



***Pd-catalyzed meta-selectivity C-H bond activation  
with a nitrile-containing template: computational  
study on mechanism and origins of selectivity***

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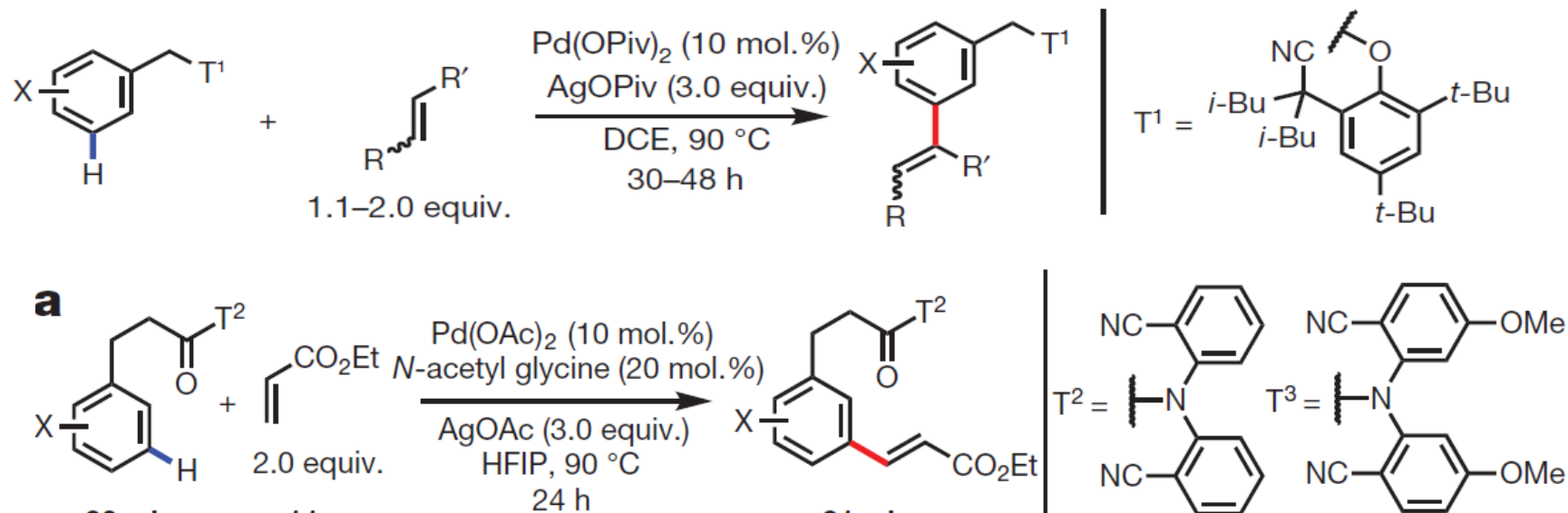
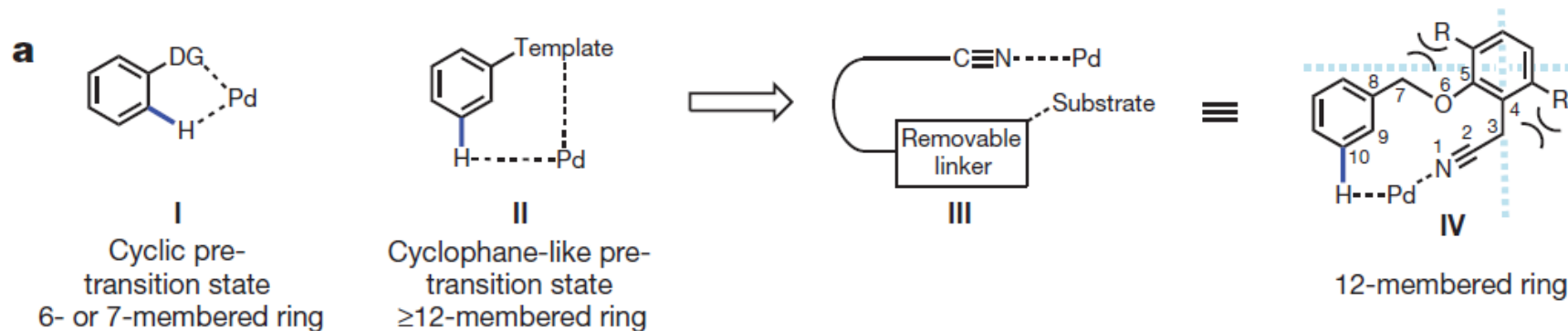


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# Introduction

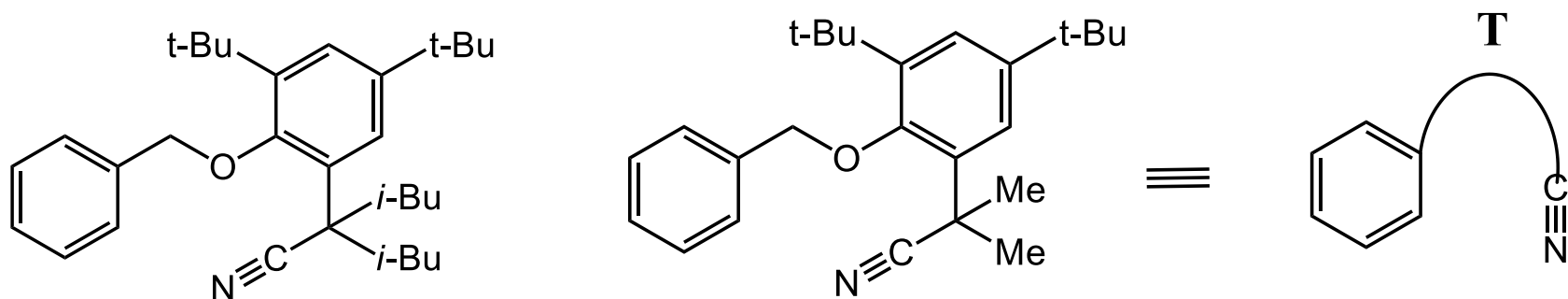


(1) Leow, D.; Li, G.; Mei, T.-S.; Yu, J.-Q. *Nature* **2012**, 486, 518.



# Introduction

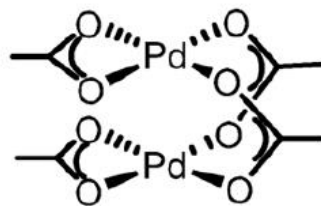
The mechanism and the origins of meta-selectivity, the effects of template length and bulky *t*-Bu and *i*-Bu



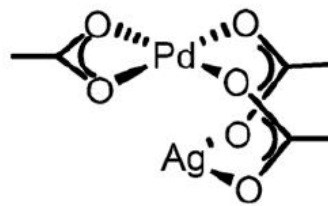
## Various Pd catalyst forms



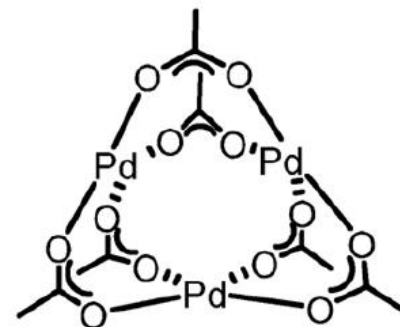
A



B



C



D

## Palladium-Catalyzed *Meta*-Selective C–H Bond Activation with a Nitrile-Containing Template: Computational Study on Mechanism and Origins of Selectivity

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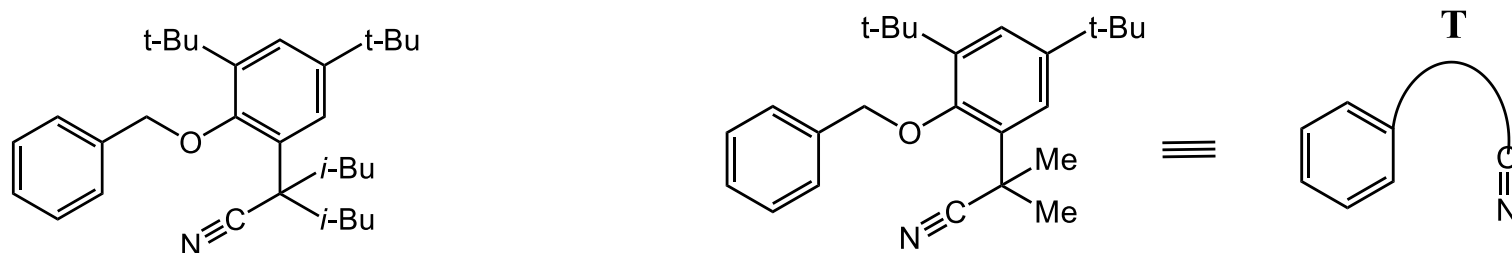
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<sup>§</sup>Department of Chemistry, The Scripps Research Institute, 10550 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California 92037, United States

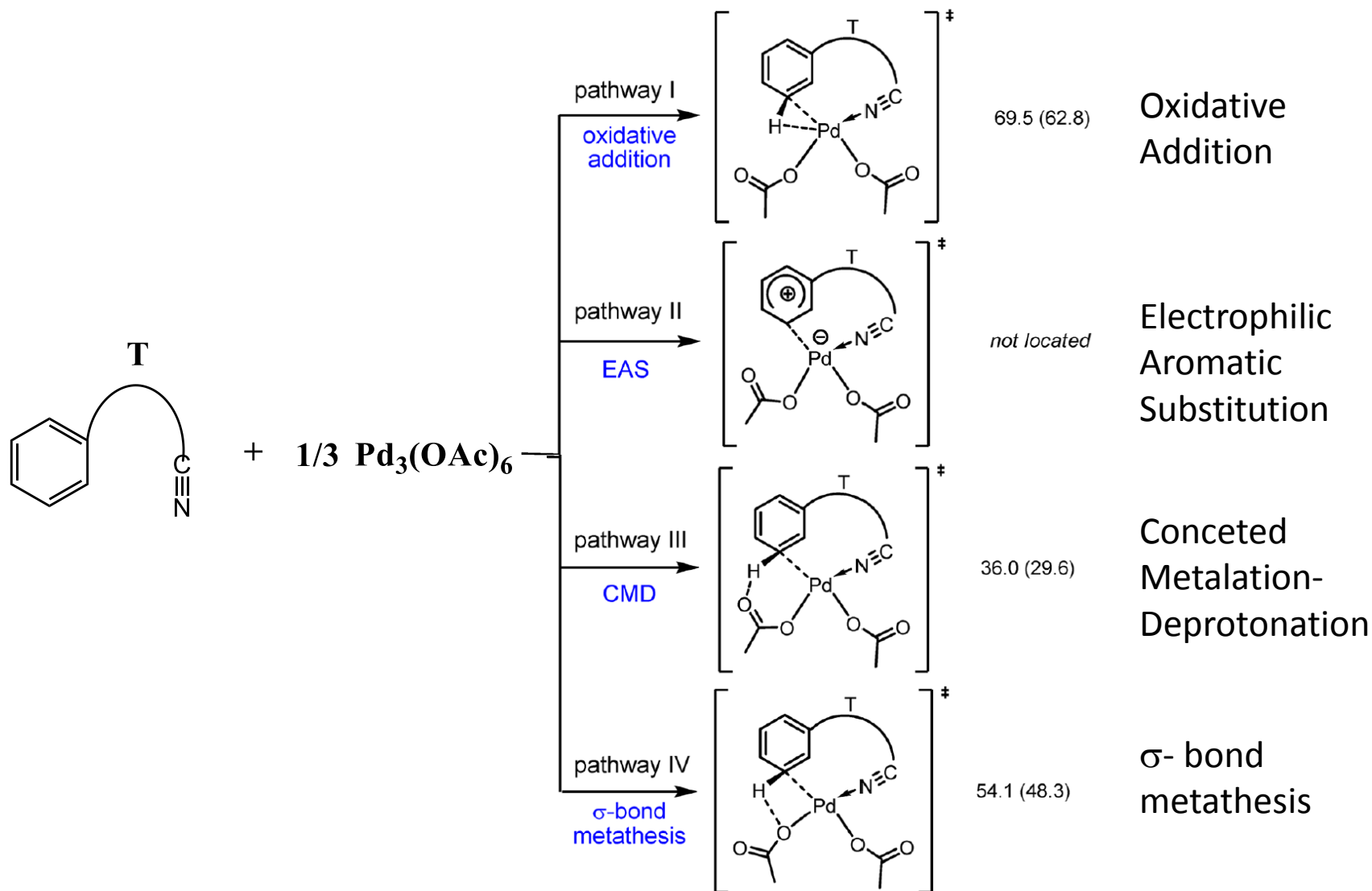
<sup>||</sup>College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China

**S** Supporting Information



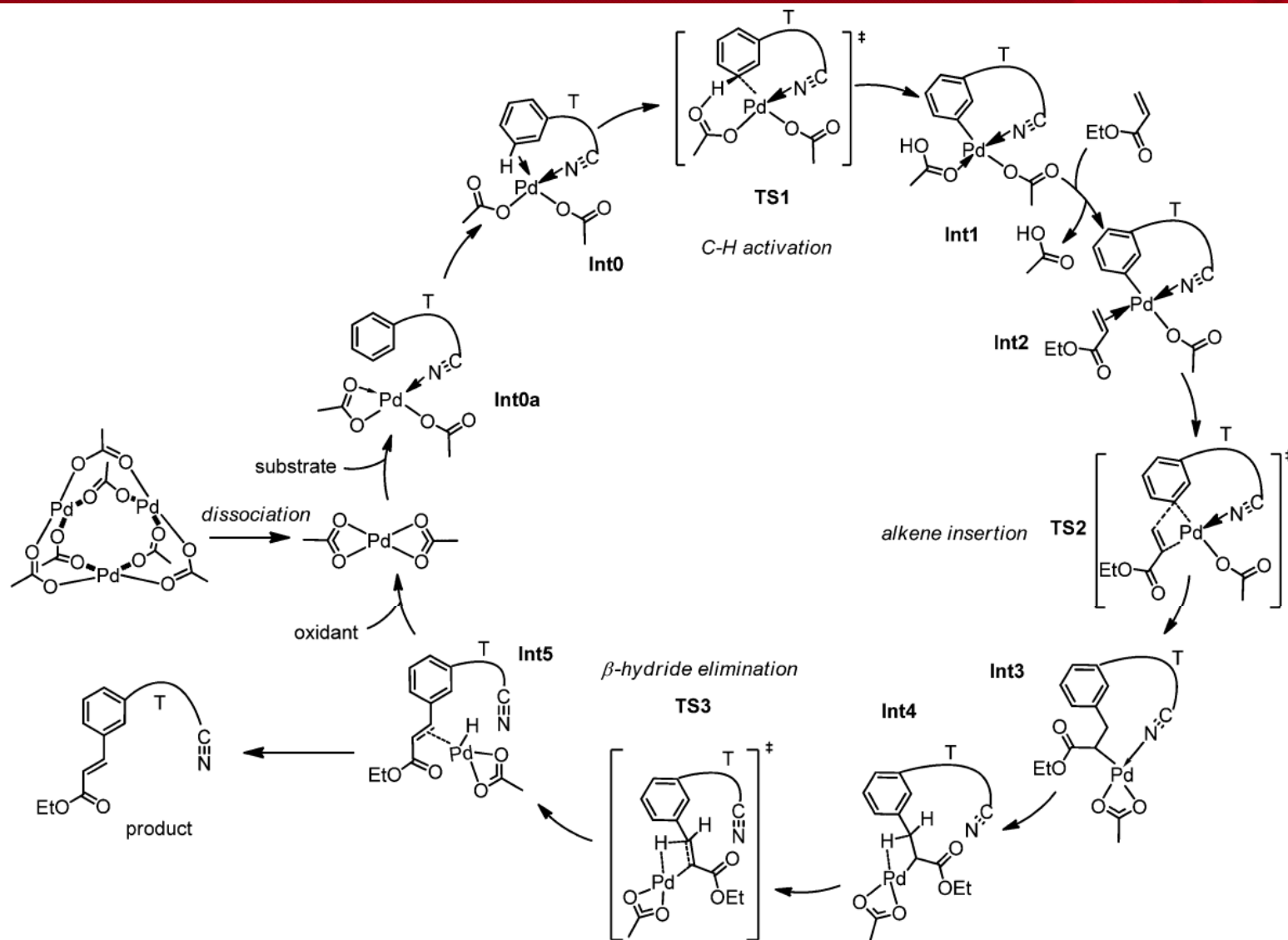


# Monomeric C-H activation pathways and computed activation energies





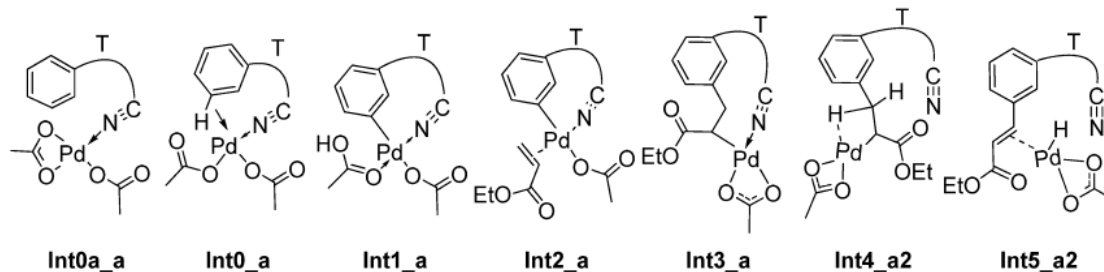
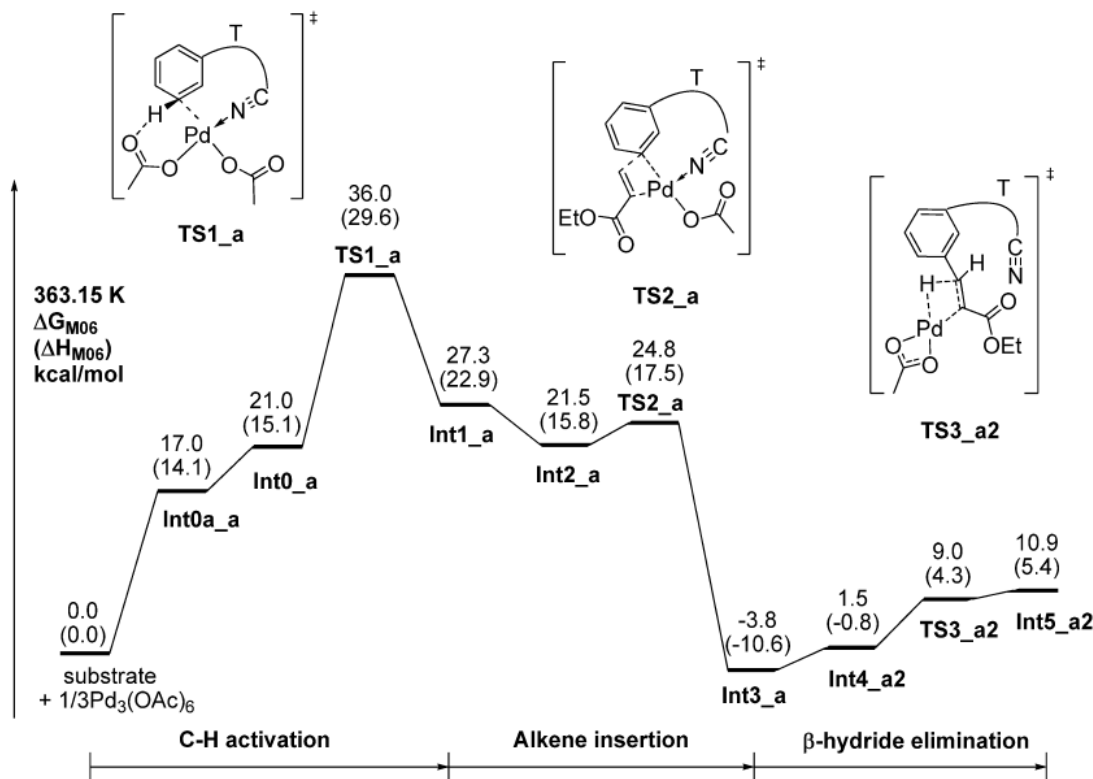
# Catalytic cycle of Pd monomeric mechanism







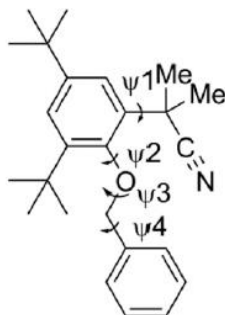
# Energy profile for the meta pathway in the monomeric $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ mechanism





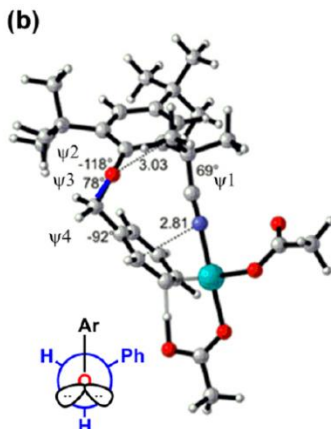
# Regioselectivity

(a)

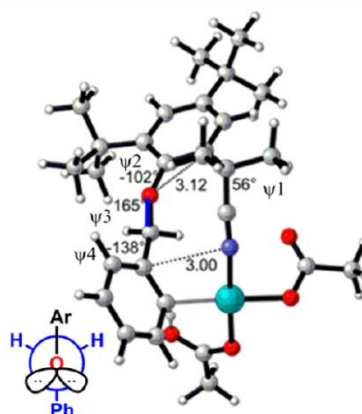


## Transition states with nitrile coordinated to Pd

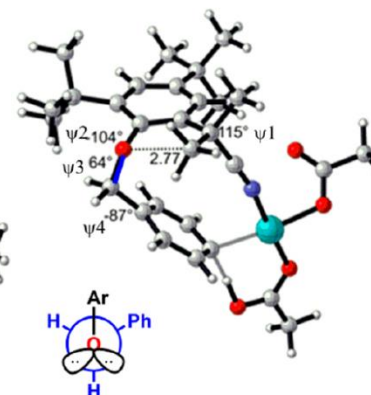
(b)



meta\_TS1\_a  
36.0 kcal/mol



ortho\_TS1\_a  
30.1 kcal/mol



para\_TS1\_a  
35.3 kcal/mol

Distortion E

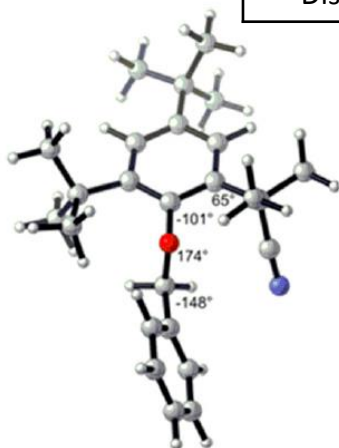
36.7

44.1

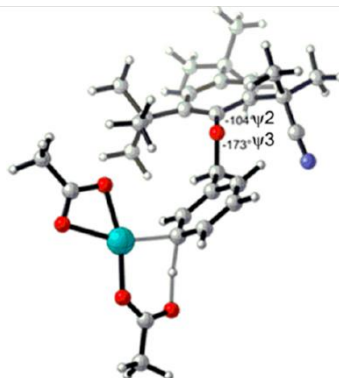
43.2

Kcal/mol

## Transition states without nitrile coordinated to Pd



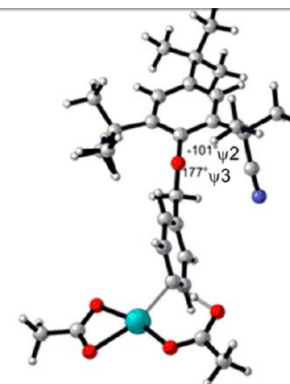
meta\_TS1\_a2  
36.0 kcal/mol



ortho\_TS1\_a2  
34.2 kcal/mol



para\_TS1\_a2  
35.0 kcal/mol



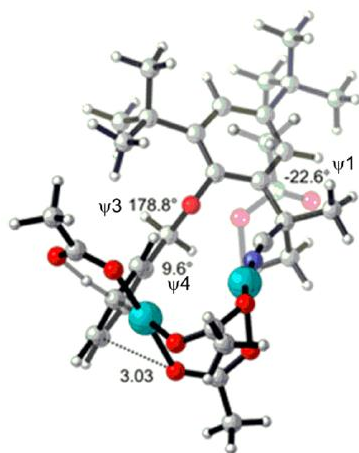


# $Pd_2(OAc)_4$ Dimeric Mechanism

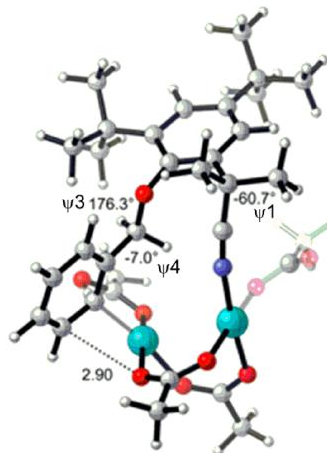
## • Four major factors considered

- 1, dihedral angles  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$
- 2, dihedral angles  $\psi_3$  and  $\psi_4$
- 3, dihedral angles  $\psi_5$
- 4, relative position of the nitrile coordination site and C-H bond activation site

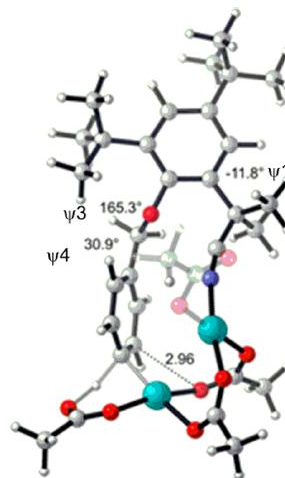
Eight conformations within 2 kcal/mol.



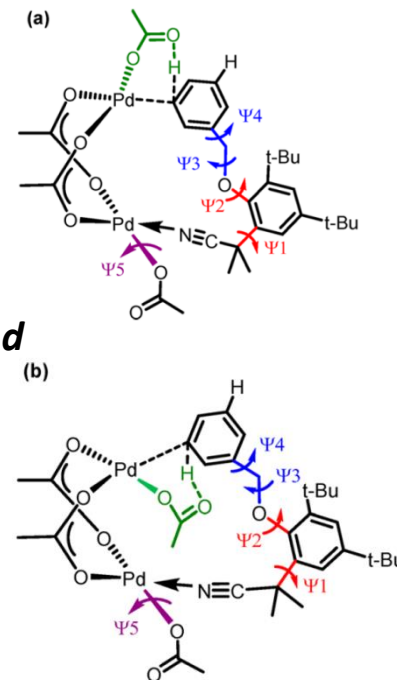
meta\_TS1\_b  
29.3 kcal/mol



ortho\_TS1\_b  
29.7 kcal/mol



para\_TS1\_b  
33.4 kcal/mol



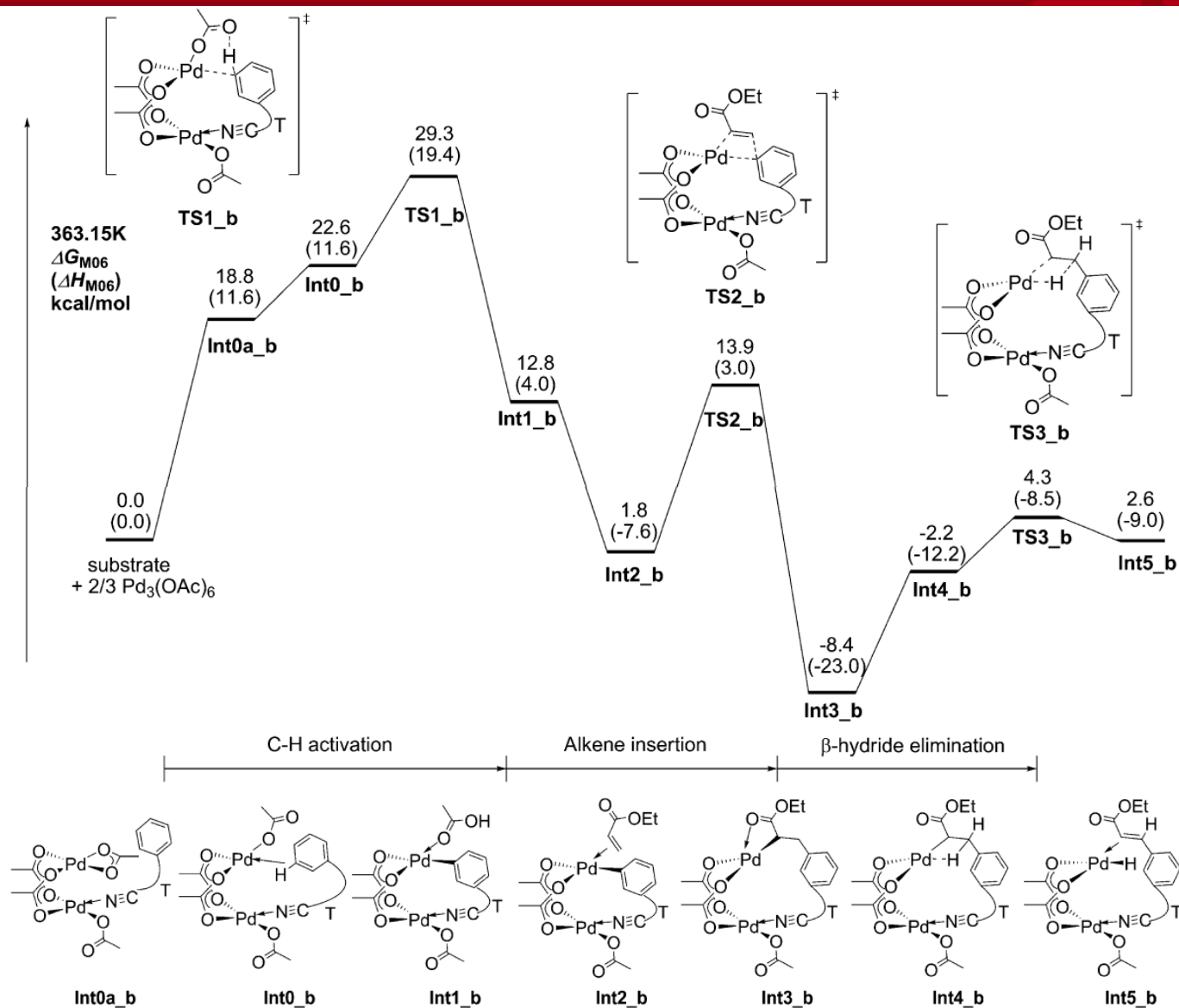
(a) Two acetate groups are on different sides.

(b) two acetate groups on the same side

Boltzman distribution indicate Metapathway is more favorable ratio 73: 27



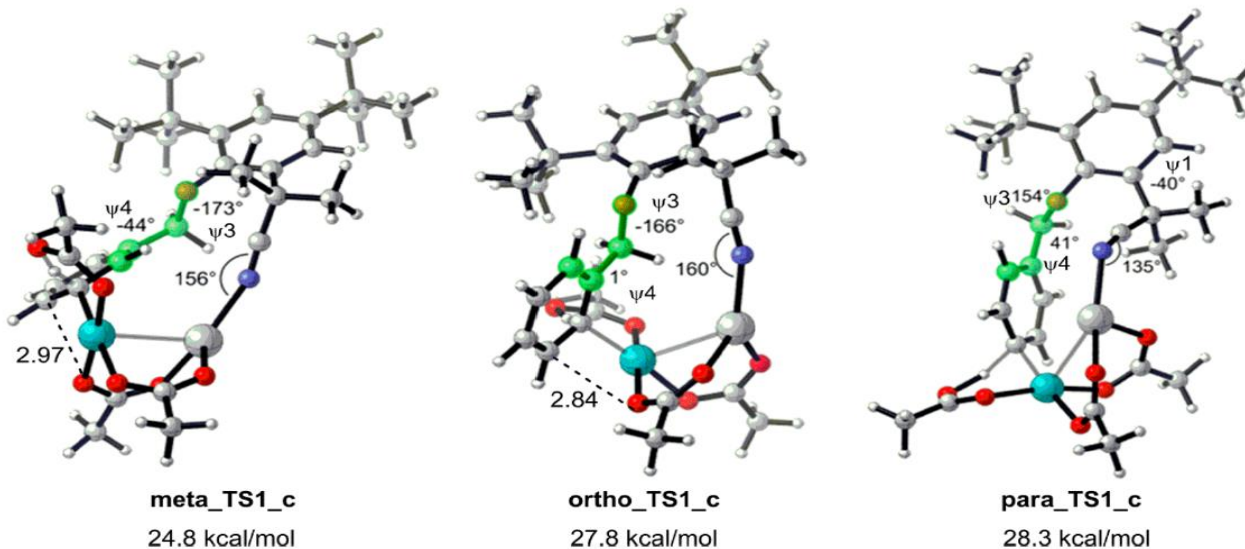
# $Pd_2(OAc)_4$ Dimeric Mechanism





# *PdAg(OAc)<sub>3</sub> Heterodimeric Mechanism*

$\text{Ag}^+$  could play a dual role in this reaction. Oxidant and coordinate with nitrile

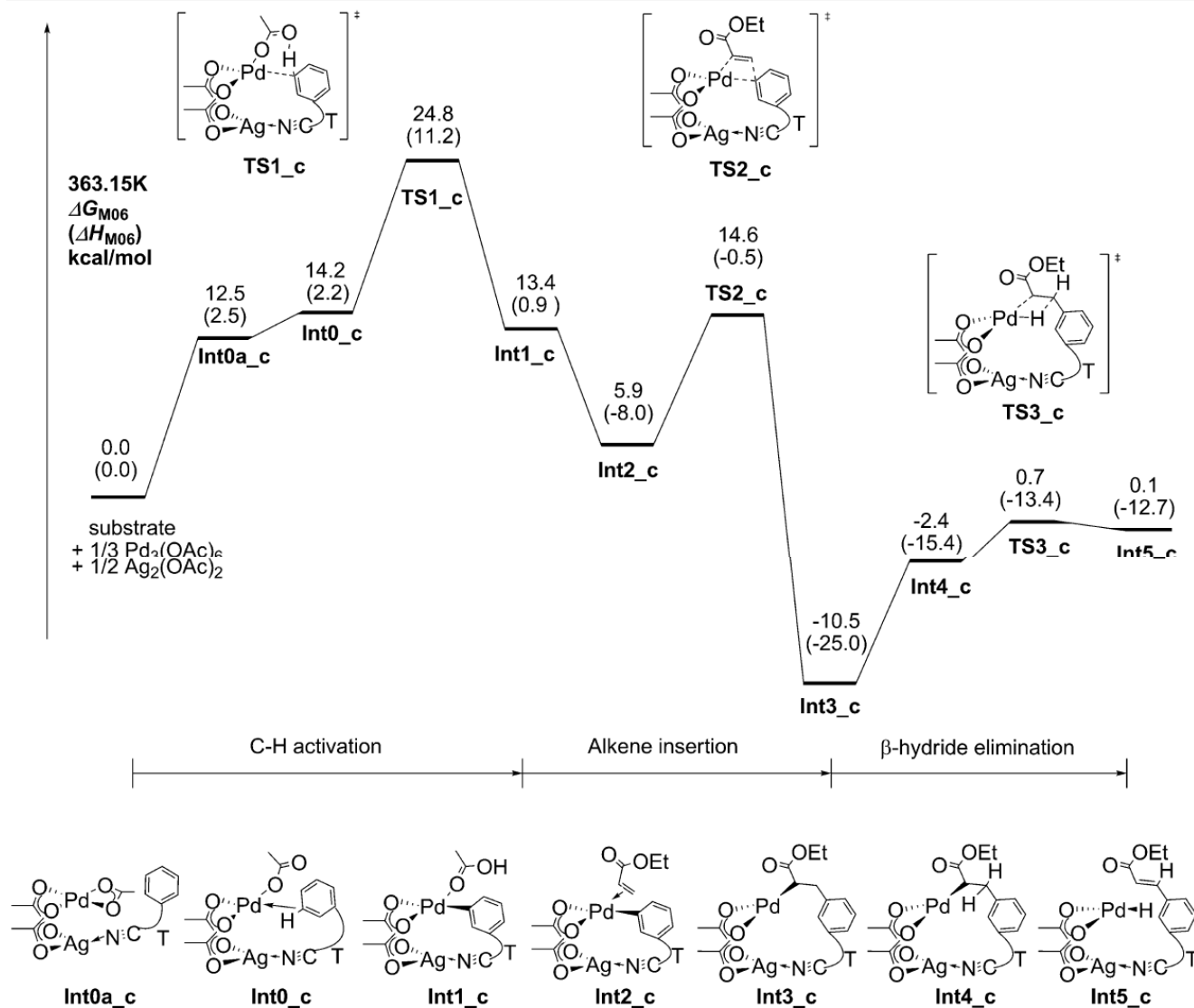


**Distortion Energy analysis of C-H activation transition states of  $\text{PdAg}(\text{OAc})_3$  Mechanism**

Distortion	Meta-Ts1-C	ortho-Ts1-C	para-Ts1-C
Ecat(kcal/mol)	35.2	36.3	36.3
Esub(kcal/mol)	33.3	37.7	35.6
Etotat(Kcal/mol)	68.5	74.0	71.9



# $PdAg(OAc)_3$ Heterodimeric Mechanism

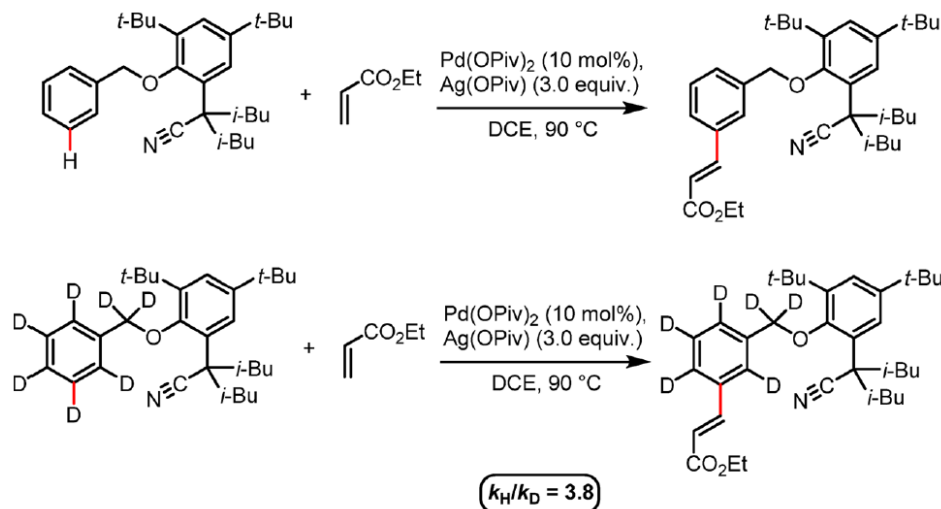




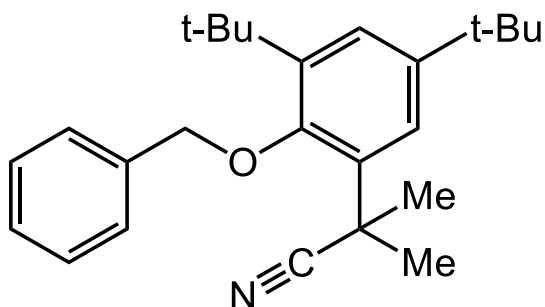


# Kinetic Isotope Effects in C-H Olefination

## Experimental KIE



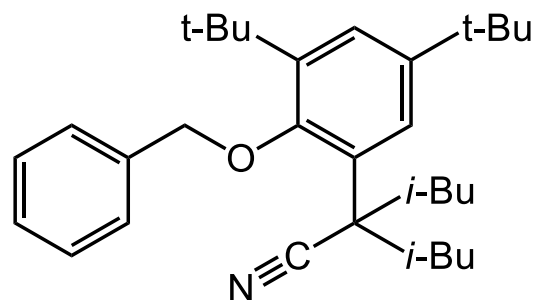
## Theoretical KIE



$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  **Meta-TS1-a:** 3.6

$\text{Pd}_2(\text{OAc})_4$  **Meta-TS1-b:** 4.1

$\text{PdAg}(\text{OAc})_3$  **Meta-TS1-b:** 3.8



$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  **Meta-TS1-a:** 3.6

$\text{Pd}_2(\text{OAc})_4$  **Meta-TS1-b:** 4.1

$\text{PdAg}(\text{OAc})_3$  **Meta-TS1-b:** 3.9



# Summary

- ***Multiple C-H activation Mechanism studied***
  - *Monomeric Pd, Dimeric Pd-Pd and Pd-Ag, Trimeric Pd complex*
- ***C-H activation occurs via CMD Mechanism***
  - *Experimentally and theoretically*
- ***Results***
  - *Monomeric Pd mechanism is ortho-selective dimeric mechanism is meta-selective, trimeric mechanism is ruled out in this transformation.*
  - *AgOAc as both oxidant or heteronuclear active species*