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Simple and Practical Real-Time Analysis of Solid-Phase Reactions by Thin-Layer Chromatography

Chia-Hui Wu^{a,b,c} Chun C. Chen^a Su-Ching Lin^a Cheng-Chung Wang^{*a,b}

^a Institute of Chemistry, Academia Sinica, 128, Sec. 2 Academia Rd., Nankang, Taipei 11529, Taiwan wangcc7280@gate.sinica.edu.tw

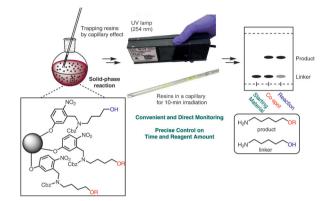
- ^b Chemical Biology and Molecular Biophysics, Taiwan International Graduate Program, Academia Sinica, 128, Sec. 2 Academia Rd., Nankand, Taipei 11529, Taiwan
- ^c Department of Chemistry, National Taiwan University, 1, Sec.
- 4 Roosevelt Rd., Daan, Taipei 10617, Taiwan



Abstract Solid-phase synthesis is a practical approach for simplifying the time-consuming and routine purification steps in the preparation of numerous naturally occurring molecules; however, studying such reactions is difficult due to the lack of a convenient monitoring method. By using thin-layer chromatography in conjunction with a photolabile linker on a resin, we developed a convenient and simple method for monitoring solid-phase reactions in real time by thin-layer chromatography. This method provides a user-friendly protocol for examining reaction conditions for solid-state syntheses.

Key words solid-phase reactions, real-time analysis, thin-layer chromatography, photolabile linkers, glycosylation, click chemistry

Peptides,¹ nucleotides,² and carbohydrates³ are structurally complex biomolecules that perform a host of crucial biological functions in nature, but the short supply of some of these biomolecules from natural sources has hampered their fundamental study. Consequently, in the last few decades, numerous methods have been developed for producing tailored building blocks for manipulating biologically important peptides, nucleotides, and saccharides (for example, Scheme 1a).⁴ The chemical synthesis of structurally complex molecules generally requires multiple synthetic steps and routine purifications. However, since the development by Merrifield of a novel technique for peptide synthesis (Scheme 1b),^{5,6} the number of preparations of complex biomolecules has increased as a result of the use of solidphase synthesis methods. Solid-phase synthesis facilitates the purification process by permitting simple washing with appropriate solvents and filtrations of functional resins



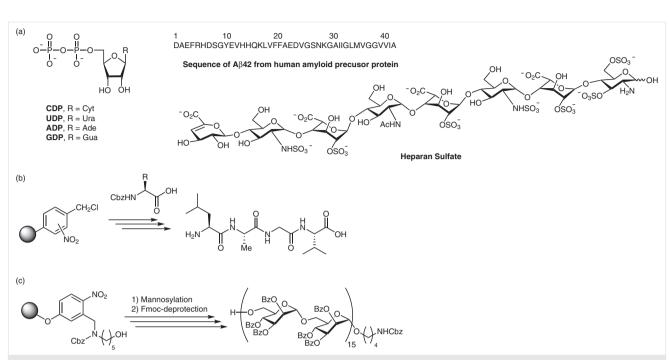
bearing the targeted molecules. This procedure is key to overcoming the challenge of synthesizing complex molecules.⁵ For example, Seeberger achieved an automated synthesis of a 30-mer mannoside by using a modified Merrifield resin; this protocol provides a valuable method for solid-phase assembly of polysaccharides (Scheme 1c).⁶

Currently, a method commonly used to study target-oriented solid-phase syntheses involves cleaving the resin in the final stage after multiple synthetic steps. Numerous modern analytical methods involving mass spectroscopy (MS),⁷ IR spectroscopy,⁸ and NMR spectroscopy⁹ have been developed and used to examine targeted molecules in the late stages of their syntheses. However, solid-phase syntheses require excess amounts of reagents and relatively long reaction times, so that real-time analyses of reaction conditions for individual synthetic steps remain challenging. Because thin-layer chromatography (TLC) has been used to separate and analyze natural products since the 1960s,¹⁰ it has become a common and indispensable technique for studying chemical transformations in chemical synthesis.

Because nitrobenzyl ether-based Merrifield resin has been demonstrated to be photocleavable under UV irradiation at a wavelength of 254 nm,^{6,11} we surmised that a combination of a TLC technique with the use of a capillary might be suitable for examining stepwise transformations. A capillary enables the carrying and maintenance of beads in a solution through its capillarity, where beads swell after the excess reactants are washed out with CH₂Cl₂ and methanol. Additional exposure to UV radiation then induces photocleavage of the resin within the capillary, and spotting of the resulting mixture onto a TLC plate permits the study of solid-phase reactions in real time (Scheme 2).

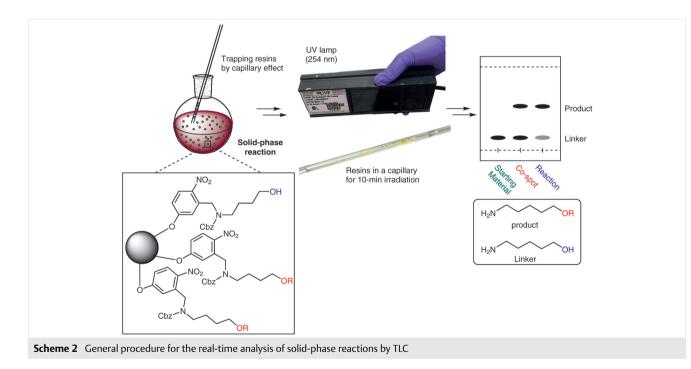






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Scheme 1 (a) Representative biomolecules. Solid-phase synthesis of (b) a peptide and (c) a polymannoside.



We began our model analysis with an examination of a TolSCl/AgOTf-mediated glycosylation¹² of resin **1** with the 4,6-O-benzylidenegalactoside derivative **2a** to give the galactoside **3a** (Scheme 3).¹³ When the reaction mixture had been shaken at room temperature for three hours, a capillary was used to extract some resin particles (approximate-

ly 20 beads) from the reaction mixture for analysis. The beads were washed three times each with CH₂Cl₂ and methanol to remove excess reagents, and then the capillary containing the resin beads **3a** and CH₂Cl₂ was irradiated with a UV lamp (254 nm) for 10–15 minutes. The reaction mixture in the capillary was then spotted onto a TLC plate¹⁴

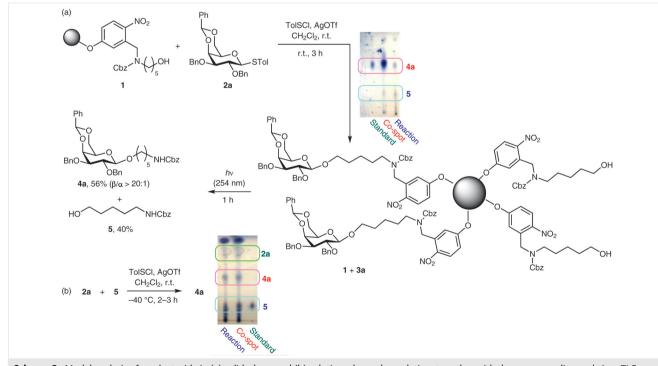
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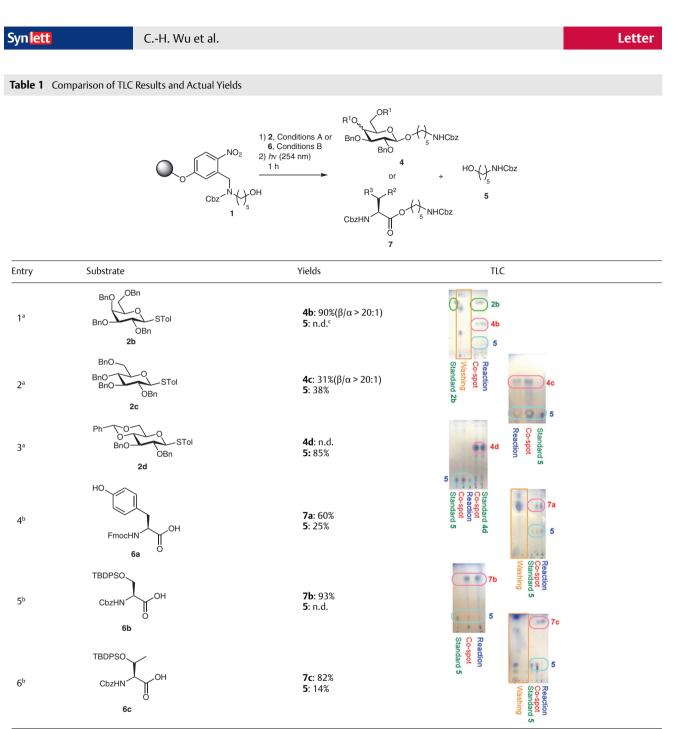
(Scheme 2; see also Supporting Information, Figures S1 and S2). Staining with Hanessian's reagent (ceric ammonium molybdate) and subsequent TLC revealed the presence of galactoside adduct **4a** as a single anomer, together with unreacted linker **5** [Scheme 3(a)]; these results could be compared with those of the corresponding solution-phase reaction [Scheme 3(b)]. Photoinduced cleavage of the Merrifield resin **3a** under UV irradiation (254 nm) for one hour gave galactoside **4a** in 56% isolated yield ($\beta/\alpha > 20:1$), together with a 40% isolated yield of the unreacted linker **5**. This encouraging outcome showed that this is a user-friendly protocol for the real-time study of solid-phase glycosylations.

We then investigated a question pertaining to the photoinduced conversion of resin **1** into linker **5**. ¹H NMR monitoring showed that on exposure to UV irradiation (254 nm) for 5, 10, or 15 minutes resin, **1** was converted into linker **5** in 12, 37, and 52% yield, respectively. Further irradiation of resin **1** for 20, 30, or 40 minutes gave linker **5** in 82, 79 and 81% yield, respectively (see Supporting Information, Figure S3). However, decomposition of resin **1** was observed at longer UV irradiation times (>120 minutes).¹⁵

Next, we explored the substrate scope in glycosylations by using our real-time analysis protocol (Table 1). NIS/TfOH conditions were chosen for these solid-phase glycosylations because of the insolubility of AgOTf. A NIS/TfOH-mediated reaction of linker 1 with fully benzylated thiogalactoside 2b resulted in the adduct 4b. TLC analysis indicated the presence of clean glycosylation product 4b in 90% isolated yield $(\beta/\alpha > 20:1)$, with a complete conversion of linker **5**. Additionally, linker 5 was not observed after the photoinduced cleavage (Table 1, entry 1). Similarly, solid-phase glycosylation of linker 1 with sugar 2c gave the aminopentyl glucoside **4c** in a 31% isolated yield ($\beta/\alpha > 20:1$), together with **5** in a 35% isolated yield (entry 2); similar treatment of sugar 2d gave no 4d and an 85% isolated yield of 5 (entry 3).¹⁶ Next, we examined the esterification of amino acids with resin 1. Tyrosine derivative 6a, serine derivative 6b, and threonine derivative **6c** were coupled with resin **1** through a DIC/HOBt-mediated esterification process, followed by the standard cleavage of the resin, to give esters 7a, 7b, and 7c, respectively, in two-step yields of 60, 93, and 82% (entries 4-6). Our analytical protocol permitted accurate realtime analyses.¹⁷



Scheme 3 Model analysis of a galactoside in (a) solid-phase and (b) solution-phase glycosylation, together with the corresponding real-time TLC analyses. The standard lane was spotted with compound **4a** or **5** as a standard, the reaction lane was spotted with the reaction mixture, and the co-pot lane was spotted with both the standard and the reaction mixture.



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^a Conditions A: NIS, TfOH, CH₂Cl₂, -40 °C, 2-3 h. Eluting solvent: hexane-EtOAc (1:1 for 4b; 2:1 for 4c and 4d).

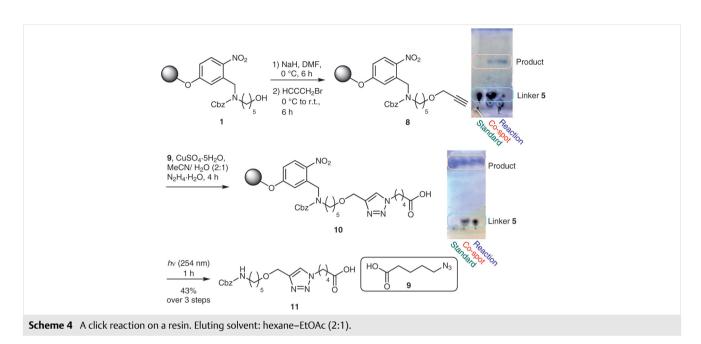
^b Conditions B: DIC, DMAP, HOBE, DMF–CH₂Cl₂ (1:10), MW (30 W, 90 °C, 20 min). Eluting solvent: hexane–EtOAc (1:2 for **7a**; 1:1 for **7b** and **7c**).

^c n.d. = not detected.

We also explored a click reaction by using our real-time TLC method.¹⁸ A direct O-propargylation of resin **1** was performed by a NaH-mediated reaction in DMF solution to give alkyne 8. Additionally, a Cu nanoparticle/clustercatalyzed click reaction of alkyne 8 with azido compound 9 gave the desired adduct 10; in this reaction, the Cu nanoparticle/cluster was formed in situ through reduction of Cu(II) with hydrazine.¹⁸ Both intermediates 8 and 9 were observable on the TLC plates. The final photoinduced cleavage of the resin produced triazole 11 in 43% overall yield over three steps (Scheme 4).¹⁹ Our simple analytical procedure provided accurate results regarding the reaction transformation; consequently, extra reagents and repeated steps were not needed.

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We finally determined the applicability of our real-time TLC examination protocol to the esterification of resin 1 with amino acids, followed by glycosylation. A microwaveassisted DIC/HOBt-mediated esterification of resin 1 with amino acid 6c or 6d gave the amino esters 12a and 12b, respectively. Subsequent desilylation of 12a and 12b with a large excess of TBAF gave alcohols 13a and 13b, respectively. Next, glycosylations of donor 2c with alcohols 13a and 13b were performed under TolSCl/AgOTf, NIS/TfOH, and BSP/Tf₂O conditions. However, only the BSP/Tf₂O conditions gave the desired glucose adducts 14a and 14b. In the final photoinduced cleavage of the resin, the targeted adducts **15a** and **15b** were obtained in 50% ($\beta/\alpha = 1:1$) and 66% (β/α > 20: 1) overall yield, respectively, over the four steps. The proposed TLC method permitted real-time stepwise examinations of the preparation of **15a** and **15b** from resin **1** (Scheme 5).²⁰

A simple and user-friendly protocol for the real-time study of solid-phase reactions was developed by using the photocleavable Merrifield resin **1** and TLC. In particular, stepwise transformations such as glycosylation, peptide esterification, and a Cu nanoparticle/cluster-catalyzed click reaction were examined by using the proposed protocol, and the results showed a high degree of accuracy. We suggest that this protocol provides a practical method for increasing the rate of identification of appropriate conditions for sequential reactions in solid-phase syntheses in chemical laboratories.

Funding Information

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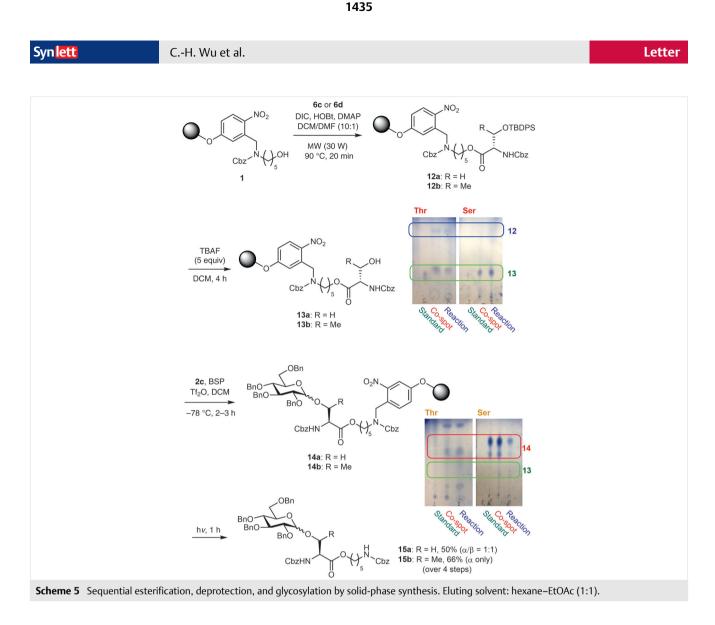
Supporting Information

Supporting information for this article is available online at https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0036-1592008.

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- (13) Solid-Phase Glycosylation Procedure for the Synthesis of Glycoside 4a

Resin 1 (500 mg, 0.1 mmol/g) was swollen in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) for 2 h. Swollen 1 in CH₂Cl₂ was mixed with sugar **2a** (139 mg, 0.3 mmol) and TolSCl (38 μ L, 0.3 mmol), then AgOTf (64 mg, 0.3 mmol) was added and the mixture was kept at r.t. for 3 h. Unreacted reagents were removed by sequential washing with CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH (×3). The resins in CH₂Cl₂ were exposed to UV radiation for 1 h, then filtered. The products in the filtrate were purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, hexane-EtOAc (3:1 for **4a**; 1:2 for **5**)] to give **4a** as a white solid; yield: 19 mg (56%). Linker **5** was also obtained as a white solid: yield: 5 mg (40%). Eluting solvent for TLC: hexane–EtOAc (1:1).

(14) Real-Time Analyses of Solid-Phase Reactions by TLC; General Procedure

A minute sample of the reaction mixture in the reaction vessel was captured by capillary attraction in a capillary tube (see Supporting Information, Figure S1). The liquid solution in the capillary was absorbed by using a TLC plate, while the resin beads were retained in the capillary (Figure S2). The beads were then washed sequentially with CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH three times to remove excess reactants. Both CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH were able to flow into the capillary through capillary attraction, and could be subsequently removed by absorption onto the TLC plate. After the repeated washing steps, the capillary loaded with the beads and CH₂Cl₂ was irradiated with UV radiation for 10–15 minutes, and the resulting reaction mixture from the capillary was spotted onto another TLC plate. After eluting the sample, the TLC plate was stained with Hanessian's reagent and heated on a hotplate.

(15) Determination of the Reaction Time for Photocleavage

Resin **1** (500 mg, 0.1 mmol/g) was immersed in CH₂Cl₂ (7.8 mL) for 1 h. Nine 0.1 mL aliquots were extracted from the resin solution and exposed to UV radiation (254 nm) for various times (5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 60, 90, or 120 min). Linker **5**, obtained after irradiation and the removal of CH₂Cl₂, was dissolved in CD₂Cl₂ (0.4 mL) containing (5 × 10⁻⁶)% TMS (v/v) as an internal standard. The results are given in the Supporting Information (Figure S3).

(16) Solid-phase Glycosylation to Give Products 4b-d; General Procedure

Swollen resin **1** (500 mg, 0.1 mmol/g) in CH₂Cl₂ was mixed with the appropriate sugar derivate **2b-d** (0.3 mmol) and NIS (56 mg, 0.3 mmol). TfOH (22 μ L, 0.3 mmol) was added at -40 °C, and the mixture was maintained at -40 °C for 2-3 h. All unreacted reagents were washed out three times with CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH. The resins in CH₂Cl₂ were exposed to UV radiation for 1 h then filtered. The products in the filtrate were purified by flash

column chromatography [silica gel, hexane–EtOAc (3:1 for **4b**, 4:1 for **4c**, 1:2 for **5**)]. **4b** was obtained as a colorless oil; yield: 34 mg (90%). **4c** was also obtained as a colorless oil; yield: 12 mg (31%). **4d** was not obtained. Eluting solvent for TLC: hexane–EtOAc (1:1 for **4b**, 2:1 for **4c** and **4d**).

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(17) Solid-Phase Syntheses of Aminopentyl Esters 7a-c

- A solution of the appropriate amino acid **6a–c** (0.5 mmol) and HOBt (68 mg, 0.5 mmol) in DMF (200 μ L) was injected into CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) containing swollen resin **1** (500 mg, 0.1 mmol/g). A solution of DIC (63 mg, 0.5 mmol) in DMF (200 μ L) was dropped into the reaction mixture, followed by the addition of a catalytic amount of DMAP. The microwave-assisted reactions were conducted at 90 °C for 20 min. Unreacted reagents were washed out five times with CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH. The resin in CH₂Cl₂ were exposed to UV radiation for 1 h, then filtered. The products in the filtrate were purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, hexane–EtOAc (2:1 for **7a**, 3:1 for **7b**, 4:1 for **7c**)]. **7a** was obtained as white solid; yield: 19 mg (60%). **7b** was obtained as a colorless oil; yield: 32 mg (93%). **7c** was obtained as a colorless oil; yield 29 mg (82%). Eluting solvent for TLC: hexane–EtOAc (1:2 for **7a**, 1:1 for **7b** and **7c**).
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(19) Triazole 11 by Solid-Phase Click Reaction

A mixture of resin 1 (500 mg, 0.1 mmol/g) swollen in DMF (2 mL) was slowly added to a 60% dispersion of NaH (50 mg, 0.6 mmol) in mineral oil at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 6 h. Propargyl bromide (54 µL, 0.6 mmol) was then slowly added at 0 °C, and the mixture was kept at r.t. for 6 h. Unreacted reagents were washed out five times with 1:1 v/v MeOH-H₂O and CH₂Cl₂. The resulting resin 8 was swollen in CH₂Cl for 2 h. A mixture of resin 8 in 2:2:1 CH₂Cl₂-MeCN-H₂O (2 mL) was treated with azide 9 (79 µL, 0.6 mmol) and CuSO₄·5H₂O (154 mg, 0.6 mmol), and the mixture was kept at r.t. for 3 h. N₂H₄·H₂O (30 µL, 0.6 mmol) was added, and the mixture was allowed to react for 4 h. Unreacted reagents were washed out five times with CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH. A mixture of the resin and CH₂Cl₂ was exposed to a UV lamp for 1 h then filtered. The filtrate was purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, hexane-EtOAc (5:1)] to give 11 as a brown solid; yield: 9 mg (43% over three steps). Eluting solvent for TLC: hexane-EtOAc (2:1).

(20) Products 15a and 15b by Sequential Solid-Phase Reactions

A 1 M soln of TBAF in THF (500 μ L, 0.5 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of swollen resin **12** (500 mg, 0.1 mmol/g) in CH₂Cl₂, and the mixture was stirred at r.t for 4 h. Unreacted reagents were washed out with CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH to give resin **13**. Resin **13** and a solution of glucopyranoside **2c** (323 mg, 0.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ were mixed with 1-(phenylsulfinyl)piperidine (105 mg, 0.5 mmol) and Tf₂O (82 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 2–3 h. Unreacted reagents were washed out with CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH to give resin **14**, which was exposed to a UV lamp for 1 h. The filtrate was purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, hexane–EtOAc (7:1 for **15a**, 6:1 for **15b**)]. **15a** was obtained as a colorless oil; yield 25 mg (50% overall). **15b** was also obtained as a colorless oil; yield 33 mg (66%). Eluting solvent for TLC: hexane–EtOAc (1:1).