



***UK Flow Chemistry Seminar - Cambridge,  
17th February 2009***

**Continuous Flow Processing Utilizing  
High Temperature/Pressure Conditions**

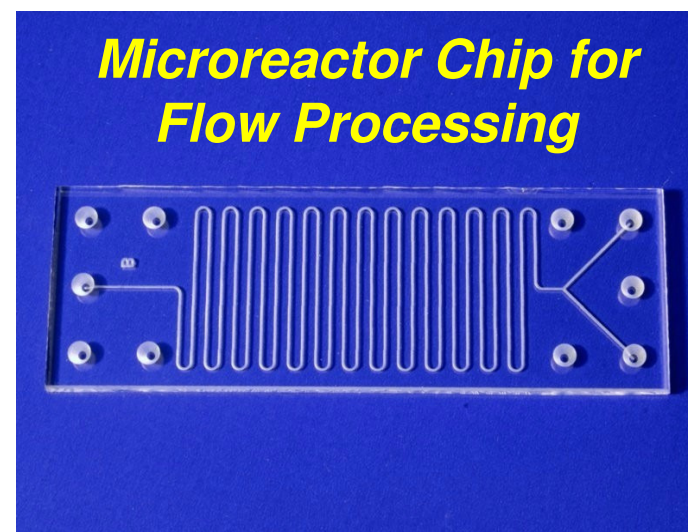


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[www.maos.net](http://www.maos.net)

## Advantages of Flow Chemistry

- Rapid heat transfer and temperature control of the reaction system
- Reaction temperature above the solvent's boiling point can be used
- Very efficient mixing of the reactants
- Automated reaction optimization – on the fly changes
- Multi step reactions in a continuous sequence
- Easy scale-up of a proven reaction by:
  - increase of time
  - reactor volume change
  - parallel processing
- Automated purification possible by:
  - Solid phase scavenging
  - Chromatographic separation
  - Liquid/liquid extraction



# Flow Hydrogenations in H-Cube

## Features

- A continuous flow of substrate is combined with hydrogen, generated in-situ from the electrolysis of water
- The hydrogen/substrate mixture can be heated and pressurized up to 100 °C and 100 bar respectively
- The mixture passes through a packed catalyst cartridge (CatCart®), where the reaction takes place



## Advantages

### Safer

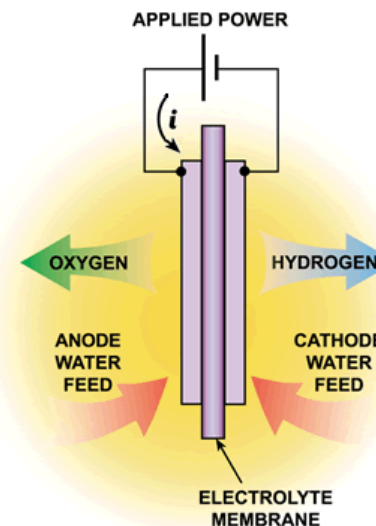
- No gas cylinders or other external hydrogen source
- No catalyst filtration or direct catalyst handling
- Easy catalyst exchange

### Efficient

- Analyze reaction results after 2 minutes
- Perform up to 50 different validation conditions in a day
- Higher reaction rates with increased phase mixing
- Easy to use, touch screen controlled

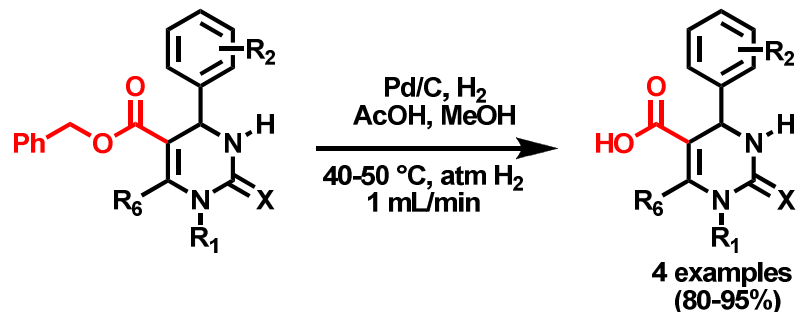
### Convenient

- Compact size
- Can be coupled to standard liquid-handling robots

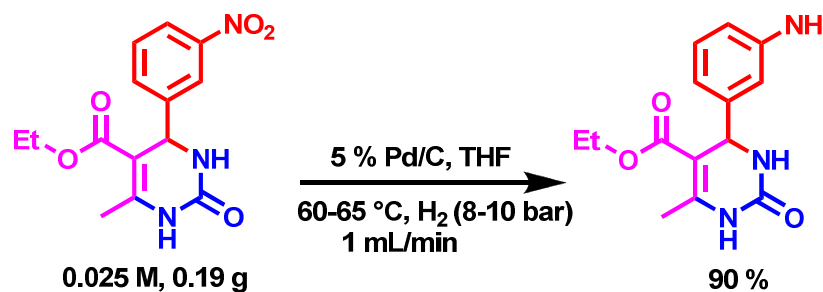


## Continuous Flow Hydrogenations (H-Cube, 2005)

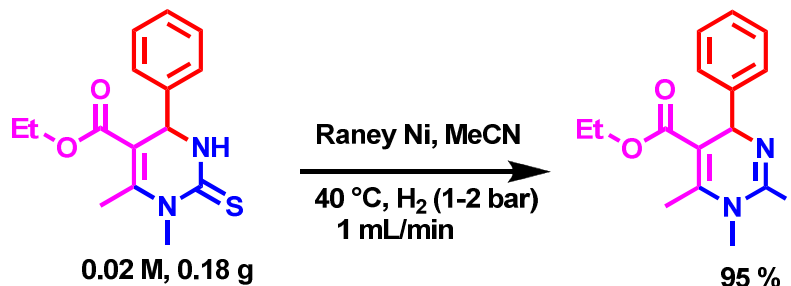
### Debenzylation



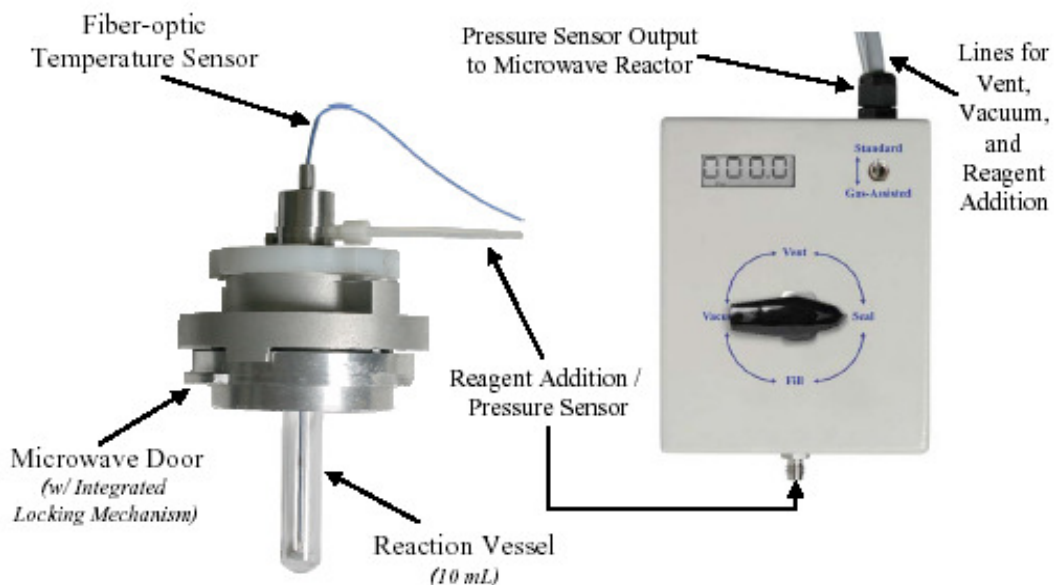
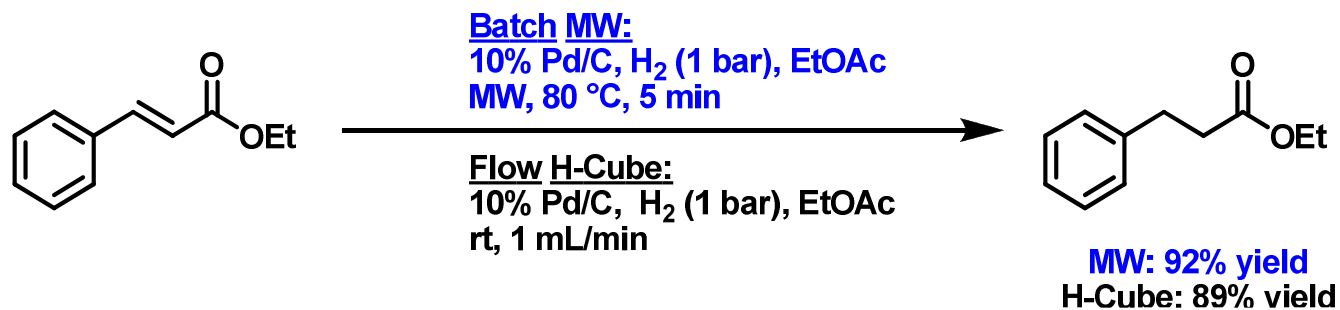
### Nitro Reduction



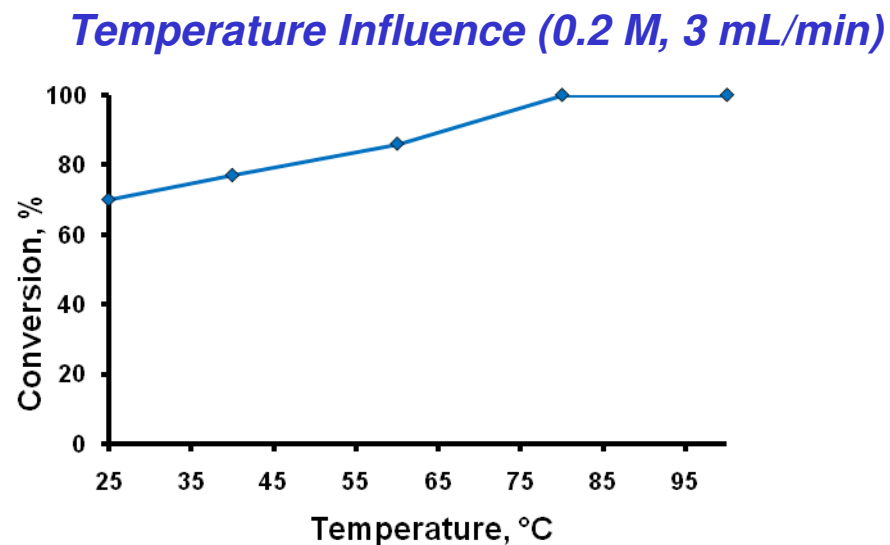
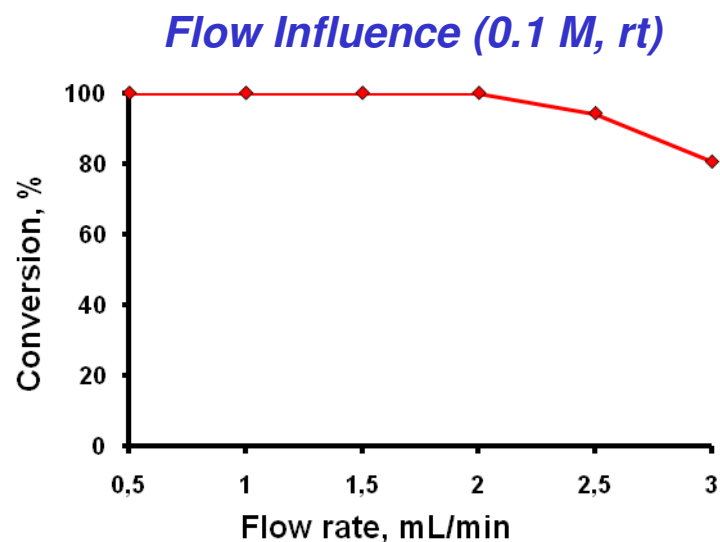
### Desulfurization



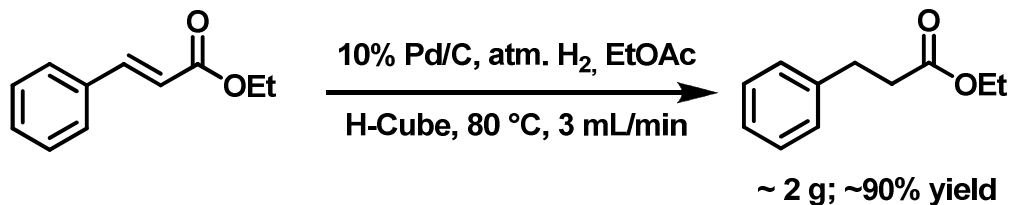
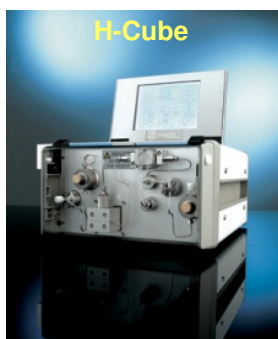
## Hydrogenation of Ethyl Cinnamate



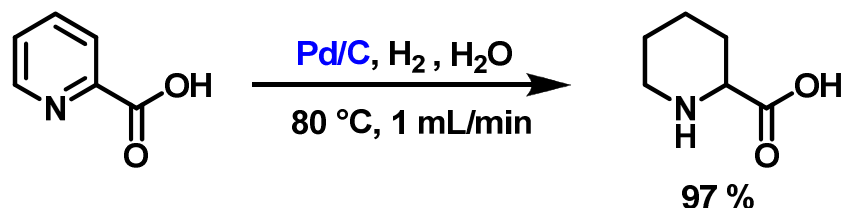
# Hydrogenation of Ethyl Cinnamate Flow and Temperature Optimization



## *Scale-Up Run – 10 mmol (0.2 M)*



## Hydrogenation of Picolinic Acid (H-Cube)



### Optimization:

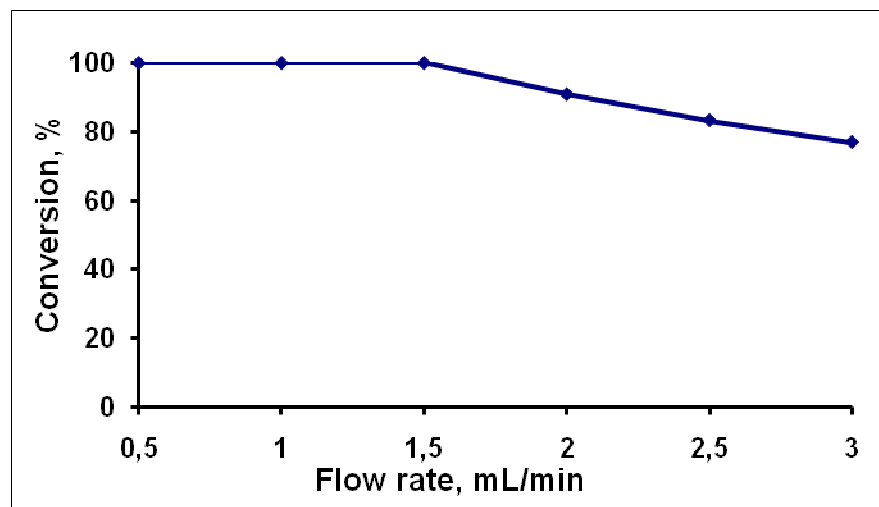
Temperature: rt – 80 °C  
Concentration: 0.01 – 0.1 M  
Pressure: atm – 10 bar  
Solvent: EtOAc, EtOH, H<sub>2</sub>O  
Flow Rate: 0.5 – 1 mL/min

### Best Conditions

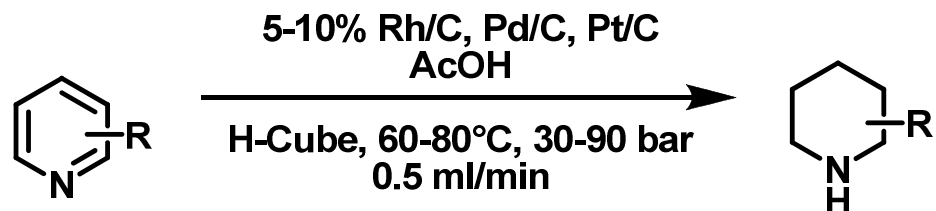
#### (Full Conversion, 0.1 M):

EtOH, 80 °C, H<sub>2</sub> (1 bar), 0.5 mL/min, 100% conv  
H<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub> (1 bar), 80 °C, 1.5 mL/min, 100% conv

### Kinetic Profile in Water (80 °C, 0.1 M)



## Hydrogenation of Substituted Pyridines (H-Cube)

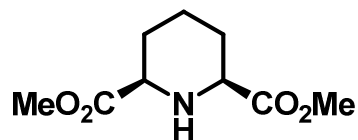
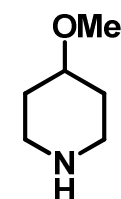
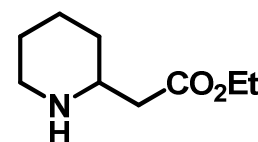
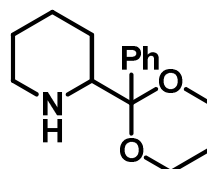
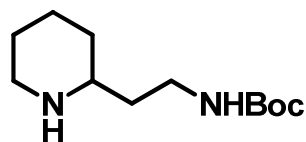
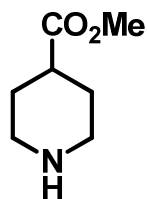


7 examples  
(74-93 %)

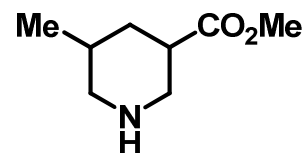
MW batch conditions (PtO<sub>2</sub>):  
AcOH, 8 bar H<sub>2</sub>, 80 °C, 20-60 min

Piras, L. et al. *Synlett* 2008, 1125

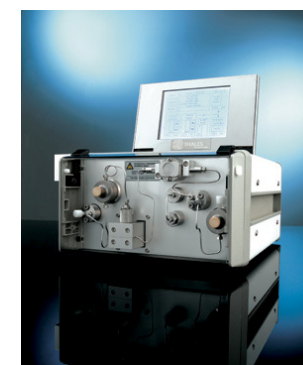
### Products:



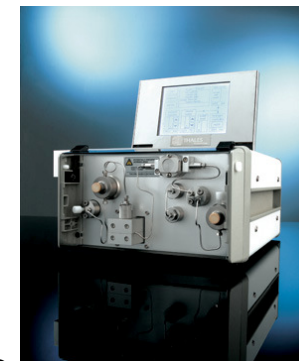
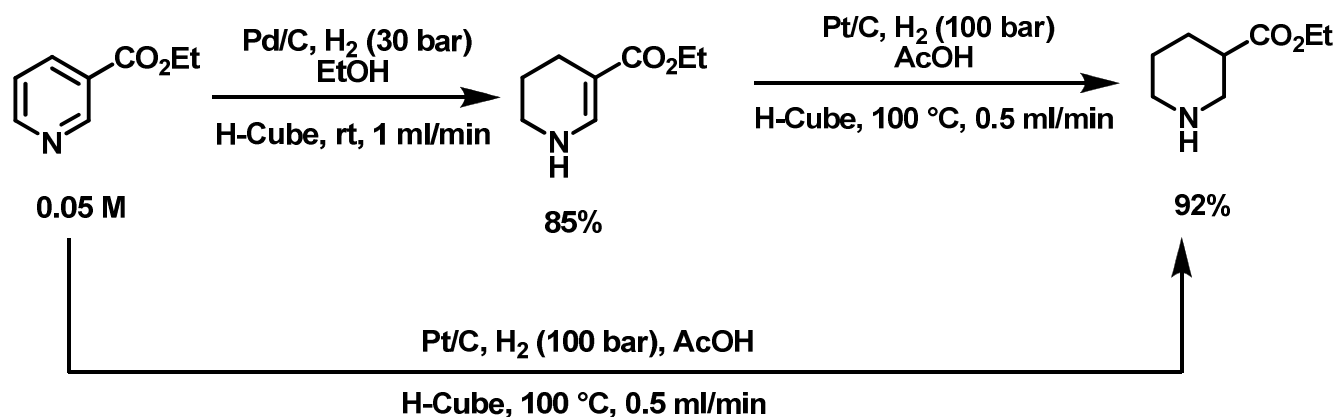
*cis*  
(> 99%)



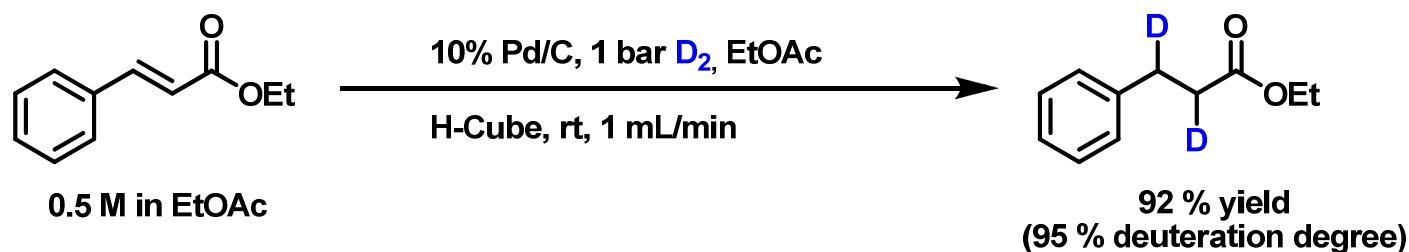
*cis/trans* mixture  
(~ 1:1 ratio)



## Hydrogenation of Ethyl Nicotinate – Tuning Selectivity



## Deuteration of Ethyl Cinnamate with D<sub>2</sub>



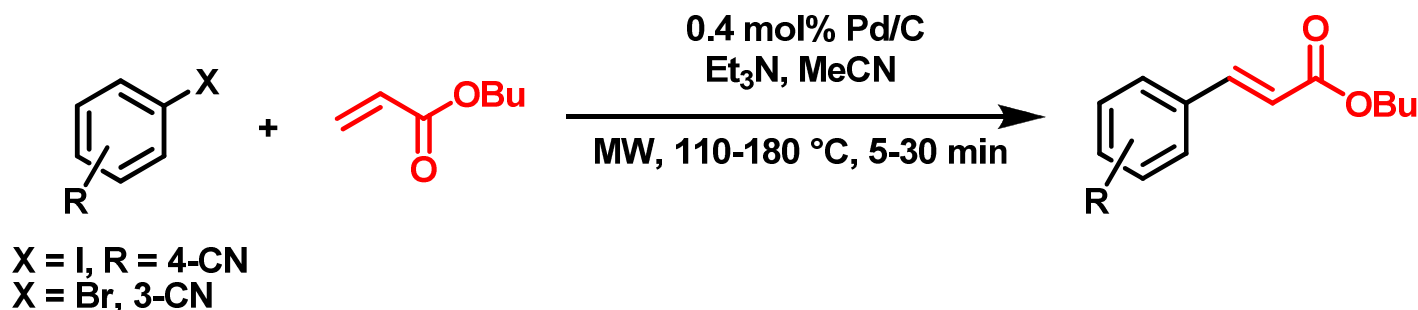
# Heck C-C Coupling of 4-Iodo and 3-Bromobenzonitrile with *n*-Butylacrylate

## Literature Background



Stadler, A. et al. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2003**, 7, 707  
Degussa Pd/C: Köhler, K. et al. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2002**, 8, 622

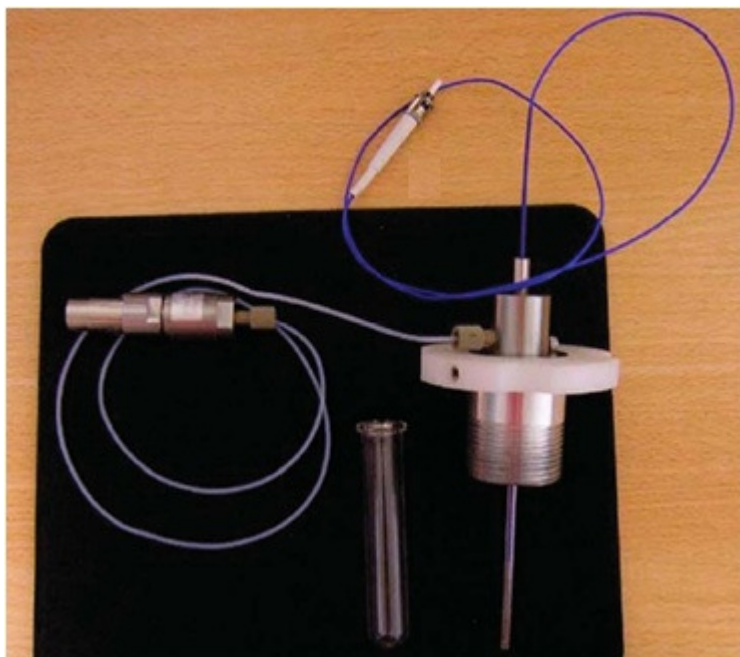
## Example for Batch and Flow Chemistry



cf. Nikbin, N.; Ladlow, M.; Ley, S. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2007**, 11, 458 (monolithic nanoparticles)  
cf. K. Mennecke, W. Solodenko, A. Kirschning, *Synthesis* **2008**, 1589 (immobilized palladacycles)

# Accurate Comparison of Oil Bath and MW Experiments

## *Fiber-Optic (FO) Temperature Measurement*

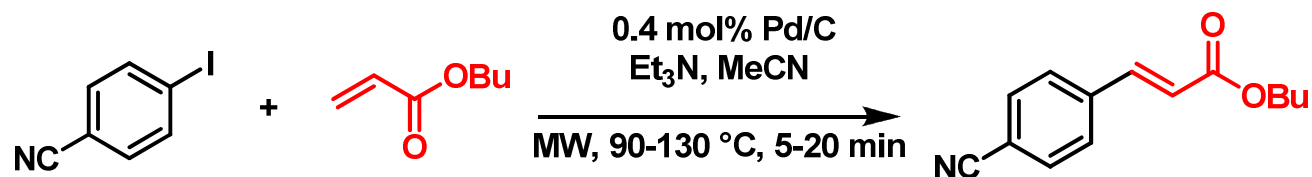


*sealed vessel reactor system (10 mL) with FO probe can be inserted in oil bath or mw reactor*

- same reaction vessel
- same temp measurement
- identical stirring speed



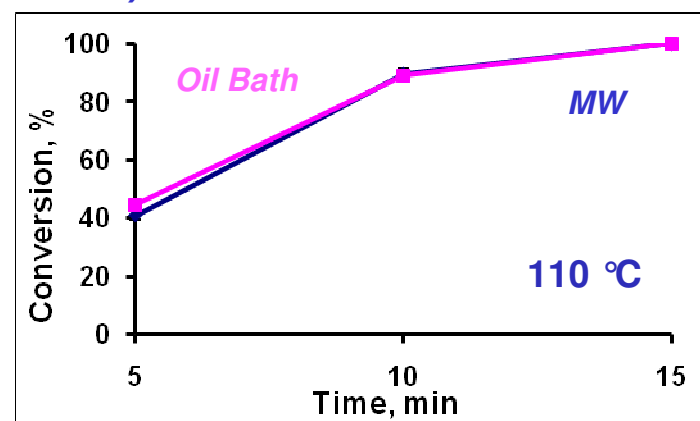
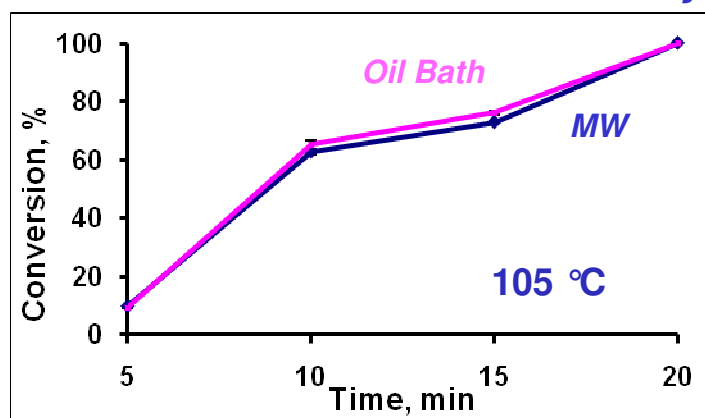
## Heck Reaction: Microwave Versus Oil Bath Heating



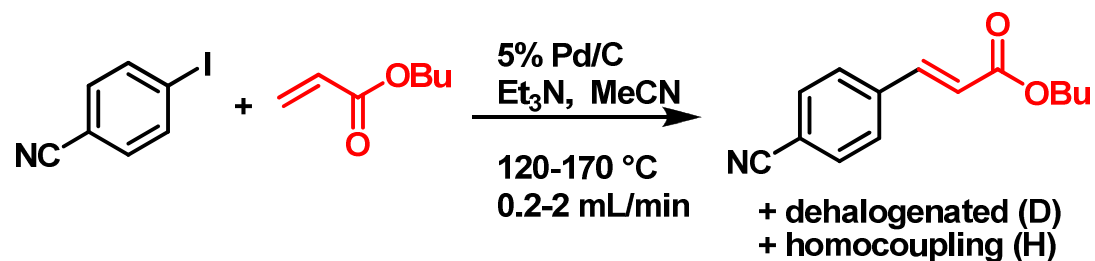
ca 80 °C (reflux): >99% conv after 3 h  
90 °C: <1% conv after 20 min  
130 °C: >99% conv after 5 min (96% isol. yield)  
150 °C: >99% conv after 2 min  
105-110 °C: suitable for kinetic studies

0.4 mol% (6.5 mg 5% Pd/C)  
0.65 mmol aryl iodide/arylbromide  
1.5 equiv Et<sub>3</sub>N, 1.5 equiv butyl acrylate  
1 mL MeCN

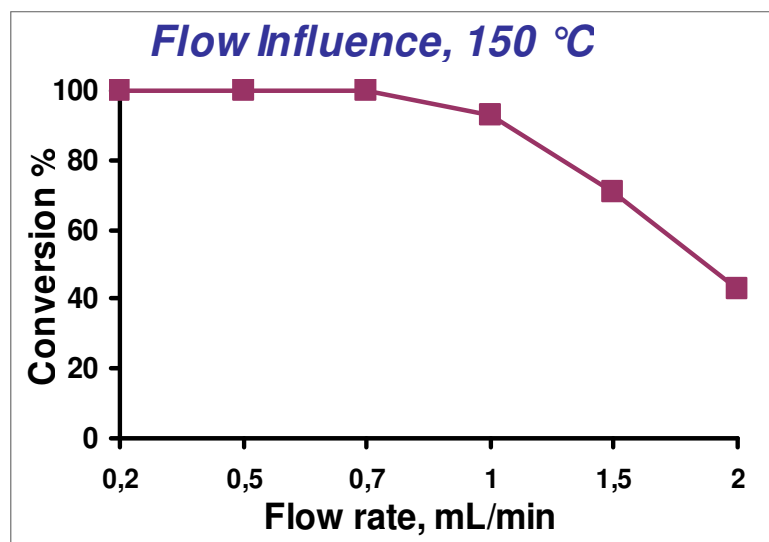
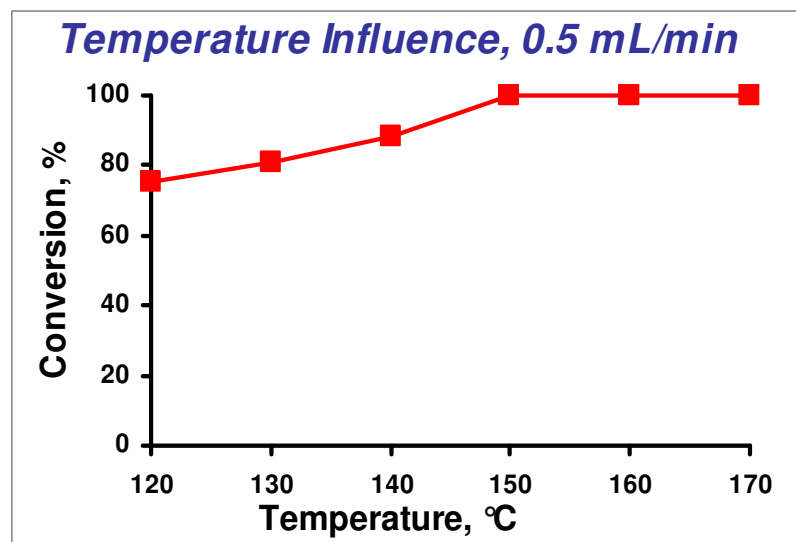
### Kinetic Analysis (GC-FID)



## Heck Chemistry under Flow Conditions (Pd/C)

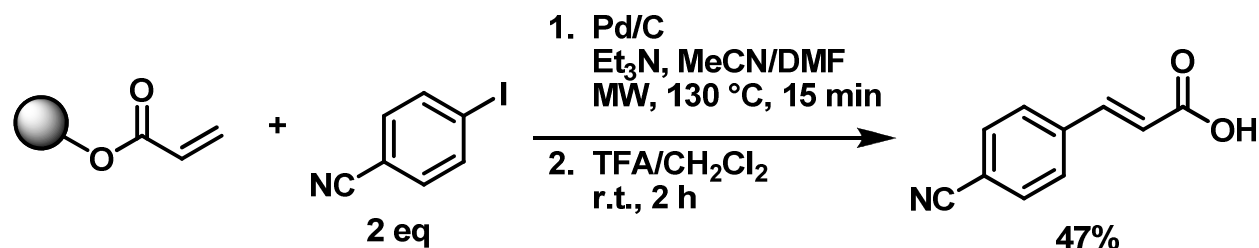


**X-Cube**  
(200 °C, 150 bar)  
[www.thalesnano.com](http://www.thalesnano.com)



## Homogeneous vs. Heterogeneous?

### Three-Phase Test (Batch)



Cf. Davies, I. W.; Matty, L.; Hughes, D. L.; Reider, P. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 10139

➔ **Homogeneous Process:** Reaction proceeds via leaching of Pd from Pd/C into solution with reabsorption onto the support

### Follow-Up Problems in Flow

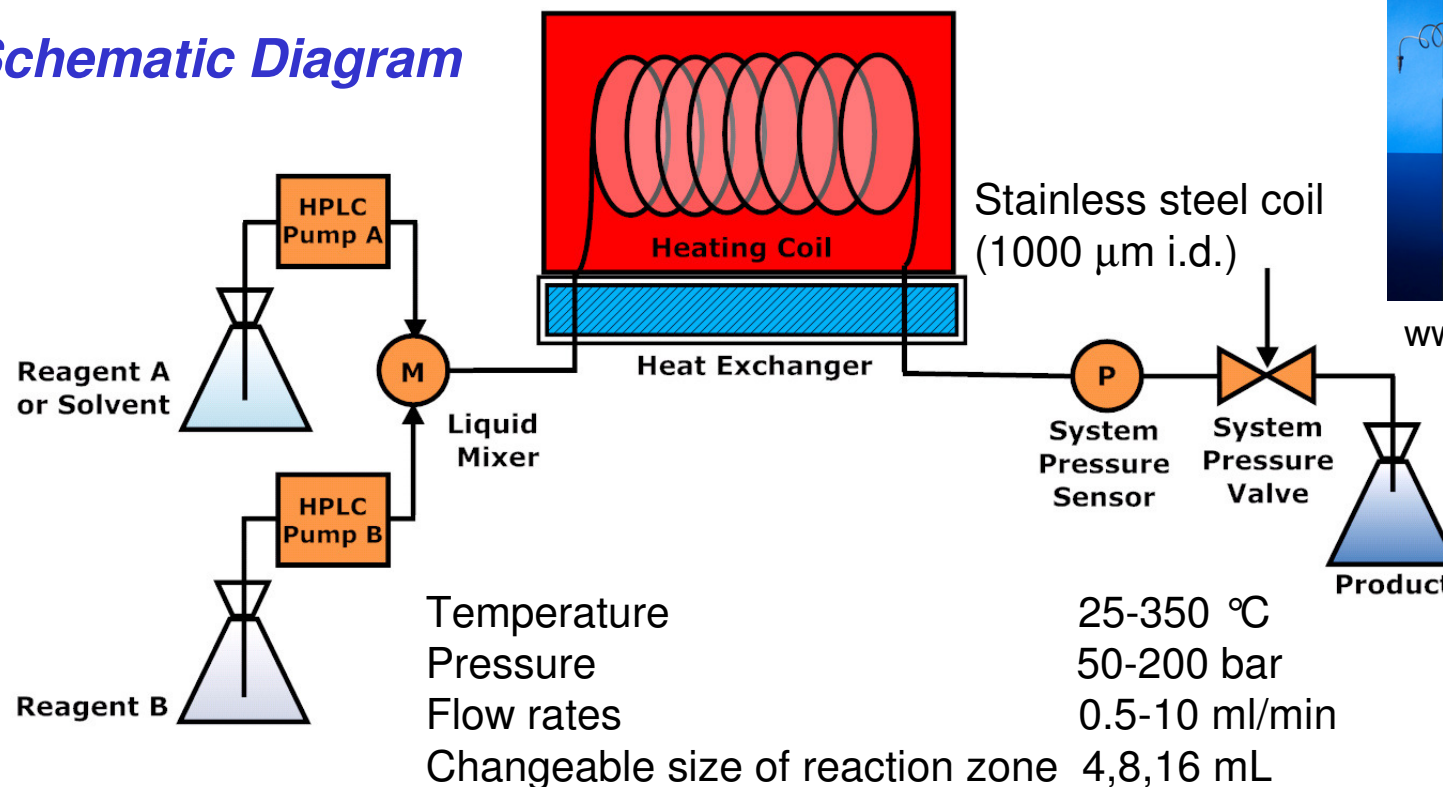
- decreased selectivity (high catalyst loading)
- leaching (ICP-MS)
- chromatography effect



Glasnov, T. N; Findenig, S.; Kappe, C. O. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 1001

# High-Temperature/Pressure Flow Reactor (X-Cube Flash)

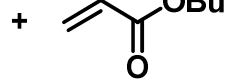
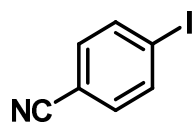
## Schematic Diagram



www.thalesnano.com

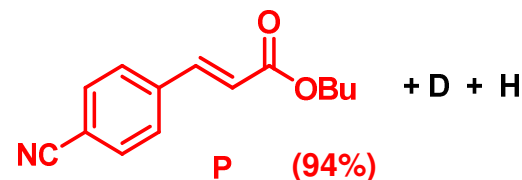
## Heck Chemistry (MW / Flow) – Homogeneous Catalysis with Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>

*Aryl Iodide*



Batch:  
0.001-0.4 mol % Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>  
Et<sub>3</sub>N, MeCN  
MW, 150-190 °C, 2-25 min

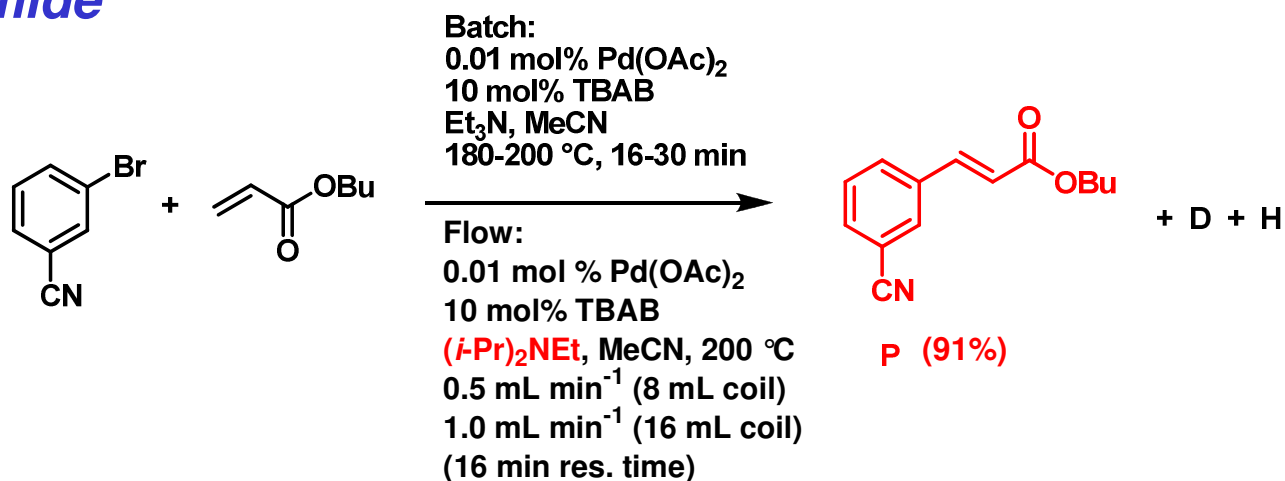
Flow:  
0.01 mol % Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>  
Et<sub>3</sub>N, MeCN  
170 °C, 0.4 mL min<sup>-1</sup>  
(10 min res. time = 4 mL coil)



Entry	Conditions	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> [mol%]	Temp [°C] / Time [min]	Conversion [%, GC-FID]	Selectivity P/D/H [%, GC-FID]
1	Batch/MW	0.4	150 / 2	>99	89 / 5 / 6
2	Batch/MW	0.1	150 / 2	>99	93 / 2 / 5
3	Batch/MW	0.05	150 / 5	>99	98 / 1 / 1
4	Batch/MW	0.01	150 / 25	>99	99 / <1 / 0
5	Batch/MW	0.01	170 / 10	>99	99 / <1 / 0
6	Batch/MW	0.001/ 10 mol% TBAB	190 / 15	>99	99 / <1 / 0
7	Batch/OB	0.01	150 / 25	>99	99 / <1 / 0

## Heck Chemistry (MW / Flow) – Homogeneous Catalysis with Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>

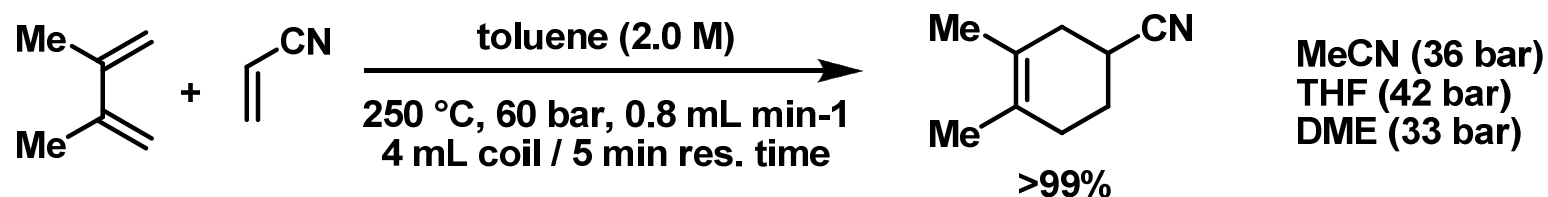
### Aryl Bromide



Entry	Conditions	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> [mol%]	Temp [°C] / Time [min]	Conversion [%, GC-FID]	Selectivity P/D/H [%, GC-FID]
1	Batch/MW	0.01	180 / 30	90	99 / <1 / 0
2	Batch/MW	0.01	200 / 16	>99	99 / <1 / 0
3	Flow (1 mL min <sup>-1</sup> )	0.01	200 / 16	>99	99 / <1 / 0

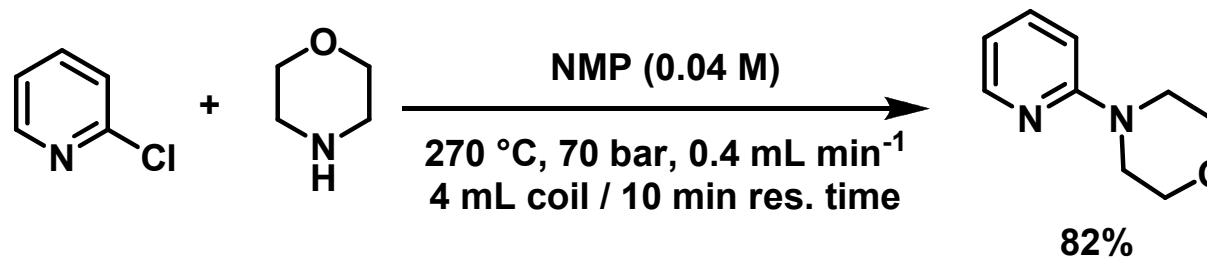
# High-Temperature / High-Pressure Flow Chemistry (X-Cube Flash)

## Diels-Alder Reaction



cf. MW conditions (toluene, 250 °C, 10 min): Kreamsner, J. M.; Kappe, C. O. *J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, *51*, 4651

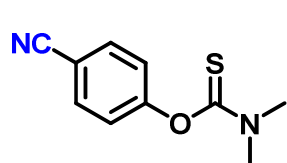
## Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution



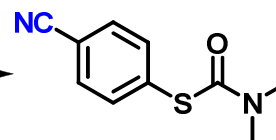
cf. MW/flow reaction: Hamper, B. C.; Tesfu, E. *Synlett* **2007**, 2257

# Newmann-Kwart Rearrangement – MW vs. Flow Experiments

## “Easy” Case

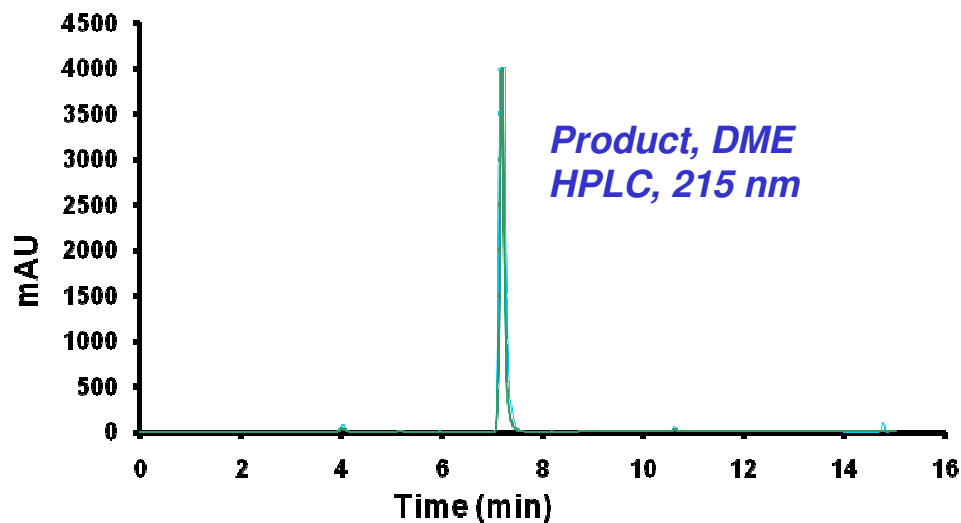


Batch MW: NMP,  
MW, 220 °C, 20 min

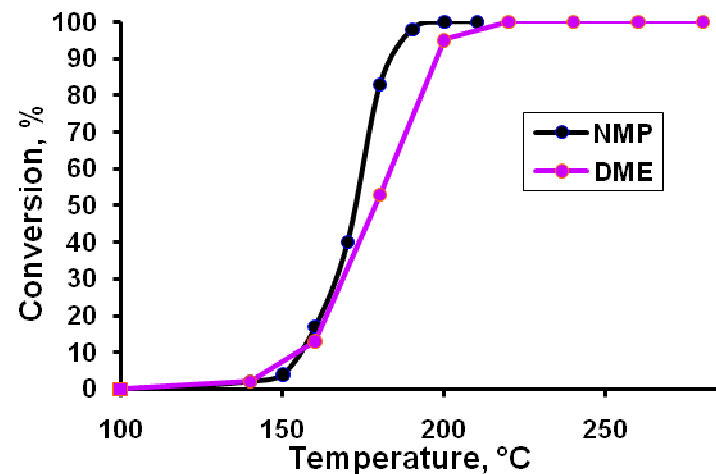


> 99% Conversion

Flow X-Flash:  
NMP, 0.15 M,  
200 °C, 60 bar, 1 mL/min  
or  
DME, 0.15 M,  
210 °C, 60 bar, 1 mL/min

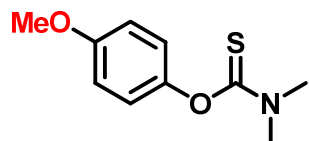


## Kinetic Analysis (HPLC)



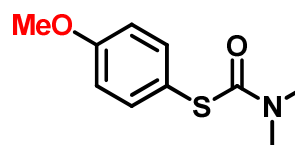
# Newmann-Kwart Rearrangement – MW vs. Flow Experiments

“Difficult” Case



Batch MW: NMP,  
MW, >300 °C, 40 min

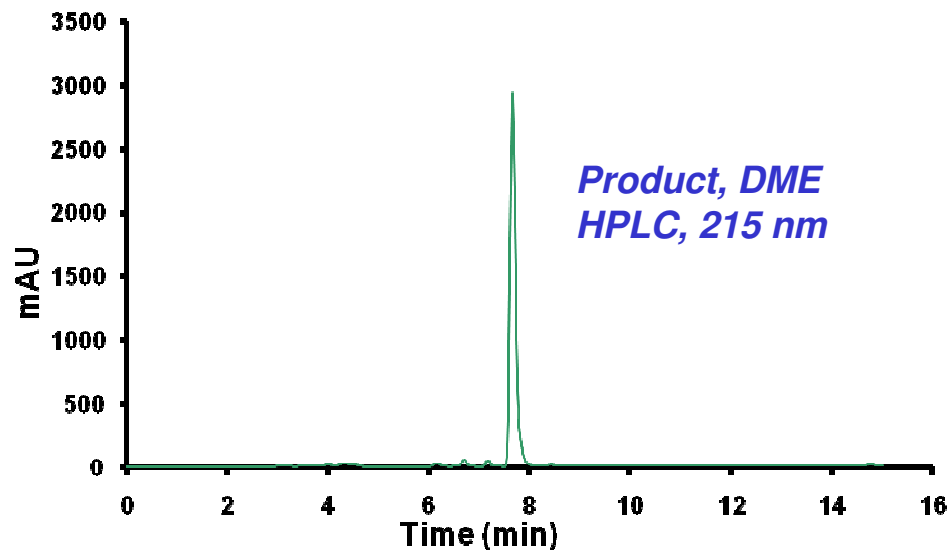
Flow X-Flash:  
NMP, 0.15 M,  
280 °C, 60 bar, 1 mL/min  
or  
sc. DME, 0.15 M,  
300 °C, 80 bar, 1.3 mL/min



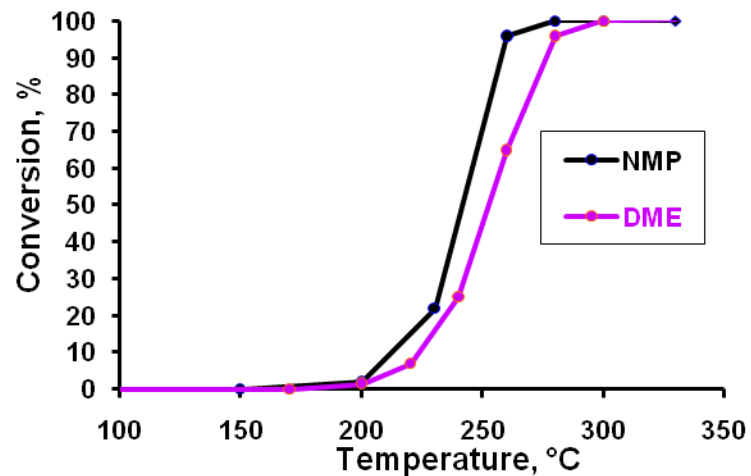
>99% Conversion

sc. DME

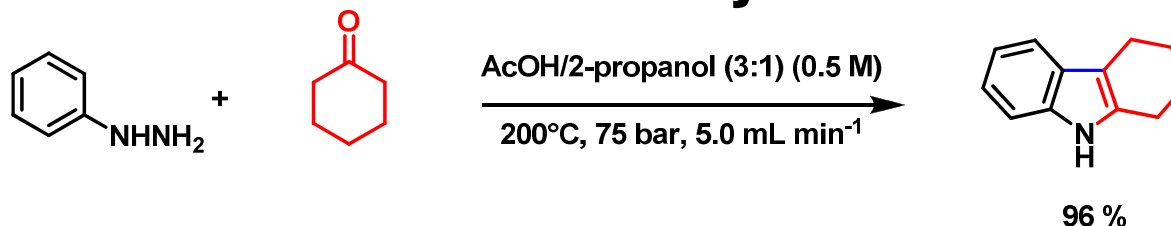
critical point:  
263 °C; 39 bar



Kinetic Analysis (HPLC)



## Fischer Indole Synthesis



cf. MW reaction: Bagley, M. C.; et al. *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 7003

### Continuous Flow Results (4 mL or 16 mL Coil)

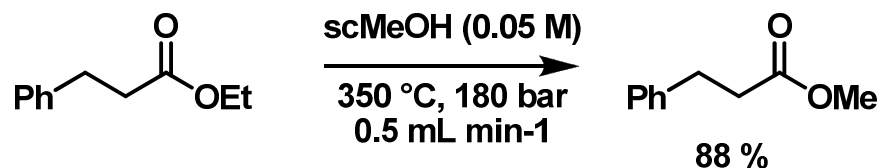
In AcOH/2-propanol (3:1) (0.5M)  
150 °C, 60 bars,  
 $1.0 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  (4 min res. time)  
88% isolated yield

Scale-up  
200 °C, 75 bars,  
 $5.0 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  (~3 min res. time)  
96% isolated yield

➔ 25 g indole/hour

## Reactions in Supercritical Alcohols

### Transesterification

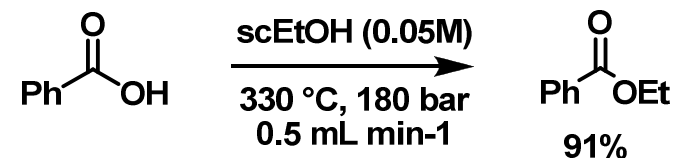


MeOH

$T_c = 239^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $P_c = 81 \text{ bar}$

cf. Socher, G. et al. *Fresenius J. Anal. Chem.* **2001**, *371*, 369

### Esterification

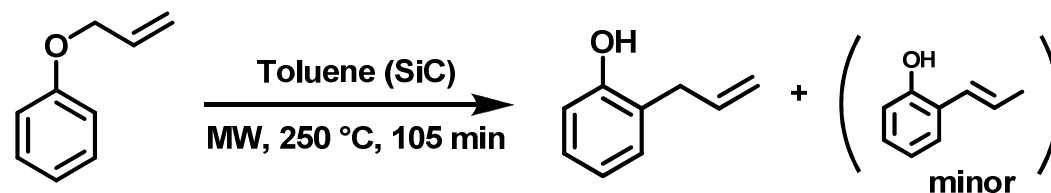


EtOH

$T_c = 268^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $P_c = 61 \text{ bar}$

# Claisen Rearrangement

## MW Experiments:



cf. Kreamsner, J. M.; Kappe, C. O. *J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, 71, 4651.

cf. Razzaq, T.; Kreamsner, J. M.; Kappe, C. O. *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, 73, 6321

## X-Flash Flow Experiments:

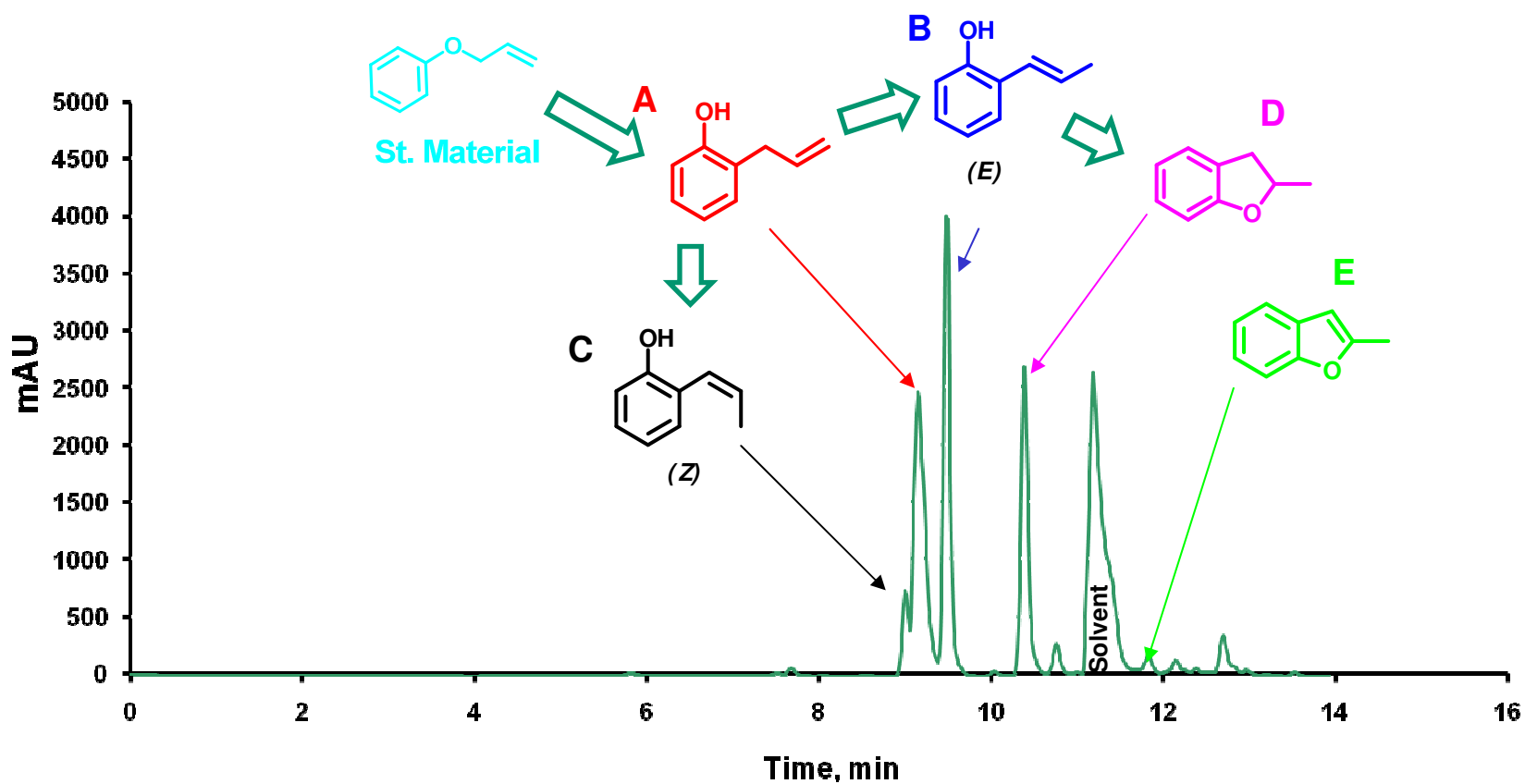
Solvents:	NMP, DMF, Toluene, sc. EtOH, sc.DME
Temperature Range:	275 – 325 °C
Flow Rates:	0.8 – 2 mL/min
Pressure:	60 – 125 bar

## **Best Conditions (Full Conversion, Cleanest Reaction Profile):**

DMF, 275 °C, 60 bars, 2 ml/min

sc. EtOH (T = 268 °C, Pressure = 61 bar), 285 °C, 75 bars, 1 mL/ min

## Claisen Rearrangement – High Temperature Reaction Pathways (Toluene, 315 °C)





# Christian Doppler Laboratory for Microwave Chemistry

A Public-Private-Partnership Initiative (2006-2013)



**Prof. C. Oliver Kappe**

**Muhammad Irfan  
Tahseen Razzaq  
Dr. Elena Petricci  
Silvia Findenig (ICP-MS)**

**Christian Doppler Society (CDG)  
Austrian Science Fund (FWF)  
Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)  
European Union COST, Land Steiermark  
BM:BWK, Österreichische Nationalbank (ÖNB)**



**Biotage  
CEM  
Milestone**

**Novartis, Abbott  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Organon, BASF**