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# Half-Sandwich d<sup>6</sup>-Metal (Co<sup>III</sup>, Rh<sup>III</sup>, Ir<sup>III</sup>, Ru<sup>II</sup>)-Catalyzed Enantioselective C–H Activation

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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 d<sup>6</sup>-metal (Co<sup>III</sup>, Rh<sup>III</sup>, Ir<sup>III</sup>, Ru<sup>II</sup>)-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 coworkers on Pd(II)-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation using monoprotected amino acids (MPAAs) as chiral ligands.<sup>1</sup> The use of MPAAs or related bidentate ligands realized various en-



antioselective  $C(sp^2)$ -H and  $C(sp^3)$ -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<sup>III</sup>, Rh<sup>III</sup>, Ir<sup>III</sup>, and Ru<sup>II</sup> catalysts as there is only one coordination site available for an external chiral ligand.

On the other hand, half-sandwich d<sup>6</sup> metals (e.g., Co<sup>III</sup>, Rh<sup>III</sup>, Ir<sup>III</sup>, Ru<sup>II</sup>) 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 d<sup>6</sup>-metal-catalyzed asymmetric C-H activation. The first strategy involves the use of tailor-made chiral Cp<sup>x</sup> ligands to bind with Co<sup>III</sup>, Rh<sup>III</sup>, or Ir<sup>III</sup>, or chiral arene ligands to bind with Ru<sup>II</sup>. The chiral Cp<sup>x</sup> or chiral arene pre-coordinating strategy is powerful for its board substrate scope and various functionalization. Besides, several types of welldesigned monodentate chiral carboxylic acids (CCAs) have also been developed to realize halfsandwich d<sup>6</sup>-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 d<sup>6</sup>-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.<sup>2</sup>



#### **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.

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**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.

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Two pioneering reports on half-sandwich metal-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation with Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh catalysts Using a chiral Cp<sup>x</sup> ligand as the enantiocontrol element



Stereoselectivity-determining model

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Figure 1 The development and challenges of half-sandwich d<sup>6</sup>-metal (Co<sup>III</sup>, Rh<sup>III</sup>, Ir<sup>III</sup>, Ru<sup>II</sup>)-catalyzed enantioselective C-H activation and two pioneering reports on Rh-catalyzed asymmetric C-H activation in 2012<sup>3a-ad</sup>

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Figure 3 Chiral Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh-catalyzed enantioselective C–H activation/nucleophilic addition with alkenes, alkynes and aldehydes<sup>5a-f</sup>

# SynOpen P.-F. Qian et al. Carboamination of 1,3-conjugated dienes Three-component cascade reaction of 1,3-conjugated dienes

#### Rh6 (2.5 mol%) Rh19 (4 mol%) AgSbF<sub>6</sub> (20 mol%) AgBF<sub>4</sub> (20 mol%) OMe 0 Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> AgOPiv (50 mol%) t-AmylOH, 0 °C НŇ -0 CH2Cl2 20 °C B1.1 OMe Rh 51-92% yield 50 51 81-99% yield *i*-Pr 52 CI 67-98% ee 72-84% ee Rh19 65 68 36 examples 66 67 40 examples via an unusual redox-neutral Rh(III)-Rh(I)-Rh(III) catalytic pathway 6f) Wang and Li, ACS Catal. 2021, 11, 6692. Also see a similar work: 6g) Ellman, Org. Lett. 2021, 23, 2836. i-P C-N insertion directed by an oxime ether :0 $\sim$ intramolecular Rh20 (4 mol%) OR R OR<sup>3</sup> -Cp<sup>2</sup> amide transfer Rh (2-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub> R R1-(5 mol%) -COOR 53 54 Rh6 TFE, 50 °C or 80 °C R1-COOR<sup>4</sup> R<sup>4</sup>OOC 6a) Zhou and Yi, ACS Catal. 2021, 11, 2279. 45-99% vield 56-94% ee NHCOOR<sup>4</sup> 70 71 69 [3+2] annulation of 1,3-conjugated dienes 27 examples Rh20 6h) Cramer, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2019, 58, 2514. Rh6 (5 mol%) 23-37% yield gSbF<sub>6</sub> (20 mol%) 28-62% ee C-N insertion enabled by twofold C-H activation NaOPiv, EtOH, rt 13 examples Rh6 (2.5 or 4 mol%) 55 56 57 R<sup>3</sup>O<sub>2</sub>SHN R AqSbF<sub>6</sub> (10 or 16 mol%) 6b) Zhou and Yi, Org. Lett. 2021, 23, 3844. Also see: 6c) Yi and Zhou, New J. Chem. 2022, 46, 5705. Ag<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and/or AgOAc PhMe or DCT, 60 °C Tandem C-H alkenylation/formal [3+2] cycloaddition Pvm Pym 25-95% yield, 61-99% ee 72 73 34 examples 74 Rh18 (2.5 mol%) OBoc AgF<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%) 6i) Zheng and Li, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2019, 58, 322. TFE, rt C-N insertion/[3+2] annulation via twofold C-H activation 24-70% yield OMe SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup> 60-94% ee SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup> -R<sup>3</sup> 58 59 60 29 examples Rh18 DC conditions 6d) Yi and Zhou, Chin. Chem. Lett. 2022, 33, 842. DG OMe R Synthesis of $\alpha$ -branched amides via a three-component cascade reaction OMe CI 77 75 76 DG = Me ́∕N Rh15 **Rh6** (5 mol%) AgB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (40 mol%) conditions A: conditions B: `O with 1 equiv NaHCO<sub>3</sub> Rh15 (4 mol%), AgF<sub>2</sub> (2.0 equiv) Rh15 (4 mol%), AgF<sub>2</sub> (2.0 equiv) O or NH CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> 30 °C PivOH, MeOH, 60 °C PivOH, PhOMe/t-BuOMe, 30 or 40 °C Me Ö DG = DG = 59-71% yield DG = 64 40-86% vield, 80-97% ee 41-73% yield, 80-95% ee 61 62 63 72-84% ee 27 examples 8 examples 4 examples Мe 6e) Ellman. Nat. Catal. 2019. 2. 756. without additive 6j) Li, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2019, 58, 17666

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Figure 4 Chiral Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh-catalyzed asymmetric synthesis of chiral amides and heterocycles<sup>6a-j</sup>

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Figure 5 Enantioselective [4+1]-annulations of acrylamides/acids catalyzed by chiral Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh catalysts<sup>7a-g</sup>

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Figure 6 Asymmetric construction of quaternary carbon centers in spirocyclic compounds via chiral Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh-catalyzed annulations<sup>8a-j</sup>



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Figure 7 Asymmetric construction of axially chiral compounds via chiral Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh-catalyzed annulations with alkynes<sup>9a-g</sup>



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Figure 8 Chiral Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh-catalyzed asymmetric formation of axially chiral compounds and chiral helicenes<sup>4c,10a-f</sup>

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Figure 10 Construction of compounds with multiple chirality using a chiral Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh complex or an achiral Cp<sup>\*</sup>Rh species combined with asymmetric organocatalysis<sup>12a-g</sup>

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Figure 13 Achiral Cp\*Ir<sup>III</sup>-catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization using chiral carboxylic acids as ligands<sup>15a-e</sup>

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#### Cui's work using a chiral transient directing group (cTDG) strategy



Figure 16 Ru<sup>II</sup>-catalyzed enantioselective C–H functionalization<sup>18a-i</sup>

35 examples

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L26

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18d) Dethe, J. Org. Chem. 2022, 87, 4617.

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18i) Ackermann, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2022, 61, e202212595, #Markovnikov:anti-Markovnikov

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## **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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