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High-Valent Organometallic Copper and Palladium in Catalysis

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Preface

Copper and palladium catalysts are critically important for numerous commercial chemical processes. Improvements in the activity, selectivity, and scope of these catalysts have the potential to dramatically reduce the environmental impact and increase the sustainability of chemical reactions. One rapidly emerging strategy to achieve these goals is to exploit “high-valent” copper and palladium intermediates in catalysis. This review describes exciting recent advances involving both the fundamental chemistry and the applications of these high-valent metal complexes in numerous synthetically useful catalytic transformations.

Introduction

Homogeneous copper and palladium-catalyzed reactions are widely used for the construction of important organic molecules, including pharmaceuticals,^{1–3} commodity chemicals,⁴ and polymers.⁵ The development of copper and palladium catalysis has been inextricably linked as both metals have found extensive utility in the construction of similar types of carbon–carbon and carbon–heteroatom bonds. Furthermore, advancements and insights in copper chemistry have often spurred improvements in palladium-catalyzed processes and *vice versa*, leading to a wealth of robust, synthetically valuable, and often complementary synthetic methods. This review focuses particularly on an area that has seen tremendous progress and advancements over the past decade - the use of high-valent Cu and Pd complexes in catalysis (see Text box for definitions of ‘high-valent Cu and Pd’).

Text Box

Definitions

In the context of Pd and Cu, high-valent compounds include Pd in the +3 or +4 oxidation state (abbreviated Pd^{III} and Pd^{IV} throughout this review) and Cu in the +3 oxidation state (abbreviated Cu^{III}). Organometallic complexes of these high-valent metals are defined as molecules that contain Cu– or Pd–carbon bonds. “High-valent Cu/Pd catalysis” is defined as a catalytic reaction in which the metal is oxidized to form a high-valent organometallic intermediate during the catalytic cycle.

Key issues in the field of high-valent Cu chemistry

Exciting advances in the area of high-valent Cu chemistry have enabled researchers to address a number of critical issues, including: *i*) the synthetic accessibility of organo–Cu^{III} complexes, *ii*) the viability of carbon–carbon and carbon–heteroatom bond

formation from discrete organo-Cu^{III} species, *iii*) the catalytic relevance of Cu^{III} complexes, and *iv*) the ability to exploit high-valent Cu intermediates to improve catalytic reactions and/or discover new reactivity modes.

Key issues in the field of high-valent Pd chemistry

There has been a renaissance in high-valent Pd chemistry over the past decade that has provided key insights into the following scientific issues: *i*) the synthetic accessibility of high-valent Pd^{III} or Pd^{IV} organometallic complexes, *ii*) the ability of these species to participate in *stoichiometric* carbon-carbon and carbon-heteroatom bond-forming reactions, *iii*) the catalytic relevance of these high-valent Pd species, and *iv*) the advantages of high-valent Pd catalysis (in terms of enhanced substrate scope, milder reaction conditions, and improved and chemo-, regio-, and/or site-selectivity) versus more common low-valent analogues. A representative high-valent palladium catalytic cycle is shown in the figure.

History and Importance of Copper Catalysis

Copper is an inexpensive, earth-abundant, and non-toxic metal that has found widespread application in homogeneous catalysis. For example, Cu-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions have been extensively explored since their discovery at the turn of the 20th century.^{6,7} These serve as versatile methods for synthesizing biaryl linkages as well as for constructing the carbon-heteroatom bonds of aryl amines, aryl ethers, and aryl thioether derivatives.^{8,9} The alkylation of carbon electrophiles with organometallic copper compounds (also known as organocuprates) is another classic transformation in organic synthesis.³ Diverse C-C bond-forming reactions of organocuprates have been developed over the past 70 years, and these transformations are featured in most introductory undergraduate organic textbooks.

High-valent Cu intermediates (i.e., organometallic Cu^{III} species) have long been proposed to play a role in both Cu-catalyzed cross-coupling and organocuprate reactions.¹⁰ In particular, C-C and/or C-heteroatom bond formation from an organo-Cu^{III} species has been invoked as the product-releasing step of many of these transformations.^{8,9,11,12} However, the proposed high-valent Cu intermediates have eluded detection for decades, and, as a result, there has been considerable controversy over the mechanistic details of both organocuprate additions and Cu-catalyzed cross-coupling.¹¹ Indeed, until very recently, these two transformations were among the least mechanistically understood synthetic methods in organometallic chemistry. These mechanistic questions and controversy have provided tremendous motivation for probing the accessibility and reactivity of organo-Cu^{III} species. A deeper mechanistic understanding of their chemistry promises to enable the development of improved Cu catalysts for known reactions as well as to inspire novel Cu-catalyzed transformations. Section I presents exciting recent progress to address many of the vital questions in this area (discussed in detail in the Text Box).

History and Importance of Palladium Catalysis

Although Cu-mediated cross-coupling methods were the first of their kind, today cross-coupling has become synonymous with a different metal – palladium. Well-defined Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions were first developed in the 1970's, and they quickly

surpassed Cu-based methods in both popularity and scope. These reactions have transformed the way organic chemists approach the construction of bonds in complex molecules,^{1,5,13} and the wide-ranging impact of this methodology was recognized by the 2010 Nobel Prize.

The rapid success of Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling is due, in large part, to extensive and systematic investigations of reaction mechanism. Mechanistic analysis has revealed that nearly all of these processes involve catalysis by “low-valent” Pd (i.e., with the metal in the 0 or +2 oxidation states). For many reactions, Pd⁰ and Pd^{II} catalytic intermediates have been well-characterized and the steric and electronic influence of supporting ligands on catalysis has been studied in detail.¹⁴ Such mechanistic studies have been crucial for the development of new catalyst structures and novel transformations with wide scope and mild reaction conditions.^{1,13,14}

While low-valent Pd catalysis is ubiquitous and extremely synthetically useful, it has several important limitations that stem from the fundamental properties of organo-Pd^{II} complexes. These include limited reactivity toward forming certain important types of chemical bonds (e.g., carbon–halogen and carbon–CF₃ linkages) as well as a high susceptibility to decomposition pathways like β -hydride elimination. These challenges have provided motivation to study high-valent Pd catalysis as a potentially complementary mechanistic manifold. While the first 30 years of Pd chemistry was dominated by low-valent Pd (Pd⁰ and Pd^{II}), over the past decade, the unique reactivity of Pd^{III} and Pd^{IV} intermediates has increasingly been recognized and exploited in catalysis. Section II presents recent advances in the field that demonstrate the relevance and utility of high-valent palladium in diverse catalytic applications (discussed in detail in the Text Box).

I. High-Valent Copper—Until the last decade, high-valent organometallic Cu complexes were rare. The sporadic examples reported in the literature were stabilized by rigid, chelating, and/or perfluorinated ligands, as exemplified by structures **1–3** in Figure 1a.^{15–17} While complexes **1–3** are structurally interesting, they do not exhibit the characteristic reactivity that has been attributed to Cu^{III} in catalysis. Specifically, they are all inert toward carbon–carbon and carbon–heteroatom bond-forming reactions. As such, these compounds were largely considered curiosities, whose relevance to Cu catalysis was tenuous at best. The past ten years have seen tremendous developments in this area with the observation and detailed investigation of catalytically relevant organo-Cu^{III} species in both carbon–carbon and carbon–heteroatom bond formation. In this section we will specifically focus on two representative areas: high-valent Cu intermediates in C–C bond-forming reactions of organocuprates and high-valent Cu intermediates in C–N and C–O couplings.

An early advance in the area of high-valent Cu chemistry came from investigations of C–C bond-forming reactions of organocuprates with enones, alkyl halides, and allylic electrophiles. Computational studies of these transformations implicated a Cu^{III} intermediate in the key carbon–carbon bond-forming step.^{18–20} However, for many years little experimental evidence was available to support this hypothesis, as the putative Cu^{III} compounds proved too transient for detection using standard spectroscopic techniques.²¹ In 2007 Bertz and Ogle pioneered the use of rapid injection NMR spectroscopy (RI-NMR) to observe directly Cu^{III} species like **4–7** in real time (Figure 1b). Remarkably, when generated

using this technique, the Cu^{III} adducts could be detected and fully characterized at -100 °C.^{22–26} Furthermore, upon warming, these discrete organo-Cu^{III} intermediates underwent carbon–carbon bond-forming reductive elimination.²²

While this field is still in its infancy, the ability to directly study the reactivity of high-valent organo-Cu^{III} species has begun to provide mechanistic insights of direct relevance to Cu catalysis. For example, Lewis basic additives such as cyanide, phosphines, pyridines, and amines have been known for decades to improve the yield and/or rate of organocuprate conjugate addition reactions.^{27,28} Some researchers have proposed that the primary role of these additives is to enhance the solubility of copper starting materials/intermediates.²⁸ In contrast, other groups have speculated that these Lewis bases play a more intimate role in the reaction mechanism by binding to Cu and tuning its reactivity toward oxidative addition and/or C–C bond-forming reductive elimination.^{19,27}

RI-NMR has provided a means to directly interrogate these possibilities. A series of Cu^{III} complexes of general structure (CH₃CH₂)(CH₃)₂Cu^{III}(LB) [LB = Lewis basic ligand] were prepared using this technique and evaluated as models for conjugate addition intermediates.²⁹ The nature of LB was found to have a profound influence on the stability of these species. For instance, with LB = pyridine, the Cu^{III} complex **8** was a short-lived intermediate at -100 °C (0.5 h to maximum concentration) (Figure 2). At this temperature, **8** underwent facile ligand exchange [to form Cu^{III} complex (CH₃CH₂)(CH₃)₃Cu^{III}Li] as well as C–C bond-forming reductive elimination to release propane and (CH₃)₃Cu^ILi. In contrast, under otherwise analogous conditions the dimethylaminopyridine complex **9** was very stable at -100 °C (Figure 2). Very little (<10%) reductive elimination was detected, and ligand exchange to form (CH₃CH₂)(CH₃)₃Cu^{III}Li was not observed in this system.

This study clearly shows that Lewis basic ligands dramatically influence the relative and absolute rates of carbon–carbon coupling at Cu^{III} centers. Moving forward, more quantitative RI-NMR analysis of reaction kinetics and ligand electronic/steric effects should provide further insights about the rate- and selectivity-determining steps of conjugate addition and other organocuprate reactions. Such studies will also be invaluable for establishing the role of Cu^{III} in the reactions of organocuprates with other electrophiles (*e.g.*, acyl halides, carbonyl compounds, and cyclopropanes). Furthermore, they will provide a mechanistic platform for rationally designing new synthetic methods in this area.

The ability to use RI-NMR to observe and study organo-Cu^{III} intermediates also has important implications for emerging areas of Cu catalysis. For example, Gaunt recently reported the Cu-catalyzed C–H arylation of anilides with diphenyliodonium triflate, [Ph₂I]OTf.³⁰ In these reactions C–C bond-formation occurs *meta* to the amide substituent, site selectivity that is complementary to both Pd-catalyzed C–H arylation methods³¹ and classical electrophilic aromatic substitution. The mechanism of this reaction remains controversial. DFT calculations have implicated the intermediacy of a Cu^{III}–Ph complex;³² however, the accessibility of such intermediates has yet to be confirmed experimentally. Alternative mechanisms such as Lewis acid catalysis are also plausible. RI-NMR would serve as a powerful technique for detecting Cu^{III} (if present) during catalysis and/or for interrogating stoichiometric reactions of Cu^I model complexes with [Ph₂I]OTf. Such studies

could help to clarify the mechanism of this novel transformation as well as to probe the origin of the *meta* selectivity.

A second key advance in high-valent Cu catalysis has come in the study of carbon–heteroatom bond formation from Cu^{III} intermediates. As representative examples, we highlight recent investigations of the Cu-catalyzed amination of aryl bromides and of Cu-catalyzed C–H bond amination and oxygenation. Cu catalysts are well-known to promote the amination of aryl boronic acids,^{33,34} aryl halides,^{35,36} and carbon–hydrogen bonds.^{37–42} Common nitrogen heterocycles such as pyrazole, pyridone, and phthalimide are particularly effective coupling partners, and the reactions often proceed under mild conditions. Many researchers have proposed the intermediacy of Cu^{III} in these transformations.^{18,43,44} However, this hypothesis has been the subject of significant controversy, and others have argued that single-electron transfer, halide atom transfer, or σ -bond metathesis mechanisms at low-valent Cu^I or Cu^{II} are more likely.^{45,46} Until very recently no Cu^{III} catalytic intermediates had been detected, and C–N bond-formation from a Cu^{III} complex had not been directly observed.

The synthesis of the first isolable Cu^{III}–monoaryl species (**10**, Figure 3a) in 2002 was a turning point for this field.⁴⁷ Like many of the early examples of organometallic Cu^{III} compounds (*e.g.*, **2,3** in Figure 1), complex **10** is stabilized by an electron donating macrocyclic ligand. However, unlike its predecessors, **10** is remarkably reactive toward C–N bond-formation. For example, Stahl demonstrated that **10** reacts stoichiometrically with amines like pyridone, oxazolidinone, and acetanilide (collectively abbreviated NHR₂) to form aminated products (**11**, Figure 3a).⁴³ Further study showed that less basic amines reacted faster, implicating deprotonation of NHR₂ at or before the rate-determining step of this sequence. Notably, in the absence of amine, **13** was shown to undergo C–Br bond-forming reductive elimination to release aryl bromide **12** when triflic acid is present.

The next key question was whether Cu^{III} complex **10** and analogues thereof are relevant to *catalytic* C–N coupling reactions. To test this possibility, Ribas and Stahl studied the Cu-catalyzed amination of aryl bromide **12** with pyridone.³⁵ Remarkably, they were able to detect a steady state concentration of Cu^{III} intermediate **13** during catalysis via UV-vis and NMR spectroscopy. The observation of **13** is consistent with its participation in the turnover-limiting step of the catalytic reaction. While studies of this one system do not resolve the mechanistic controversy surrounding all Cu-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions, they provide the first definitive demonstration that Cu^{III} *can be* catalytically relevant in these transformations.

Pioneering studies have also recently established a role for high-valent Cu in certain Cu-catalyzed carbon–hydrogen bond functionalization reactions.^{37,48} Prior to this work, there was considerable mechanistic uncertainty surrounding these transformations.^{38–42,49–53} Radical pathways initiated by single electron transfer from amine, enolate, and electron-rich arene substrates have frequently been proposed.^{42,52} However, a growing number of examples have been reported with substrates (*e.g.*, alkynes,^{50,51} electron-deficient arenes^{40,42,52,53}) that are unlikely to participate in such a mechanism. Very recently, Stahl demonstrated the catalytic aerobic C–H oxygenation of macrocycle **14** with methanol

(Figure 3c).³⁷ *In situ* UV-vis spectroscopic studies revealed the build-up and subsequent decay of Cu^{III} complex **13** during the catalytic reaction, implicating this species as a catalytically relevant intermediate. Further kinetic studies suggested that the rates of Cu^{II}-mediated C–H cleavage and of C–O bond-formation from Cu^{III} are closely matched, which would explain the observed concentration profile of intermediate **13** during catalysis.³⁷

In summary, at the beginning of this decade little was known about the stability and reactivity of high-valent copper complexes. The past ten years have seen considerable progress, with the first observation and study of carbon–carbon and carbon–heteroatom bond formation from discrete organo-Cu^{III} species in stoichiometric and catalytic transformations. Fundamental studies of organo-Cu^{III} are clearly beginning to provide greater understanding of mechanism, which in turn should enable the rational development of new synthetic methods.⁵⁴

II. High-Valent Palladium—Sporadic reports over the past 50 years have proposed the intermediacy of Pd^{IV} in catalysis.^{55,56,57} However, these proposals were frequently viewed with skepticism due to a lack of evidence supporting the viability of such species. Thus a first key challenge was to determine whether it was possible to form, detect, and isolate Pd^{III} and/or Pd^{IV} complexes from the reactions of Pd^{II} precursors with oxidants. Early work by Canty and Cotton established the viability of this approach, and demonstrated that electron-donating, rigid, and multidentate supporting ligands can be used to stabilize high-valent Pd products. For example, in 1988, Canty prepared organometallic Pd^{IV} complex **16** (Figure 4) via the reaction of **15** (containing the rigid, bidentate 2,2'-bipyridine ligand) with CH₃I.⁵⁸ Similarly, Cotton generated organo-Pd^{III} dimer **18** by reacting **17** (containing bidentate, electron-donating cyclometalated phosphines) with PhICl₂.⁵⁹ These seminal discoveries have inspired extensive efforts to exploit related intermediates in catalysis. In this section we specifically focus on progress in two areas: (i) high-valent Pd intermediates in C–halogen bond-formation and (ii) high-valent Pd intermediates in C–CF₃ coupling reactions.

The formation of carbon–halogen bonds has been an important target reaction for high-valent Pd catalysis. Halogenated molecules are valuable starting materials for many organic transformations including nucleophilic substitutions, metal catalyzed cross-couplings, and Friedel-Crafts alkylations. Notably, carbon–halogen bond-forming reductive elimination is both thermodynamically unfavorable and kinetically slow from most Pd^{II} complexes.⁶⁰ As a result, most Pd^{II/0}-catalyzed transformations of aryl/alkyl halides involve *breaking* carbon–halogen bonds rather than *forming* them (Figure 5a).⁶¹ In marked contrast, recent work has shown that many high-valent Pd complexes promote the facile formation of carbon–halogen bonds.^{62–64} Initial studies in this area focused on generating high-valent organometallic Pd halide complexes via the stoichiometric two electron oxidation of Pd^{II} precursors with electrophilic halogenating reagents [for example, Cl₂, PhICl₂, *N*-chlorosuccinimide, and XeF₂ (collectively abbreviated “X⁺” in Figure 5a)].^{65–67} Depending on the structure of the Pd^{II} starting material, these reactions afford either monomeric Pd^{IV} complexes like **19**,⁶⁸ **20**,⁶⁹ and **21**⁷⁰ or dimeric Pd^{III} species like **22**⁷¹ (Figure 4). Many of these high-valent Pd compounds are isolable at room temperature. However, upon heating, they all undergo kinetically fast and highly thermodynamically favorable C–X bond-forming reductive elimination to release halogenated organic products (Figure 5a).

The stoichiometric studies shown in Figure 5a have informed the development of new Pd-catalyzed halogenation reactions that involve high-valent intermediates. One particularly well-studied example involves the ligand-directed halogenation of arene and alkane C–H bonds (Figure 5b).^{62–64,72,73} Electrophilic halogenating reagents (X^+) are used to promote the formation of high-valent Pd intermediates during catalysis. Depending on the structure of “ X^+ ”, diverse carbon–halogen bonds can be formed. For example, *N*-fluoropyridinium salts generate carbon–fluorine bonds, *N*-chlorosuccinimide promotes the formation of C–Cl bonds, and acetyl hypoiodite provides access to iodinated products.

Detailed mechanistic studies of the Pd-catalyzed C–H chlorination of benzo[*h*]quinoline with *N*-chlorosuccinimide support the intermediacy of a high-valent Pd species (Figure 6a).⁷¹ The resting state of the catalyst was determined to be the dinuclear succinate-bridged Pd^{II} complex **23** (Figure 6b). This compound is a kinetically competent catalyst in the presence of added acetate. Furthermore, rate studies of the **23**-catalyzed C–H chlorination reaction show a 1st order dependence on this Pd^{II/II} dimer and a 1st order dependence on oxidant. These data are consistent with rate-limiting two-electron oxidation of **23** to generate the high-valent Pd^{III/III} dimer **22** (Figure 6b). This Pd^{III/III} intermediate could not be observed under the catalytic conditions, as to be expected when oxidation is rate limiting. However, dimer **22** could be synthesized independently at –78 °C. Upon warming to 23 °C, **22** underwent C–Cl bond-forming reductive elimination to release chlorinated product **24** in 84% yield, further supporting its intermediacy in catalysis.

High-valent Pd catalysis has also been exploited for the halofunctionalization of alkenes, as exemplified by Figure 6b.^{74–76} The combination of a Pd catalyst, alkene, and an aryl-metal reagent like Bu₃SnPh is well-known to produce a Pd^{II}-alkyl intermediate like **25** (Figure 6b). However, the fate of this intermediate and the ultimate organic product of the reaction vary dramatically depending on the choice of oxidant. For example, with oxidants like O₂ (which has low kinetic reactivity with most Pd^{II} complexes), **25** undergoes β-hydride elimination to release styrene product **26** via a conventional low-valent Pd^{II/0} manifold (Figure 6b, *i*).⁷⁷ In contrast, kinetically reactive Cl⁺ oxidants like PhICl₂ can rapidly intercept **25** to generate putative high-valent Pd intermediates. These can then undergo C–Cl bond-forming reductive elimination to release 1,2-arylchlorinated compound **27** (Figure 6b, *ii*).⁷⁶ While the intermediacy of Pd^{III} and/or Pd^{IV} in these arylchlorination reactions has not yet been definitively confirmed, the observed reactivity (favoring C–Cl bond-formation over β-hydride elimination) is consistent with such a mechanism. This highlights another key complementarity between low-valent Pd catalysis (where square planar Pd^{II}-alkyl intermediates typically undergo fast decomposition via β-hydride elimination) versus high-valent Pd catalysis (where β-hydride elimination is disfavored due to the lack of open coordination sites at octahedral Pd^{III} and/or Pd^{IV}-alkyl complexes).^{62,63,64,72} Notably, many related Pd-catalyzed alkene difunctionalization reactions have been reported over the past 6 years that also likely proceed via high-valent Pd pathways.^{63,64}

Another challenging and desirable chemical target for high-valent Pd catalysis has been the generation of C–CF₃ linkages. Trifluoromethyl groups appear in numerous commercial pharmaceuticals and drug candidates and can dramatically enhance the metabolic stability and bioavailability of biologically active molecules.⁷⁸ Despite the prevalence of these

groups in medicinal chemistry, efficient approaches for introducing CF₃ into organic compounds under mild conditions are limited. Metal-catalyzed methods are particularly rare^{79,80} and would constitute powerful synthetic tools to complement currently available chemical processes.

Many previous efforts to develop catalytic trifluoromethylation reactions have been hampered by the kinetic inertness of most metal–CF₃ complexes toward C–CF₃ bond-formation.⁷⁹ For example, C–CF₃ coupling at Pd^{II} centers requires specialized phosphine ligands to proceed efficiently (Figure 7a).^{79,80} In contrast, Pd^{IV} complexes containing simple bidentate nitrogen donor ligands undergo facile C–CF₃ bond-forming reductive elimination. For example, the stoichiometric reaction of (N~N)Pd^{II}(Aryl)(CF₃) complexes with *N*-fluoropyridinium oxidants affords isolable high-valent (N~N)Pd^{IV}(Aryl)(CF₃) intermediates (N~N = bidentate nitrogen donor ligand). These compounds participate in rapid C–CF₃ coupling at temperatures as low as 25 °C.⁸¹

A related approach has been utilized to achieve *catalytic* ligand-directed trifluoromethylation of aromatic C–H bonds. In this system, electrophilic trifluoromethylating reagents (CF₃⁺) were used to promote the formation of high-valent Pd intermediates, which decompose to afford aryl-trifluoromethylated products.⁸² Remarkably, these reactions proceed efficiently with simple Pd salts as catalysts, and no external ligands (other than substrate) are required. Subsequent mechanistic studies suggested that the Pd^{IV} complex **28** might be a catalytic intermediate (Figure 7b),⁸³ as it serves as a kinetically competent catalyst under the reaction conditions. This methodology represents a transformation (ligand-directed conversion of C–H → C–CF₃) that is not currently accessible using any other transition metal catalyst, again highlighting the power of high-valent Pd chemistry to achieve novel chemistry.

In addition to the carbon-halogen and carbon-trifluoromethyl bond-forming reactions discussed above, high-valent Pd intermediates have also been implicated in the selective transformation of alkane and arene C–H bonds into C–O, C–C, C–N, and C–S linkages. Detailed mechanistic investigations of catalytic C–H acetoxylation⁸⁴ and arylation³¹ have provided evidence consistent with the formation of high-valent Pd intermediates in these reactions as well.

In summary, this section has described exciting recent progress in high-valent Pd catalysis. Over the past decade, numerous organometallic Pd^{IV} and Pd^{III} complexes have been synthesized by the reaction of Pd^{II} starting materials with strong oxidants. A wide scope of C–C and C–heteroatom bond-forming reductive elimination reactions can be achieved from these species, and the selectivity, reactivity, and mechanisms of these transformations have been studied in detail. Furthermore, a number of these species have been demonstrated as kinetically competent catalysts for C–H bond halogenation, trifluoromethylation, and other reactions. These results have firmly established the feasibility and synthetic utility of high oxidation state Pd catalysis in organic synthesis, and this field has a vibrant and exciting future.

III. Comparison and Contrast—There are two main common features of the high-valent Cu chemistry described in Section I and the high-valent Pd chemistry discussed in Section II of this review. First, while the specific transformations that have been selected for detailed mechanistic investigation at each metal vary significantly, Cu^{III} and Pd^{III}/Pd^{IV} species have both been shown to participate in closely related carbon–carbon and carbon–heteroatom bond-forming reductive elimination reactions. One particularly striking example is the accessibility of C–halogen bond-forming reductive elimination from Cu^{III} complex **13** as well as from Pd^{IV}/Pd^{III} complexes **19–22**. Similar ligand environments have been shown to stabilize high-valent complexes of both metals. In particular, rigid multidentate ligands (like the macrocycles of Cu complexes **2**, **10**, and **13** and the cyclometalated benzoquinoline of Pd^{IV} species **21** and **28** and Pd^{III} complex **22**) tend to slow competing reductive elimination processes. Furthermore, the presence of multiple highly electron-donating σ -aryl/alkyl ligands (as in Cu^{III} complexes **4–9** and Pd^{IV} complexes **16** and **19–21**) facilitate the detection/isolation of high-valent species of both Cu and Pd.

Recent examples of Cu/Pd-catalyzed oxidation reactions reveal additional intriguing similarities. There are a multitude of catalytic C–C and C–heteroatom coupling reactions that share the following features: (i) a Cu or Pd catalyst, (ii) an oxidant, and (iii) an organic substrate that is a precursor to a metal–carbon bond (such as an aryl halide, C–H bond, or transmetallating reagent). Three examples of such transformations are shown in Figure 8. While detailed mechanistic analysis will be required to establish firmly the pathway for each system, it seems likely that many (if not all) of these reactions proceed via high-valent Cu/Pd manifolds. In the first example, Cu and Pd catalyze the same overall reaction, the ligand directed C–H acetoxylation of 2-phenylpyridine (Figure 8a).^{52,85} In the second, the same oxidant (*S*-(trifluoromethyl) dibenzothiophenium) is used to effect the trifluoromethylation of two different organic substrates (Figure 8b).^{82,86} Finally, in the third example, both metals catalyze the C–H arylation of indole with diaryliodonium salts (Figure 8c).^{87,88}

The reactions in Figure 8 not only illustrate key similarities but also highlight key differences/complementarities between the oxidative chemistry of Pd and Cu. For example, the Pd-catalyzed C–H acetoxylation of 2-phenylpyridine (Figure 8a) requires the use of PhI(OAc)₂ as the terminal oxidant.⁸⁵ This reagent is quite expensive and generates an equivalent of iodobenzene waste with each catalytic turnover. In marked contrast, the Cu-catalyzed acetoxylation employs abundant and atom economical dioxygen (O₂) as the oxidant.⁵² The ability to generate high-valent Cu using O₂ is currently a distinct advantage of high-valent Cu catalysis.^{40,42,53} Although dioxygen is thermodynamically capable of oxidizing Pd^{II} to Pd^{IV}, most organo-Pd^{II} intermediates are kinetically inert to oxidation by O₂.⁷³ However, two very exciting recent reports have shown that aerobic Pd-catalyzed ligand-directed C–H oxygenation is possible (potentially via high-valent Pd intermediates) suggesting a promising future in this area.^{89,90}

As shown in Figure 8b, both Cu and Pd catalyze carbon–CF₃ bond-forming reactions with *S*-(trifluoromethyl) dibenzothiophenium.^{82,86} Catalytically competent Pd^{IV} intermediates have been observed and isolated in the C–H trifluoromethylation reaction (Figure 7b).⁸³ In contrast, mechanisms involving Cu^{III}(Aryl)(CF₃) intermediates have been proposed but

remain to be confirmed experimentally for the Cu-catalyzed trifluoromethylation of boronic acids.⁸⁶ These two examples demonstrate another key complementarity between Pd and Cu catalysis. High-valent Pd-catalysis has been used for transforming C–H substrates into many different functional groups (with trifluoromethyl being just one example), and Pd-catalyzed C–H oxidation is an extremely common, general, and well-studied reaction.⁷³ In marked contrast, high-valent Cu catalysis has predominantly focused on pre-functionalized substrates like aryl boronic acids and aryl halides (Figure 8b). At present, Cu-catalyzed C–H bond oxidation reactions are comparatively rare, and have significantly narrower substrate scope than analogous Pd-catalyzed reactions.^{50–53} For example, the Cu-catalyzed functionalization of unactivated alkane C–H bonds remains highly challenging while such transformations are increasingly common at Pd.⁷³ Moving forward, the development of more robust and general methods for C–H bond oxidation via high-valent Cu catalysis is likely to be a major thrust of research in this field.

Finally, Cu and Pd both catalyze the arylation of indole with diaryliodonium salts; however, under some conditions, the site selectivities of these two reactions are orthogonal (Figure 8c). Whereas the palladium-catalyzed reaction results in selective arylation at the 2-position,⁸⁷ the Cu-catalyzed methods can be tuned to give exclusive arylation at the 3-position.⁸⁸ Site-selectivity is one of the most difficult challenges in the field of C–H functionalization. As such, the ability to tune selectivity as a function of the metal is of great potential synthetic utility as well as mechanistically fascinating. Thus far neither of these transformations has been the subject of detailed mechanistic analysis, but the generation of Cu^{III} and Pd^{IV} intermediates has been suggested in both cases. Overall, all of the examples in Figure 8 demonstrate the tremendous opportunities available in the concurrent development of high-valent Cu- and Pd-catalysis.

IV. Looking Forward—Moving forward the fields of high-valent Pd and Cu chemistry are sure to have a bright and rapidly expanding future. It will be critical to increase understanding and enhance the chemo-, regio-, and stereoselectivity of catalytic processes involving high-valent Cu and Pd intermediates. In many cases, the coordination sphere of these high-valent metal centers contains multiple possible partners for reductive bond-forming reactions. The ability to control the chemoselectivity of the bond-forming event is of central importance for achieving efficient and high yielding catalytic transformations. In addition, the identification of chiral ligands that are compatible with high-valent Cu and/or Pd-catalysis could potentially enable novel asymmetric conjugate addition, aryl–aryl coupling, C–H oxidation, and/or alkene difunctionalization reactions, which would all be of great value for organic synthesis.

Additional future work in this field will focus on expanding the scope of the fundamental organometallic reactions that are possible at high-valent Cu and Pd centers. Despite the impressive progress described above, the synthetic power of high-valent organometallic intermediates has thus far been explored quite narrowly, with an almost exclusive focus on reductive bond-forming reactions. We anticipate that the design of new ancillary ligands that even better stabilize high-valent Pd and Cu will facilitate the study and application of C–H activation, σ -bond metathesis, migratory insertion, and nucleopalladation reactions at these metal centers. Such reactions could potentially proceed with novel patterns of reactivity and

selectivity relative to analogous transformations at low-valent analogues. For example, several exciting preliminary reports have suggested that C–H activation occurs with completely different site selectivity at Pd^{IV} versus Pd^{II} centers.^{91–93,94}

Finally, a number of recent reports suggest that high-valent organometallic complexes of other late transition metals can catalyze reactions similar to those discussed for Cu^{III} and Pd^{III/IV} above. For example, complexes of Ni^{III}, Ni^{IV}, Ag^{II}, and Ag^{III} have been observed and/or implicated in carbon–halogen and carbon–nitrogen bond-forming processes.^{95–100} Further exploration of these is likely to uncover many additional applications for high-valent late transition metals in catalysis.

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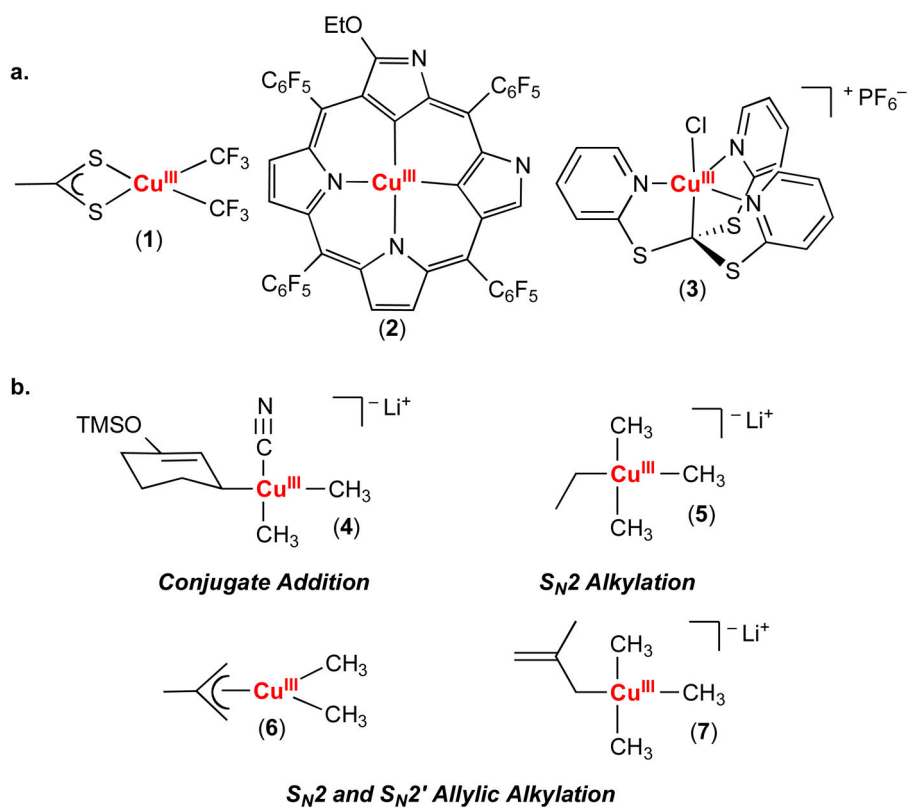


Figure 1. High-valent copper complexes (a) Early examples of isolable organometallic Cu^{III} complexes. (b) Cu^{III} intermediates of organocuprate reactions detected at $-100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ using rapid injection-NMR. [Et = ethyl, TMS = trimethylsilyl]

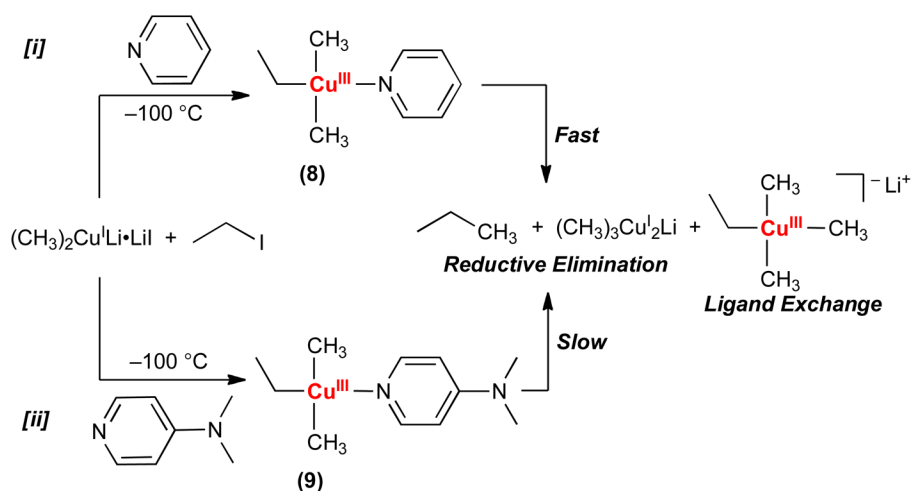


Figure 2. RI-NMR studies of the effect of Lewis bases on the reactivity of Cu^{III} complexes **8** and **9**. (i) Pyridine-containing intermediate **8** is short lived and undergoes ligand exchange to form $(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Cu}^{\text{III}}\text{Li}$ as well as C–C bond-forming reductive elimination. (ii) In contrast, dimethylaminopyridine-containing intermediate **9** is stable at $-100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ under analogous conditions.

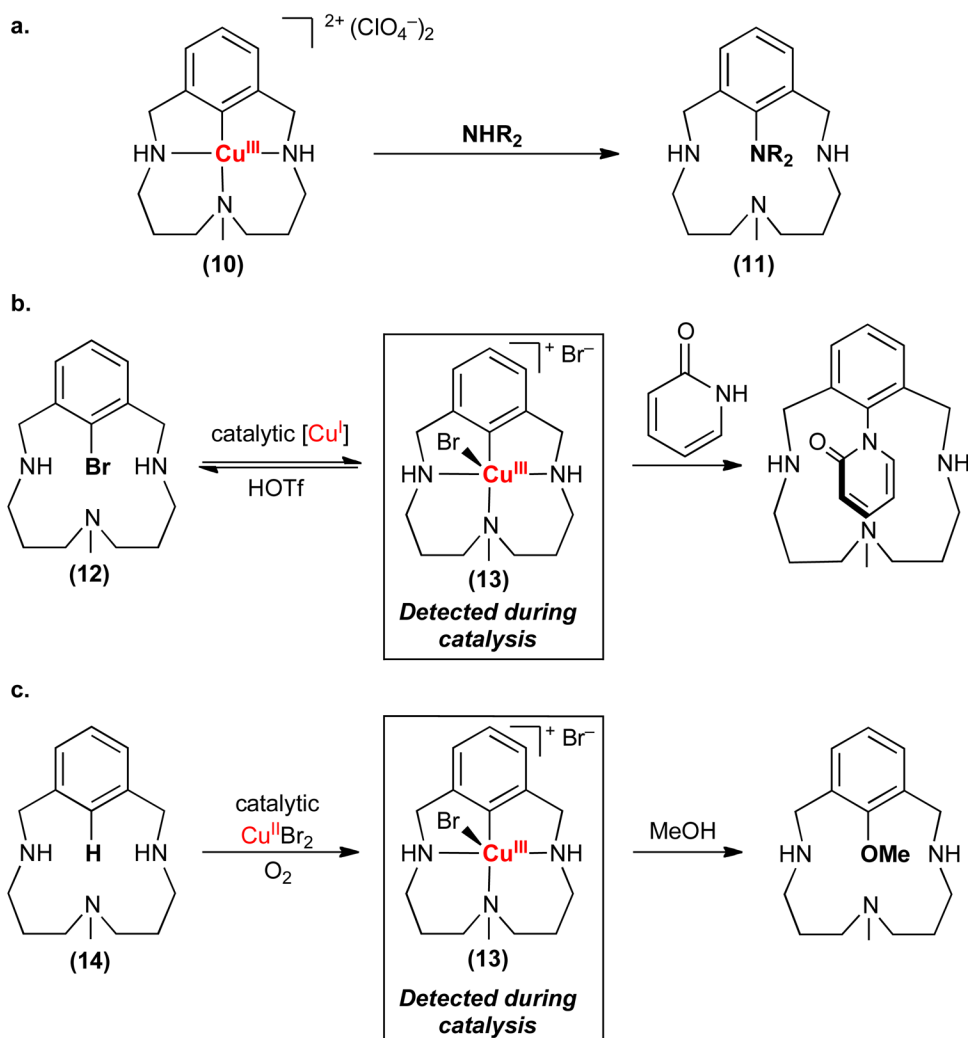


Figure 3. High-valent copper complexes involved in carbon–heteroatom bond formation (a) Stoichiometric carbon–nitrogen bond-formation from an isolated organo- Cu^{III} [NHR_2 = pyridone, oxazolidinone, acetanilide]. (b) In situ observation of an organo- Cu^{III} intermediate in the coupling of aryl bromide **12** with pyridone. (c) In situ observation of an organo- Cu^{III} intermediate in the oxygenation of C–H bonds.

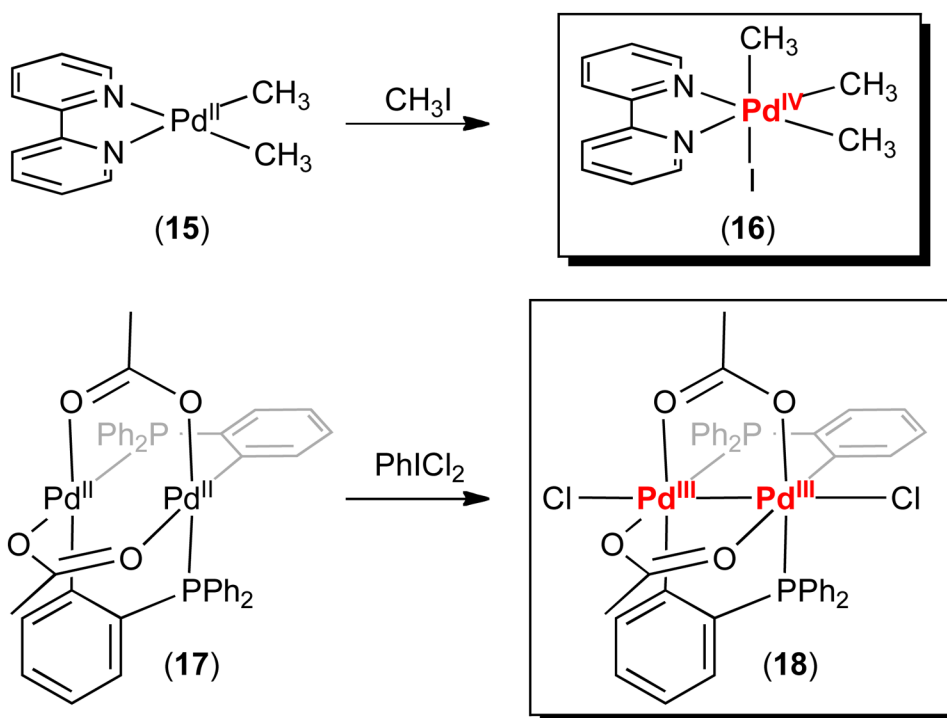


Figure 4. Early examples of Pd^{III} and Pd^{IV} organometallic complexes. [Ph = phenyl]

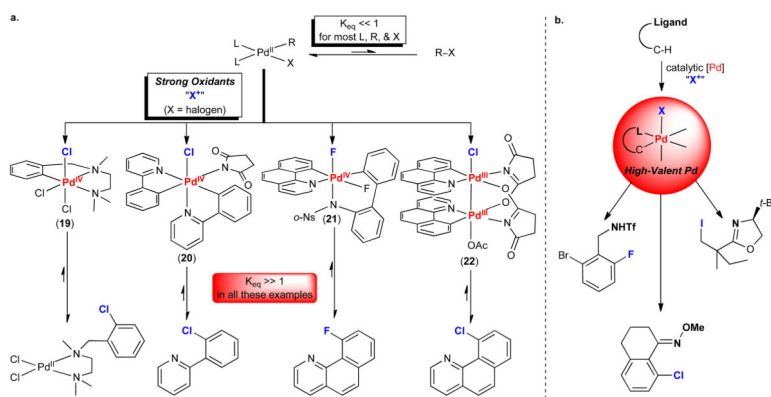


Figure 5. High-valent Pd complexes involved in carbon–halogen bond formation (a) Carbon–halogen bond-forming reductive elimination is thermodynamically unfavorable from most Pd^{II} species but not from high-valent Pd complexes like **19–22**. (b) Select examples of Pd-catalyzed C–H halogenation reactions [L = L-type ligand, R = aryl, X= halogen, *o*-Ns = *ortho*-Nosyl, Tf = triflate, *t*-Bu = *tert*-butyl.]

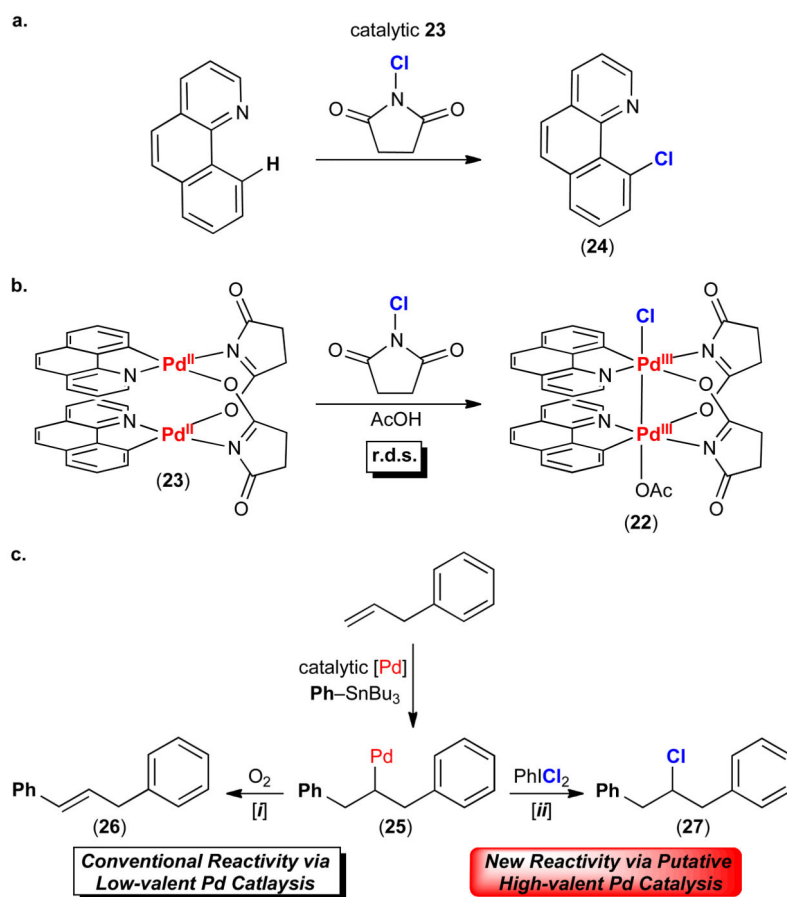


Figure 6. Pd-catalyzed chlorination (a) Complex **23** is an efficient catalyst for the Pd-catalyzed C–H chlorination of benzo[*h*]quinoline. (b) The rate determining step (r.d.s.) of this Pd-catalyzed reaction is oxidation of **23** by *N*-chlorosuccinimide to form the Pd^{III}/Pd^{III} dimer **22**. (c) High-valent Pd-catalyzed 1,2-arylchlorination (*ii*) is complementary to low-valent Pd-catalyzed reactions (*i*) of α -olefins.

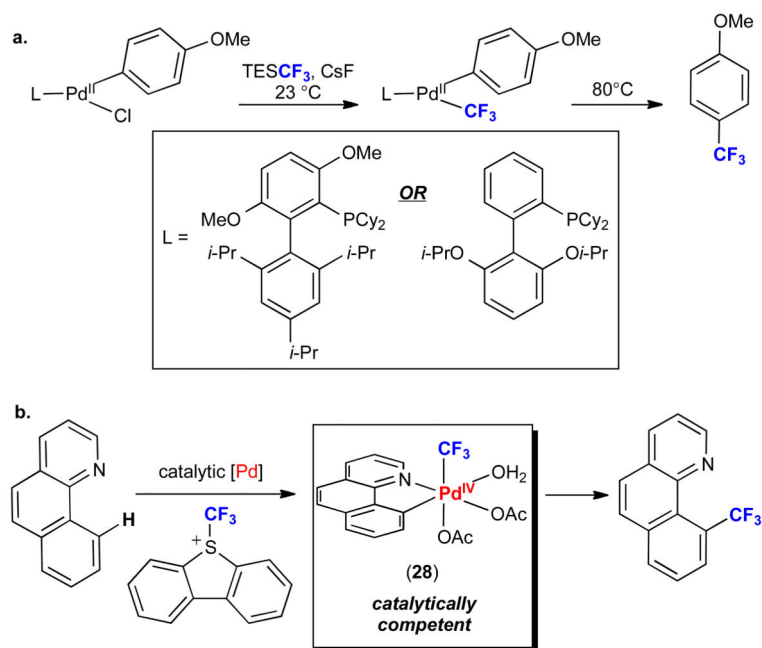


Figure 7. Pd-catalyzed trifluoromethylation (a) Carbon–CF₃ bond-formation from Pd^{II} requires specialized phosphine ligands. (b) Using a high-valent Pd strategy, catalytic C–H trifluoromethylation has been developed via putative Pd^{IV} intermediate **28**. [TES = triethylsilyl, Cy = cyclohexyl, Ac = acetyl, *i*-Pr = *iso*-propyl]

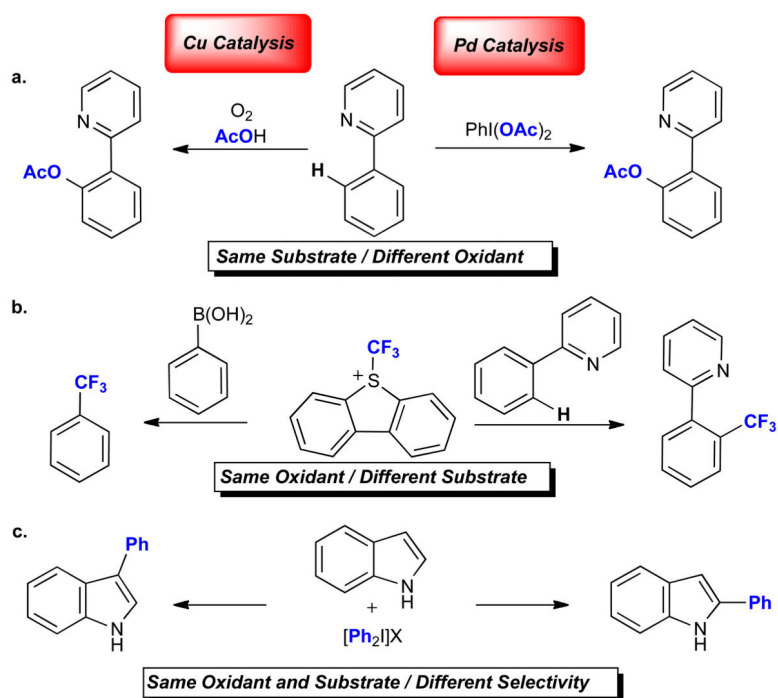


Figure 8. Oxidative bond-forming reactions catalyzed by Cu and Pd that exemplify similarities and differences between these two metals.