**Category**

**Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Synthesis and Stereoselective Reactions**

**Key words**

**iridium catalysis**

**phosphine oxides**

**desymmetrization**

**amidation**

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Cooperative Effects between Chiral $Cp^x$–Iridium(III) Catalysts and Chiral Carboxylic Acids in Enantioselective C–H Amidations of Phosphine Oxides

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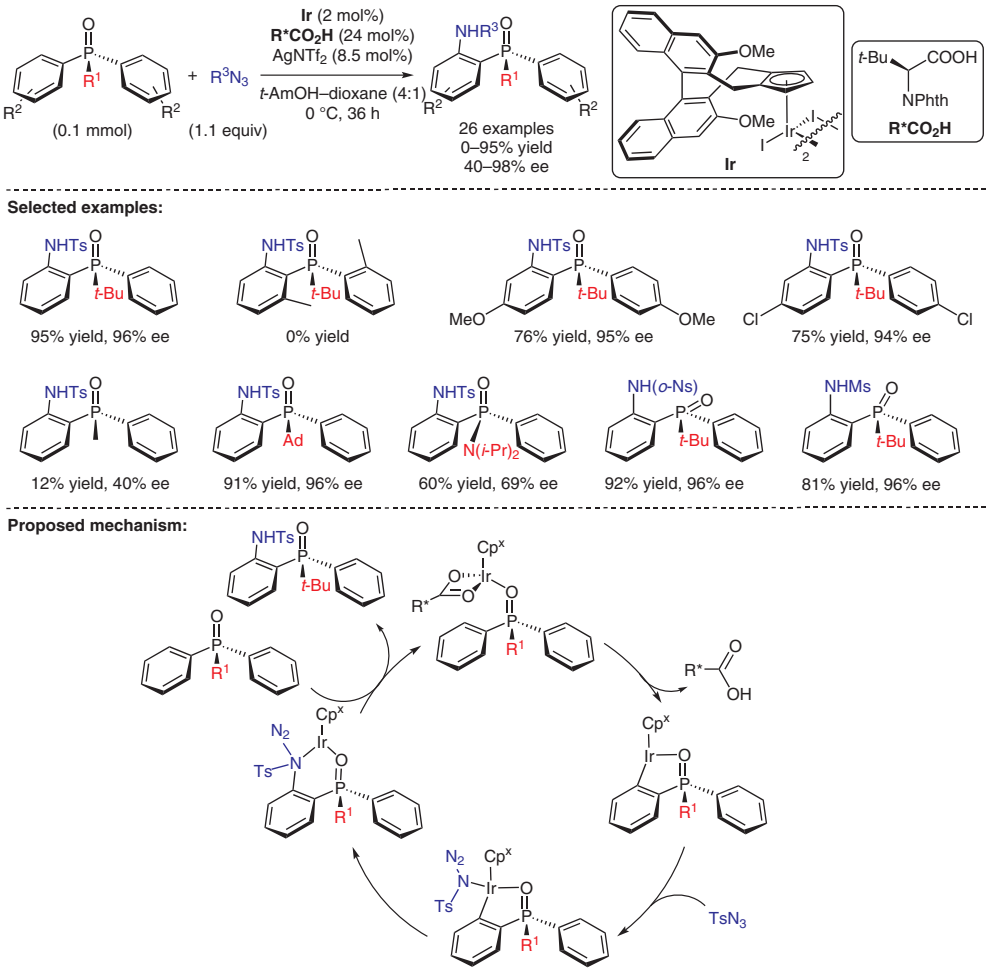
# Enantioselective Iridium-Catalyzed C–H Amidation of Diaryl Phosphine Oxides




**Significance:** The synthesis of chiral phosphorus compounds is always of interest because they are crucial as ligands for asymmetric catalysis. Cramer and co-workers report the desymmetrization of diaryl phosphine oxides through iridium-catalyzed amidation. The reaction used a chiral iridium and chiral acid acting cooperatively, which was demonstrated through a match and mismatch effect.

**Comment:** The reaction tolerates some variation of substitution on the aryl rings and works best with bulky alkyl substitution on the phosphorus. Other sulfonates could be incorporated. The reaction proceeds through a C–H activation catalyzed by the chiral acid bound iridium complex followed by aryl amidation by the sulfonyl azide.

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