Reaction Discovery Using Acetylene Gas as the Chemical Feedstock Accelerated by the "Stop-Flow" Micro-Tubing Reactor System

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Supporting Information

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1. General Experimental

Chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received. Acetylene cylinder was purchase from Chem-Gas Pte Ltd (Singapore). ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ACF300 (300 MHz), AV-III400 (400 MHZ) or AMX500 (500 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts were calibrated using residual undeuterated solvent as an internal reference (CDCl₃: 7.26 ppm ¹H NMR, 77 ppm ¹³C NMR; 376 ppm ¹⁹F NMR; CD₃CN: 1.94 ppm ¹H NMR, 1.3 ppm, 118.3 ppm ¹³C NMR). Multiplicity was indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublet), bs (broad singlet). All high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Finnigan/MAT 95XL-T spectrometer. All GC analysis was performed on Aglilent 7820A&5977E GC-MS. The 20 W LED bulb was purchased from Vtx Solution Pte Ltd (Singapore). The Blue LED strips (1 meter, 10 W; and 2 meter, 20 W) were purchased from Inwares Pte Ltd (Singapore). Further visualization was achieved by staining with iodine, potassium permanganate solution or Dragendorff's reagent followed by heating using a heat gun. Flash chromatography separations were performed on Merck 60 (0.040-0.063 mm) mesh silica gel. Purification of fluorinated styrene products was conducted on Recycling Preparative HPLC equipped with JAIGEL -2H columns (GPC, CHCl₃, as an eluent) from Japan Analytical Industry Co.,Ltd.

The Asia Syringe Pump was purchased from Syrris Company (UK) for continuous flow setup. The Logato[@] 200 series Syringe pumps were purchased from KD Scientific Inc. (Holliston, MA). The Harvard Syringe Pump was purchased from Harvard Apparatus (Holliston, MA). The Tefzel shut-off valves, HPFA and PFA micro tubings were purchased from IDEX Health&Science (Oak Harbor, WA). The stainless steel shut-off valves and stainless steel micro tubing was purchased from Swagelok (USA). The Digital Mass-Flow controller (SmartTrak 100) was purchased from Sierra Instruments. The membrane-based back pressure regulator was purchased from Zaiput Flow Technologies.

2. "Stop-Flow" Micro-Tubing (SFMT) Reactor Platform

2.1 Graphical supporting information for the SFMT platform

Figure S1. A general setup of the SFMT platform for the gas/liquid reaction. The system consists of two syringe pumps (**A** for invariable reagents, **B** for variable reagents; syringes containing different reagents/solvents/catalysts are switchable at **B**), one needle valve for controlling gas rate, a SFMT parallel reactor, one pressure gauge, one backpressure regulator (BPR) and an off-line heating bath.

2.2 Graphical supporting information for individual components

Figure S2. SFMT reactors. The left image shows a stainless-steel micro-tubing reactor whereas the right image shows a polymer micro-tubing reactor. The SS-tubing and ball valves were purchased from Swagelok (SS-T1-S-014-6ME, SS-41GS1). The polymertubing and shut-off valves were purchased from IDEX (1912L, P-732).

Figure S3. Parts required in the SFMT reactor system. The Zaiput BPR was purchased from Zaiput Flow Technologies. The IDEX BPR, Y-mixer, T-mixer, and needle valves were purchased from IDEX.

Figure S4. A close look at the SFMT parallel reactors.

Figure S5. The SFMT parallel reactors in an off-line heating bath.

3. Mechanism Proposal

3.1 Proposed mechanism for fulvene synthesis using acetylene

Figure S6. Proposed mechanism of Pd-catalyzed fulvene synthesis.

A possible mechanism for the fulvene formation is proposed in Figure S6. Oxidative addition of Pd(0) with aryl iodide forms Pd(II) iodide **I**, which will undergo *syn* addition to acetylene to give vinylpalladium iodide **III**. In the presence of excess acetylene, **III** is converted to triene **V** by two subsequent *syn* additions to acetylene. Subsequently, triene **V** undergoes a suprafacial insertion to give **VI**, followed by a β -hydride elimination to afford the fulvene product. Finally, a reductive elimination of Pd(II) **VII** in the presence of amine bases will regenerate the Pd(0) catalyst.

3.2 Mechanism study for photo-promoted styrene derivative synthesis

1) Does this transformation undergo an oxidative quenching cycle or reductive quenching cycle-based mechanism?

Figure S7. Proposed reductive quenching cycle-based mechanism.

Figure S8. Proposed oxidative quenching cycle-based mechanism.

The reductive potential of pentafluorophenylbromide is reported \sim -1.39 V vs SCE.^[1] The redox potential of iPr_2E tN⁺ $/$ *i*Pr₂EtN is ~ +0.68 V vs SCE. As shown in Figure S7, the reductive quenching cycle involves a photoinduced electron transfer from *iPr*₂EtN to the

excited photocatalyst and subsequent reoxidation of the generated Cat by bromopentafluorobenzene. The reduced fluorinated arene cleaves the $C_{Ar}-Br$ bond yielding the pentafluorophenyl radical, which can be quenched by acetylene (path b) to generate the desired vinyl radical intermediate, or quenched by the amine radical cation (path a) to give debromination byproduct. However, the oxidative quenching cycle is based on photo-induced electron transfer from excited photocatalyst to bromopentafluorobenzene (Figure S8). The reaction proceeded with most of the photocatalysts screened despite the strong oxidative catalyst Mes-Arc⁺ClO₄. Comparing the redox potential of catalyst triplet states (Cat*/Cat) and *iPr*₂EtN, only Ir(ppy)₃ is not thermodynamically feasible for the reductive quenching cycle. The next step, reoxidation of the catalyst by the bromopentafluorobenzene $(E_{1/2}^{\text{red}}$ of Cat/Cat vs $E_{1/2}^{\text{red}}$ of bromopentafluorobenzene = -1.39 V), only $Ru(bpz)_{3}(PF_6)_{2}$ is not thermodynamically feasible. However, in the oxidative quenching cycle, comparing the redox potential of catalyst triplet states (Cat^*/Cat^+) and bromopentafluorobenzene, only Ir(ppy)₃ is thermodynamically favorable, which does not correspond to the experimental results. Therefore, this transformation is more likely proceeded through the reductive quenching cycle. It should be noted, however, that the possibility of the reaction taking place via both reductive and oxidative quenching cycles simultaneously cannot be ruled out.

2) What is the role of TEMPO that leads to an improvement of the product selectivity?

Figure S9. Proposed mechanism for photo-promoted styrene derivative synthesis.

As shown in Figure S9, when one equiv TEMPO was used as an additive, the product selectivity was significantly enhanced, probably because that TEMPO can abstract the Hatom from the amine cation radical and force the aryl radical **VIII** to undergo path *b* to react with acetylene gas.

3) Trap the pentafluorophenyl radical by 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol

Figure S10. Trapping reaction intermediates with 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol.

2,6-Di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol was added to attempt to trap the reaction intermediates. As indicated by GC-MS analysis of the crude reaction mixture, compound **8** was produced, which indicated the presence of aryl radical **VIII** in the reaction process.

4. Graphical Supporting Information for Reaction Screening Using the SFMT Platform

Step 1: Setup of the SFMT platform. Fill syringe A with invariable reagents. Fill syringe B with screening targets (variable reagents, catalysts, or solvents, etc).

Step 2: Start pumping, and open the needle valve to adjust the gas bubbles. Fill in the first micro-tubing reactor with starting gas/liquid reagents.

Step 3: Fill in the first micro-tubing reactor and let the reagent mixture go through the BPR.

Step 4: Close the shut-off valves. Stop pumping and close the gas needle valve.

Step 5: Disconnect the switchable syringe and jointers. Switch to the syringe containing next screening reagents/catalyst/solvents.

Step 6: The changed parts are rinsed with the washing solvent.

Step 7: The second reactor is filled and closed in the same way.

Step 8: All reactors are filled and disconnected from the flow system.

Step 9: The SFMT reactors are moved to an off-line heating bath with desired temperature.

Step 10: After desired reaction period, the crude product mixtures are rinsed out to collection vials.

Step 11: Collected crude products will be subjected to GCMS and ¹HNMR for analysis.

5. Feasibility Test for SFMT Reactors with Reported Transformations

5.1 Pressure test in the SFMT reactor

The first pressure test conducted was to examine whether the SFMT reactor can maintain a high pressure during heating. As shown in Figure S11a, an SFMT reactor (made by HPFA, 1/16 inch O.D., 0.03 inch I.D., 100 cm) was connected to a pressure gauge to indicate the pressure inside the reactor. A gas-liquid flow of DCM and argon was pumped through the tubing, using a 100 psi back-pressure regulator to pressurize the system (Figure S11a and b). When the SFMT reactor was heated at 100 \degree C, the pressure of SFMT reactor was slightly increased from 100 psi to 125 psi. After heating for 1 hour, this pressure was maintained for the duration of the heating period (Figure S11c), and the gas/liquid slug shape was not changed.

Figure S11. Pressure test in the SFMT reactor. a, Setup for the SFMT reactor pressure study. **b,** Pressure before heating. **c,** Pressure after heating for 1 hour.

The ability of the SFMT platform to hold pressure was further tested by increasing the pressure to 1000 psi. Since the pressure limit of the Tefzel shut-off valves were 500 psi, stainless steel valves were used for this test. With a 500 psi and two 250 psi BPRs, for a total of 1000 psi back-pressure, water was pumped into the SFMT reactor (made by HPFA tubing, 1/16 inch O.D., 0.03 I.D., 100 cm) until the pressure gauge read 1000 psi. The valves were then closed, and the tubing reactor was left in room temperature for several hours. It was observed that the pressure decreased slowly to 860 psi within 2 hours and maintained at 860 psi for another 2 hours. This pressure drop can be explained due to the dissolution of pressurized air, which was left in the pressure gauge, into water at high pressure (Figure S12). However, the study supported that the SFMT system can work effectively at pressure as high as 800 psi.

Figure S12. SFMT reactor pressure study at high pressure.

5.2 Summary of comparison experimental results

The following reported reactions were tested as template reactions to investigate the versatility and feasibility of the SFMT reactor platform (Scheme S1). Reactions were attempted to perform in batch, continuous-flow and stop-flow reactors with the same reaction parameters (temperature, pressure, concentration, and reaction time) for comparison. The results are summarized in Table S1.

CO₂ Cycloadditon

Scheme S1. Template reactions for comparison studies.

As shown in Table S1, reaction patterns tested included gas/liquid reactions, liquid/liquid heterogeneous reactions, photo-promoted reactions, and homogeneous reactions. In our hands, reactions in SFMT reactors gave comparable or better yields than those in batch reactors, and were slightly lower than those in continuous-flow reactors, except for the Biginelli reaction. For the Biginelli reaction (entry 5), the product was solid and was insoluble in ethanol, which was found to accumulate in the back-pressure regulator (BPR), causing blockage. In comparison, the solid product was easily removed from the SFMT reactor simply by pressurizing the tubing after the reaction. These comparison studies prove that the SFMT reactor is effective with a wide range of reaction patterns and is instructive enough for reaction optimization/discovery. It also indicates that a successfully developed reaction in the SFMT reactor can be conveniently transferred to continuous-flow synthesis for large-scale production.

	Reaction	Yield [%][a]					
Entry		Batch	Continuous -Flow	Stop- Flow	Reaction Type	Remarks	
1	CO ₂ cycloaddition	$\overline{4}$	64	48	gas/liquid	high-temp/ high-pressure	
\mathcal{D}_{\cdot}	$[4+2]$ with singlet oxygen	49	65	62	gas/liquid	photo- promoted	
3	DA-reaction	11	56	53	homogeneous	high-temp/ high-pressure	
$\overline{\mathcal{A}}$	Jones Oxidation	$70^{[b]}$	$76^{[b]}$	$77^{[b]}$	organic/inorganic	strong oxidant	
5	Biginelli reaction	67	49	70	homogeneous	multi- component	
6	trans- isomerization	72	73	62	homogeneous	high-temp/ high-pressure	
7	olefin metathesis	60	73	68	homogeneous	reversible reaction	

Table S1. Comparison of batch, continuous-flow, and SFMT reactors.

[a] All yields were determined by ¹H NMR spectrum analysis with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene or mesitylene as an internal standard. [b] Isolated yields.

5.3 General procedure for batch, continuous-flow, SFMT reactions

1) General setup for SFMT reactions

Figure S13. Schematic setup of gas-liquid stop-flow reactions.

Setup A: As shown in Figure S13, a stainless steel syringe was fixed to a syringe pump and a pressurized gas cylinder was attached to a Y-mixer through HPFA tubing (O.D. 1/16", I.D. 0.03") as inlets. The outlet of Y-mixer was connected to the reactor (HPFA or stainless steel, O.D. 1/16", I.D. 0.03") and the gas-line. The ends of the reactor were connected with two shut-off valves. The outlet of reactor was connected to a backpressure regulator (BPR). The gas cylinder was pressurized to \sim 20 psi higher than the desired back-pressure of the system. A stainless steel syringe was filled with the homogeneous mixture of substrates, catalysts, additives and solvents, and attached to the flow apparatus (syringe pump). The flow apparatus itself was set up with a certain flow rate, and flow rate of gas was adjusted to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After filling the reactor and approximately 2 mins of equilibration, the valves were closed and the tubing reactor was placed into the hot oil bath or under a light source for further reaction.

Figure S14. Schematic setup of liquid-liquid stop-flow reactions.

Setup B: As shown in Figure S14, two stainless steel syringes filled with a solution of substrates A and a solution of B separately were fixed to two syringe pumps (pump A with substrate A, pump B with substrate B). The syringes were attached to a T-mixer through an HPFA tubing (1/16", I.D. 0.03"). The outlet of T-mixer was connected to the reactor (HPFA or stainless steel, 1/16", I.D. 0.03"). The ends of the reactor were attached to two shut-off valves. The outlet of reactor was connected to a back-pressure regulator (BPR). Each syringe pump was set up with different flow rates, and the substrates were introduced into the flow system. After filling the tubing reactor and approximately 2 mins of equilibration, the valves were closed and the tubing reactor was placed into the hot oil bath or under a light source for further reaction.

Figure S15. Schematic setup of one-stream stop-flow reactions.

Setup C: As shown in Figure S15, a stainless steel syringe filled with the reaction mixture was fixed to a syringe pump and directly attached to the reactor (HPFA or stainless steel, 1/16", I.D. 0.03"). The ends of the reactor were attached to two shut-off valves. The outlet of reactor was connected to a back-pressure regulator (BPR). A stainless steel syringe was filled with the homogeneous mixture of substrates, catalysts,

additives and solvents, and attached to the flow apparatus (syringe pump). The flow apparatus was set up with a determined flow rate before the reaction mixture was pumped through the flow system. After filling the reactor and approximately 2 mins of equilibration, the valves were closed and the tubing reactor was placed into the hot oil bath or under a light source for further reactions.

2) General setup for continuous-flow reactions

All continuous flow reactions were set up in the same manner as the "stop-flow" setups without the use of shut-off valves at the ends of the reactors. The reactors (HPFA or stainless steel) were attached directly to the main system, and directly immersed in an oil bath, ice bath or exposed to a light source. The gas cylinder was pressurized to \sim 20 psi higher than the desired back-pressure of the system. A stainless steel syringe was filled with the homogeneous mixture of substrates, catalysts, additives and solvents, and attached to the flow apparatus (syringe pump). The tubing reactor was placed into the oil bath or ice bath or under a light source. The flow apparatus itself was set up at a certain flow rate (according to t_R and the tubing size), and flow rate of gas was adjusted to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately three residence time period to equilibrate, the solution was collected for the desired time for further work-up.

3) General procedure for template reactions in batch, continuous-flow and stop-flow

CO² Cycloaddition Reaction[2]

$$
{}^{O}_{\triangleright} - C_6 H_{13} + C_2 \xrightarrow{\text{NBS (5 mol%)}} {}^{O}_{\text{DMF, 120 °C, 30 mins}} \underbrace{O}_{\text{C}_6 H_{13}} \underbrace{O}_{\text{C}_6 H_{13}}
$$

Batch Reaction

Under $CO₂$ atmosphere, a Parr reactor charged with a solution of 1,2-epoxyoctane (1.5) mL, 10 mmol), NBS (89 mg, 0.5 mmol), benzoyl peroxide (120 mg, 0.5 mmol), mesitylene (400 mg, 3.3 mmol) in DMF (4.5 mL) was pressurized to 100 psi with $CO₂$. The reaction mixture was heated to 120 °C and stirred for 30 mins. After reaction was completed, cooled in an ice bath, and pressure was released slowly. The reaction mixture was then poured into water and extracted twice with diethyl ether. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduce pressure with the temperature below 20 $^{\circ}$ C to avoid loss of internal standard mesitylene, afforded the product in 4% yield according to crude ¹H NMR analysis.

Continuous-Flow Reaction

The $CO₂$ gas cylinder was pressurized to \sim 20 psi higher than the desired back-pressure of the system (120 psi). A 10 mL volumetric flask was charged with a solution of 1,2 epoxyoctane (1.5 mL, 10 mmol), NBS (89 mg, 0.5 mmol), benzoyl peroxide (120 mg, 0.5 mmol), mesitylene (400 mg, 3.3 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (5.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup A. The tubing reactor (stainless steel, 1/16", I.D. 0.03", 762 cm, volume $= 3.47$ mL) was placed into the oil bath at 120 °C. The flow apparatus itself was set up with t_R = 30 mins, flow rate = 22.3 μ L/min and flow rate of CO₂ was adjusted to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately 1.5 hour to equilibrate, the solution was collected for 30 mins and quenched with distilled water, extracted twice with diethyl ether and washed with water. The organic phase was combined and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure with the temperature below 20 °C to avoid loss of internal standard mesitylene, indicated the desired product in 64% yield according to crude ${}^{1}H$ NMR analysis.

Stop-Flow Reaction

The $CO₂$ gas cylinder was pressurized to \sim 20 psi higher than the desired back-pressure of the system (120 psi). A 10 mL volumetric flask was charged with a solution of 1,2 epoxyoctane (1.5 mL, 10 mmol), NBS (89 mg, 0.5 mmol), benzoyl peroxide (120 mg, 0.5 mmol), mesitylene (400 mg, 3.3 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (5.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup A. The flow apparatus itself was set up at a flow rate $= 22.3$ μ L/min and flow rate of CO₂ was adjusted to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After filling the reactor and 2 mins to equilibrate, the valves were closed and the tubing reactor (stainless steel, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 762 cm, volume = 3.47 mL) was placed into the oil bath at 120 ^oC for 30 mins. Then the solution in the SFMT reactor was washed out by diethyl ether and quenched with distilled water, extracted twice with diethyl ether and washed with water. The organic phase was combined and the solvent removed under reduced pressure with the temperature set below 20 $^{\circ}$ C to avoid loss of internal standard mesitylene, indicated the desired product in 48% yield according to crude 1 H NMR analysis.

[4+2] Singlet Oxygen Cycloaddition[3]

Batch Reaction

To a round-bottomed flask was added a solution of 1,3-cyclohexadiene (83.3 mg, 1.4 mmol), tetraphenylporphyrin (TPP) (2 mg, 2.8x10⁻³ mmol), and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (79 mg, 0.47 mmol) in CDCl₃ (5.0 mL). The reaction solution was bubbled with oxygen for 5 mins while protected from light. An oxygen balloon was attached to the flask and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt with a distance of 3-5 cm from a 20 W white LED lamp. After 30 mins, the reaction was analyzed via crude ¹H NMR which indicated the desired product was obtained in 49% yield.

Continuous-Flow Reaction

The O_2 gas cylinder is pressurized to ~ 20 psi higher than the desired back-pressure (20 psi) of the system. A 10 mL volumetric flask was charged with a solution of 1,3 cyclohexadiene (83.3 mg, 1.4 mmol), tetraphenylporphyrin (TPP) (2 mg, 2.8×10^{-3} mmol), and $1,3,5$ -trimethoxybenzene (79 mg, 0.47 mmol) in CDCl₃ (5.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup A. The tubing reactor (HPFA, 1/16", I.D. 0.03", 105 cm, volume $= 0.48$ mL) was placed at a distance of 3-5 cm to a 20 W white LED lamp. The flow apparatus itself was set up at $t_R = 30$ mins, flow rate $= 7.98 \mu L/min$ and flow rate of $O₂$ was adjusted to create a 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately 1.5 hours to equilibrate, the solution was collected for 30 mins, and analyzed via crude ${}^{1}H$ NMR analysis, which indicated the desired product was obtained in 65% yield.

Stop-Flow Reaction

The O_2 gas cylinder is pressurized to \sim 20 psi higher than the desired back-pressure of the system (20 psi). A 10 mL volumetric flask was charged with a solution of 1,3 cyclohexadiene (83.3 mg, 1.4 mmol), tetraphenylporphyrin (TPP) (2 mg, 2.8×10^{-3} mmol), and $1,3,5$ -trimethoxybenzene (79 mg, 0.47 mmol) in CDCl₃ (5.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup A. The flow apparatus itself was set up at a flow rate $= 7.98$ μ L/min and flow rate of O_2 was adjusted to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After filling the tubing followed by approximately 2 mins equilibration, valves were closed and the tubing reactor (HPFA, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 105 cm, volume = 0.48 mL) was placed at a distance of 3-5 cm to a 20 W white LED lamp for 30 mins. Then the crude mixture was analyzed via crude ¹H NMR, which indicated the desired product was obtained in 62% yield.

Diels Alder Reaction[4]

Batch Reaction

Under N_2 atmosphere, a seal tube reactor was charged with a solution of anthracene (0.8) g, 4.48 mmol), maleic anhydride (0.4 g, 4.08 mmol) and mesitylene (163 mg, 1.16 mmol) in DMF (10.0 mL) was pressurized to 100 psi with N_2 and the reaction was heated at 180 ^oC for 15 min. Then reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath and the pressure was released slowly. The reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted twice with diethyl ether, and washed with water. The organic phase was combined and concentrated in vacuo with the temperature below 20 °C. The crude residue was analyzed via ${}^{1}H$ NMR, which indicated an 11% yield of the Diels-Alder product.

Continuous-Flow Reaction

A 10 mL volumetric flask was charged with a solution of anthracene (0.8 g, 4.48 mmol), maleic anhydride (0.4 g, 4.08 mmol) and mesitylene (163 mg, 1.16 mmol) in DMF (10.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup C with BPR (100 psi). The tubing reactor (stainless steel, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 762 cm, volume = 3.47 mL) was placed into an oil bath at 180 °C. The flow apparatus itself was set up as t_R = 15 mins, flow rate = 227.1 µL/min. After approximately 45 mins equilibration, the solution was collected for 30 mins, and poured into water, extracted twice with ether, and washed with water. The

organic phase was combined and concentrated in vacuo. The crude residue was analyzed via ¹H NMR, indicated a 56% yield of the Diels-Alder product.

Stop-Flow Reaction

A 10 mL volumetric flask was charged with a solution of anthracene (0.8 g, 4.48 mmol), maleic anhydride (0.4 g, 4.08 mmol) and mesitylene (163 mg, 1.16 mmol) in DMF (10.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup C with BPR (100 psi). The tubing reactor was filled and after approximately 2 mins equilibration, the valves were closed, and the tubing reactor (stainless steel, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 762 cm, volume = 3.47 mL) was placed into oil bath at 180 $^{\circ}$ C for 15 mins. Then the solution in SFMT was washed into water, extracted twice with ether, and washed with water. The organic phase was combined and concentrated under vacuum. The crude residue was analyzed via ¹H NMR, indicated a 53% yield of the Diels-Alder product.

Jones Oxidation Reaction[5]

Batch Reaction

A 50 mL round-bottomed flask was charged with cinnamyl alcohol (250 mg 1.86 mmol) in acetone (5.0 mL) and cooled to 0 \degree C. A solution of Jones reagent (1.0 mL) in acetone (9.0 mL) was added in one portion. After stirring at 0° C for 10 mins, isopropyl alcohol was added dropwise to quench excess Jones reagent until the color of solution turned to deep green. The solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude mixture was dissolved in distilled water and extracted twice with diethyl ether. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated under vacuum. The product was purified by column chromatography to afford 172 mg cinnamaldehyde (70% yield).

Continuous-Flow Reaction

An 8 mL stainless steel syringe is filled with a solution of cinnamyl alcohol (250 mg 1.86 mmol) in acetone (5.0 mL). A separate 8 mL stainless steel syringe was filled with a solution of Jones reagent (1.0 mL) in acetone (9.0 mL). The two syringes were attached to the flow apparatus (two syringe pump) according to setup B with BPR (20 psi). The tubing reactor (HPFA, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 400 cm, volume = 1.82 mL) was placed in an ice bath at 0 °C. The flow apparatus itself was set up as $t_R = 10$ mins, flow rate (pump 1, cinnamyl alcohol) at $60.8 \mu L/min$ and flow rate (pump 2, Jones reagent) at $121.6 \mu L/min$. After approximately 20 mins to equilibrate, the solution was collected for 10 mins and quenched by isopropyl alcohol. After the solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure, the crude mixture was dissolved in distilled water and extracted twice with diethyl ether. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated under vacuum. The product was purified by column chromatography to afford 22 mg cinnamaldehyde (76% yield).

Stop Flow Reaction

An 8 mL stainless steel syringe is filled with a solution of cinnamyl alcohol (250 mg 1.86 mmol) in acetone (5.0 mL). A separate 8 mL stainless steel syringe was filled with a solution of Jones reagent (1.0 mL, 10 mmol) in acetone (9.0 mL). The two syringes were attached to the flow apparatus (two syringe pump) according to setup B with BPR (20 psi). The tubing reactor (HPFA, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03", 400 cm, volume = 1.82 mL) was placed into ice bath at 0° C. The flow apparatus itself was set up as flow rate (pump 1, cinnamyl alcohol) at $60.8 \mu L/min$ and flow rate (pump 2, Jones reagent) at $121.6 \mu L/min$. After the reactor was fully filled and approximate 1 min equilibration, the valves were closed. The tubing reactor (HPFA, 1/16", I.D. 0.03", 400 cm) was kept in an ice bath for 10 mins, before the solution in SFMT was quenched by isopropyl alcohol. After the solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure, the crude mixture was dissolved in distilled water and extracted twice with diethyl ether. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated under vacuum. The product was purified by column chromatography to afford 23 mg cinnamaldehyde (77% yield).

Biginelli Reaction[6]

Batch Reaction

Under Ar atmosphere, a Parr reactor was charged with a solution of benzaldehyde (106 mg, 1 mmol), 2-phenylacetophenone (196 mg, 1.1 mmol), thiourea (152 mg, 2 mmol), and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (55.5 mg, 0.33 mmol) in ethanol (5.0 mL). *t*BuOK (22 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added, and the reactor was pressurized to 100 psi with Ar and stirred at 100 °C for 60 min, then cooled in an ice bath and the pressure was released slowly. The resulting reaction mixture was collected into a vial and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was analyzed by ${}^{1}H$ NMR and indicated a 67% yield of the desired product.

Continuous-Flow Reaction

A 25 mL vial was charged with a solution of benzaldehyde (106 mg, 1 mmol), 2 phenylacetophenone (196 mg, 1.1 mmol), thiourea (152 mg, 2.0 mmol), and 1,3,5 trimethoxybenzene $(55.5 \text{ mg}, 0.33 \text{ mmol})$ in ethanol (5.0 mL) . 'BuOK $(22 \text{ mg}, 0.2 \text{ mmol})$ was added, then the vial was bubbled with Ar for 5 mins. An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup C with BPR (100 psi) . The tubing reactor (HPFA, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03", 400 cm, volume = 1.82 mL) was placed in an oil bath at 100 °C. The flow apparatus itself was set up at $t_R = 60$ mins, flow rate at 30.4 μ L/min. After approximate 60 mins equilibration, the solution was collected for 60 mins. The solvent was removed

under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was analyzed by ${}^{1}H$ NMR to indicate a 49% yield of the desired product.

Stop-Flow Reaction

A 25 mL vial was charged with a solution of benzaldehyde (106 mg, 1 mmol), 2 phenylacetophenone (196 mg, 1.1 mmol), thiourea (152 mg, 2.0 mmol), and 1,3,5 trimethoxybenzene (55.5 mg, 0.33 mmol) in ethanol (5.0 mL). BuOK (22 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added, and the vial was bubbled with Ar for 5 mins. An 8 mL stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup C with BPR (100 psi). The flow apparatus itself was set up at flow rate 30.4 µL/min. After approximate 5 mins equilibration, the valves were closed, and the tubing reactor (HPFA, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 400 cm, volume = 1.82 mL) was placed in an oil bath at 100 \degree C for 60 mins. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to rt and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was analyzed by ¹H NMR which indicated a 70% yield of the desired product.

Trans-isomerization Reaction[7]

Batch Reaction

Under Ar atmosphere, a seal tube ractor was charged with a solution of $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$ (16 mg, 0.025 mmol), cis-stilbene (0.45 mL, 2.5 mmol), triphenylphosphine (33 mg, 0.125 mmol), trifluoroacetic acid (0.29 mL, 3.75 mmol), H2O (90 mg, 5.0 mmol), 1,3,5 trimethoxybenzene (140 mg, 0.83 mmol) in DMF (5.0 mL), which was pressurized to 100 psi with Ar and stirred at 200 \degree C for 30 min. Then the reactor was cooled in an ice bath and the pressure was released slowly. The solution was poured into water and extracted twice with ether. The combined organic phase was concentrated in vacuo and analyzed by crude ${}^{1}H$ NMR, indicated a 72% yield of the desired product.

Continuous-Flow Reaction

A 10 mL vial was charged with a solution of $Ru₃(CO)₁₂$ (16 mg, 0.025 mmol), cisstilbene (0.45 mL, 2.5 mmol), triphenylphosphine (33 mg, 0.125 mmol), trifluoroacetic acid (0.29 mL, 3.75 mmol), H2O (90 mg, 5.0 mmol), 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (140 mg, 0.83 mmol) in DMF (5.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup C with BPR (100 psi). The tubing reactor (stainless steel, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03", 150 cm, volume = 0.68 mL) was placed into oil bath at 200 °C. The flow apparatus itself was set up at t_R = 30 mins, flow rate $= 22.8 \text{ }\mu\text{L/min}$. After approximate 90 mins equilibration, the solution was collected for 30 mins and poured into water and extracted twice with ether. The combined organic phase was concentrated in vacuo and analyzed by crude ¹H NMR, indicated a 73% yield of the desired product.

Stop-Flow Reaction

A 10 mL vial was charged with a solution of $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$ (16 mg, 0.025 mmol), cisstilbene (0.45 mL, 2.5 mmol), triphenylphosphine (33 mg, 0.125 mmol), trifluoroacetic acid (0.29 mL, 3.75 mmol), H2O (90 mg, 5.0 mmol), 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (140 mg, 0.83 mmol) in DMF (5.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup C with BPR (100 psi). The flow apparatus itself was set up at a flow rate $= 22.8 \mu L/min$. After approximate 2 mins equilibration, the valves were closed and the tubing reactor (stainless steel, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03", 150 cm, volume = 0.68 mL) was placed in an oil bath at 200 °C for 30 mins. Then the solution in SFMT reactor was washed out with diethyl ether into water and extracted twice with ether. The combined organic phase was concentrated in vacuo and analyzed by crude ${}^{1}H$ NMR, indicated a 62% yield of the desired product.

Olefin Metathesis[8]

Batch Reaction

Under Ar atmosphere, a Parr reactor charged with a solution of tert-butyl(2 allylphenoxy)dimethylsilane (124 mg, 0.50 mmol), tert-butyl acrylate (192 mg, 1.50 mmol), Grubbs-II catalyst (8.5 mg, 10.0 μmol), CuI (2.9 mg, 15.0 μmol), mesitylene (20.4 mg, 0.17 mmol) in diethyl ether (5.0 mL) was pressurized to 100 psi with Ar and stirred at 50 \degree C for 30 mins. After cooling in an ice bath, water was added and the mixture was extracted twice with ether. The organic phase was combined and concentrated under reduced pressure, indicated the desired product in 60% yield according to crude $\rm{^1H}$ NMR analysis.

Continuous-Flow Reaction

A 10 mL vial was charged with a solution of tert-butyl(2-allylphenoxy)dimethylsilane (124 mg, 0.50 mmol), tert-butyl acrylate (192 mg, 1.50 mmol), Grubbs-II catalyst (8.5 mg, 10.0 μmol), CuI (2.9 mg, 15.0 μmol), mesitylene (20.4 mg, 0.17 mmol) in diethyl ether (5.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup C with BPR (100 psi). The tubing reactor (HPFA, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 105 cm, volume = 0.48 mL) was placed in an oil bath at 50 °C. The flow apparatus itself was set up with $t_R = 30$ mins, flow rate = 15.96 µL/min. After approximate 90 mins equilibration, the flow was collected for 30 mins. Then the product was poured into water and extracted twice with ether. The organic phase was combined and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude ¹H NMR analysis indicated the desired product in a 73% yield.

Stop-Flow Reaction

A 10 mL vial was charged with a solution of tert-butyl(2-allylphenoxy)dimethylsilane (124 mg, 0.50 mmol), tert-butyl acrylate (192 mg, 1.50 mmol), Grubbs-II catalyst (8.5 mg, 10.0 μmol), CuI (2.9 mg, 15.0 μmol), mesitylene (20.4 mg, 0.17 mmol) in diethyl ether (5.0 mL). An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus according to setup C with BPR (100 psi). The microtubing was filled and after approximate 2 mins equilibration, the valves were closed. The tubing reactor (HPFA, $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 105 cm, volume = 0.48 mL) was placed in an oil bath at 50 \degree C for 30 mins. Then the solution in SFMT was poured into water and extracted twice with ether. The organic phase was combined and concentrated under reduced pressure, indicating that the desired product was obtained in 68% yield according to crude 1 H NMR analysis.

6. Sonogashira Coupling with Acetylene

6.1 Reaction optimization

Reaction optimization was conducted with the SFMT system.

Table S2. Reaction optimization of Sonogashira coupling with acetylene (with selected data).

[a] Reactions were carried out with **1a** (0.1 M). [b] Yields were determined by GC analysis with 1,3,5-trimthoxybenzene as the internal standard. [c] The reaction was carried out with 1 mol% Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂. [d] The reaction was carried out with 5 mol% Pd(dba)₂ and 10 mol% PPh₃. [e] The reaction was conducted for 2 h reaction time before quenching.

6.2 General procedure for batch, SFMT, and continuous-flow reactions

General procedure A (batch reaction)

Under N₂ atomsphere, a solution of aryl iodide (1.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (35.1 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%), copper(I) iodide (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 2 mol%), DIPEA (310 µL, 1.8 mmol, 1.8 equiv) and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (84.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, 0.5 eq) in DMSO (10.0 mL) was bubbled with acetylene carefully for 5 min and stirred at r.t for 2 h. Then the mixture was quenched by 10 mL saturated NH4Cl aqueous solution, extracted by diethyl ether (5 mL x 2), and the organic phase was combined to check the yield by GC analysis of the crude mixture (1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard).

General procedure B (using SFMT reactors)

The acetylene tank is pressurized to \sim 20 psi higher than the desired back-pressure (5 psi) of the system. A flame dried 10 mL round bottom flask was equipped with a rubber septum and magnetic stir bar and was charged with aryl iodide (0.25 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (8.5 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 5 mol%), copper(I) iodide (1.0 mg, 0.005 mmol, 2 mol%), DIPEA (80 µL, 0.45 mmol, 1.8 eq) and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (21.0 mg, 0.125 mmol, 0.5 eq) in DMSO (2.5 mL). The mixture was bubbled with argon for 15 min. A stainless steel syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus (syringe pump). The stop-flow micro tubing reactor was made of HPFA tubing (O.D. $1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03", 300 cm, volume = 1.37 mL). The flow apparatus itself was set up at a flow rate = 300 μ L/min, and flow of acetylene was adjusted to create ~1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately 2 min equilibration, the valves were closed, and the tubing was held at r.t or in the oil bath at 60 $^{\circ}$ C, and kept for 2 h. Then the mixture was quenched with saturated NH4Cl aqueous solution (4.0 mL), extracted with DMSO (0.5 mL) and diethyl ether (1.5 mL) in sequence. After separation, the organic phase was collected for GC analysis to check the yield (1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard).

General procedure C (continuous-flow reactions)

The acetylene tank is pressurized to \sim 30 psi. A flame dried 10 mL round bottom flask was equipped with a rubber septum and a magnetic stir bar and was charged with aryl iodide (1.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (35.1 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%), copper(I) iodide (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 2 mol%), DIPEA (310 µL, 1.8 mmol, 1.8 eq) and 1,3,5trimethoxybenzene $(84 \text{ mg}, 0.5 \text{ mm})$, (0.5 eq) in DMSO (10.0 mL) . The mixture was vacuum degassed before adding DIPEA and argon protection. An Asia pump was applied to pump the reaction mixture. The tubing reactor (HPFA, O.D. 1/16", I.D. 0.03", 600 cm, volume $= 2.74$ mL) was placed at r.t. The flow apparatus itself was set up at a flow rate $=$ 12 μ L/min, $t_R = 2$ h and flow of acetylene was adjusted to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately 4 h for equilibration, the solution was collected for 30 mins, and quenched with saturated NH4Cl aqueous solution (4.0 mL) and diethyl ether (1.5 mL). After separation, the organic phase was collected for GC analysis of the crude mixture to check the yield (1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard).

6.3 Large-scale continuous production

Figure S16. Continuous-flow setup for Sonogashira coupling with acetylene.

General Procedure:

The acetylene tank is pressurized to \sim 30 psi. A flame dried 200 mL round bottom flask was equipped with a rubber septum and magnetic stir bar and was charged with 4 iodoanisole (2.32 g, 10 mmol), $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$ (351 mg, 0.5 mmol, 5 mol%), copper(I) iodide (38 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 mol%), DIPEA (3.1 mL, 18 mmol, 1.8 equiv) and 1,3,5-

trimethoxybenzene (840 mg, 5 mmol, 0.5 equiv) in DMSO (100 mL). The mixture was vacuum degassed before DIPEA was added and protected under argon. As shown in Figure S16, an Asia pump was filled with the starting material solution and then attached to the flow system. The tubing reactor (HPFA, O.D. $1/8$ ", I.D. 0.062 ", 900 cm, volume = 17.53 mL) was placed at r.t. The flow apparatus itself was set up as flow rate $= 50$ μ L/min, t_R approximate 2 h and flow of acetylene was controlled by mass flow controller to adjust to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately 4 h for equilibration, the solution was collected for 25 h, and quenched with saturated NH4Cl aqueous solution (300 mL) and extrated with diethyl ether (100 mL x 4). After separation, the organic phase was collected to check GC yields, which indicated **2a** of 97% yield, and **3a** of 3% yield (1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard). The combined organic layers were dried with Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation under vacuum at 0^oC , the crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluent: pentane), which afforded 797 mg products, in 81% yield.

General Procedure[9]

Under N_2 atompshere, in a sealed tube, a solution of 4-bromoanisole **9a** (561 mg, 3.0) mmol, 1.0 eq), CuI (28.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 5 mo%), *N*,*N*'-dimethylethylenediamine (DMEDA) (26.4 mg, 0.3 mmol, 10 mol%), NaI (899 mg, 0.6 mmol, 2.0 eq), 1,3,5 trimethoxybenzene (252 mg, 1.5 mmol, 0.5 eq) in dry dioxane (3.0 mL) was stirred at 110 \degree C for 36 h. After cooling to rt, taking the supernatant for analyzing and using for the

next step directly. The ${}^{1}H$ NMR analysis of the crude mixture indicated an 89% conversion.

In a flame dried 10 mL round bottom flask, the supernatant solution (0.8 mL, containing 4-iodoanisole (129 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.0 eq) and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (70 mg, 0.41 mmol, 0.75 eq) was added to a solution of $Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂$ (19.3 mg, 0.0275 mmol, 5 mol%), CuI (1.1 mg, 0.0055 mmol, 1 mol%) and DIPEA (176 µL, 0.99 mmol, 1.8 eq) in DMSO (2.0 mL). The mixture was bubbled with argon for 15 min. The acetylene tank was pressurized to \sim 20 psi higher than the desired back-pressure (5 psi) of the system. A stainless steel syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the SFMT system. The stop-flow micro tubing reactor was made of HPFA tubing (O.D. 1/16", I.D. 0.03", 300 cm, volume $= 1.37$ mL). The flow apparatus itself was set up with a flow rate $= 300$ μ L/min, and flow of acetylene was adjusted to create ~1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately 2 min equilibration, the valves were closed, and the tubing was held at r.t, and kept for 4 h. Then the reaction mixture was washed out with DMSO (0.5 mL) and diethyl ether (1.5 mL) and quenched with saturated NH₄Cl aqueous solution (4.0 mL). After separation, the organic phase was collected for GC analysis, which indicated **2a** of 66% yield and **3a** of 6% yield (1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard).

6.5 New compound characterization

General method of GC yield calculation

According to GC spectrum of reaction product, we used calibration curve to calculate the GC yield. From the calibration curve, we derived a linear regression equation,

$$
y = ax + b.
$$

In this equation,

$$
y = \frac{(integration of the product)}{(integration of internal standard)}
$$

$$
x = mass of the product (mg)
$$

Here is an example of calculation yield of main product **2a** and side product **3a**. From Figure S19, we know that y**2a** = 100%/98.25% =1.018, y**3a** = 19.57%/98.25%=0.199. So $x_{2a} = 31.78$ mg and $x_{3a} = 1.19$ mg.

Therefore, the yield**2a**=31.78/33.04=96% and yield**3a**=1.19/29.79=4%.

Figure S18. Calibration curve of the byproduct

Figure S19. GC Spectrum

 $MeO-$ **1-ethynyl-4-methoxybenzene (2a)**

Batch: Followed the general procedure **A** in batch reaction with 4-iodoanisole (234.0 mg, 1.00 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2a** of 45% yield with **3a** 14% yield.

Stop-flow: Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 4-iodoanisole (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2a** of 96% yield together with 4% of **3a**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 1H).

Characterization of compound 2a has been reported in previous literature.^[10]

$$
\overbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}^{\text{MeO}} =
$$
1-ethynyl-3-methoxybenzene (2b)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 3-iodoanisole (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2b** of 97% yield together with **3b** of 2% yield.

Characterization of compound $2b$ has been reported in previous literature. $^{[11]}$

OMe **1-ethynyl-2-methoxybenzene (2c)**

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 2-iodoanisole (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) at 60 ^oC. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2c** of 47% yield together with **3c** of 2% yield.

Characterization of compound **2c** has been reported in previous literature. [12]

Me **1-ethynyl-4-methylbenzene (2d)**

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 1-iodo-4-methylbenzene (57.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2d** of 75% yield together with **3d** of 3% yield.

Characterization of compound 2d has been reported in previous literature. [10]

Me **1-ethynyl-3-methylbenzene (2e)**

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 1-iodo-3-methylbenzene (57.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2e** of 86% yield together with **3e** of 5% yield.

Characterization of compound **2e** has been reported in previous literature. [13]

۸۵ **1-ethynyl-2-methylbenzene (2f)**

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 1-iodo-2-methylbenzene (57.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) at 60 °C. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated 2f of 48% yield together with **3f** of 2% yield.

Characterization of compound 2f has been reported in previous literature. [13]

1-(tert-butyl)-4-ethynylbenzene (2g)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 1-(tert-butyl)-4-iodobenzene (65.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2g** of 80% yield together with **3g** of 6% yield.

Characterization of compound **2g** has been reported in previous literature. [14]

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 1-fluoro-3-iodobenzene (55.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2h** of 68% yield together with **3h** of 3% yield.

Characterization of compound **2h** has been reported in previous literature. [15]

$F -$ **1-ethynyl-4-fluorobenzene (2i)**

Stop-flow: Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 1-fluoro-4-iodobenzene (55.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2i** of 70% yield together with **3i** of 3% yield.

Continuous-flow: Followed the general procedure **C** in continuous-flow with 1,-fluoro-4 iodobenzene (166.5 mg, 0.75 mmol). GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2i** of 62% yield together with **3i** of 5% yield.

Characterization of compound 2i has been reported in previous literature. [13]

$F_{3}C$ **1-ethynyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (2j)**

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 1-iodo-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (68.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2j** of 67% yield together with **3j** of 5% yield.

Characterization of compound **2j** has been reported in previous literature. [15]

NC 3-ethynylbenzonitrile (2k)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 14-iodobenzonitrile (57.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2k** of 80% yield together with **3k** of 10% yield.

Characterization of compound **2k** has been reported in previous literature. [16]

F_3C **1-ethynyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (2l)**

Stop-flow: Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 1-iodo-4- (trifluoromethyl)benzene (68.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2l** of 70% yield together with **3l** of 6% yield.

Continuous-flow: Followed the general procedure **C** in continuous-flow with 1-iodo-4- (trifluoromethyl)benzene (204.0 mg, 0.75 mmol). GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2l** of 85% yield together with **3l** of 5% yield.

Characterization of compound **2l** has been reported in previous literature. [15]

2-ethynylthiophene (2m)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 2-iodothiophene (52.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2m** of 65% yield together with **3m** of 3% yield.

Characterization of compound $2m$ has been reported in previous literature. [17]

3-ethynylthiophene (2n)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 3-iodothiophene (52.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2n** of 83% yield together with **3n** of 2% yield.

Characterization of compound **2n** has been reported in previous literature. [12]

3-ethynylpyridine (2o)

Stop-flow: Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with 3-iodopyridine (51.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) at rt. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2o** of 86% yield together with **3o** of 6% yield.

Continuous-flow: Followed the general procedure **C** in continuous-flow with 3 iodopyridine (153.8 mg, 0.75 mmol). GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2o** of 90% yield together with **3o** of 4% yield.

Characterization of compound **2o** has been reported in previous literature. [10]

(*E***)-but-1-en-3-yn-1-ylbenzene (2p)**

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT with trans-β-bromostyrene (45.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), $Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂$ (17 mg, 0.025 mmol, 10 mol%) at rt for 4 h. The GC analysis of the crude mixture indicated **2p** of 79% yield together with **3p** of 2% yield. Characterization of compound **2p** has been reported in previous literature. [18]

7. Fulvene Synthesis

7.1 Reaction optimization

Reaction optimization was carried out with the SFMT platform.

Table S3. Reaction optimization of fulvene synthesis (with selected data).

21	$Pddba)_{2}$ (5 mol%)	IPr-HCl (10 mol\%)	DMSO	120	45
22	$Pddba)_{2}$ (5 mol%)	C I IBn-HCl (10 mol%)	DMSO	120	60
23	$Pddba)_{2}$ (5 mol%)	Br IBn-HBr (10 mol\%)	DMSO	120	63
24	$Pddba)_{2}$ (5 mol%)	Br (10 mol\%)	DMSO	120	60
25	$Pddba)_{2}$ (2 mol%)	IBn-HBr (4 mol\%)	DMSO	120	65
26	$Pd(dba)$ ₂ (1 mol%)	IBn-HBr (2 mol\%)	DMSO	120	66
$27^{[d]}$	$Pddba)_{2}$ (1 mol%)	IBn-HBr (2 mol\%)	DMSO	120	62

[a] Reactions were carried out with **1a** (0.1 M). [b] Yields were determined by GC analysis with biphenyl as the internal standard. [c] Reaction was carried out for 2 h. [d] Reaction was carried out with **1a** (0.05 M).

7.2 General procedure for batch, SFMT, and continuous-flow reactions

General procedure A for batch reactions

Under N₂ atomsphere, a solution of 4-Iodoanisole (57 mg, 0.25 mmol), Pd(dba)₂ (1.5 mg, 0.0025 mmol, 1 mol%), 1,3-bisbenzyl-imidazole bromide salt (1.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 2 mol%), DIPEA (57 mg, 0.375 mmol, 1.8 equiv) and biphenyl (25 mg, 0.16 mmol) in DMSO (2.5 mL) was stirred at rt, and the solution was vacuumed and refilled with acetylene balloon. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at $120 \degree C$ for 40 mins. Subsequently, the mixture was cooled to rt. 1.0 mL of the solution was taken and quenched by distilled water (0.5 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (1.0 mL), and the organic phase was collected for GC analysis, which indicated the corresponding product **4a** in a 42% yield.

General procedure B for SFMT reactions

The acetylene tank is pressurized to \sim 15 psi higher than the desired back-pressure (10 psi) of the system. A flame dried 10 mL round bottom flask was equipped with a rubber septum and magnetic stir bar and was charged with aryl iodide (0.25 mmol) , Pd $(dba)_{2}$ (1.5 mg, 0.0025 mmol, 1 mol%), 1,3-bisbenzyl-imidazole bromide salt (1.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 2 mol%), DIPEA (57 mg, 0.375 mmol, 1.8 equiv) and biphenyl (25 mg, 0.16 mmol) in DMSO (2.5 mL). The mixture was bubble with Ar for 15 mins. An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus (syringe pump). The flow apparatus itself was set up at flow rate $=$ 300 μ L/min, and flow of acetylene was adjusted to create \sim 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximate 2 mins equilibration, valves were closed, and the tubing (stainless steel, 1/16", I.D. 0.03", 300 cm, volume = 1.37 mL) was placed into the oil bath at 120 °C for 40 mins. Then the mixture in the tubing reactor was cooled to rt, and was washed out using DMSO (3.0 mL). The reaction mixture was added to water and extracted with ethyl acetate. After separation, the organic phase was collected for GC analysis to check the product yield (biphenyl as the internal standard).

General procedure C for continuous-flow reactions

The acetylene tank is pressurized to \sim 25 psi. A flame dried 10 mL round bottom flask was equipped with a rubber septum and magnetic stir bar and was charged with aryl iodide (1.0 mmol) , $Pd(dba)_2$ $(5.7 \text{ mg}, 0.01 \text{ mmol}, 1 \text{ mol}), 1, 3-bisbenzyl-imidazole$ bromide salt (6.6 mg, 0.02 mmol, 2 mol%), DIPEA (228 mg, 1.8 mmol, 1.8 equiv) and biphenyl (100 mg, 0.64 mmol) in DMSO (5.0 mL). The mixture was bubbled with Ar for 15 mins. An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the continuous flow system. The tubing (stainless steel, SS-T4-S-035-6ME, O.D. 1/4", I.D. 4.57 mm, 20 cm) was packed with stainless steel powder and placed into the oil bath at 120 °C. The flow apparatus itself was set up as $t_R = 40$ mins, flow rate $= 50 \mu L/min$, and flow of acetylene was adjusted to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately 120 mins for equilibration, the solution was collected for 1 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water (2 mL) and extract with ethyl acetate (1.0 mL X) 2). After separation, the organic phase was collected for GC analysis to check the yield (biphenyl as the internal standard).

7.3 Large-scale continuous production

Figure S20. Continuous-flow setup for fulvene preparation.

The acetylene tank is pressurized to \sim 25 psi. A flame dried 250 mL round bottom flask was equipped with a rubber septum and magnetic stir bar and was charged with 4 iodoanisole $(1.14 \text{ g}, 5.0 \text{ mmol})$, $Pd(dba)_{2}$ $(30 \text{ mg}, 0.05 \text{ mmol}, 1 \text{ mol\%})$, 1,3-bisbenzylimidazole bromide salt $(33 \text{ mg}, 0.1 \text{ mmol}, 2 \text{ mol\%})$, DIPEA $(1.16 \text{ g}, 9 \text{ mmol}, 1.8 \text{ equiv})$ and biphenyl (0.49 g, 3.2 mmol) in DMSO (50.0 mL). The mixture was bubbled with acetylene for 15 mins. The same solution was made twice. When the solution in RBF was nearly pumped empty, the fresh prepared solution was refilled to avoiding decomposition of Pd catalyst during their stay at room temperature. As shown in Figure S20, an Asia pump was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus (syringe pump). The tubing (stainless steel, SS-T4-S-035-6ME, O.D. 1/4", I.D. 4.57 mm, 20 cm) was packed with stainless steel powder and placed into the oil bath at 120 $^{\circ}$ C. The flow apparatus itself was set up with $t_R = 40$ mins, flow rate = 50 μ L/min, and flow of

acetylene was adjusted to create 1:1 liquid/gas plugs. After approximately 120 mins of equilibration, the solution was collected for 36 h, quenched with distilled water (100 mL), and extracted by ether (150 mL x 3). The combined organic phase was dried with MgSO4. After evaporation with reduced pressure below 20 $^{\circ}$ C, the red residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluent: hexane), affording the red solid product 1.1 g, in 55% yield.

7.4 New compound characterization

Example of calibration of GC yields

Figure S21. Calibration curve of 1-(cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidenemethyl)-4 methoxybenzene.

Figure S22. GC spectrum of the crude mixture.

Follow the same method as mention in Figure S19, based on Figure S22, it was calculated y_{4a} = 0.805, x_{4a} = 30.4. Therefore, the yield of $4a = 30.4/46 = 66\%$.

MeO **1-(cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidenemethyl)-4-methoxybenzene (4a)** *Batch*: Followed the general procedure **A** in batch, obtained **4a** in 42% yield.

Stop-flow : Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 4-iodoanisole (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), GC analysis of the crude product mixture indicated a 66% yield of **4a**. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 400 M) δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.76-6.75 (m, 1H), 6.70-6.68 (m, 1H), 6.52-6.50 (m, 1H), 6.36-6.34 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H).

Characterization data of compound **4a** have been reported in previous literature. [19]

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 3-iodoanisole (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), GC analysis of the crude product mixture indicated a 42% yield of **4b**. Characterization data of compound **4b** have been reported in previous literature. [19]

OMe **1-(cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidenemethyl)-2-methoxybenzene (4c)**

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 2-iodoanisole (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), GC analysis of the crude product mixture indicated a 60% yield of **4c**. Characterization data of compound **4c** have been reported in previous literature. [20]

1-(tert-butyl)-4-(cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidenemethyl)benzene (4d)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 1-iodo-4-(tert-butyl)benzene (65.0 mg, 0.25 mmol), GC analysis of the crude product mixture indicated a 56% yield of **4d**.

Characterization data of compound **4d** have been reported in previous literature. [21]

1-(cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidenemethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)

benzene (4e)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 1-iodo-4- (trifluoromethyl)benzene (68.0 mg, 0.25 mmol), GC analysis of the crude product mixture indicated a 40% yield of **4e**.

Characterization data of compound **4e** have been reported in previous literature. [19]

1-(cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidenemethyl)-4-bromobenzene (4f)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 1-bromo-4-iodobenzene (70.7 mg, 0.25 mmol), GC analysis of the crude product mixture indicated a 62% yield of **4f**. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 400 M) δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), $6.70-6.68$ (m, 1H), $6.64-6.62$ (m, 1H), $6.54-6.52$ (m, 1H), $6.32-6.30$ (m, 1H); 13 C NMR (CDCl3, 100 M) δ 145.8, 136.5, 135.9, 135.7, 132.0, 131.9, 131.2, 127.1, 123.5, 120.0. GC/MS (m/z, relative intensity) : 232 (M+, 25),153 (100).

1-(cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidenemethyl)-4-fluorobenzene (4g)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 1-fluoro-4-iodobenzene (70.7 mg, 0.25 mmol), GC analysis of the crude product mixture indicated a 50% yield of **4g**. Characterization data of compound **4g** have been reported in previous literature. [19]

2-(cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidenemethyl)thiophene (4h)

Followed the general procedure **B** in SFMT reactors with 2-iodothiophene (52.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), GC analysis of the crude product mixture indicated a 48% yield of **4h**. Characterization data of compound **4h** have been reported in previous literature. [22]

8. Visible-Light Promoted Synthesis of Styrene Derivatives Using Acetylene 8.1 SFMT Reactor Setup

Figure S23. Stop-flow setup for fluorinated styrene screening and preparation.

8.2 Reaction optimization

Table S4. Reaction optimization of synthesis of styrene derivatives (catalyst, base and solvent screening).

[a] Conversions and ratios were determined based on ¹⁹F NMR analysis of the crude product mixtures.

Table S5. Reaction optimization of synthesis of styrene derivatives (with TEMPO)

[a] Conversions and ratios were determined based on ¹⁹F NMR analysis of the crude product mixtures. [b] Without degassing. [c] with 20 Psi BPR.

8.3 General procedure for batch, and SFMT reactions

General procedure A for batch reaction.

Under Argon atomsphere, a solution of bromopentafluorobenzene (31.2 ul, 0.25 mol), Ir(ppy)₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (2.3 mg, 0.0025 mmol, 1 mol%), TEMPO (39.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and DIPEA (56.0 μ L, 0.325 mmol, 1.3 equiv) with CH₃CN (2.5 mL) were introduced into a 15 mL-Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. The mixtures were bubbled with argon balloon and acetylene balloon carefully in an ice-water bath for 10 and 2 minutes respectively, and then placed in a water bath with acetylene balloon for 3 h at 60 °C under a blue LED source. The residue was then diluted with $CDC₁₃$, and directly analyzed by GC-Ms and 19 F NMR.

General procedure B for SFMT reaction.

Under Argon atomsphere, a solution of fluorinated aryl bromide **5** (0.30 mol), Ir(ppy)₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (2.8 mg, 0.003 mmol, 1 mol%) and TEMPO (46.8 mg, 0.30 mmol) with CH₃CN (3.0 mL) were introduced into a 10 mL silicon septa vial. The mixtures were bubbled with argon balloon carefully in an ice-water bath for 10 minutes. DIPEA (56.0 µL, 0.325 mmol, 1.3 equiv) was then added into the mixture via Argon bubbling for another 5 mintues. An 8 mL, stainless steel Harvard Apparatus syringe was filled with the solution and then attached to the flow apparatus (syringe pump). The acetylene tank is pressurized to \sim 10 psi higher than the desired back-pressure (20 psi) of the system. The flow apparatus itself was set up at flow rate $= 100 \mu L/min$, and flow of acetylene was adjusted to create around 2:1 gas/liquid plugs. After approximate 3 minutes, both shut-off valves were closed, and the stop-flow micro tubing reactor (total volume 0.65 ml, 0.065 mmol) which was made of HPFA tubing $(0.D. 1/16$ ", I.D. 0.03 ", 300 cm, volume = 1.37 mL) was placed under a blue LED source in the water bath at 60 $\rm{°C}$ for 3 h. The same procedure was applied for three other micro tubing reactors. Then the mixtures of four stop-flow micro tubing reactors (total volume 2.6 ml, 0.26 mmol) were combineed together. The solvent was carefully removed under reduced pressure due to volatile of products, and the residue was firstly purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, and then further purified by GPC (Gel Permeation Chromatography).

8.4 New compound characterization

Compound 2,3,4,5,6-Pentafluorostyrene (6a): Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (35 mg, 70% yield). Characterization of compound **6a** has been reported in previous literature. [23]

Notes: Carefully removed the solvent due to the volatility of **6a.**

Compound 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-vinylaniline (6b): Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (26 mg, 52% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.59 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (d, *J* $= 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.49 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.01 (bs, 2H); ¹⁹F NMR

(376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -146.28 – -146.37 (m, 2F), -163.17 – -163.26 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3) 145.08 (dddd, *J* = 245.0, 11.9, 8.3, 3.6 Hz), 136.59 (dddd, *J* = 236.2, 9.4, 5.6, 3.9 Hz), 125.06 (tt, *J* = 14.4, 3.7 Hz), 122.49 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 119.67 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 104.96 (t, $J = 13.8$ Hz). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₈H₄F₄N [M - H]⁻ 190.0258, found: 190.0289.

Notes: Carefully removed the solvent due to the volatility of **6b.**

Compound 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-vinylpyridine (6c): Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (22 mg, 48% yield). Characterization of compound **6c** has been reported in previous literature. [24] Notes: Carefully removed the solvent due to the volatility of **6c.**

Compound 1-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-vinylphenyl)-1*H***benzo[***d***]imidazole) (6d):** Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (46 mg, 61% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 8.03 (s, 1H), 8.02-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.25

(m, 1H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz,

1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl3) δ -141.70 – -146.80 (m, 2F), -147.11 – -147.21 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3) 145.05 (dddd, *J* = 250.5, 12.4, 7.2, 3.2 Hz), 143.10, 142.36, 142.28 (ddt, *J* = 251.3, 15.5, 4.0 Hz), 133.37, 125.30 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 124.46, 123.48, 121.63, 120.80, 117.39 (t, *J* = 13.6 Hz), 113.83 (tt, *J* = 14.4, 2.6 Hz), 110.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{15}H_9F_4N$ [M + H]⁺, 293.0696, found: 293.0700.

Compound 1-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-vinylphenyl)-1*H***-pyrrole) (6e):** Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (39.5 mg, 63% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.96 (q, *J* = 2.0, 2H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.16 (d, *J*

 $= 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.76 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -143.22 – -143.31 (m, 2F), -151.10 - -151.19 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.16 (dddd, *J* = 248.7, 12.6, 7.6, 4.3 Hz), 141.40 (ddt, *J* = 248.0, 15.7, 3.4 Hz), 123.94 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 122.31, 121.85, 119.13 (t, *J* = 12.8 Hz), 114.59 (t, *J* = 13.7 Hz), 110.60. HRMS (APCI) m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_7F_4N$ 241.0509, found: 241.0506.

Notes: Carefully removed the solvent due to the volatility of **6e.**

Compound 1-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-vinylphenyl)-1*H***-imidazole) (6f):** Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (41 mg, 65% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H)), 6.71 (dd, $J = 18.0$, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, $J = 18.0$

Hz, 1H), 5.81 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.88 (s, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -141.99 $-$ -142.09 (m, 2F), -149.92 – -150.02 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.05 (dddd, *J* = 250.4, 12.5, 7.2, 4.3 Hz), 141.12 (dddd, *J* = 249.6, 7.0, 4.1, 2.9 Hz), 137.67, 130.06, 125.02 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 121.54, 120.01, 116.36 (t, *J* = 13.6 Hz), 115.40 (t, *J* = 12.7 Hz). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{11}H_7F_4N$ [M + H]⁺, 243.0540, found: 243.0543.

Notes: Compound of **6f** is easy to isomerize under acidic conditions.

Compound 4-Bromo-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorostyrene (6g): Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reaction: (34 mg, 51% yield). Characterization of compound **6g** has been reported in previous literature.^[25]

Notes: Carefully removed the solvent due to the volatility of **6g.**

Compound 1-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-vinylphenyl)naphthalene

(6h): Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (35 mg, 45% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.48 (m, 5H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 5.80 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -141.42 - -141.51 (m, 2F), -143.94 - -144.03 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.76 (dddd, *J* = 248.9, 10.5, 6.3, 3.9 Hz), 144.31 (dddd, *J* = 244.6, 9.7, 5.8, 3.9 Hz), 133.65 131.51, 129.89, 128.77, 128.54, 126.89, 126.28, 125.17, 124.87, 123.80 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 122.52, 117.81 (t, *J* = 19.2 Hz), 116.42 (t, *J* = 13.4 Hz). HRMS (APCI) m/z calcd for C18H10F⁴ 302.0713, found: 302.0716.

Compound 1-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-vinylphenyl)benzene (6i): Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (35 mg, 53% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53-7.44 (m, 5H), 6.76 (dd, $J = 18.0$, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.75 (d, $J =$

12.0 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -144.27 – -144.36 (m, 2F), -145.35 – -145.44 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3) 144.90 (dddd, *J* = 248.1, 10.4, 6.5, 3.9 Hz), 143.83 (dddd, *J* = 244.4, 9.8, 5.3, 4.0 Hz), 130.13(t, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 129.09, 128.56, 127.44, 123.57 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 122.45, 119.11 (t, *J* = 16.8 Hz), 115.73 (t, *J* = 13.5 Hz). HRMS (APCI) m/z calcd for C14H8F⁴ 252.0557, found: 252.0560.

Compound methyl 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-vinylbenzoate (6j): Prepared according to procedure B for SFMT reactions: (26 mg, 43% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.70 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98

(s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl3) δ -140.43 – -140.53 (m, 2F), -142.72 – -142.82 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.21, 145.88-145.46 (m), 143.84-143.46 (m), 125.72 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 121.94, 119.72 (t, *J* = 13.2 Hz), 110.58 (t, *J* = 15.7 Hz). HRMS (APCI) m/z calcd for $C_{10}H_6F_4N$ 362.1671, found: 362.1673.

Notes: Carefully removed the solvent due to the volatility of **6j.**

1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -144.28 – -144.37 (m, 2F), -145.52 – -145.61 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3) 158.36, 156.22, 144.93 (dddd, *J* = 248.3, 10.5, 6.2, 4.5 Hz), 143.84 (ddt, *J* = 244.1, 14.6, 4.4 Hz), 131.65, 129.92, 124.03, 123.51(t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 122.46, 121.74, 119.73, 118.56 (t, *J* = 16.6 Hz), 118.18, 115.50 (t, *J* = 13.5 Hz). HRMS (APCI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{12}F_4O$ 344.0819, found: 344.0820.

9. Trouble Shooting: Frequently Asked Questions

9.1 The SFMT reactor platform

Question 1: What is an SFMT reactor platform?

The "stop-flow" micro-tubing (SFMT) reactor platform is a design adapted from the continuous flow system, with added batch elements. Instead of making the reaction mixture flow continuously, the SFMT platform allows it to pause at will. This is achieved by the usage of two shut-off valves. The system includes several parts. One syringe pump is used for pumping the constant reagents during screening. Another syringe pump is applied for pumping variable reagents for screening, with switchable syringes. A gas line is applied if gaseous reagents are involved in the reaction. All the reagents will meet at a mixer and flow into the micro-tubing reactor with two shut-off valves equipped at the two ends of each reactor. A back-pressure regulator (BPR) is used to control the system pressure. A heating bath will be utilized as the off-line heating source. This platform is designed for the reaction screening purpose for the continuous-flow synthesis.

Question 2: How does the SFMT reactor platform works?

The reagents will be pumped into the micro-tubing reactors by the flow system. After the reagents pass through the BPR, the shut-off valves at the two ends of the reactor will be closed, and the reactor holds almost the same pressure as indicated by the BPR. The reactor will then be disconnected from the flow system. The next empty micro-tubing reactor will be connected to the flow system to fill in the reagents. After all the microtubings have been filled with planned reagents, they will be moved to an off-line heating bath for parallel heating. Finally, after desired heating period, the reaction mixture in each micro-tubing will be washed out by organic solvents to individual sample vials. The crude mixture will be subjected to GC, LC, and NMR analysis to identify the reaction results.

Question 3: What kind of pumps should I choose for the SFMT reactor platform?

Different pumps can be chosen for different reaction patterns. In our study, we used Harvard or KDS syringe pumps in our SFMT reactor system as they can work precisely under high-pressure, and syringes with several volume sizes (2.5 mL, 8 mL, 20 mL, 50 mL, and 100 mL) are available for choosing. Peristaltic pumps will be good for the SFMT system for reactions at ambient pressure. We are targeting to use MilliGat pump for a proposed automated SFMT system to switch reagents and solvents.

Question 4: How to introduce gas reagents into a SFMT reactor platform?

Gaseous reagents will be supplied from gas tanks with regulators. The gas is introduced into the flow system using the Swagelok stainless steel tubing connected to a Y mixer. The flow of gas is regulated with a needle valve (IDEX) and is visually controlled to 1:1 to 2:1 gas to liquid volume slugs. If a precise control of gas flow rate is required, a digital Mass-Flow controller (SmartTrak 100) is applied.

Question 5: What kind of mixers should I choose for my reactions?

In our study, the T or Y mixers with thru-hole 0.02 inch from IDEX (P-727, P-512) worked well for most of cases. For homogeneous reactions, to attempt improved mixing efficiency, more advanced micro-mixers such as the IMM single mixer or Yamatake YM-1 mixer can be utilized.^[26]

Question 6: What kind of reactors should I choose for my reactions?

Micro-tubings made by any material can potentially be applied to the SFMT platform, such as polymers, stainless-steel (SS), glass, etc. In our study, SS-tubings were used for reactions with temperatures above 100° C as it can withstand the heat and pressure. HPFA tubings were used for ambient/ cold/ temperatures up to 120° C reactions. The HPFA tubing is also applied for photoredox reactions due to its transparency and high surface volume of reagents exposed to the light source. Glass tubings can also be applied to light-promoted reactions. For gas/liquid reactions, gases will pass through the HPFA tubing during heating (e.g. 100 °C) at high pressure (e.g. 100 psi). If gas leaking is observed, HPFA tubing can be replaced with SS-tubing. Glass tubing and TEFZEL tubing can be used if light reactions are involved to stand higher temperature and pressure.

Question 7: What is the size of the micro-tubing reactor?

The inner diameter of the micro-tubing reactor is normally less than 1mm. The volume of the tubing can be calculated by $V = \pi r^2 L$, and can be any volume in principle. For the reaction screening purpose in our study, we normally used tubings with approximate 1.37 mL volume.

Question 8: What is the reaction scale in the SFMT reactor?

The scale of one reaction in the SFMT reactor is determined by the reactor size, the reaction nature, and concentration. For instance, in the case of homogeneous liquid reaction, to achieve a 1 mmol production (based on 100% yield) with a 0.2 M concentration reaction mixture, ~ 6.17 meter of micro-tubing with 0.04 inch I.D. is needed. If the tubing I.D. is 0.062 inch, ~ 2.56 meter of the micro-tubing is needed. In the case of gas/liquid reaction, the tubing length normally needs to be doubled. However, reactions at 0.2 mmol scale are instructive enough for evaluation. However, the SFMT reactor can be used for gram scale synthesis. The reaction scale can also be increased by numbering-up strategy.

Question 9: What kind of BPRs should I choose for my reactions?

BPRs from IDEX were utilized in our study as there are many choices (5, 20, 40, 75, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000 psi), and they can be used jointed to achieve a certain amount of back-pressure. Zaiput BPR is used for tunable pressure. Swagelok BPR can also be used for this purpose.

Question 10: How to proceed the off-line heating or cooling?

If the screening is conducted at high temperature, all the micro-tubing reactors can be filled with reagents to be tested at room temperature first, and then heated together in an oil bath. If the screening is conducted at low temperature, the reagents will be filled into the micro-tubing reactor in a cooling bath at the required reaction temperature with reaction time started to be calculated once the micro-reactor was fully filled.

Question 11: How do I monitor the reaction in a SFMT reactor?

During the screening period, the SFMT reactor is not monitored. After reactions are quenched, the crude mixtures will be subjected to TLC, NMR, and GC/LC-MS analysis.

Question 12: What is the exact pressure in a SFMT reactor?

The pressure in a SFMT reactor should be roughly equal to the set back-pressure after the shut-off valves are closed at room temperature. During heating, the pressure inside the tubing will increase. It can be roughly calculated by $P_1/T_1 = P_2/T_2$ according to Amontons's Law.

Question 13: Why continuous flow resulted in slightly better yields than SFMT reactors?

This can be explained by the excellent mixing efficiency due to the toroidal vortices generated in continuous heterogeneous segmented flow. However, results from SFMT reactors are instructive enough for the purpose of reaction discovery/optimization.

Question 14: Do I need to wash the system between two different reactions?

The part in red rectangle needs to be washed every time between two different reactions. You can design this part of tubing as short as possible.

Question 15: Can the SFMT system become automatic?

Yes. We are currently proposed an automated prototype of the SFMT system. A typical system will include: one syringe pump for constant reagents/solvents, and one MilliGat pump for switchable reagents/catalysts/solvents, one gas mass flow controller, a four-way mixer, two multi-channel valves, one set of parallel stop-flow micro-tubing reactors, one oil tank or cooler to control temperature, one pressure sensor, one back pressure regulator, and a vial holder for sample vials. The MilliGat pump will be used for switchable reagents as it is able to achieve automated pumping among different reagents at high pressure avoiding refilling or cross-contamination.[27] All the shut-off valves for stop-flow reactors will be mounted on a stainless steel mantle, and the tubing reactors will be connected and immersed in the oil tank for heating or a cooling bath for low temperature reactions. A computer system will be used to control the automated system.

9.2 Sonogashira coupling

Question 1: What are other methods to make terminal alkynes?

Terminal alkynes can also be generated from aldehyde by Corey-Fuchs reaction or using the Ohira-Bestmann reagent. They also can be synthesized from elimination of dihalogenated alkanes. However, these transformations require expensive starting materials or reagents, which makes the large-scale industrial production of terminal alkynes through these methods impossible. To prepare terminal alkynes or unsymmetric internal alkynes from halogenated precursors, a protected acetylene, such as trimethylsilylacetylene or 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol,^[28] was normally applied, followed by the release of the protecting group.

Question 2: What if the reaction does not proceed to completion?

If there is still starting bromide or iodide compounds left, the reaction can be proceeded with longer reaction time or with slightly higher temperature to push to a full conversion.

Question 3: Is there a trend to predict the reaction selectivity of terminal alkynes vs internal alkynes?

Aryl iodides with electron-donating aryl rings and vinyl bromides generally afforded very good selectivity. However, aryl iodides with electron-withdrawing group afforded lower selectivity. This is probably because the generated terminal alkynes with electronwithdrawing group is more acidic and easier to generate the copper intermediate than acetylene to undergo further Sonogashira coupling with aryl iodides again.

Question 4: What if the reaction selectivity is not good?

Reducing the reaction temperature or the concentration of starting halogen compounds should help to increase the selectivity.

Question 5: How sensitive is this transformation towards air?

The reactions were not performed strictly anhydrously. AR ACS grade DMSO was used in our study.

Question 6: What is the concentration of starting materials for the success of the selective coupling?

0.1 M concentration was applied in our "stop-flow" or "continuous-flow" process. Compared to Vasilevsky's batch study at 0.033 M, our concentration is much higher and more practical.

9.3 Fulvene synthesis

Question 1: How stable are these fulvene products?

Fulvenes are oxygen and heat-sensitive compounds. However, they can be purified by a quick flash column chromatography over silica gel.

Question 2: Any care needs to be taken during product purification and storage to avoid possible decomposition?

All fulvene compounds should be stored in freezer under Ar or N_2 .

Question 3: Why is the fulvene compound the sole product instead of Sonogashira coupling products without the copper co-catalyst?

In the presence of copper catalyst and a base, acetylene will generate the acetylene copper complex, which is nucleophilic enough to undergo transmetallation with the aryl palladium intermediate to achieve the Sonogashira coupling products. Without the copper catalyst, the acetylene is not nucleophilic enough and *syn* addition will take place, which will eventually lead to fulvene products.

Question 4: Why is a packed-bed reactor used in the continuous-flow synthesis instead of a tubing reactor?

The outlet pressure of acetylene is $<$ 30 psi. When we conducted the fulvene synthesis in continuous micro-tubing reactors with a back pressure regulator (5 psi) at 120 °C , the pressure cumulation can be higher than 30 psi which resulted in back flow in the continuous-flow system. We anticipated that the pressure drop will be much smaller in a packed-bed reactor instead of a micro-tubing reactor. This was true in that a packed-bed reactor filled with stainless steel powder was able to overcome the back-flow problem in our studies.

9.4 Fluorinated styrene synthesis

Question 1: What are the by-products in this reaction?

The common byproduct from this photo-initiated fluorinated styrene synthesis was the debrominated fluorinated arene. If the conversion did not reach 100%, the unreacted aryl bromide starting material was detected in the crude mixture as well.

Question 2: How to purify the desired product?

The crude mixtures, which may contain the debrominated arene, the aryl bromide starting material and the styrene product, were difficult to be separated by silica-gel based chromatography purification, because most of these compounds were un-polar, and cospotted on the silica TLC. However, they can be effectively separated by Recycling Preparative HPLC equipped with JAIGEL -2H columns (GPC, CHCl₃, as an eluent) from Japan Analytical Industry Co.,Ltd*.* We also expect that the reverse-phase (C18-based) HPLC or chromatography should achieve pure product separation as well.

Question 3: What can these fluorinated styrene products be used for?

These fluorinated styrene products can be used in a wide range of applications in fluorinated polymer synthesis.

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11. NMR Spectra for New Compounds

