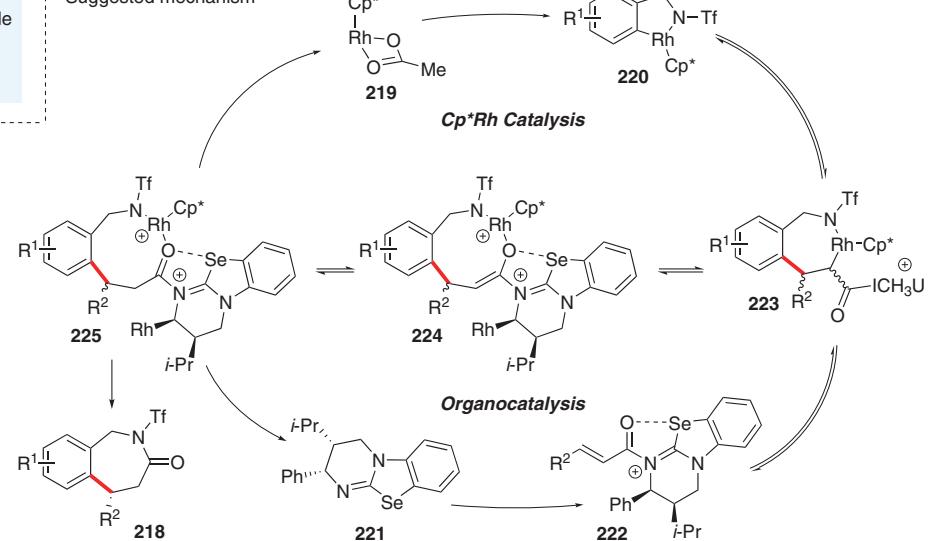
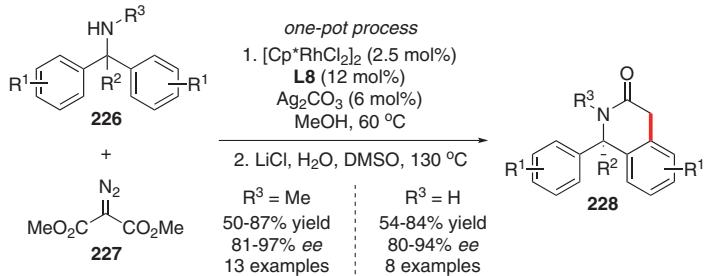
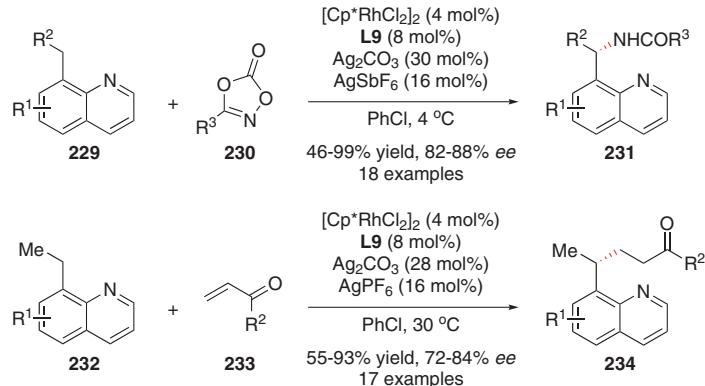
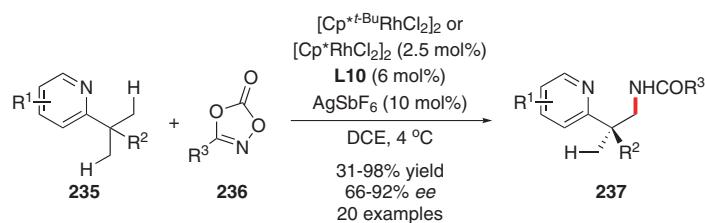
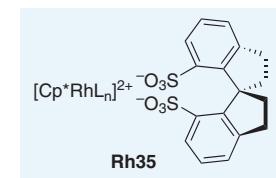
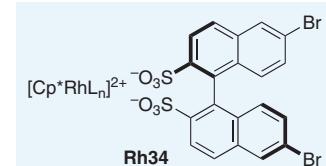
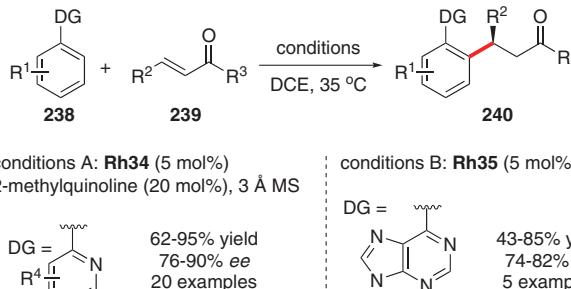
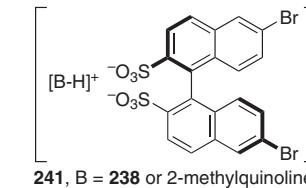
Synergized axial and central chirality via a single C–H activation**Previous attempt in construction of chiral ferrocenes****Enantioselective synthesis of ferrocenecarboxamides****Achiral Cp*Rh/chiral organic molecule combined catalysis****Oxidative C–H/C–H cross-coupling****Suggested mechanism**

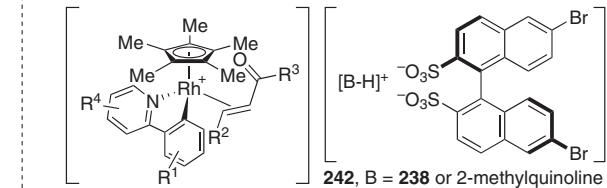
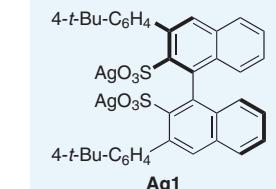
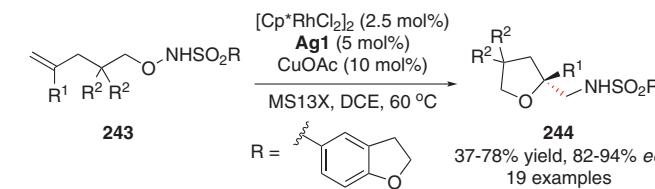
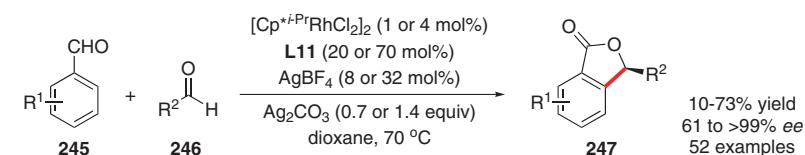
Figure 10 Construction of compounds with multiple chirality using a chiral Cp^*Rh complex or an achiral Cp^*Rh species combined with asymmetric organocatalysis^{12a–g}

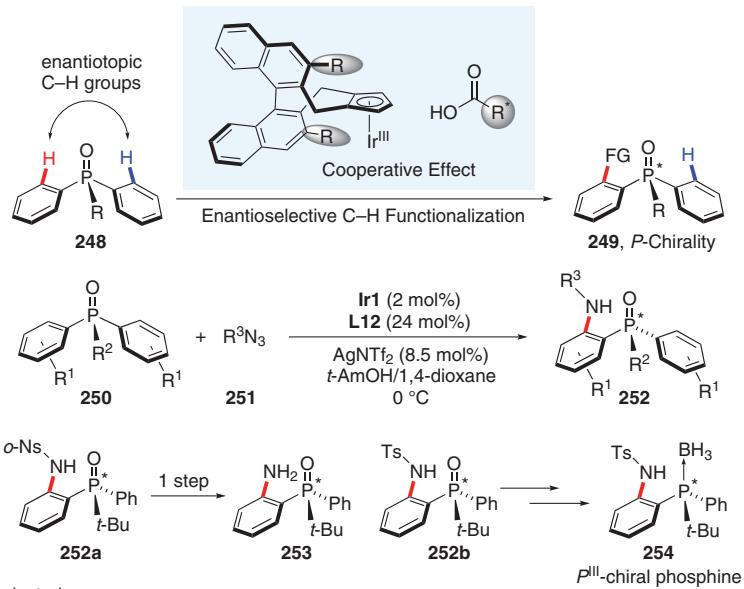
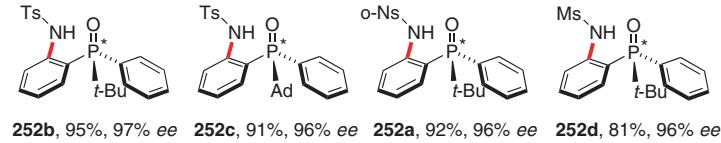
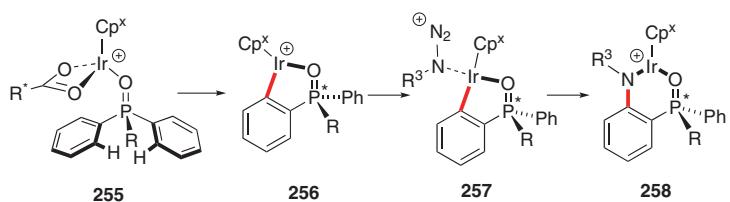
Achiral $\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}^{\text{III}}$ /chiral carboxylic acid catalyzed $\text{C}(\text{sp}^2)\text{-H}$ activation13a) Lin, Yoshino and Matsunaga, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2018, 57, 12048.**Achiral $\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}^{\text{III}}$ /chiral carboxylic acid catalyzed $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{-H}$ activation**13b) Yoshino and Matsunaga, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2019, 58, 18154.13c) Yoshino and Matsunaga, *Org. Lett.* 2020, 22, 8256.**Development of pseudo- C_2 -symmetric acids**13d) Lin, Yoshino and Matsunaga, *ACS Catal.* 2021, 11, 4271.**Figure 11** $\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}^{\text{III}}$ -catalyzed enantioselective $\text{C}-\text{H}$ functionalization enabled by chiral carboxylic acids/disulfonates as ligands or by a chiral amide as a chiral transient directing group^{13a-g}**Enantioselective $\text{C}-\text{H}$ activation controlled by disulfonates****Possible enantio-control mechanisms**

(a) Chiral proton source



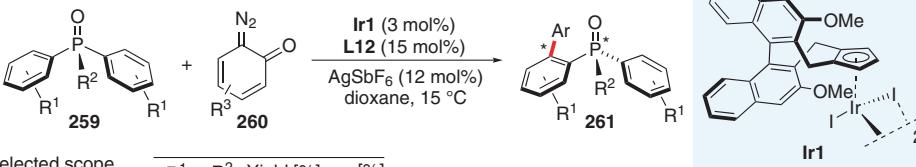
(b) Chiral counteranion

**Development of chiral disulfonate ligands for asymmetric addition of olefins**13e) Yoshino and Matsunaga, *Nat. Catal.* 2018, 1, 585.13f) Yoshino and Matsunaga, *ACS Catal.* 2021, 11, 15187.**Asymmetric $\text{C}-\text{H}$ activation using an amine as a chiral transient directing group**13g) Wang, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2019, 25, 4688.

Enantioselective C–H amidations of phosphine oxidesA cooperative effect of a chiral $\text{Cp}^x\text{Ir}^{\text{III}}$ /chiral carboxylic acid pair**Selected scope****Key intermediates in the proposed catalytic cycle**

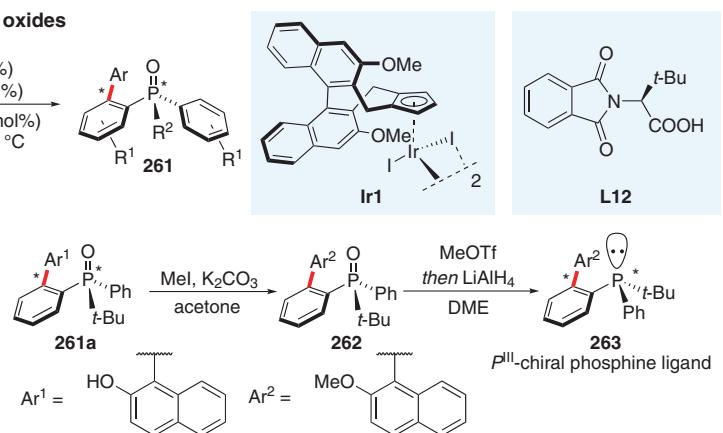
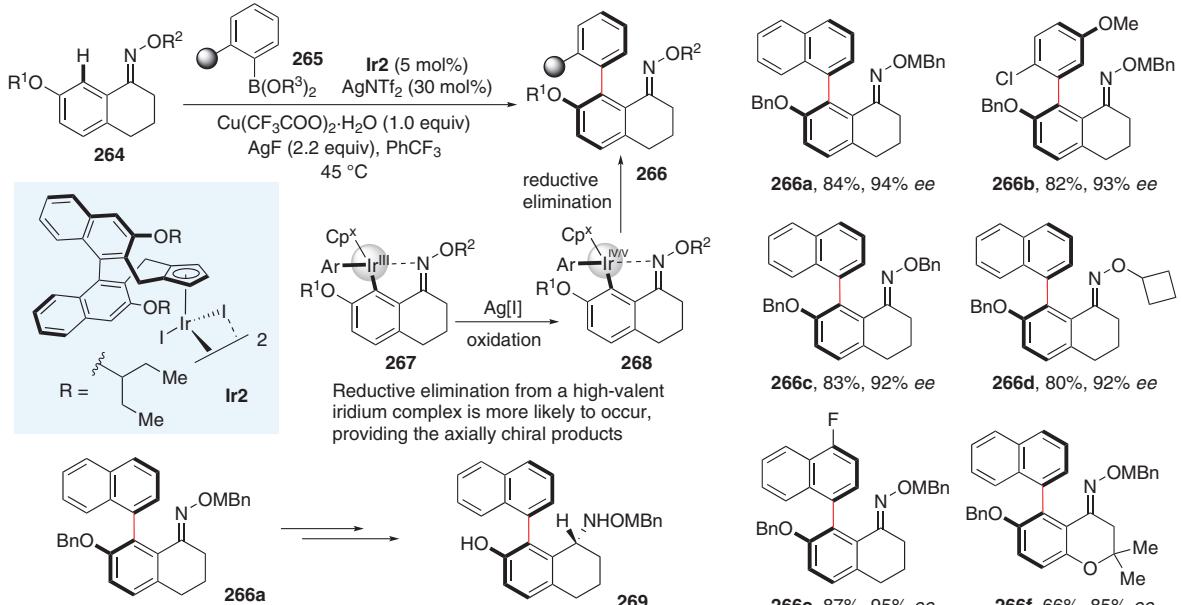
C–H bond cleavage: The rate-determining and enantio-determining step

14a) Cramer, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 15088.

Access to P- and axially chiral biaryl phosphine oxides

R ¹	R ²	Yield [%]	ee [%]
H	Me	74	37
H	i-Pr	96	89
H	t-Bu	98	95
H	Ad	94	96
H	N(i-Pr) ₂	69	71
4-Me	t-Bu	85	96

14b) Cramer, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2018, 57, 12901.

**Atroposelective oxidation-enabled C–H arylation**For an application of $\text{Cp}^x\text{Ir}^{\text{III}}$ -biomimetic catalysis in asymmetric hydrogenation, see: 14d) Ward, J. Am. Soc. Chem. 2013, 135, 5384.**Figure 12** Ir^{III} -catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization with chiral $\text{Cp}^x\text{Ir}^{\text{III}}$

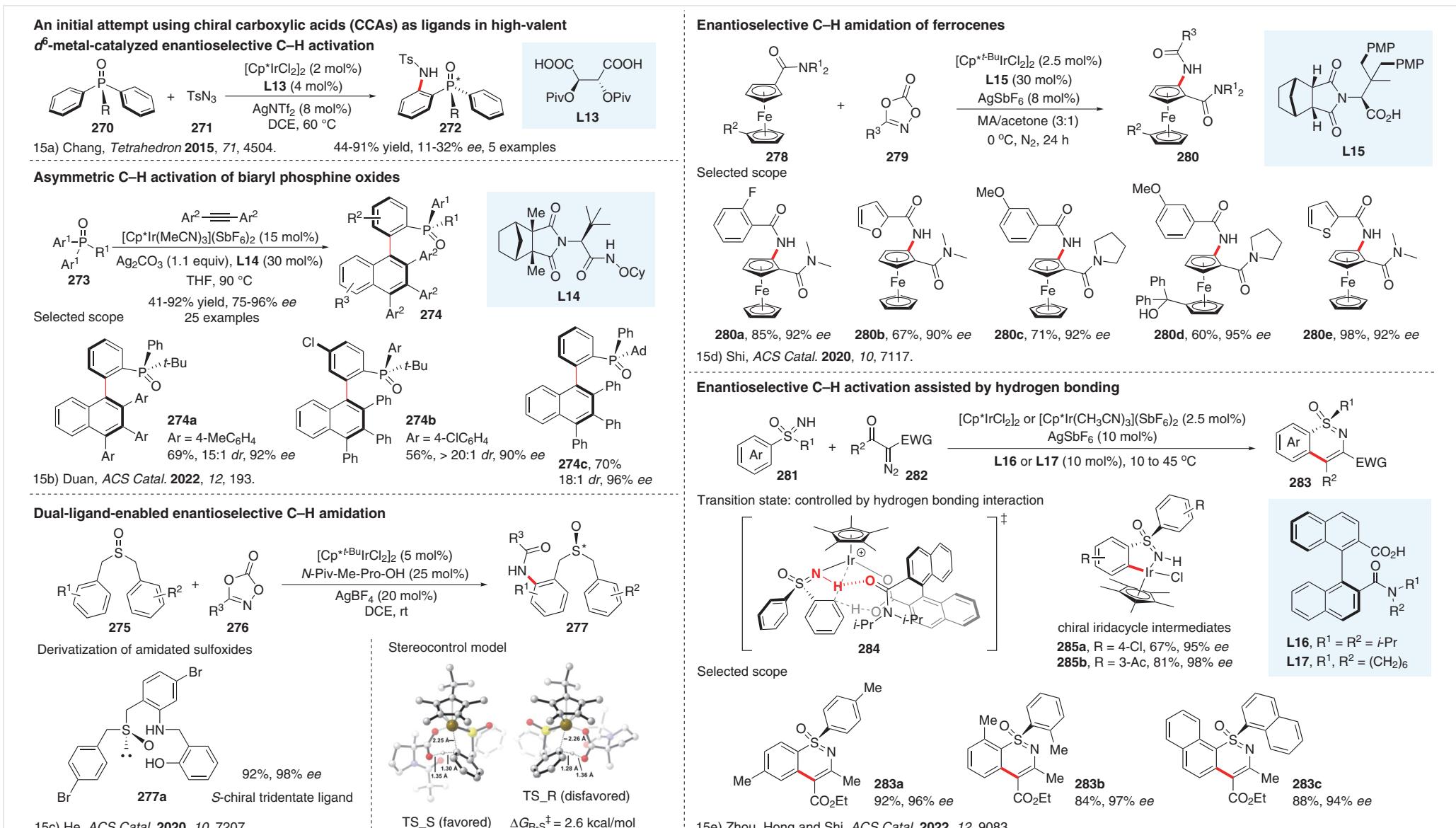
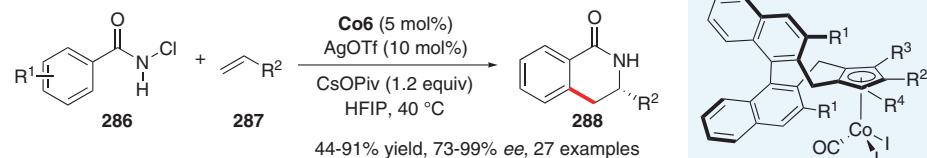
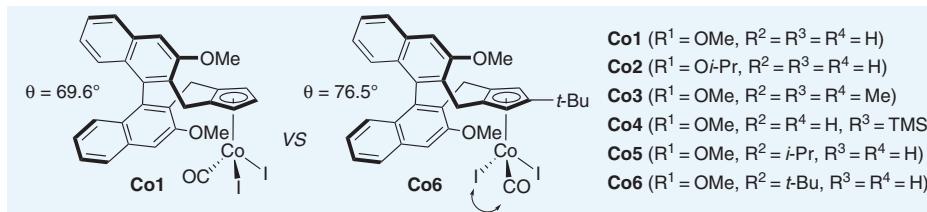
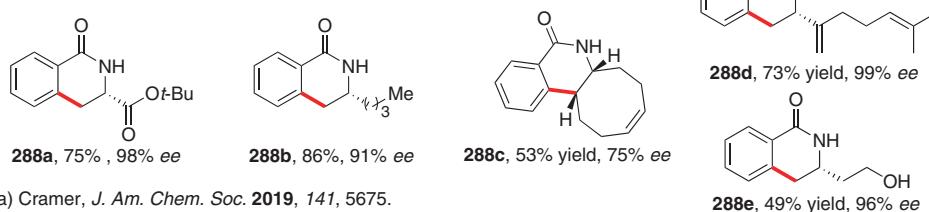
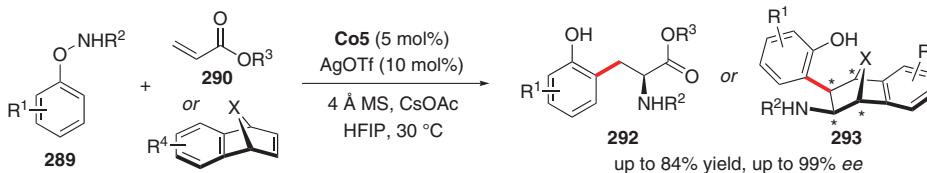


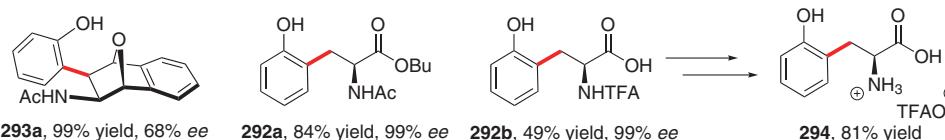
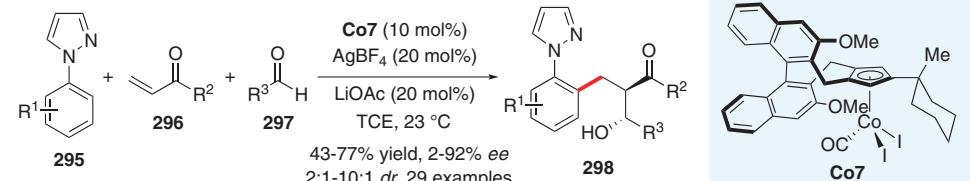
Figure 13 Achiral $\text{Cp}^*\text{Ir}^{III}$ -catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization using chiral carboxylic acids as ligands^{15a–e}

Chiral $\text{Cp}^*\text{Co}^{\text{III}}$ -catalyzed enantioselective C–H alkylationComparison of **Co1** and **Co6**:

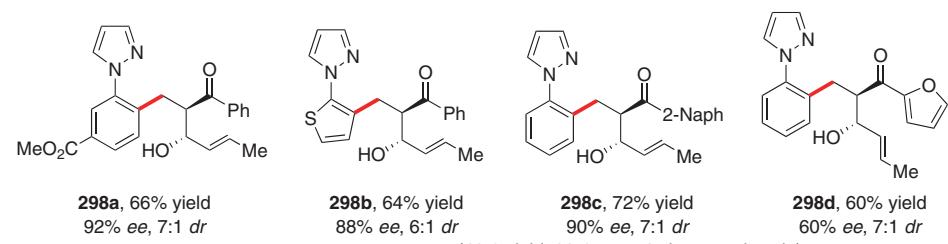
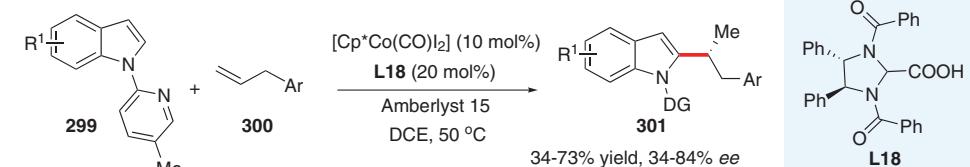
Selected scope:

16a) Cramer, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2019, 141, 5675.**Asymmetric intermolecular amidation with different alkenes**

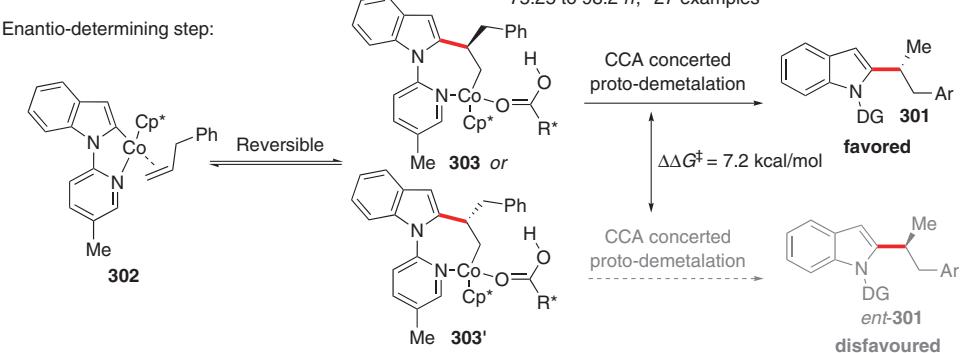
Selected scope:

16b) Cramer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2021, 60, 655.**Three-component asymmetric C–H activation/functionalization**

Selected scope:

16c) Cramer, *ACS Catal.* 2021, 11, 11938.**Enantioselective C–H alkylation enabled by a chiral carboxylic acid**

Enantio-determining step:

16d) Ackermann, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2018, 57, 15425. #Markovnikov:anti-Markovnikov**Figure 14** $\text{Cp}^*\text{Co}^{\text{III}}$ -catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization via asymmetric alkylation^{16a–d}

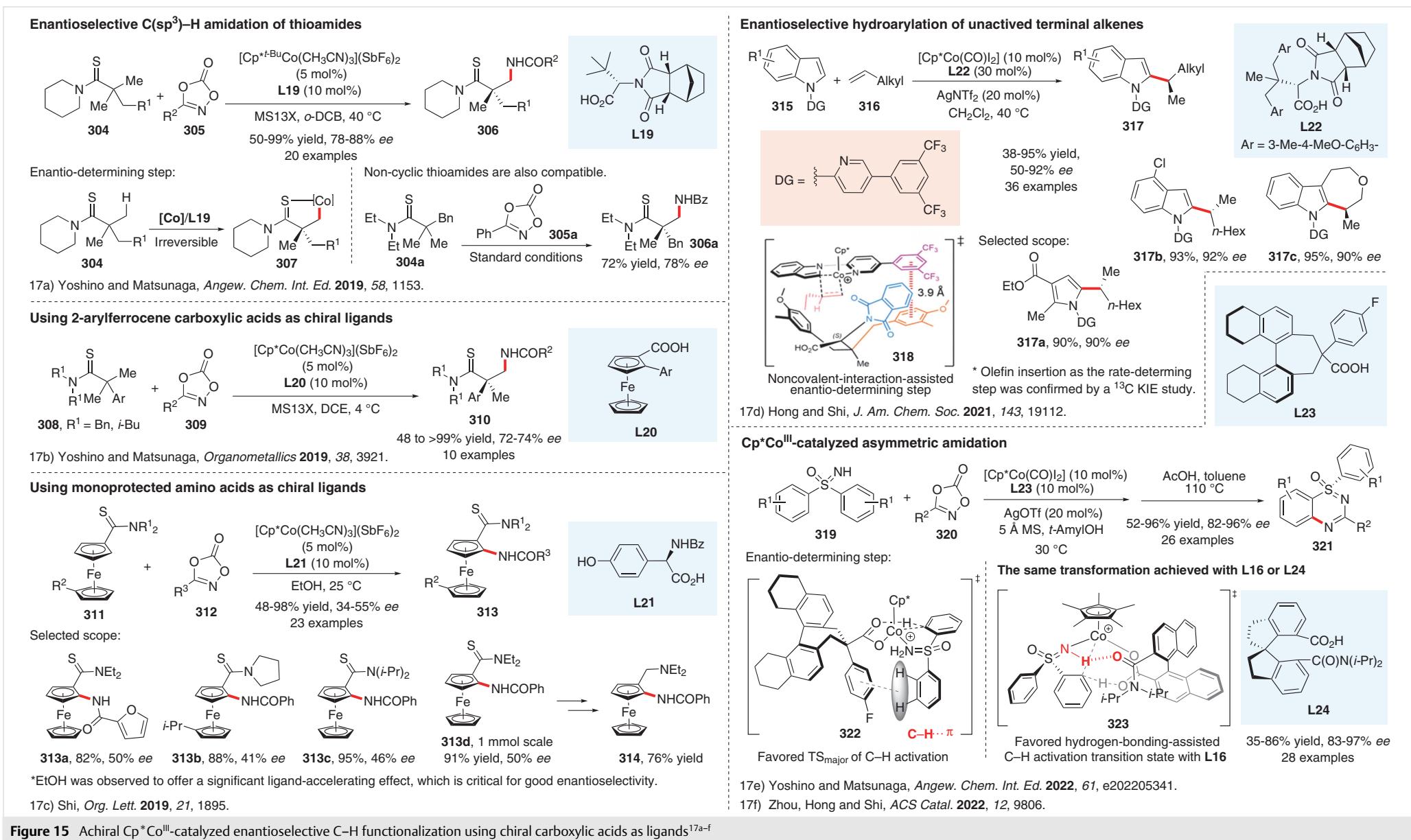
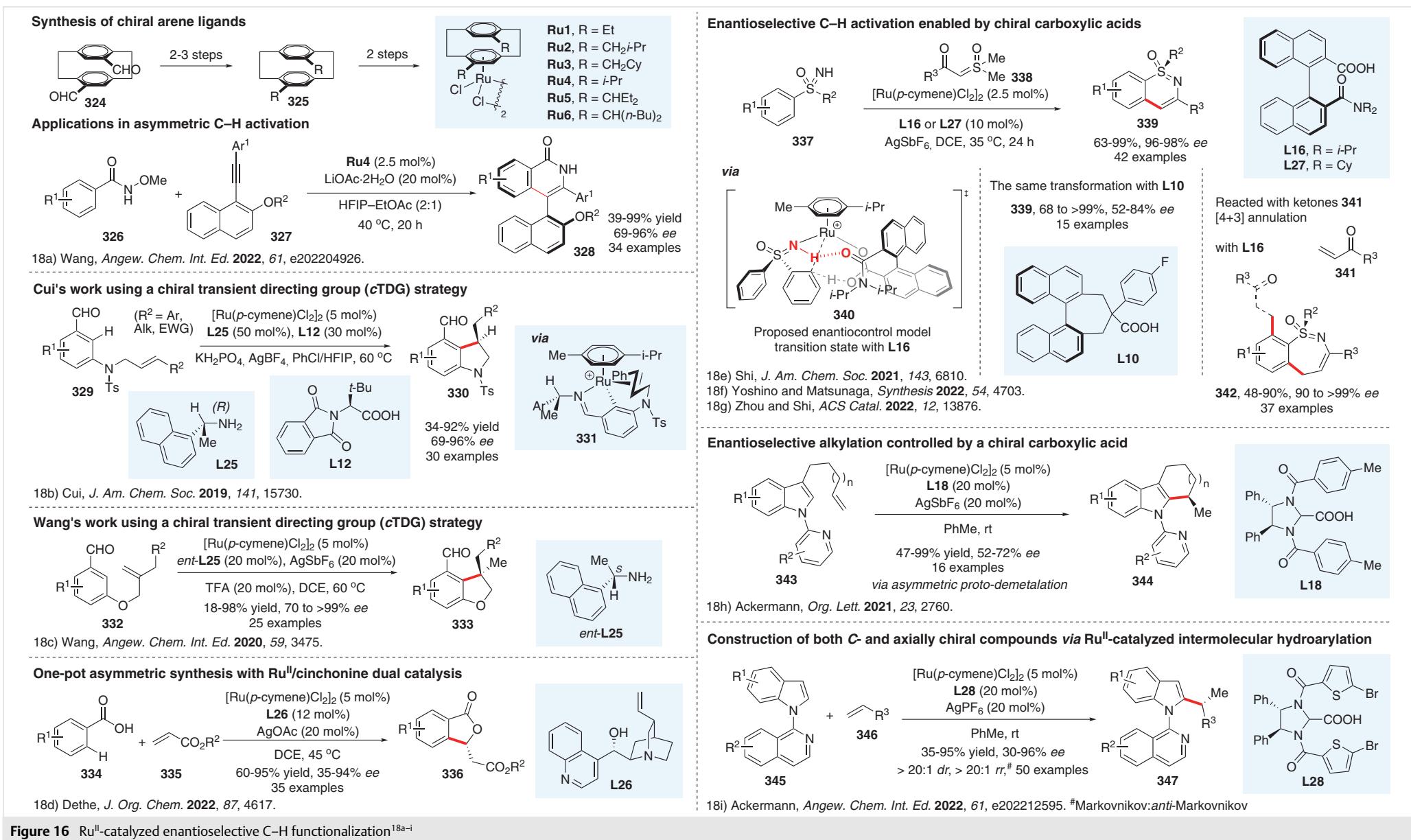


Figure 15 Achiral Cp*Co^{III}-catalyzed enantioselective C-H functionalization using chiral carboxylic acids as ligands^{17a-f}



Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Funding Information

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