

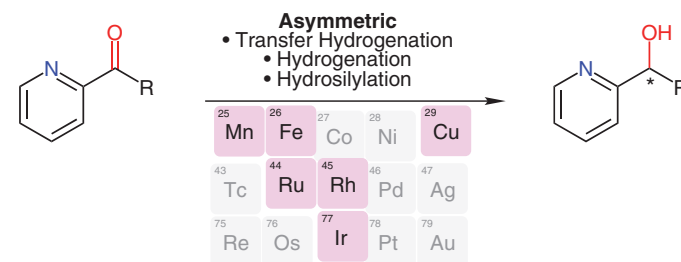
Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Reduction of 2-Pyridine Ketones

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Abstract This graphical review provides a concise overview of transition-metal-catalyzed asymmetric reduction of 2-pyridine ketones to produce enantiopure chiral 2-pyridine aryl/alkyl alcohols, which are present in many chiral ligands and pharmaceuticals. Key methods include metal-catalyzed hydrogenation, transfer hydrogenation, and hydrosilylation, with a focus on sustainable catalysts like iron and manganese. This review serves as a foundation for future advancements in sustainable and enantioselective keto group reductions.

Key words asymmetric reduction, ketones, transfer hydrogenation, hydrogenation, hydrosilylation, iron catalysis

The development of catalytic methods for the asymmetric reduction of keto groups, particularly in 2-pyridine ketones, has garnered considerable interest due to the transformative potential of these reactions in the synthesis of enantiomerically pure compounds. Enantiopure chiral 2-pyridine aryl/alkyl alcohols are not only essential intermediates in creating chiral ligands, such as Bolm's ligand, but are also foundational in the synthesis of complex, stereochemically de-

finer molecules in fields like pharmaceuticals and materials science. As a result, there has been substantial effort to design catalysts that facilitate these reductions with high enantioselectivity, efficiency, and versatility.

A wide array of catalytic approaches has emerged for the asymmetric reduction of 2-pyridine ketones, utilizing transition metals such as iron, manganese, ruthenium, copper, rhodium, and iridium. These systems often differ significantly in their mechanistic pathways, with some involving direct hydrogenation, others employing transfer hydrogenation, and others relying on hydrosilylation. Each method offers unique advantages, yet also presents challenges related to reaction scope, operational simplicity, cost, scalability, and environmental impact, with green chemistry principles driving much of the recent innovation in this field.

Despite these advancements, there remain open questions and unsolved challenges, particularly in the quest for more sustainable, non-precious metal catalysts and methods that maximize atom economy. Furthermore, the sheer pace of development in this area can sometimes obscure which transformations have reached maturity and which require further optimization or exploration. This graphical review seeks to clarify these developments, providing a structured overview of current catalytic systems for asymmetric reduction of 2-pyridine ketones. By highlighting well-established techniques alongside emerging approaches, it aims to illuminate future directions for research, particularly in the context of eco-friendly synthetic methodologies and the expanding role of iron-based catalysis in asymmetric synthesis.

Biosketches



Vidhul Vasudevan was born in Kerala, India, and obtained his BS-MS dual degree in chemistry from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata, India. He was a

MITACS Globalink Intern at Université Laval (Québec, Canada) under the supervision of Prof. Thierry Ollevier during the summer of 2023. His research was focused on the develop-

ment of new bipyridine-based chiral ligands. Currently, he is a Ph.D. student at McGill University (Montréal), Canada.



Harishankar M. S was born in Kerala, India, and obtained his BS-MS dual degree in chemistry from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, India. He was a

MITACS Globalink Intern at Université Laval (Québec, Canada) under the supervision of Prof. Thierry Ollevier during the summer of 2023, where he worked on the development of

new bipyridine-based chiral ligands.



Thierry Ollevier was born in Brussels and obtained his B.Sc. (1991) and Ph.D. (1997) at the Université of Namur (Belgium) under A. Krief, and was a research associate at the Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium) under I. E. Markó (1997), a NATO postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University under B. M. Trost (1998–2000), then a postdoctoral fellow at the Université de Montréal under A. B. Charette (2000–2001). After an

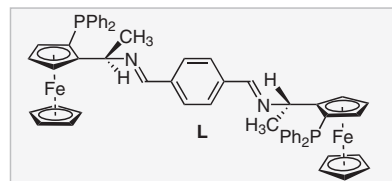
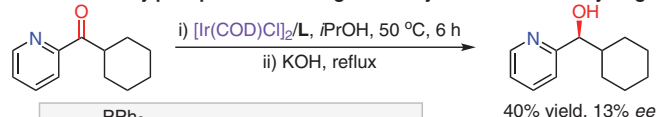
assistant professor appointment (2001) at Université Laval (Québec, Canada), he became associate professor (2006) and is currently a full professor. Current research in his group aims at designing novel catalysts, developing catalytic reactions, and applying these methods to chemical synthesis. He is active in the areas of iron catalysis, ligand design, asymmetric catalysis, fluorine chemistry, diazo and diazirine chemistry,

flow chemistry, and bismuth chemistry. He has published more than 85 papers and 35 encyclopedia articles and book chapters. He served as an Associate Editor of *RSC Advances* from 2015 to 2022 and was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2016). After 5 years served as an Advisory Board member of *SynOpen*, he was appointed as Editor-in-Chief of *SynOpen* in 2023.

Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation (ATH) of 2-Pyridine Ketones

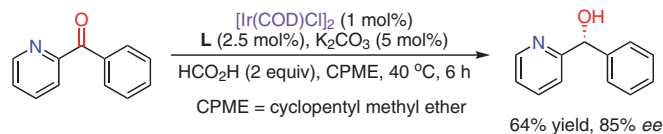
Iridium Catalysis

Chiral diferrocenylphosphine-diimine ligand in asymmetric transfer hydrogenation

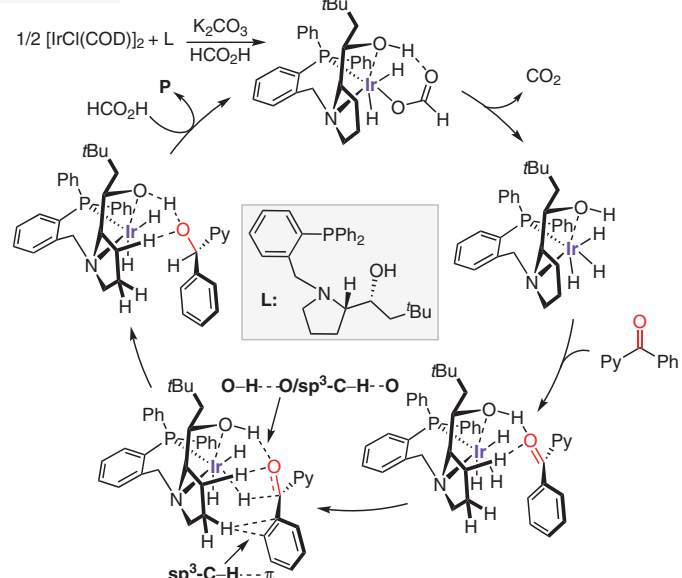


1a) Zhang, *Synth. React. Inorg., Met.-Org., Nano-Met. Chem.* **2008**, *38*, 778.

Transfer hydrogenation using a prolinol-phosphine chiral ligand

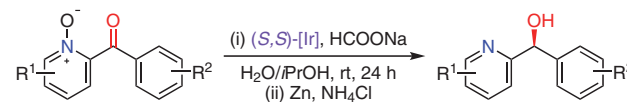


Proposed mechanism

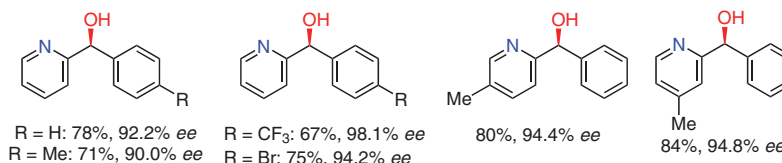


1b) Sawamura, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2020**, *362*, 4655.

Transfer hydrogenation of aryl *N*-heteroaryl ketones using a chiral-diamine-derived iridium complex

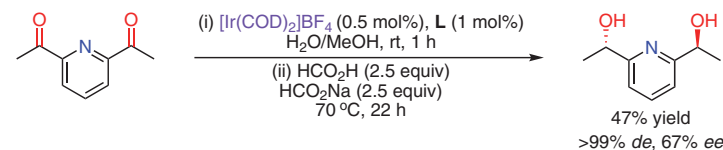


Selected examples



1c) Fu, *Org. Lett.* **2018**, *20*, 971.

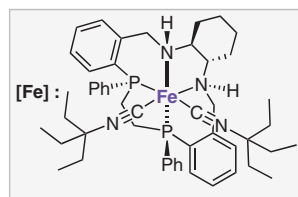
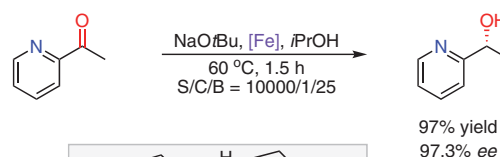
Transfer hydrogenation of diketones using an *N,N*-diaryl-*trans*-1,2-diaminocyclohexane ligand



1d) Lemaire, *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem.* **2016**, *411*, 196.

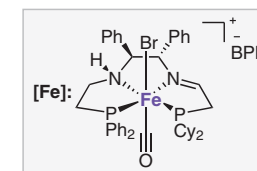
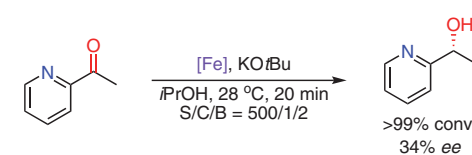
Iron Catalysis

Transfer hydrogenation by a macrocyclic iron(II)/(NH)₂P₂ catalyst



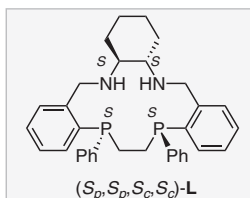
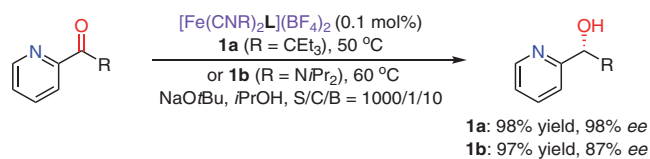
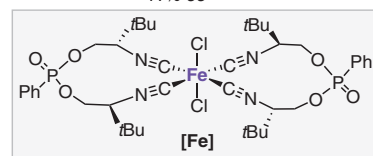
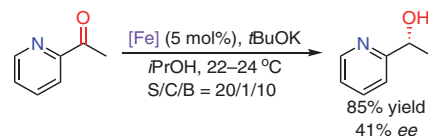
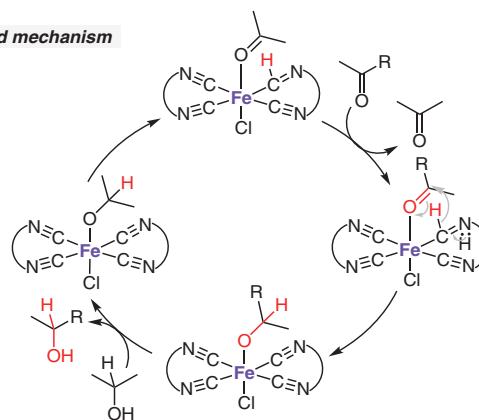
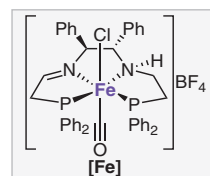
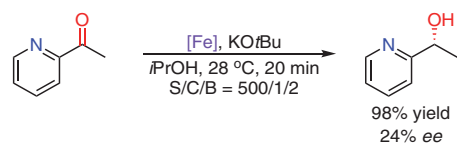
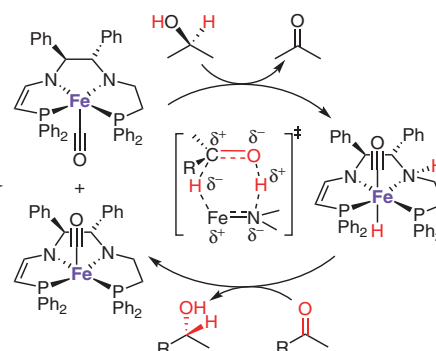
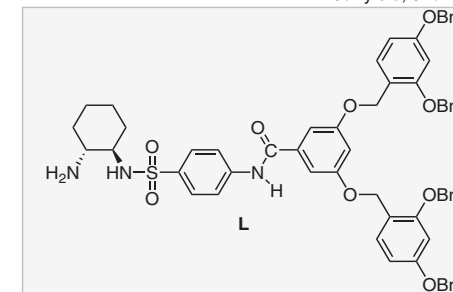
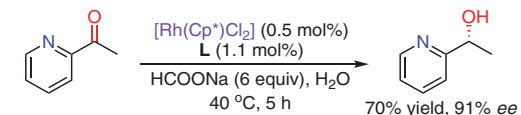
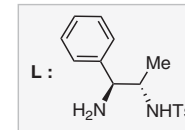
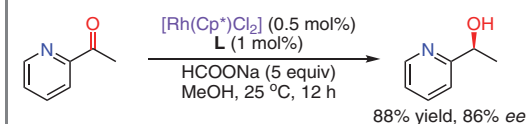
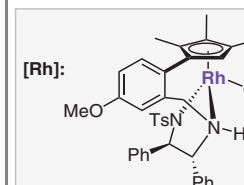
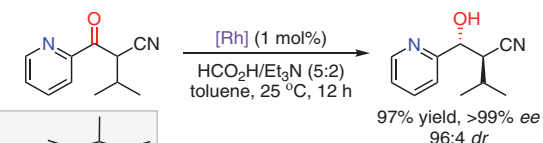
1e) Mezzetti, *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2016**, *20*, 253.

Unsymmetrical iron(II) catalyst for the asymmetric transfer hydrogenation

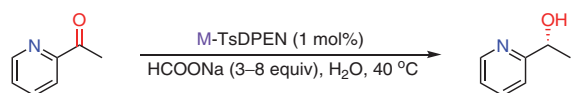


1f) Morris, *Synthesis* **2015**, *47*, 1775.

Figure 1 Catalytic asymmetric transfer hydrogenation using iridium and iron¹

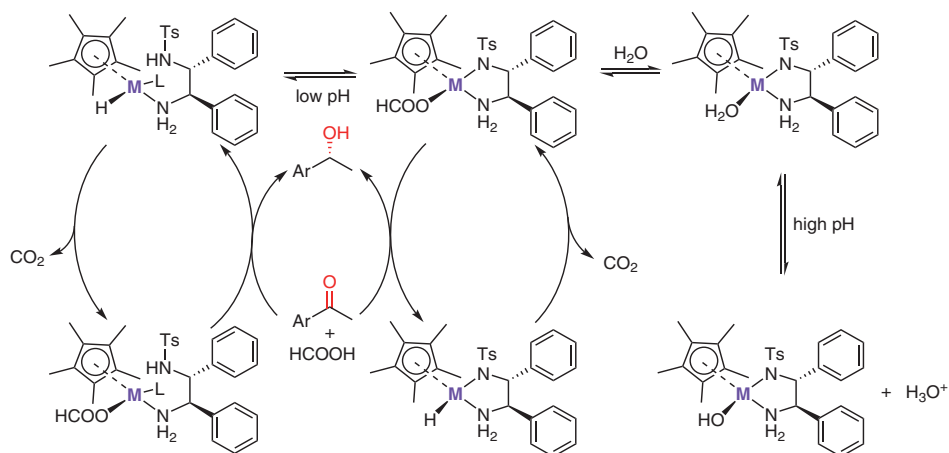
Transfer hydrogenation using bis(isonitrile) iron(II) complexes with a C₂-symmetric diamino (NH)₂P₂ macrocyclic ligand
2a) Mezzetti, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 5171.Similar report: 2b) Mezzetti, *ACS Catal.* **2016**, *6*, 6455.
Chiral iron(II)-bis(isonitrile) complexes in asymmetric transfer hydrogenation
2c) Reiser, *Chem. Commun.* **2010**, *46*, 4475.
Proposed mechanism

Amine(imine)diphosphine iron catalysts for asymmetric transfer hydrogenation
2d) Morris, *Science* **2013**, *342*, 1080.
Proposed mechanism

Rhodium Catalysis
ATH by a hydrophobic dendritic DACH–rhodium complex in water
2e) Deng, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2006**, *4*, 3319.
Rhodium complex with an unsymmetrical vicinal diamine ligand in ATH
2f) Kelkar, *RSC Adv.* **2015**, *5*, 51722.
ATH of α-substituted-β-keto carbonitriles via dynamic kinetic resolution
2g) Chen and Zhang, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2021**, *143*, 2477.Similar reports: 2h) Ratovelomanana-Vidal, *Chem. Commun.* **2018**, *54*, 283.2i) Ratovelomanana-Vidal, *Catal. Commun.* **2015**, *62*, 95.
Figure 2 Catalytic asymmetric transfer hydrogenation using iron and rhodium²

Rh- and Ir-catalyzed asymmetric transfer hydrogenation of ketones by using formate in water



M = Rh: 98% yield, 98% ee
M = Ir: 100%, 87% ee

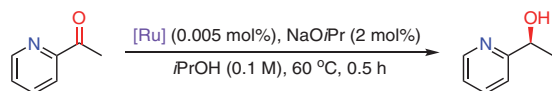
Proposed mechanism



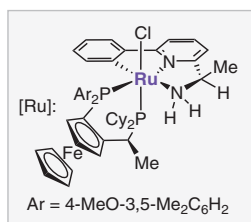
3a) Xiao, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2008**, *14*, 2209.

Ruthenium Catalysis

CNN pincer ruthenium catalysts for the asymmetric reduction of alkyl aryl ketones

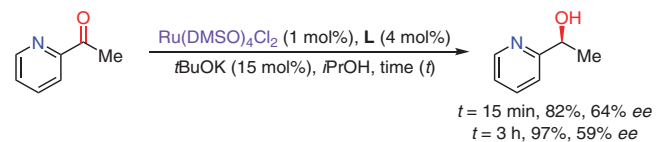


99% yield
93% ee

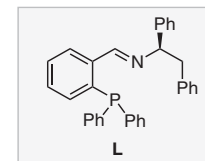


3b) Baratta, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 726.

Ruthenium-catalyzed asymmetric transfer hydrogenation using chiral P,N,O Schiff base ligands

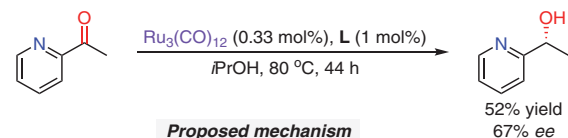


$t = 15 \text{ min}$, 82%, 64% ee
 $t = 3 \text{ h}$, 97%, 59% ee

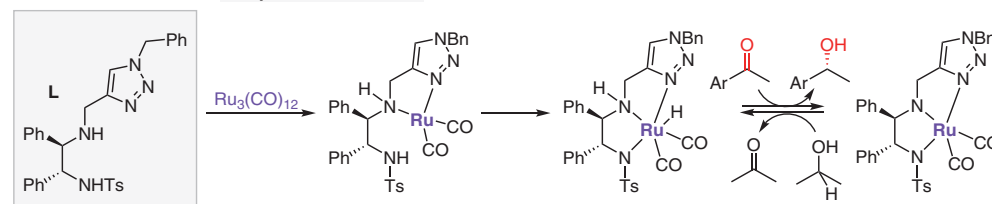


3c) Kwong, *Inorg. Chem. Commun.* **1999**, *2*, 66.

Ruthenium complexes of triazole-containing tridentate ligands in asymmetric transfer hydrogenation

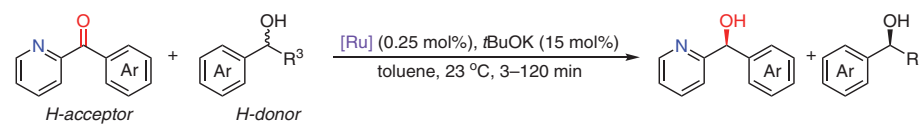


Proposed mechanism

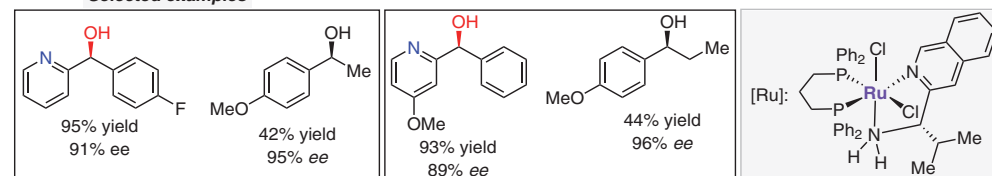


3d) Wills, *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 5230.

Ruthenium-catalyzed cross-asymmetric hydrogen transfer between H-donor racemic alcohols and H-acceptor prochiral ketones

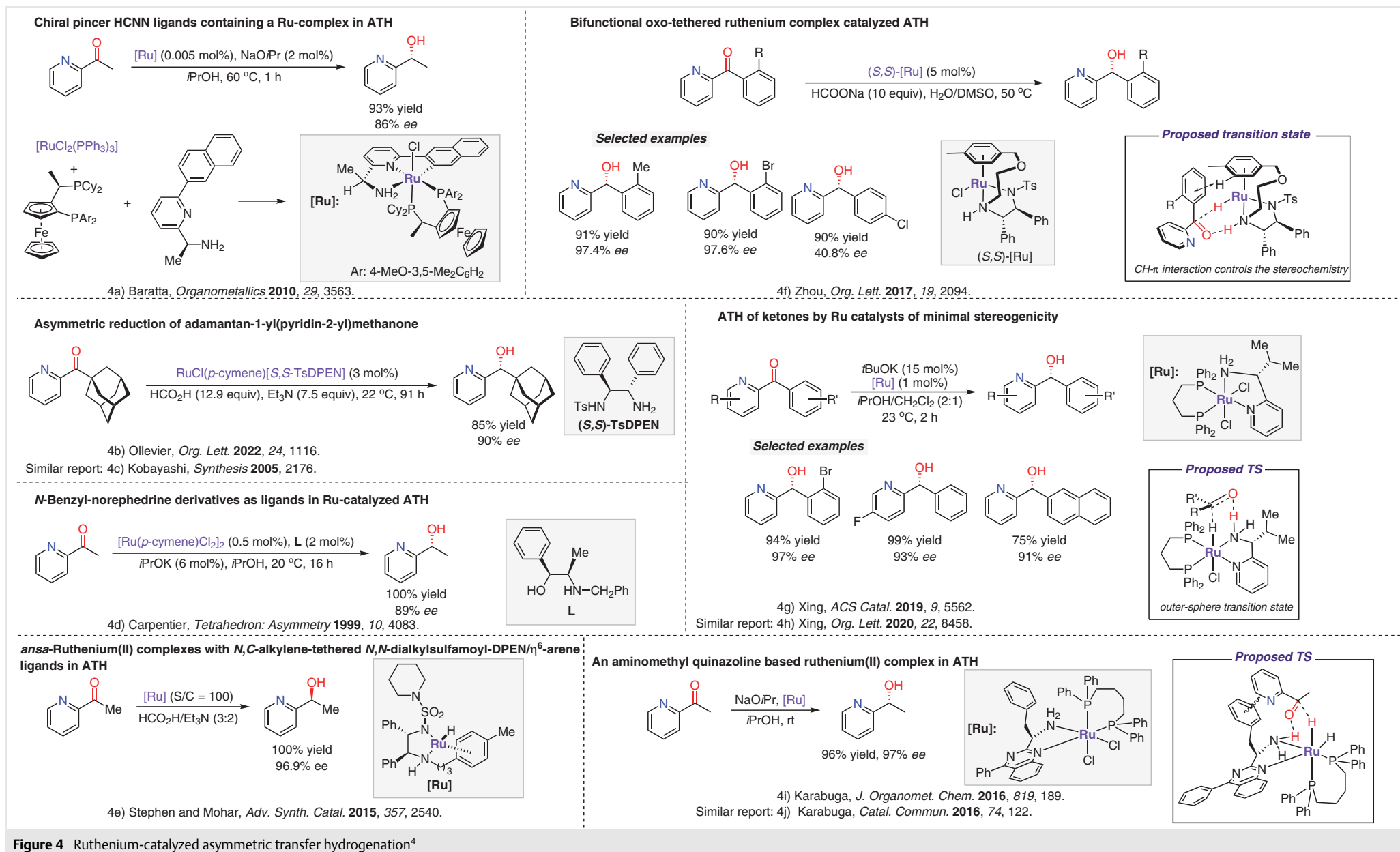


Selected examples



3e) Xu, Wang and Xing, *ACS Catal.* **2022**, *12*, 14429.

Figure 3 Catalytic asymmetric transfer hydrogenation using rhodium and ruthenium³

Figure 4 Ruthenium-catalyzed asymmetric transfer hydrogenation⁴

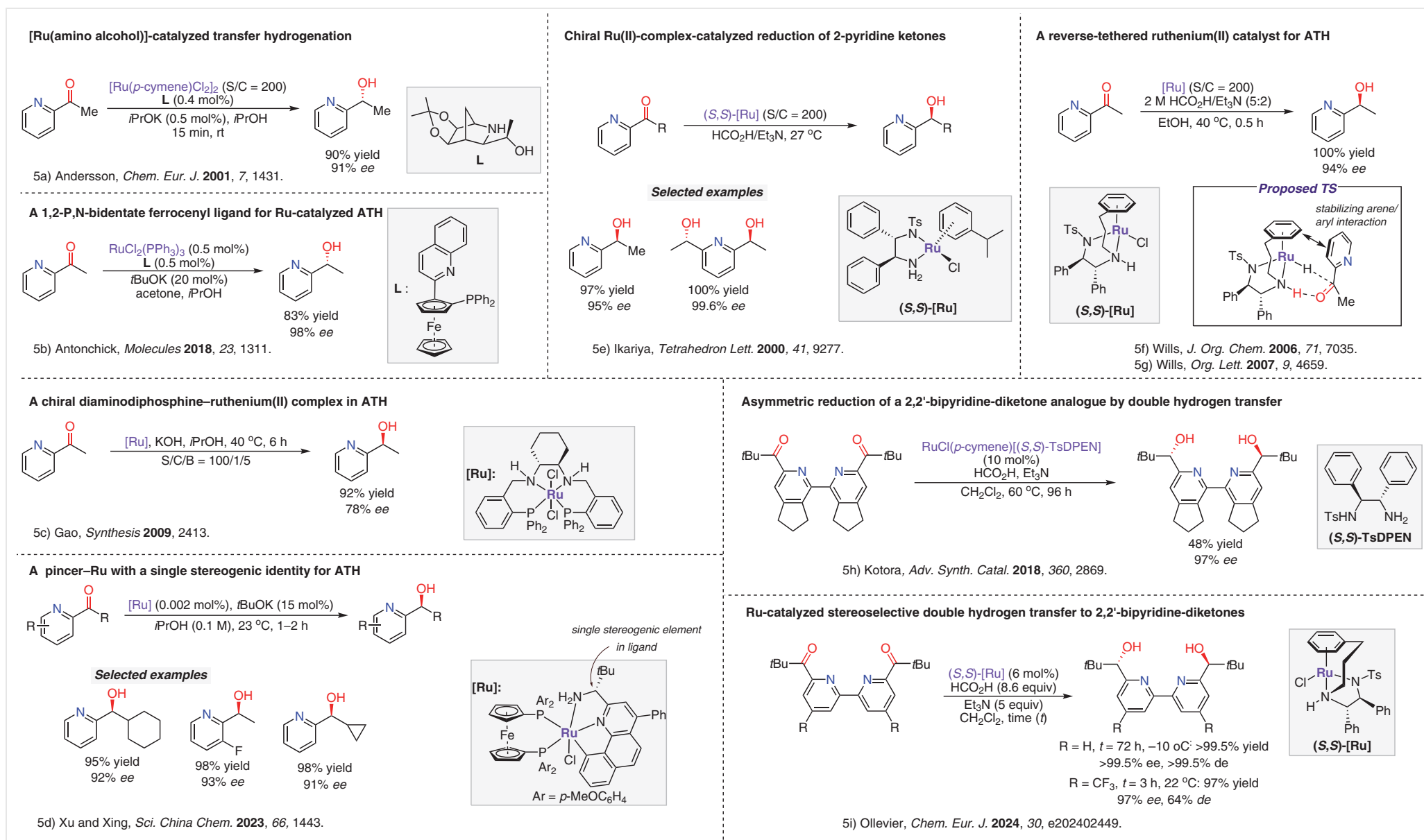
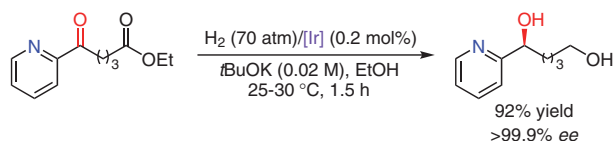
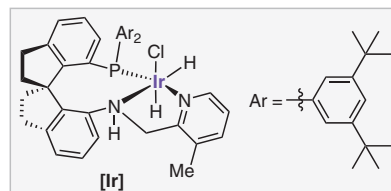


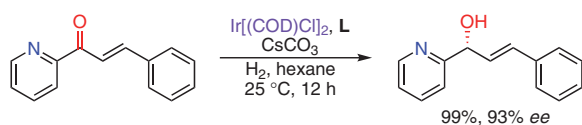
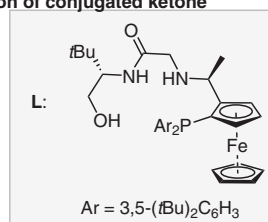
Figure 5 Ruthenium-catalyzed asymmetric transfer hydrogenation (cont.)⁵

Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Hydrogenation of 2-Pyridine Ketones

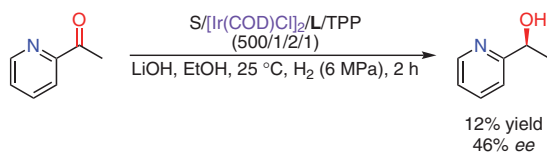
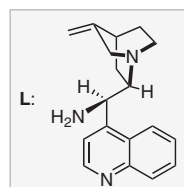
Iridium Catalysis

Ir-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation (AH) of δ -keto esters6a) Xie and Zhou, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 7833.

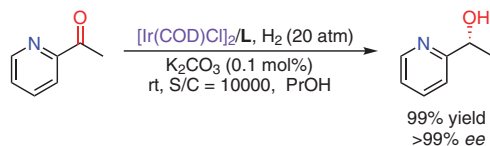
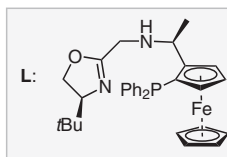
Ferrocene-based multidentate phosphine ligands in asymmetric hydrogenation of conjugated ketone

6b) Lv, *Chem. Commun.* **2022**, *58*, 5841.

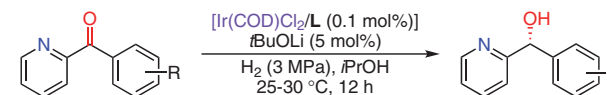
Asymmetric hydrogenation catalyzed by Ir-chiral diamines and achiral phosphines

6c) Chen, *Catal. Commun.* **2012**, *28*, 5.6d) Chen, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2014**, *25*, 821.

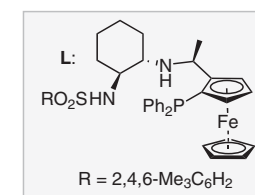
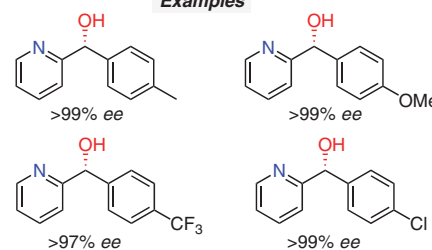
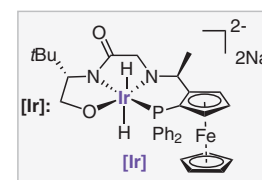
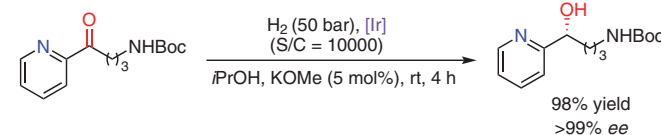
Electron-rich tridentate ferrocene aminophosphoxazoline ligands (f-amphox) for Ir-catalyzed AH

6e) Lan, Dong and Zhang, *Org. Lett.* **2016**, *18*, 2938.6f) Dong and Zhang, *Org. Lett.* **2017**, *19*, 2548.

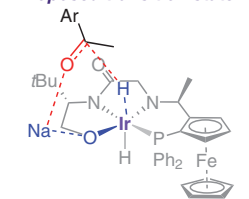
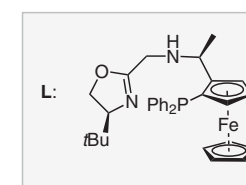
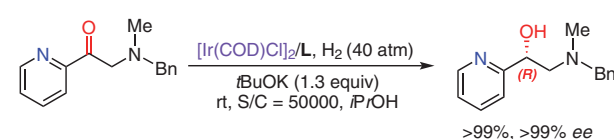
Enantioselective hydrogenation of non-ortho-substituted 2-pyridine aryl ketones via iridium-f-Diaphos catalysis



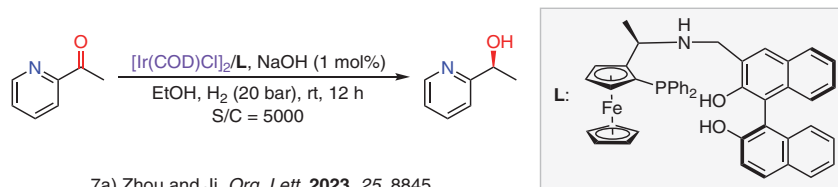
Examples

6g) Zhong, *Org. Lett.* **2019**, *21*, 5392.Ir-f-Phamidol-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of a γ -amino ketone

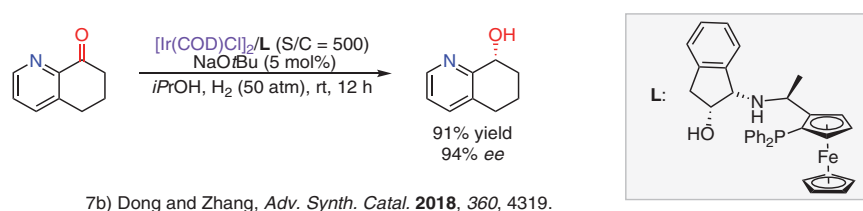
Proposed transition state

6h) Lang and Zhang, *J. Org. Chem.* **2024**, *89*, 527.Synthesis of chiral 1,2-amino alcohols via Ir/f-amphox-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of α -amino ketones6i) Dong and Zhang, *Org. Chem. Front.* **2017**, *4*, 1499.Figure 6 Iridium-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation⁶

Iridium-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation with f-Amphbinol ligand

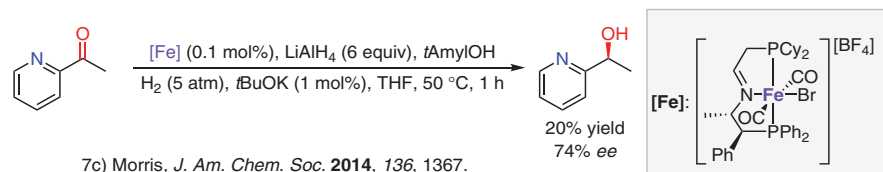


Iridium/f-Amphol-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of benzo-fused cyclic ketones

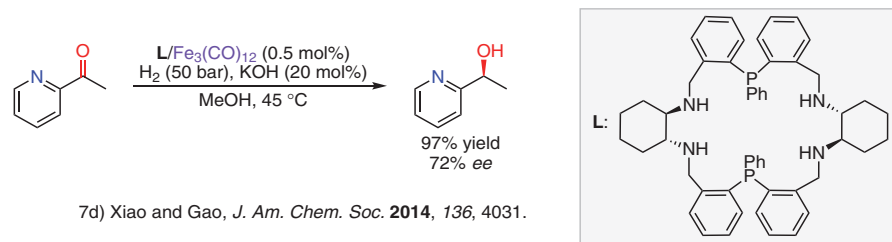


Iron Catalysis

Iron(II) complexes containing unsymmetrical P–N–P' pincer ligands for asymmetric hydrogenation

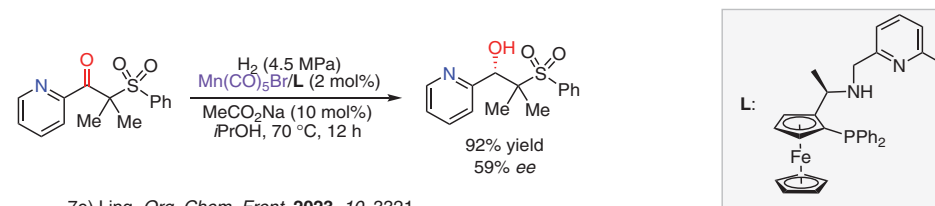


Fe-catalyzed AH using a 22-membered macrocyclic ligand

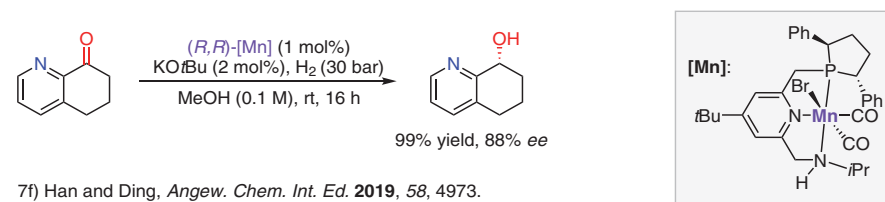


Manganese Catalysis

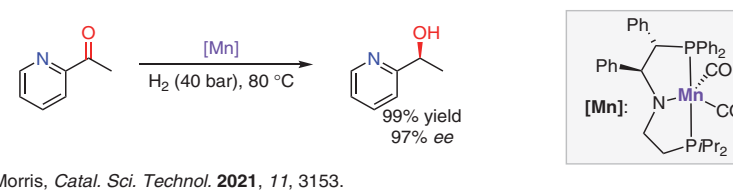
Enantioselective synthesis of chiral β-hydroxy sulfones via manganese-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation



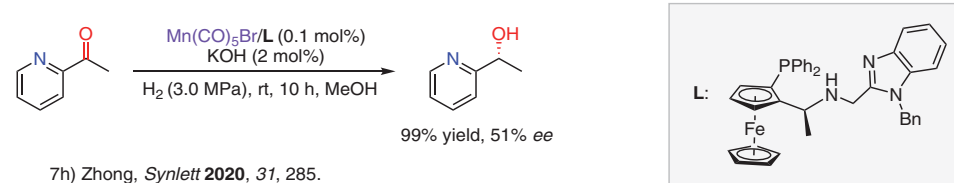
A lutidine-based chiral pincer manganese catalyst for enantioselective hydrogenation

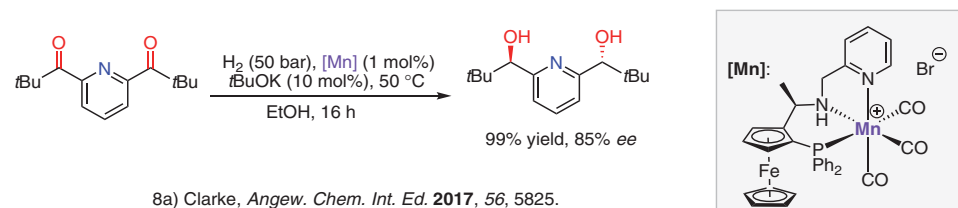
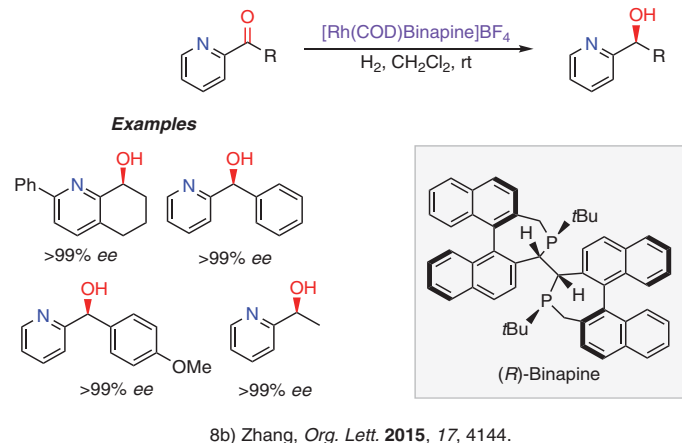
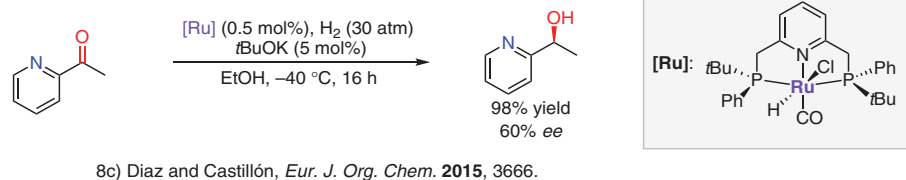
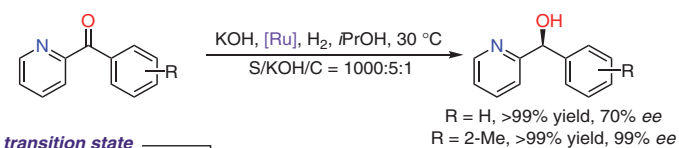
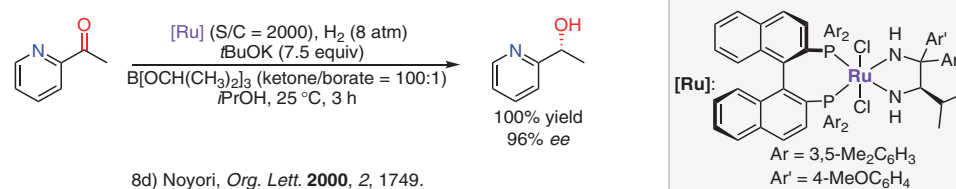
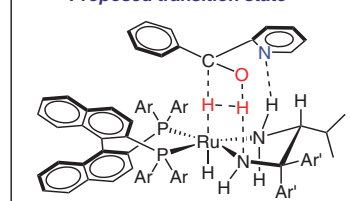


Base-free AH of ketones by a Mn-amido complex of a homochiral, unsymmetrical P–N–P' ligand

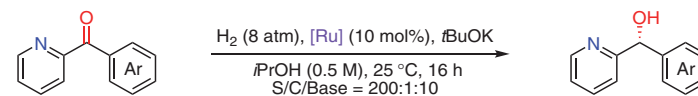
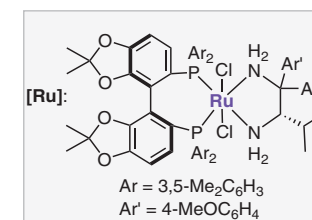
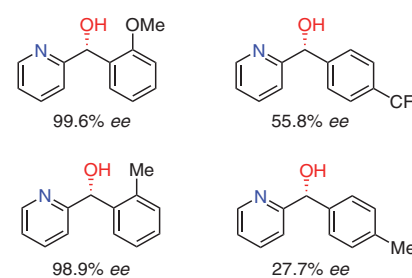


An imidazole-based chiral PNN tridentate ligand in Mn-catalyzed AH

Figure 7 Catalytic asymmetric hydrogenation using iridium, iron and manganese⁷

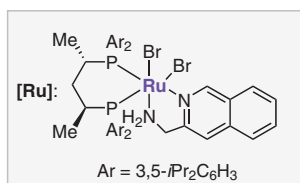
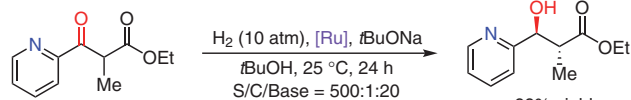
A Mn complex of a chiral P,N,N ligand in the AH of a 2,5-diketo pyridine

Rhodium Catalysis
Rhodium-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of 2-pyridine ketones

Ruthenium Catalysis
A P-stereogenic PNP^{tBu,Ph} Ru-complex in the AH of 2-pyridine ketones

A ruthenium–diamine–diphosphine complex in the AH of pyridinyl aryl ketones

Proposed transition state


8e) Niedercom and Castanet, *Tetrahedron* **2008**, *64*, 8700.

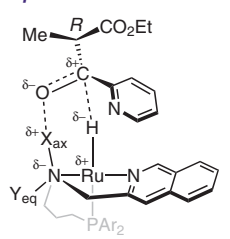
Enantioselective hydrogenation of aryl-pyridyl ketones with a Ru-XylSunPhos-Daipen bifunctional catalytic system

Examples


8f) Ratovelomanana-Vidal and Zhang, *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 612.

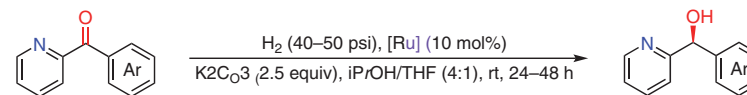
Figure 8 Catalytic asymmetric hydrogenation using manganese, rhodium and ruthenium⁸

Asymmetric hydrogenation of α -alkyl-substituted β -keto esters through dynamic kinetic resolution9a) Ohkuma, *Org. Lett.* **2024**, *26*, 2872.

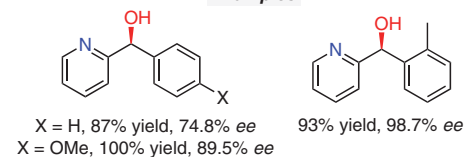
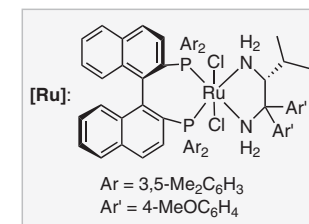
Proposed transition state



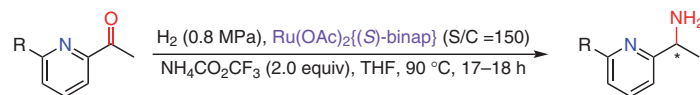
Enantioselective hydrogenation of aromatic-heteroaromatic ketones



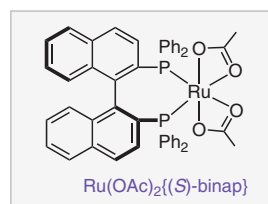
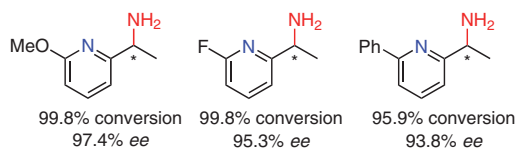
Examples

9d) Chen, *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 5039.

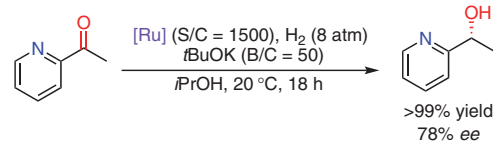
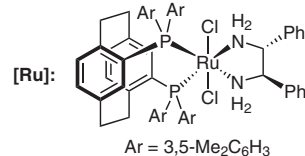
Enantioselective direct asymmetric reductive amination of 2-acetyl-6-substituted pyridines



Examples

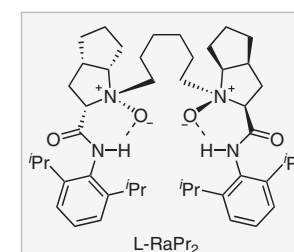
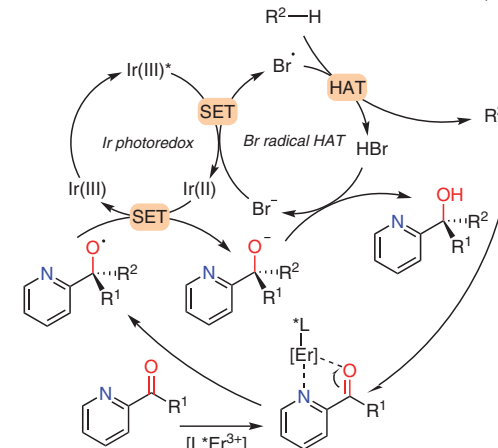
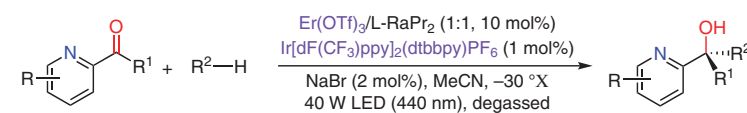
9b) Yamada, *Org. Lett.* **2021**, *23*, 3364.

PhanePhos-Ru-diamine complexes catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation

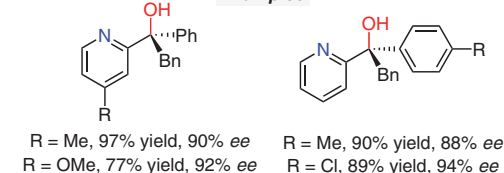
9c) Gerosa, *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 1749.

Other Reactions

Visible-light-activated asymmetric addition of hydrocarbons to pyridine-based ketones



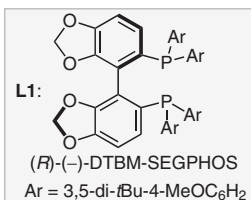
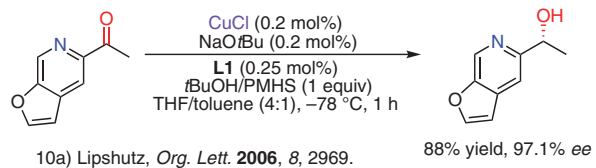
Examples

9e) Feng, *ACS Catal.* **2022**, *12*, 5136.Figure 9 Catalytic asymmetric hydrogenation using ruthenium and other reactions⁹

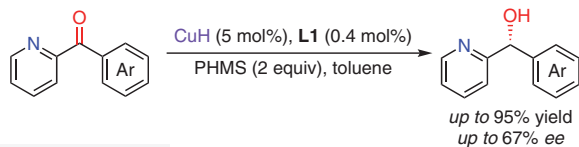
Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Hydrosilylation of 2-Pyridine Ketones

Copper Catalysis

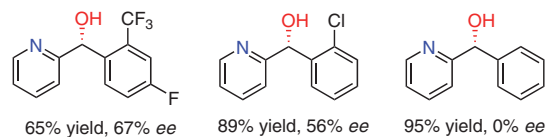
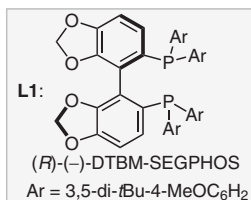
Asymmetric hydrosilylation mediated by catalytic (DTBM-SEGPHOS)CuH



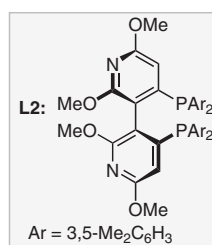
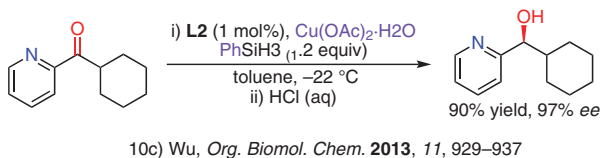
Non-racemic diarylmethanols from CuH-catalyzed hydrosilylation of diaryl ketones



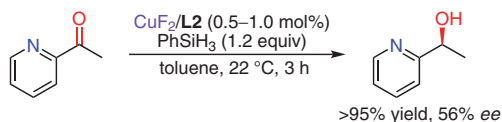
Selected examples

10b) Lipshutz, *Org. Lett.* **2008**, *10*, 4187.

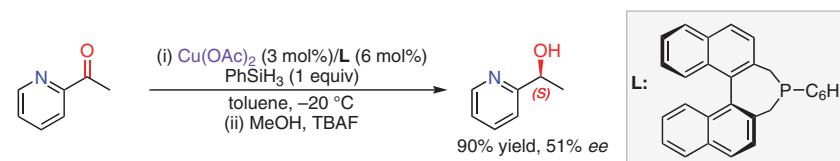
Copper-dipyridylphosphine-catalyzed hydrosilylation of a pyridine cyclohexyl ketone



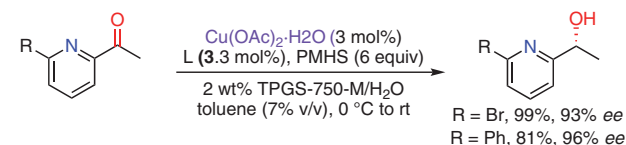
A copper(II)-dipyridylphosphine catalyst in asymmetric hydrosilylation

10d) Wu, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 5888.10e) Wu, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2012**, *18*, 7486.

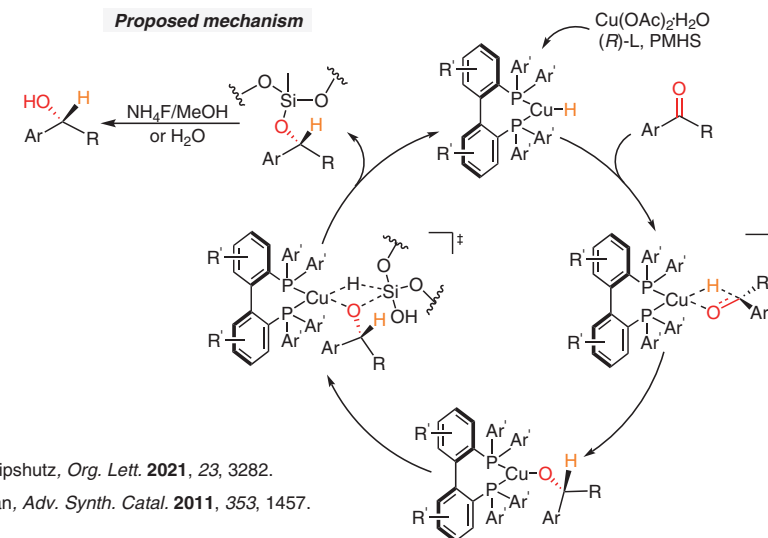
Copper-catalyzed enantioselective hydrosilylation using a monodentate binaphthophosphine ligand

10f) Beller, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2010**, *16*, 68.

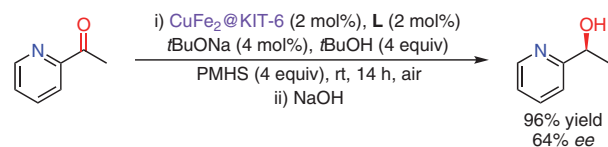
Copper-catalyzed asymmetric reductions of 2-pyridine ketones in mild aqueous micellar conditions



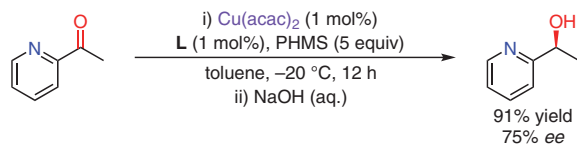
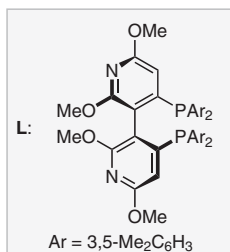
Proposed mechanism

Figure 10 Copper-catalyzed asymmetric hydrosilylation¹⁰

Mesoporous silica KIT-6-supported superparamagnetic CuFe_2O_4 nanoparticles for asymmetric hydrosilylation in air

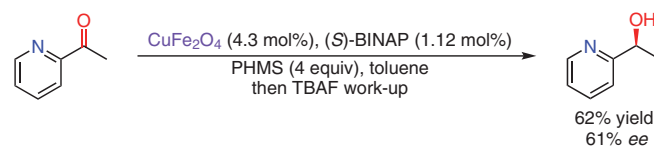


11a) Wu and Shi, *Green Chem.* **2014**, *16*, 2680.

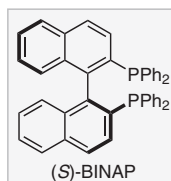


10h) Fang and Chan, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2011**, *353*, 1457.

Copper-dipyridylphosphine-polymethylhydrosiloxane system for asymmetric catalytic hydrosilylation

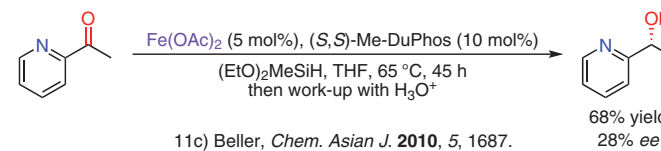


11b) Figueras, *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, *74*, 4608.

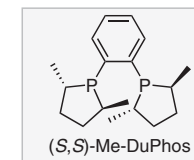


Iron Catalysis

Stereoselective iron-catalyzed hydrosilylation of 2-pyridine ketones

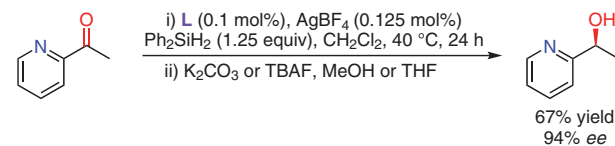


11c) Beller, *Chem. Asian J.* **2010**, *5*, 1687.



Rhodium Catalysis

Chiral imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-oxazolines as versatile NHC ligands for enantioselective hydrosilylation



11d) de Ruiter, *Organometallics* **2020**, *39*, 247.

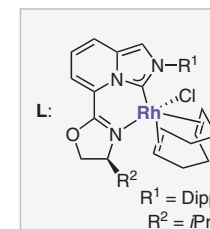


Figure 11 Catalytic asymmetric hydrosilylation using copper, iron and rhodium^{10h,11}

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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