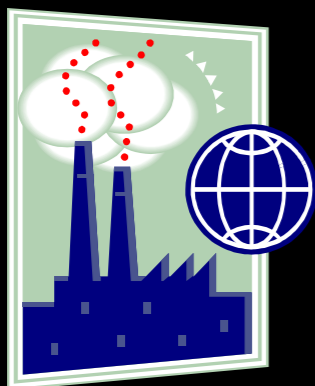


# Smith Group Research



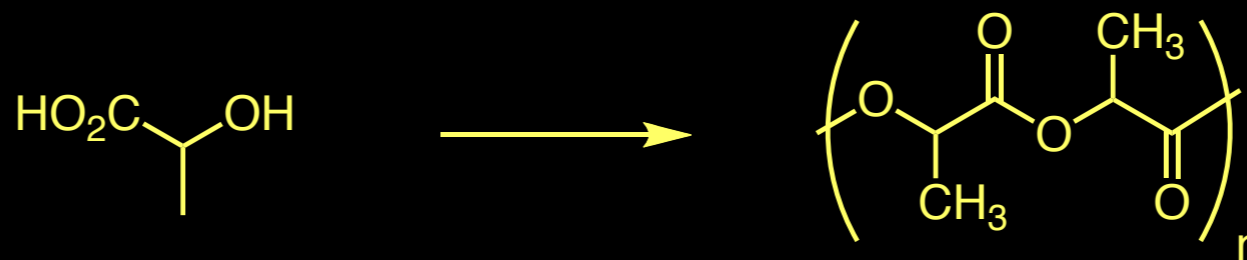
## *Invention of Catalytic Reactions*



Z = BX<sub>2</sub>, aryl, OH, ...



## *Materials From Renewable Resources*



Commodity Materials  
Biological Applications

Poly(lactic acid)

## *Energy*

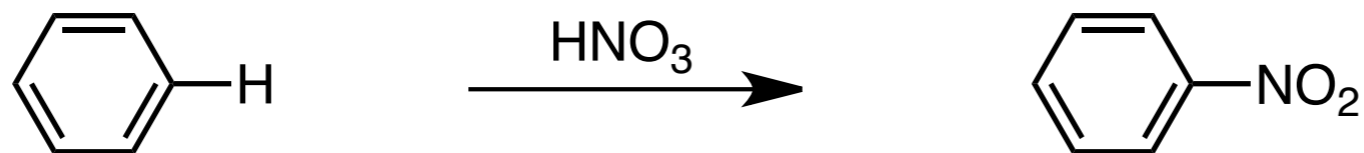


Developing New Chemistry for Old Fuels

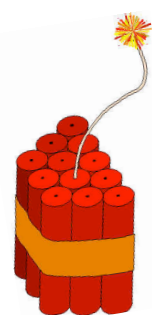
# Support



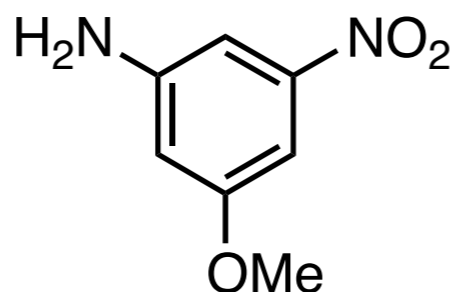
# C-H Activation: A Chemical "Holy Grail"



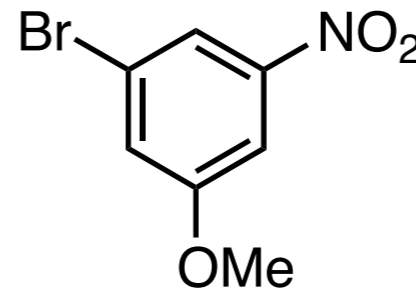
Faraday, M. *Philos. Trans. Roy. Soc. (London)* **1825**, 115, 440-466.



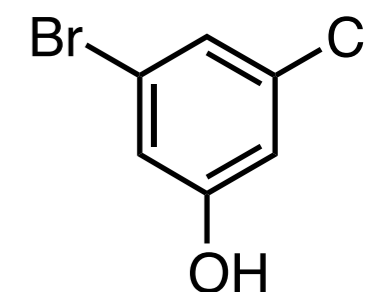
1.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$
2. HOAc, heat
3. KOCN, MeOH
4.  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}$ , EtO



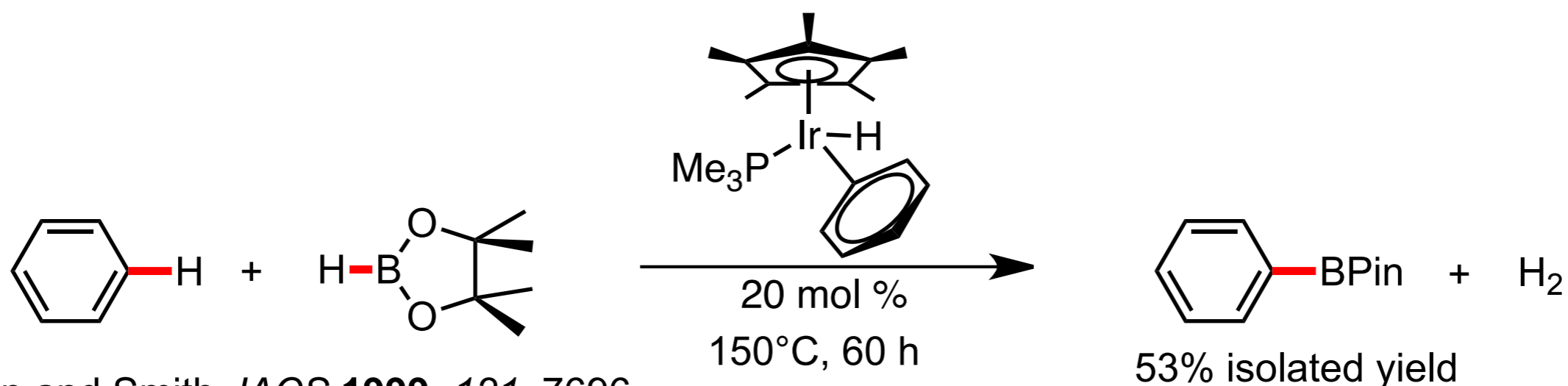
5.  $\text{NaNO}_2$ , HCl
6. CuBr



7. Sn, HCl
8.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$
9.  $\text{NaNO}_2$ , HCl
10. CuCl

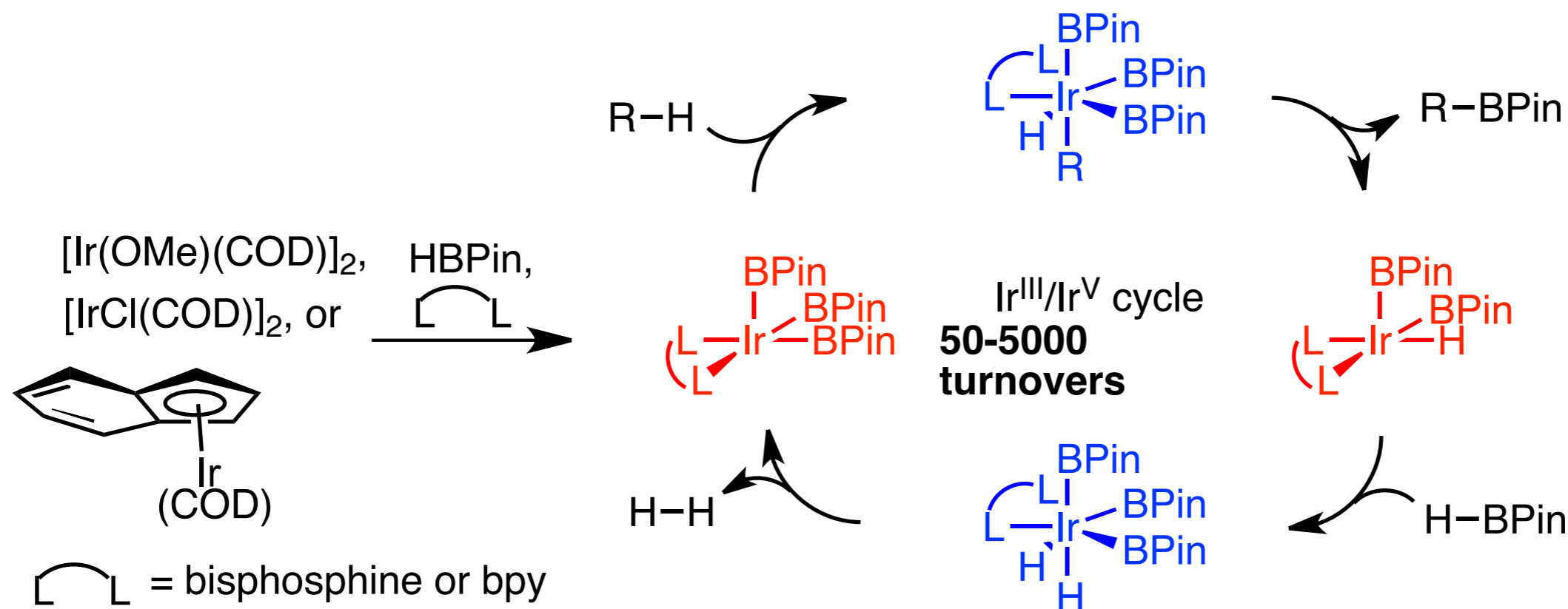


Hodgson, H. H.; Wignall, J. S. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1926**, 2077.



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# Great Things Can Have Modest Beginnings



Cho, J.-Y.; Iverson, C. N.; and Smith, M. R., III *JACS* **2000**, *122*, 12868.

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Paul, S.; et al. *JACS* **2006**, *128*, 15552-15553.

Holmes, D.; Chotana, G. A.; Maleczka, R. E.; Smith, M. R., III *Org. Lett.* **2006**, *8*, 1407-1410.

Shi, F.; Smith, M. R., III; Maleczka, R. E., Jr. *Org. Lett.* **2006**, *8*, 1411-1414.

Chotana, G. A.; Kallepalli, V. A.; Maleczka, R. E., Jr.; Smith, M. R., III *Tetrahedron* **2008**, *64*, 6103-6114.

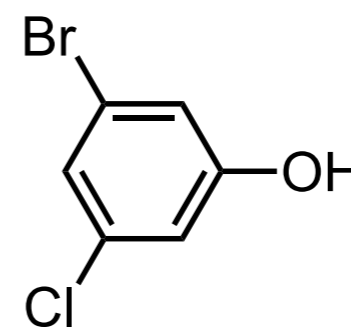
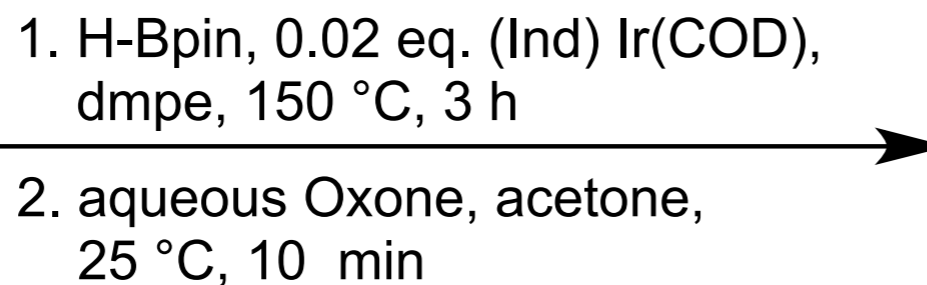
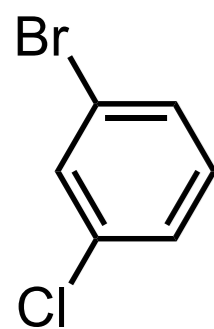
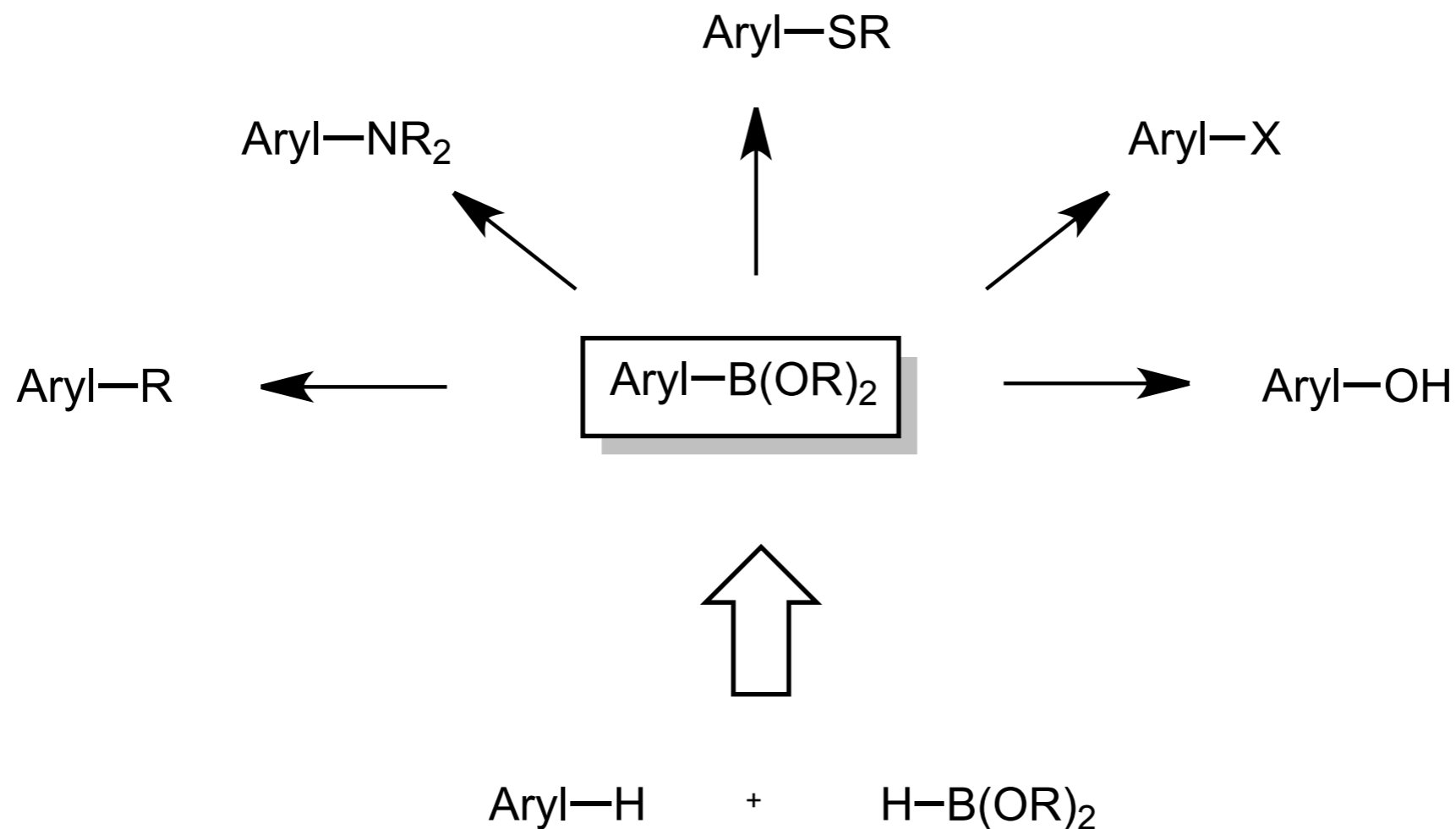
Chotana, G. A.; *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 5731-5733.

Vanchura, B. A., et al. *Chem. Commun.* **2010**, *46*, 7724-7726.

Roosen, P. C., et al. *JACS* **2012**, *134*, 11350-11353.

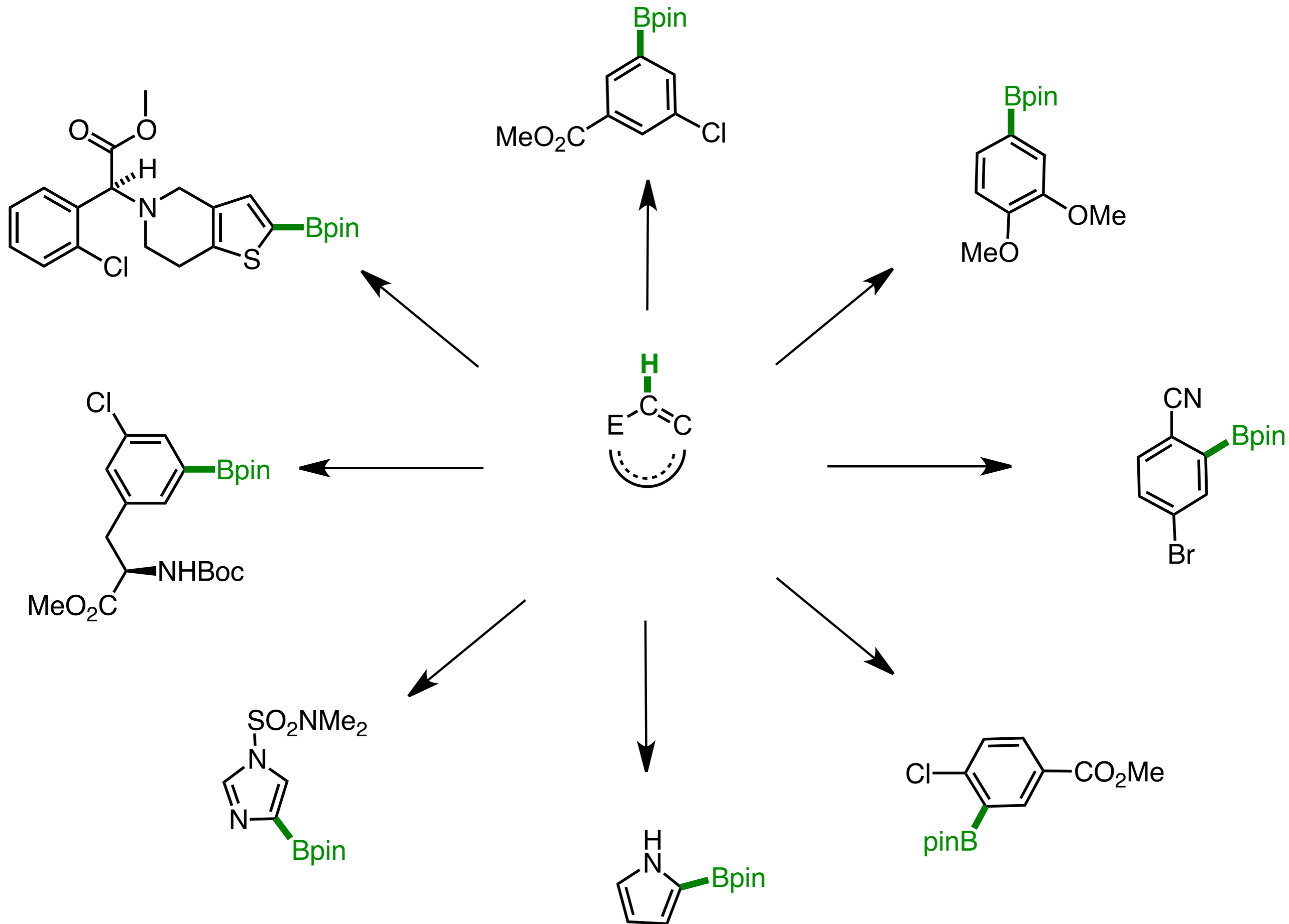


# Boron is a Portal to Molecular Diversity



one-pot, 79% yield  
previous synthesis,  
10 steps from TNT

# Broad Scope of C–H Functionalization

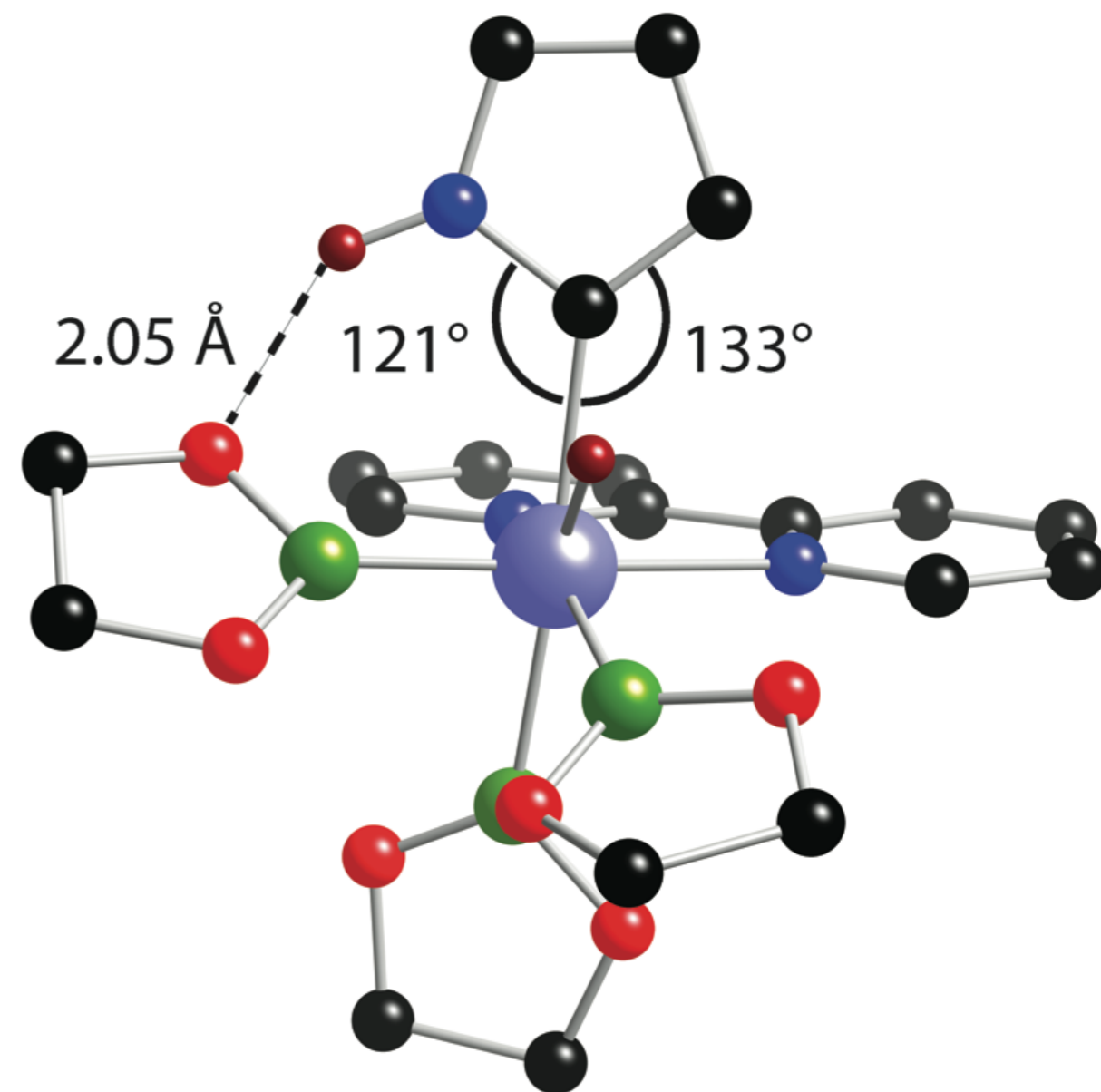
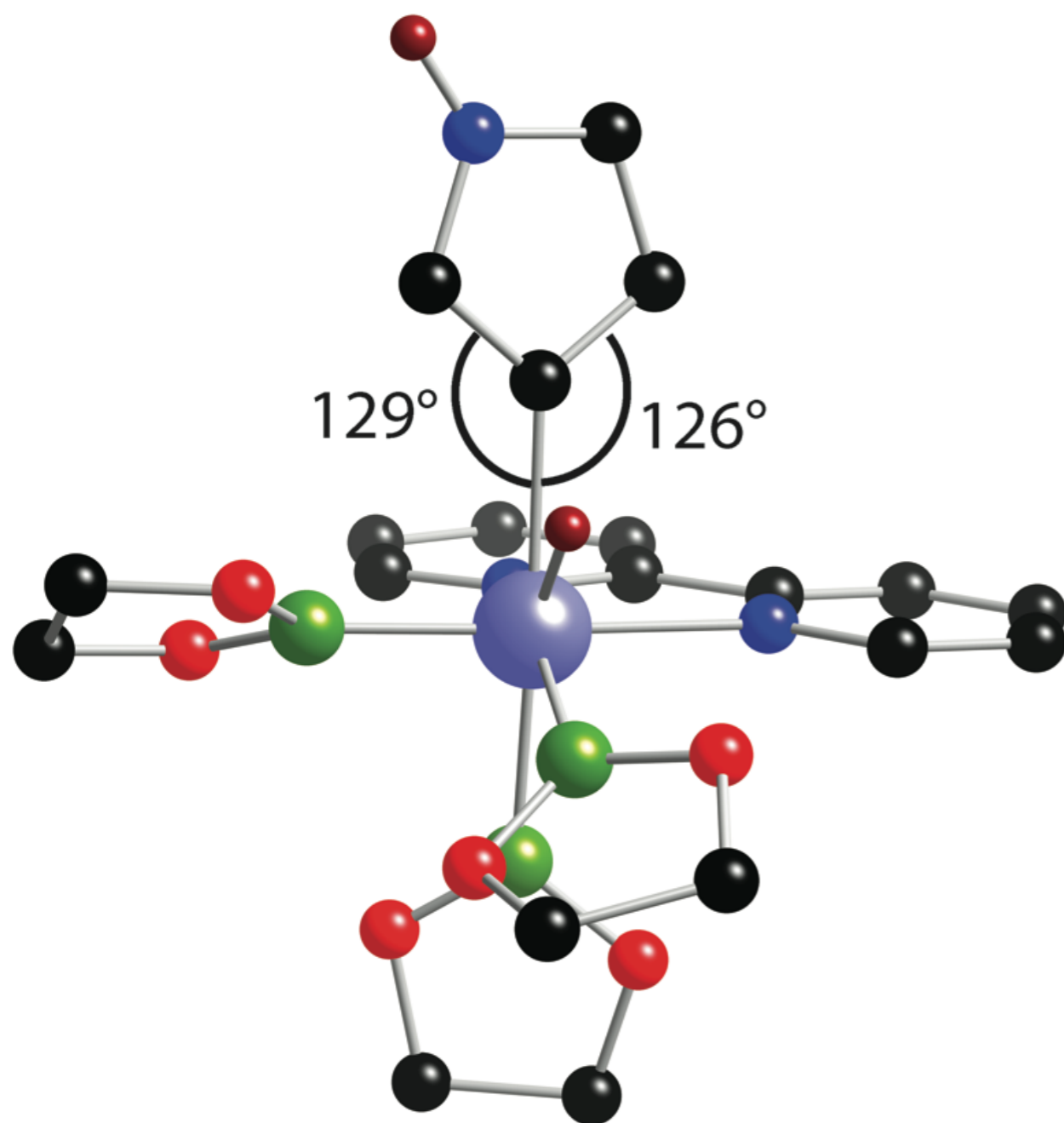




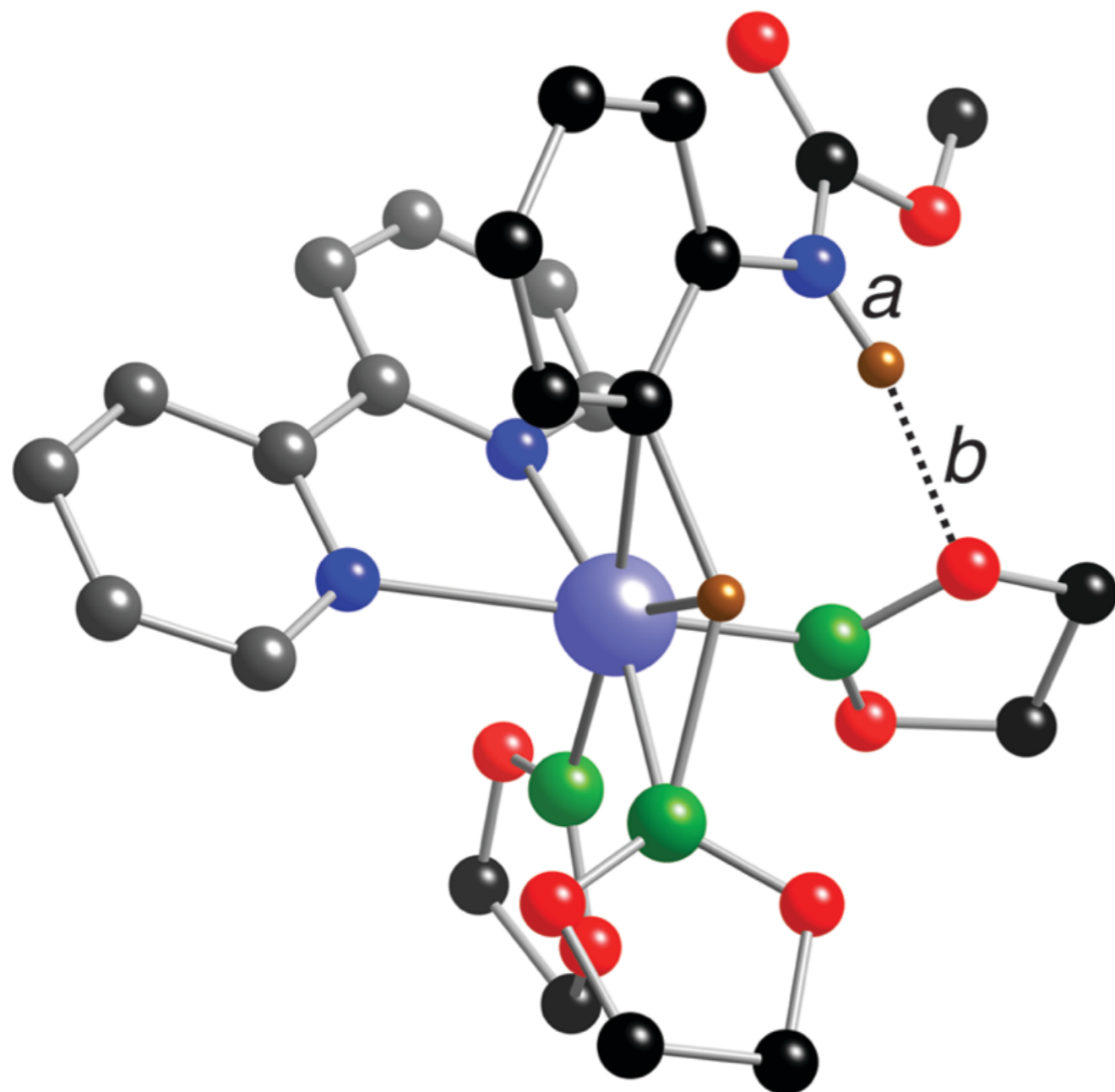




# N...H...O Bonding in the Transition State



# Calculated Transition State

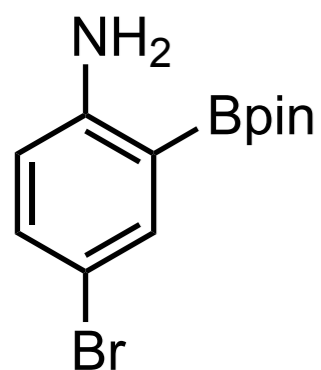
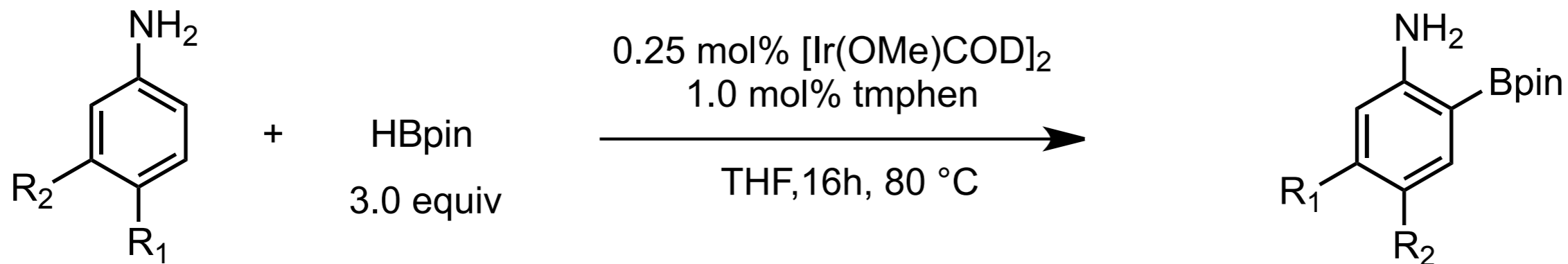


$$a = 1.021 \text{ \AA} \quad b = 1.897 \text{ \AA}$$

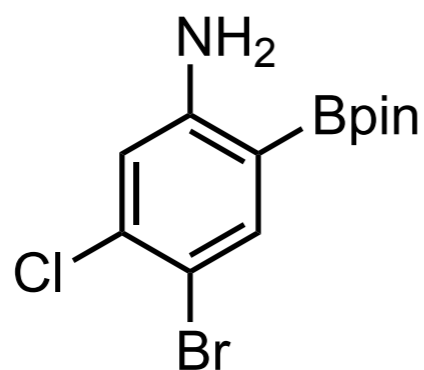
	<i>o:m:p</i>
$\Delta H^\ddagger$ (theory)	>99:<1:<1
$\Delta G^\ddagger$ (theory)	88:8:4
Experiment	90:5:5



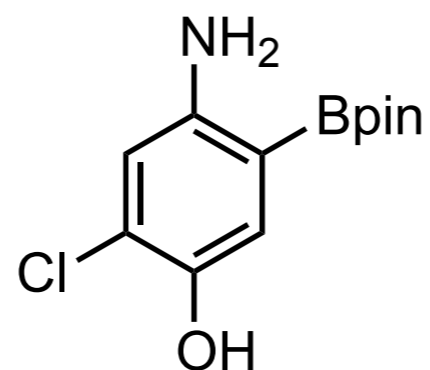
# Reaction Scope



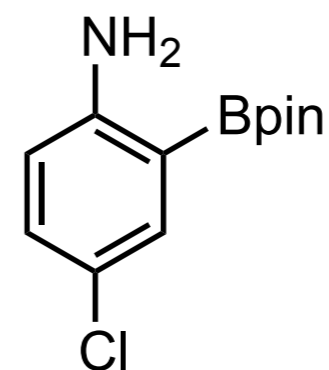
88%



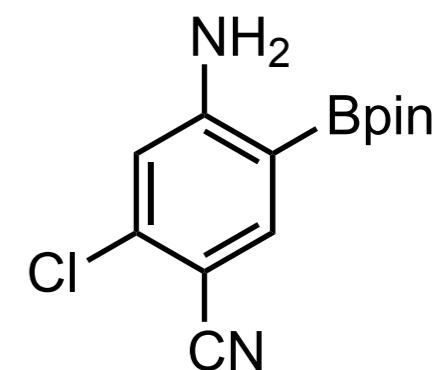
92%



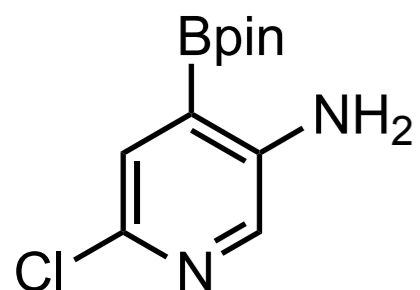
63%



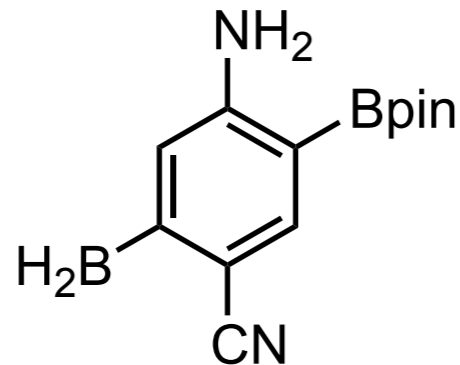
93%



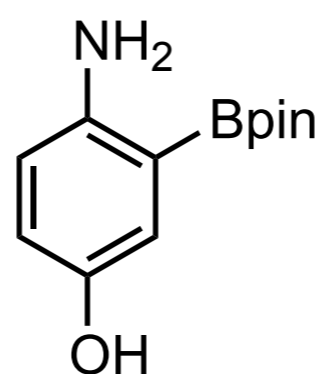
90%



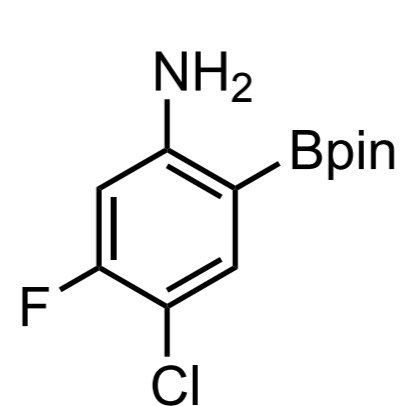
73%



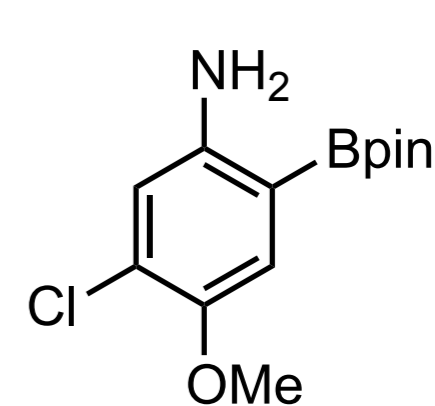
89%



70%

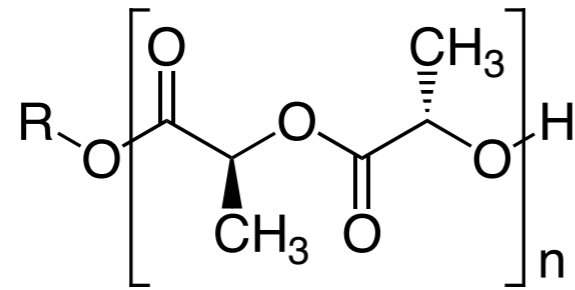


90%

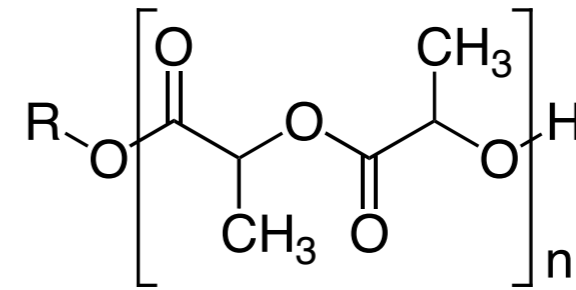


74%

# Poly(lactic) Acid: A Renewable Commodity Plastic



poly(L-lactide) (PLLA)  
crystalline ( $T_m = 180 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ )



poly(rac-lactide) (PLA)  
glassy  $T_g$  ( $\sim 55 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ):

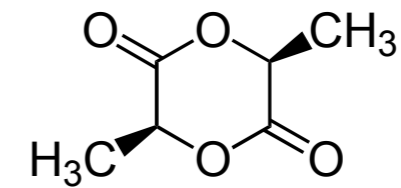


Fermentation



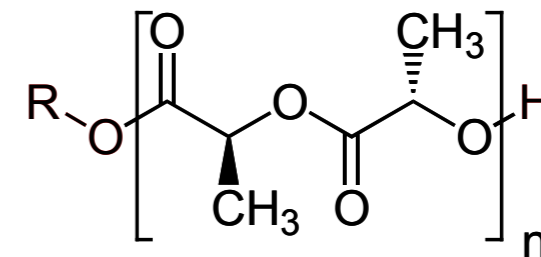
Hydrolysis

Dehydration and  
Thermal Cracking



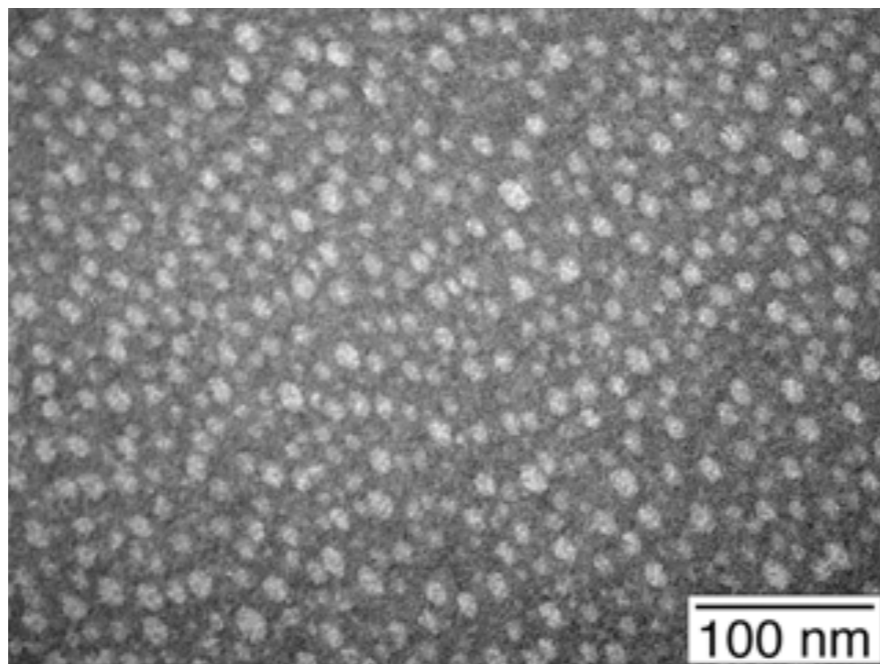
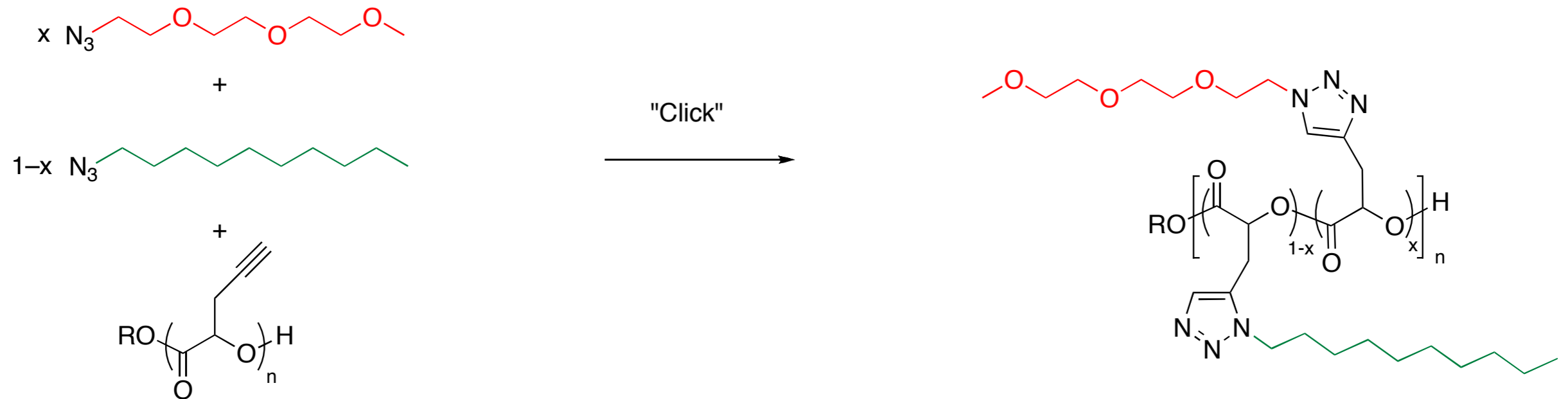
L-Lactide

ROH  
Metal catalyst

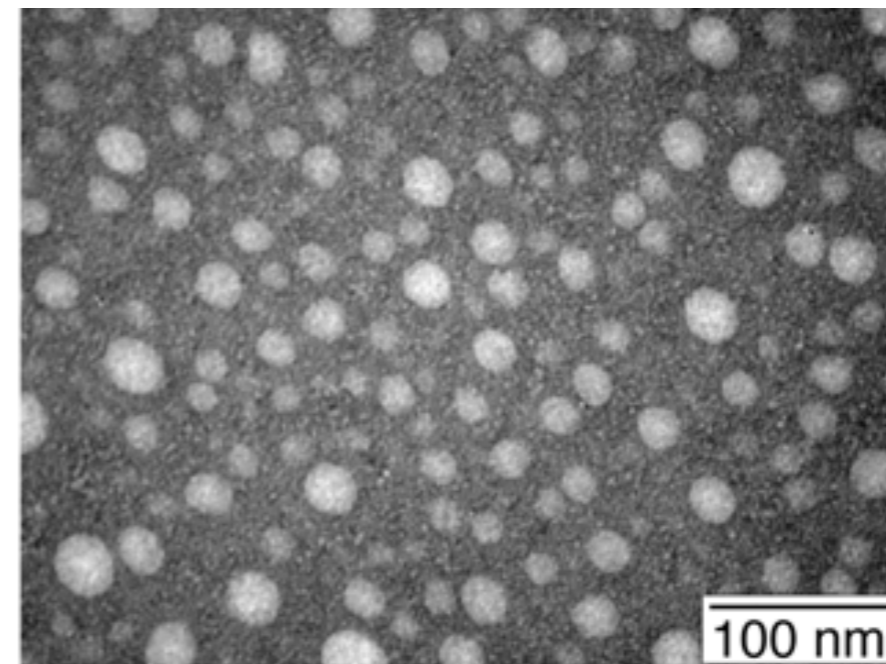


PLLA

# Degradable Single Molecule Micelles



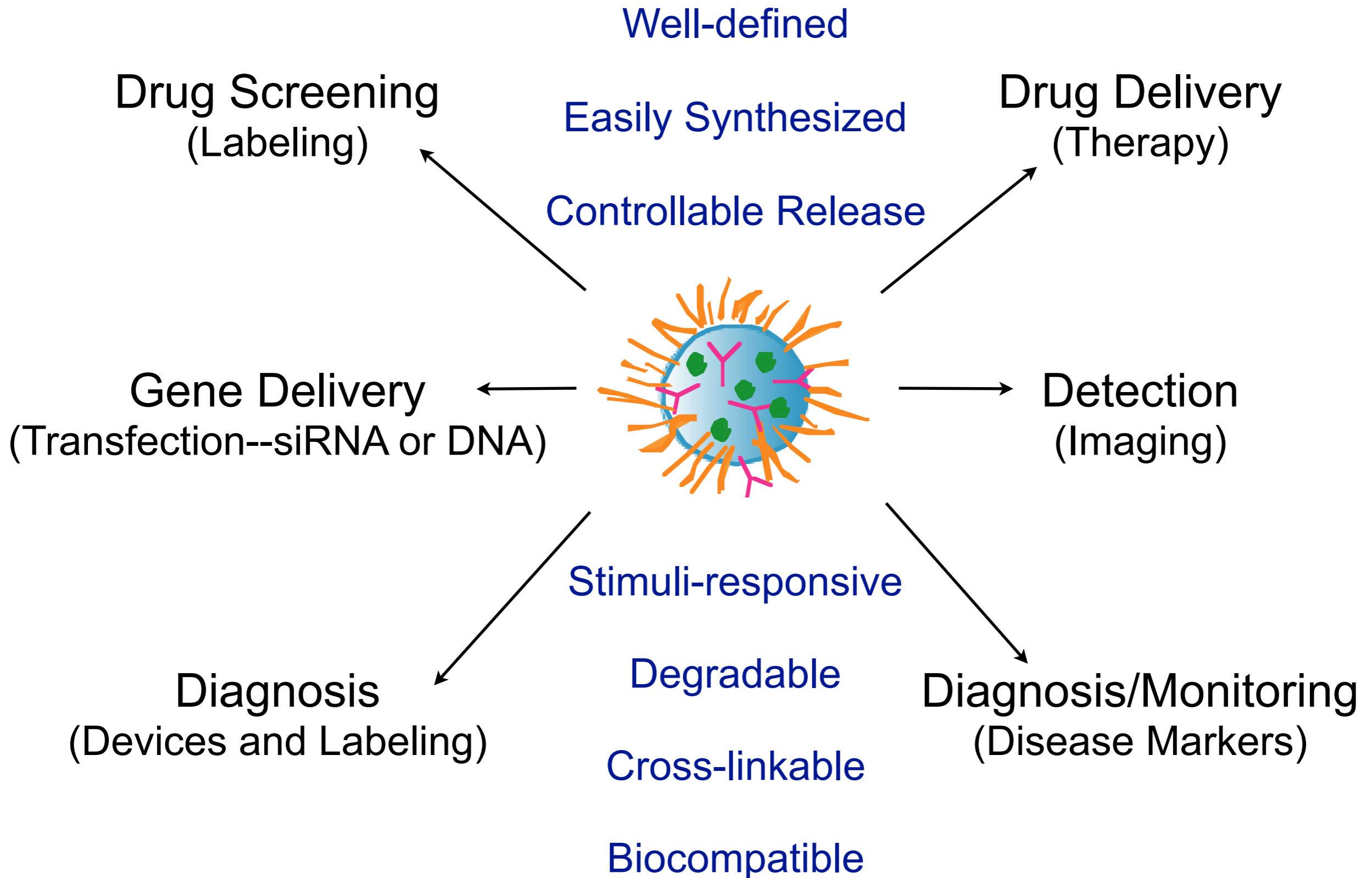
a



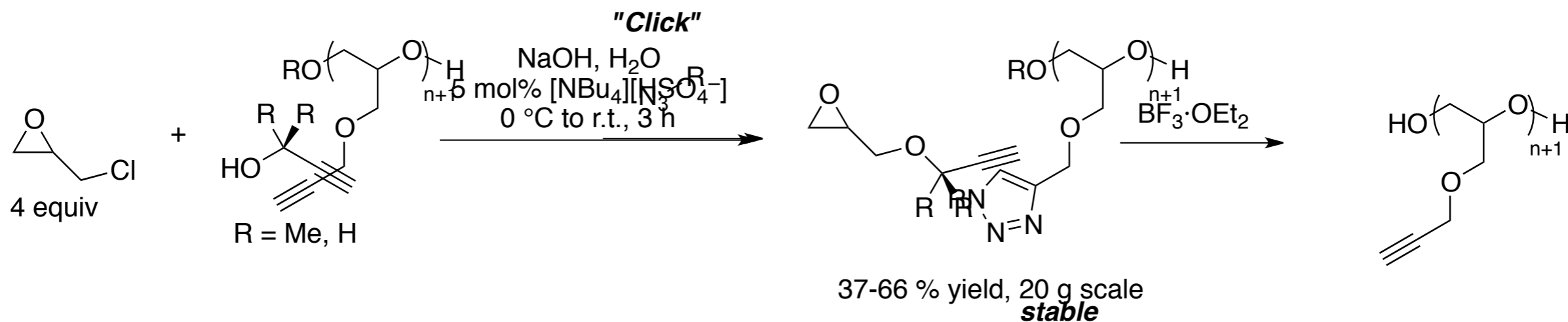
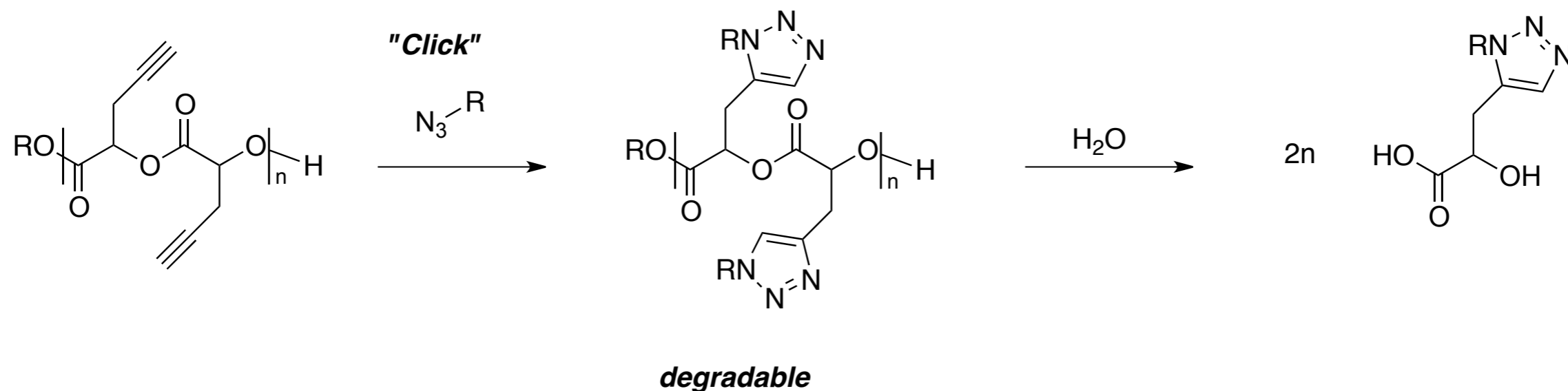
b

**Figure 17.** TEM images of polymer nanomicelles (a)  $M_n \sim 43,000$ , diameter  $\sim 10$  nm (b)  $M_n \sim 260,000$ , diameter  $\sim 30$  nm.

# Functional Nanoparticle Applications



# From Degradable to Nondegradable Nanomicelles

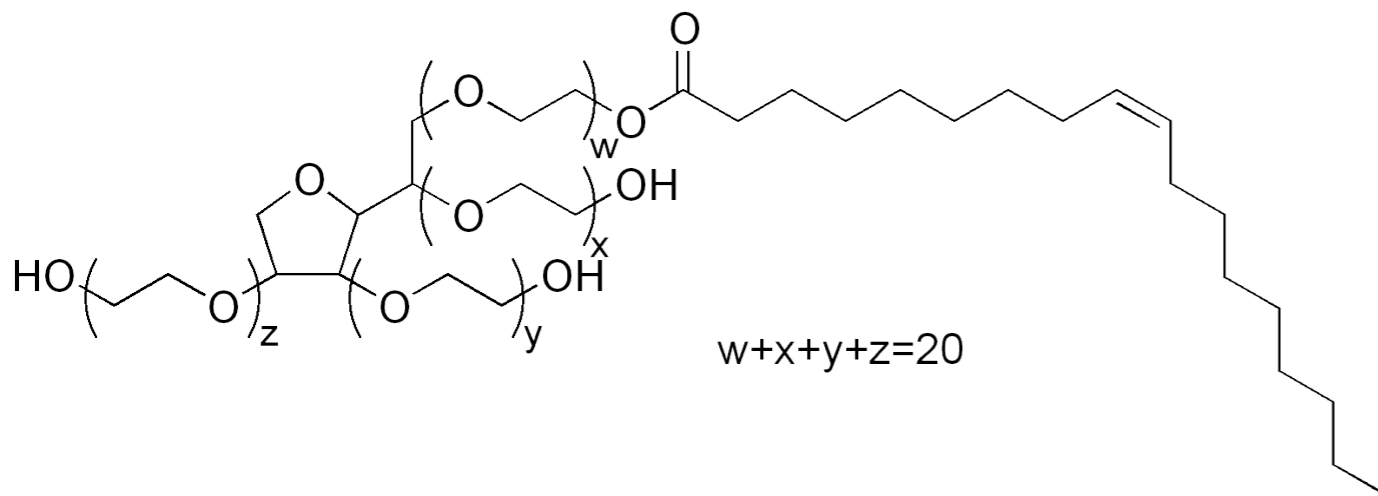


Marie Le Gaillard

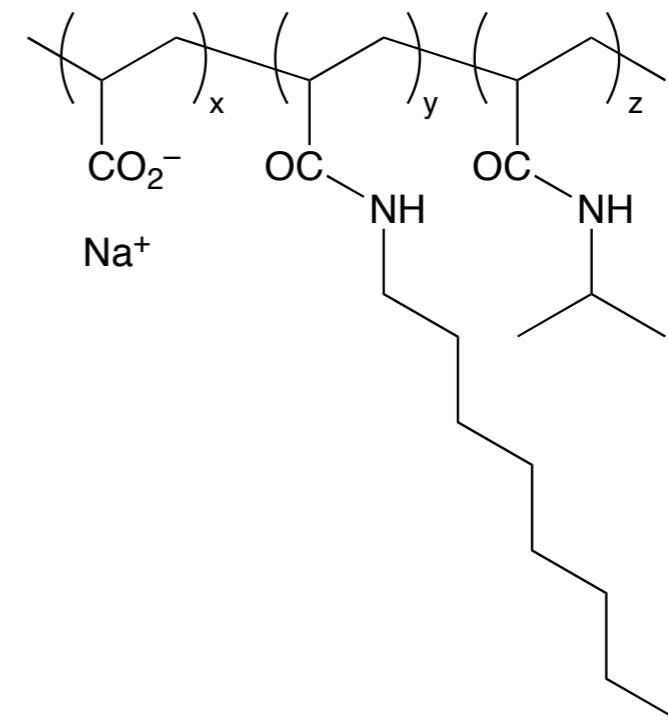
# A Simple Market Analysis

Membrane proteins are projected to have a \$30 billion annual market...

...That buys a lot of beer.



Tween-80

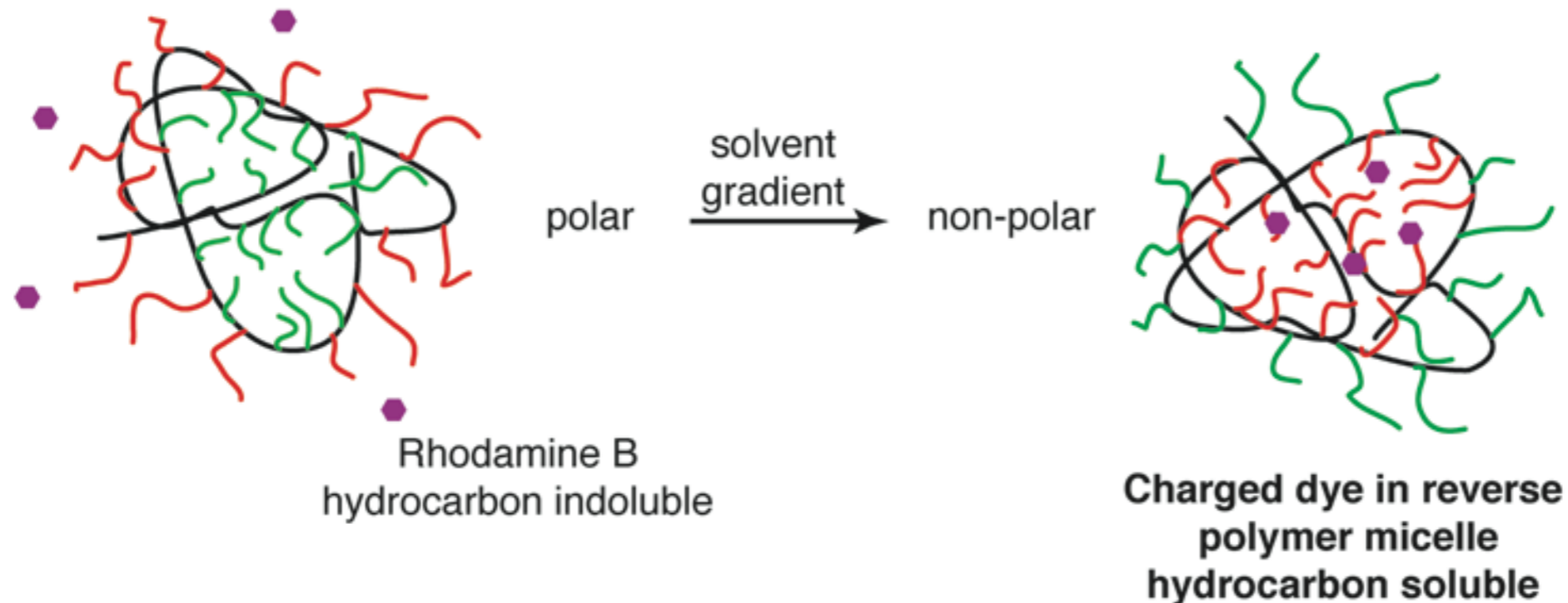
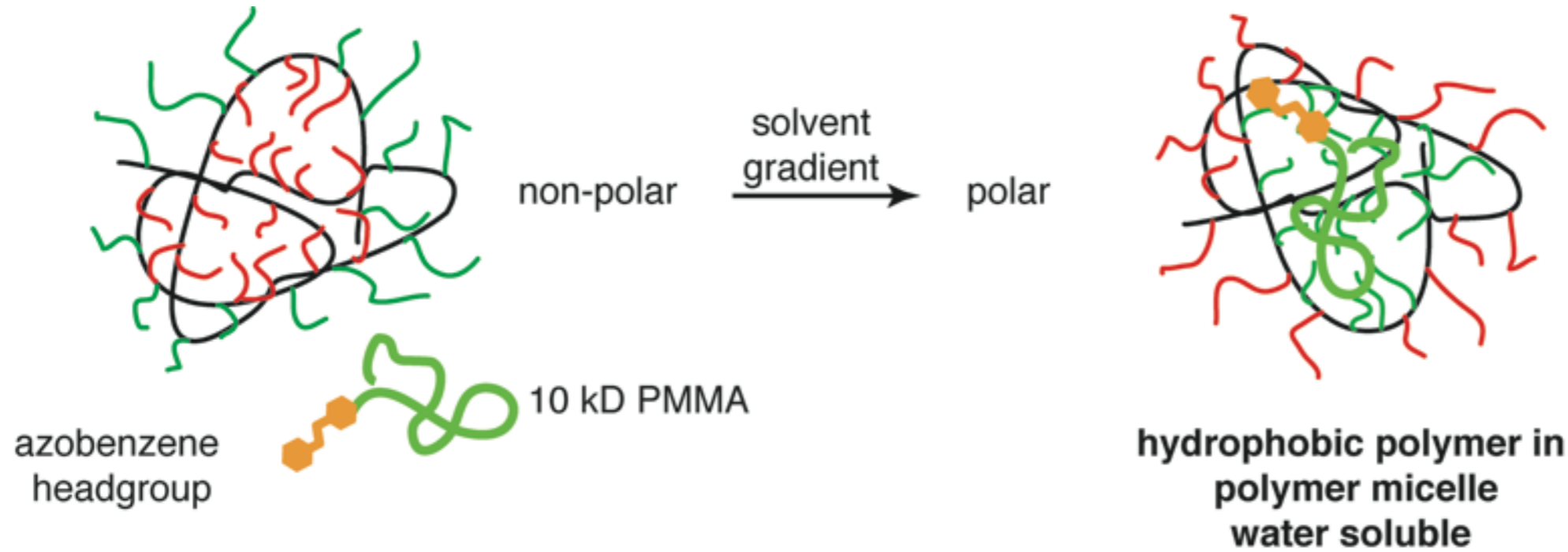


Amphipol

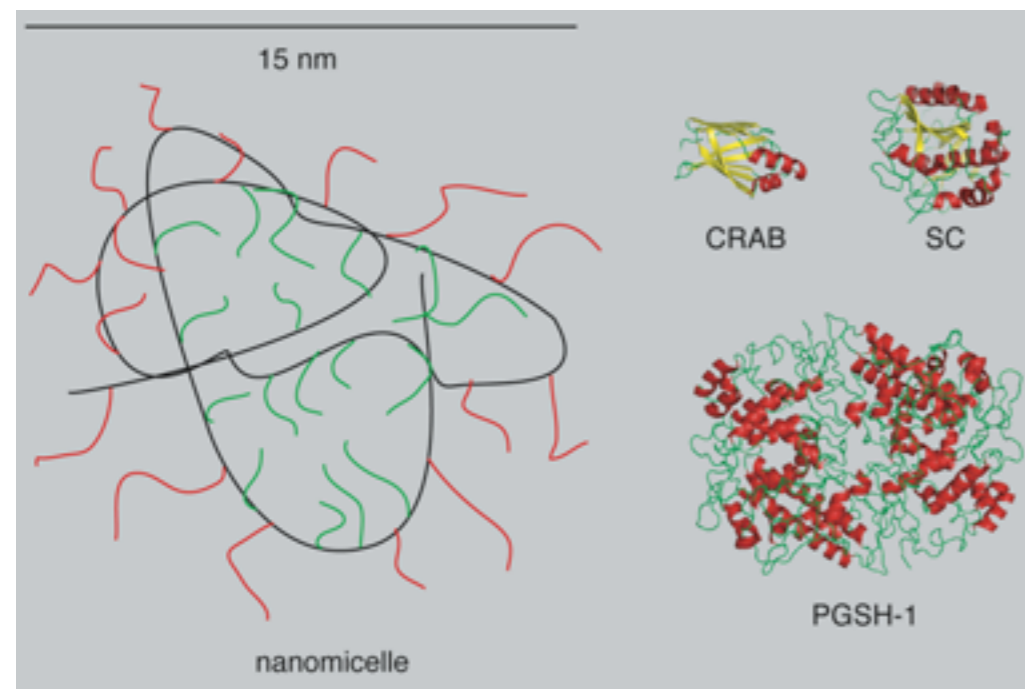
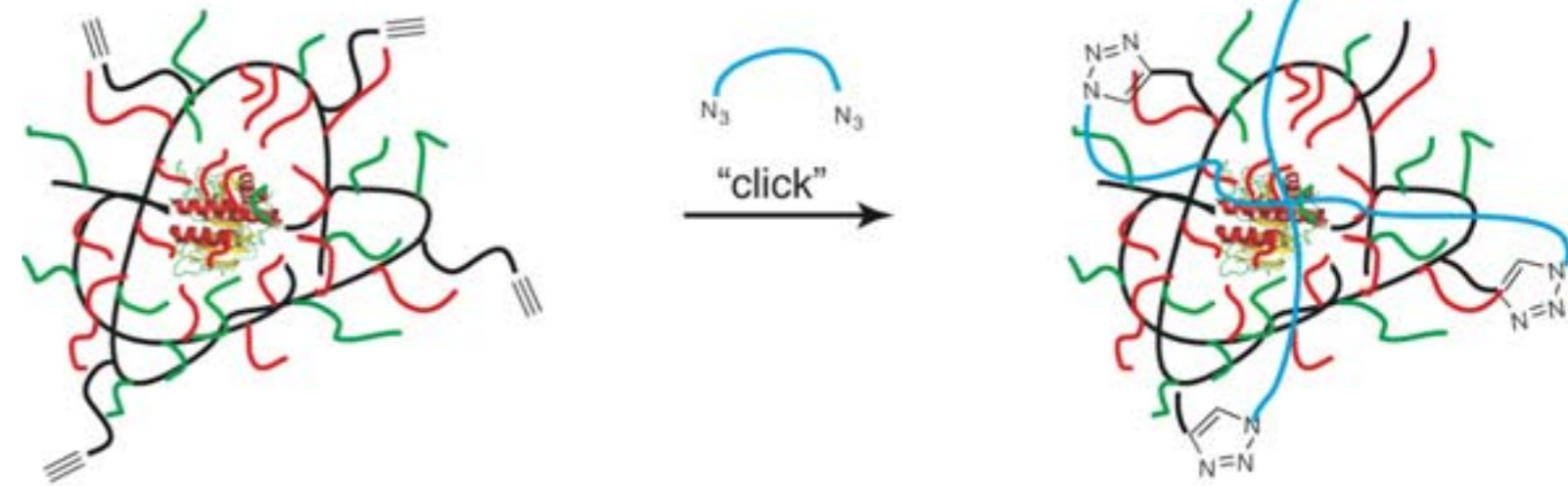
*Poorly degradable*



# Encapsulation of Non-Polar and Polar Species in Nanomicelles



# Enhancing Protein Solubility with Degradable and Tailorable Micelles



# Sustainability is an Old Problem

By 1853 New York omnibuses carried 120,000 passengers per day.



Culver Pictures



In 2009, the New York Subway carries 4,300,000 passengers per day



# Fossil Fuels: Key to 20th Century Sustainability



**Growth is the biggest challenge to sustainability**

# The Energy Problem

By 2050 Earth's population is predicted to increase by 50% while energy demand is predicted to increase by at least 100%

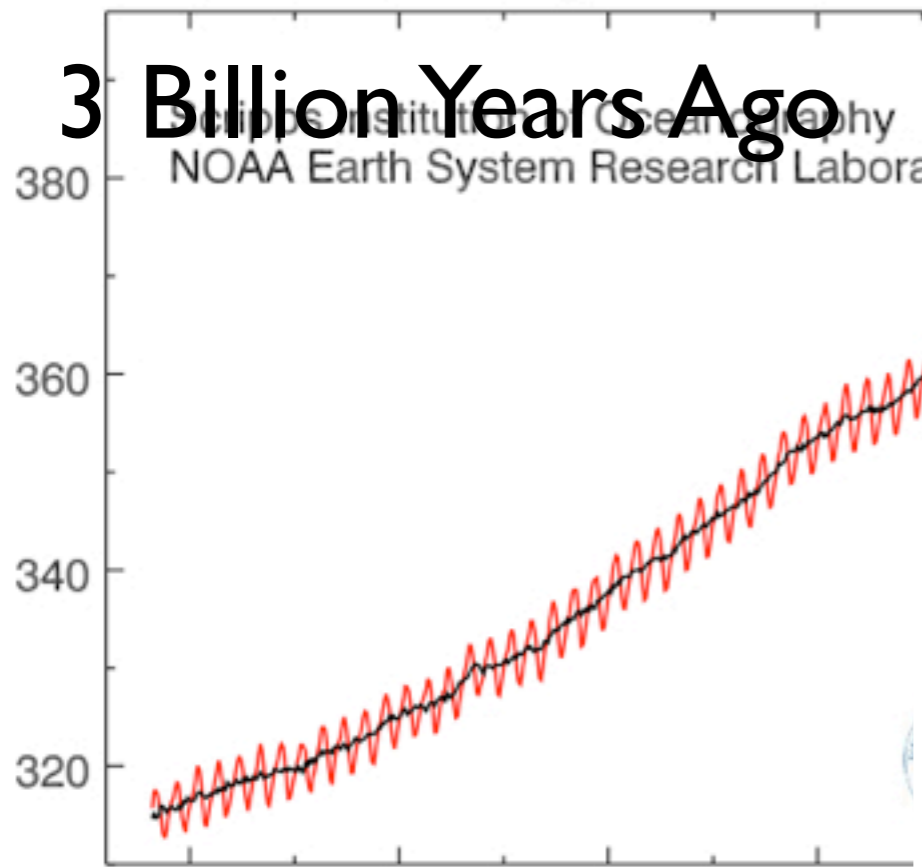




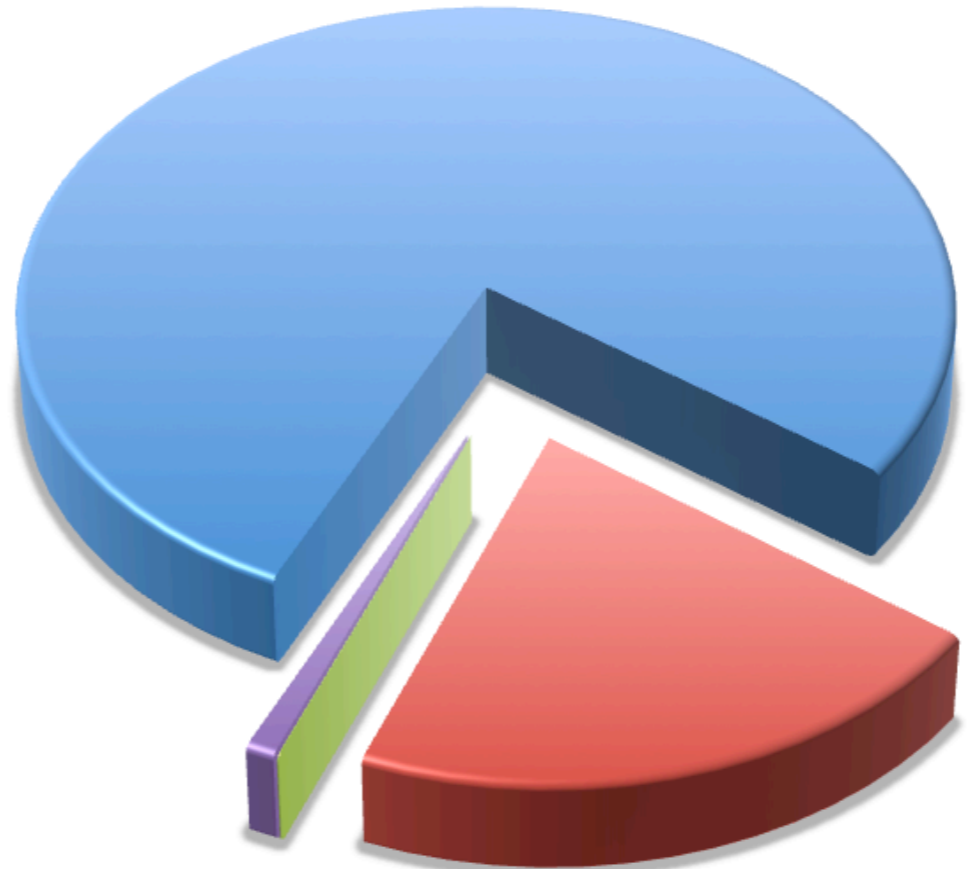
# The Problem with CO<sub>2</sub> Recycling

3 Billion Years Ago

Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at Mauna Loa



Today

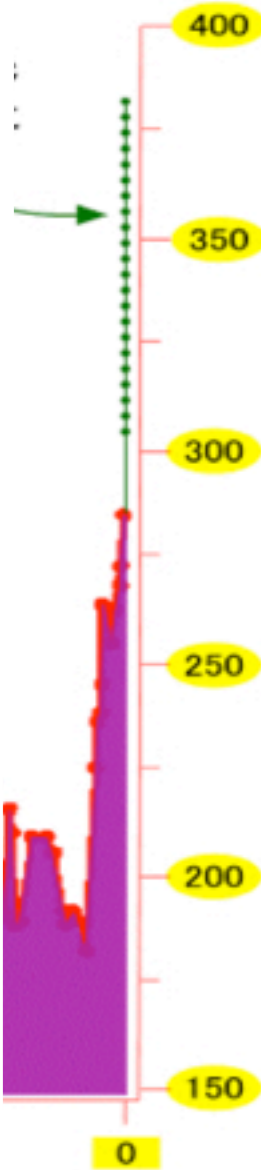


- N<sub>2</sub>
- CO<sub>2</sub>
- H<sub>2</sub>O
- H<sub>2</sub>

- N<sub>2</sub>
- O<sub>2</sub>

■ CO<sub>2</sub>

■ Other





# Carbon-Free Fuels

## Disadvantages of carbon-based fuels

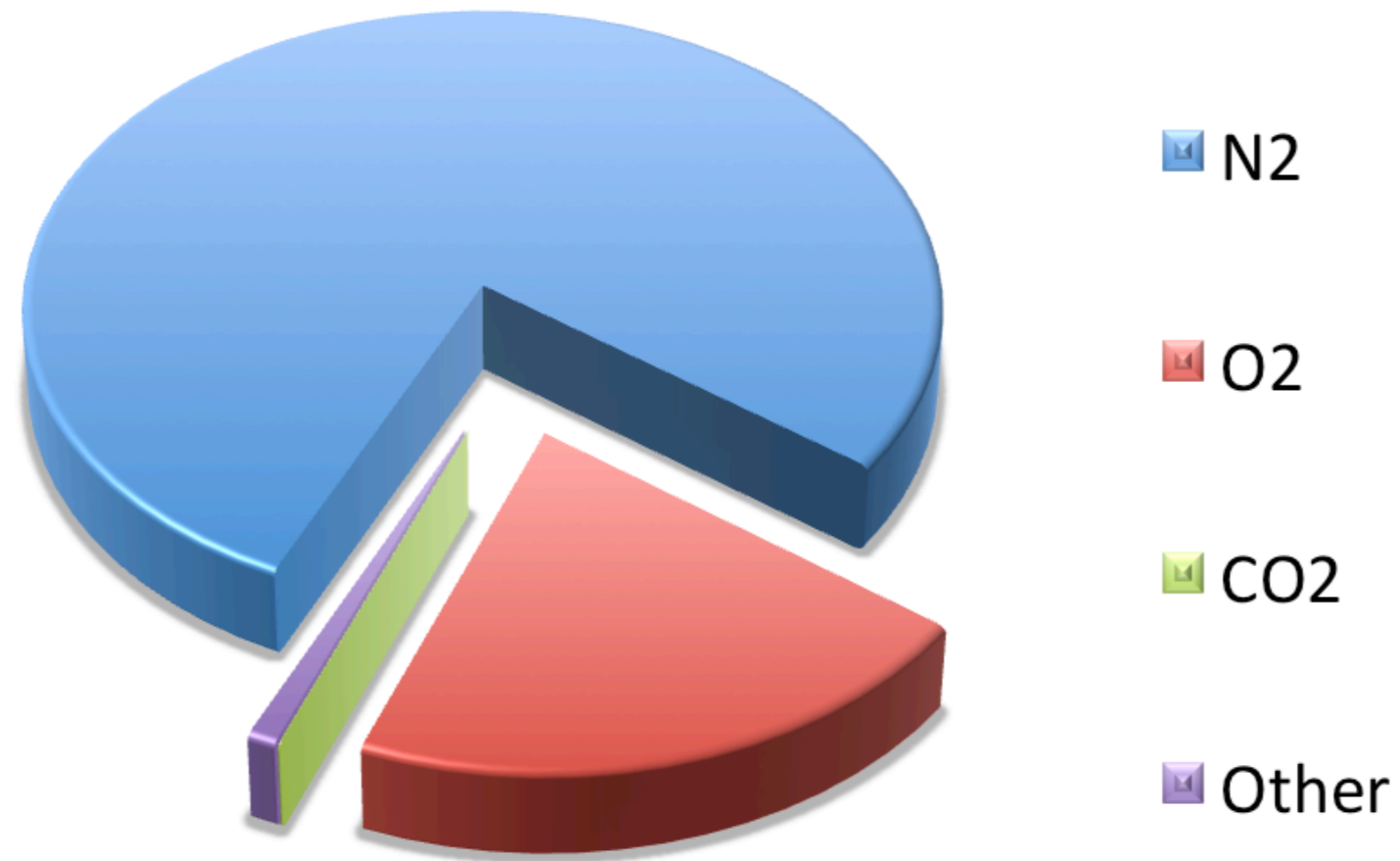
CO<sub>2</sub> recycling required for carbon neutrality

Low CO<sub>2</sub> concentration hampers atmospheric recovery

Onboard CO<sub>2</sub> recovery impractical for transportation applications

One possible solution: Avoid carbon!

# Carbon-Free Fuels



# Carbon Free Fuels: Research Team

## MSU Research Team

Professor Thomas Hamann-Energy conversion chemistry

Professor Aaron Odom-Nitrogen chemistry, catalysis

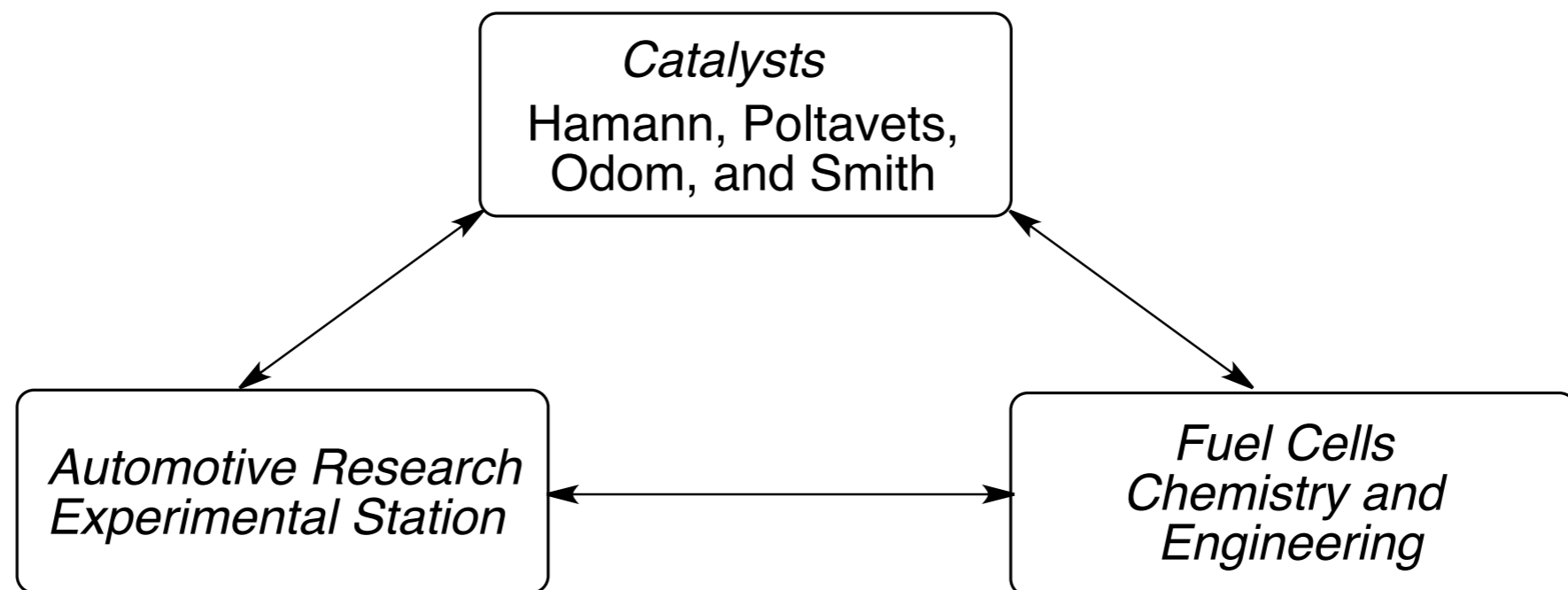
Professor Viktor Poltavets-Solid-state chemistry, catalysis

Professor Milton Smith-Catalysis

Professor Daniel Nocera (Harvard/MSU)-Energy science

Dr. James Boncella (Los Alamos)-Fuel cells, nitrogen chemistry

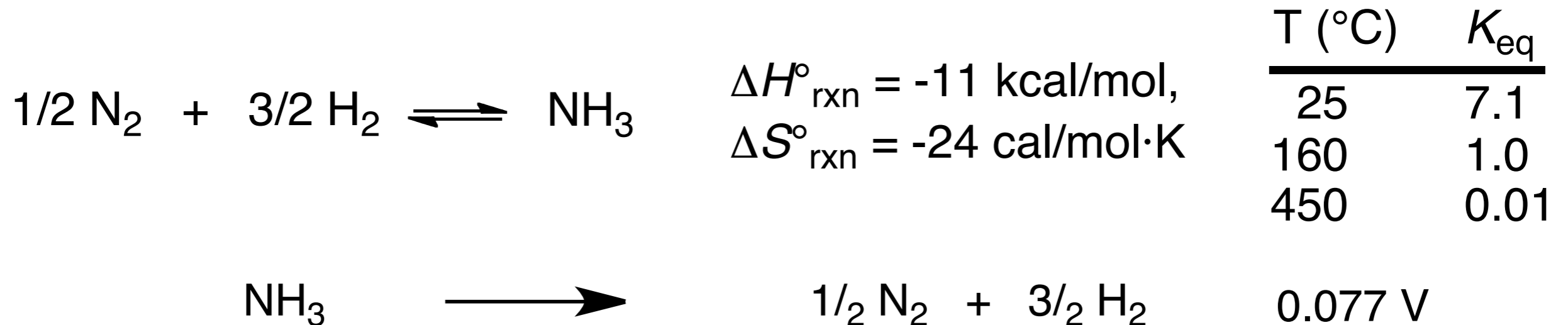
## Targeted agencies for center funding: DOE (ARPA-E), NSF



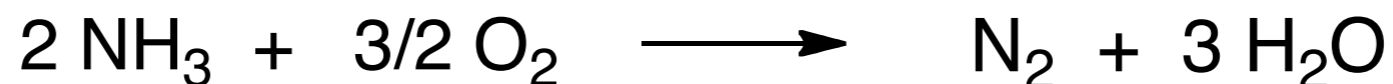
# Ammonia: A Hydrogen Dense Fuel

## Advantages

Haber-Bosch process is well-established and is the second largest industrial chemical process. Approximately 1-2% of global energy is dedicated to ammonia production.

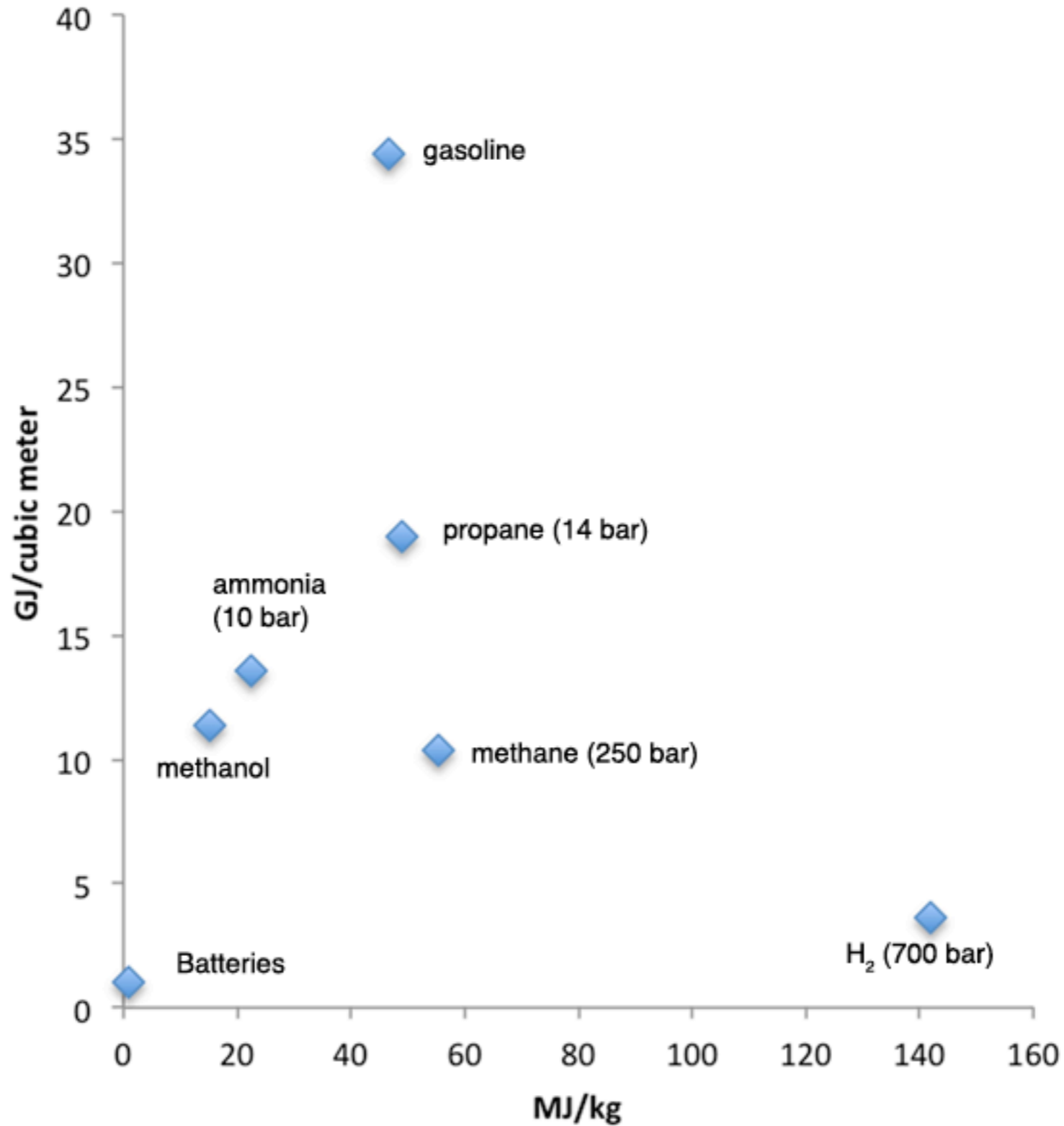


- By mass, liquid  $\text{NH}_3$  energy density is 40% of gasoline, 94% of methanol
- Liquid  $\text{NH}_3$  is an efficient  $\text{H}_2$  carrier



*Releases 87% of the energy of  $\text{H}_2$  oxidation!*

# Ammonia: A Hydrogen Dense Fuel



# Ammonia: A Hydrogen Dense Fuel

## Advantages

Synthesized from nitrogen, the most abundant gas in the atmosphere

Can be used as fuel in internal combustion engines

Produces less NO<sub>x</sub> emissions than gasoline

Ammonia is non-flammable



# Ammonia: A Hydrogen Dense Fuel

## Challenges

Carbon-neutral  $H_2$  production does not meet energy needs

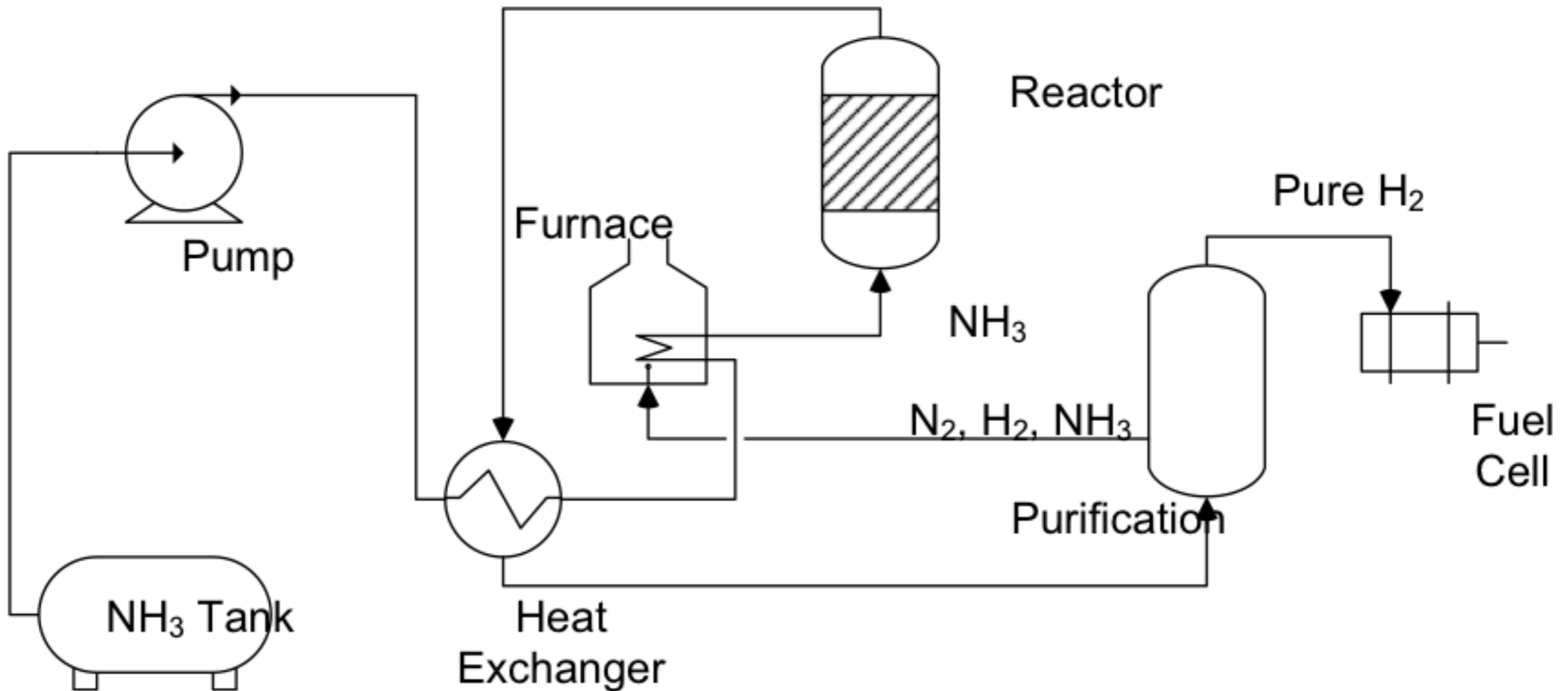
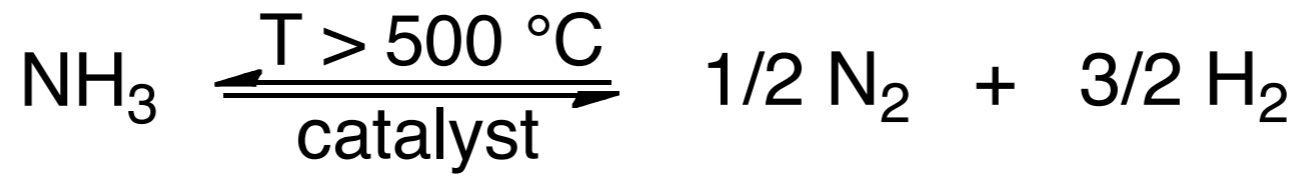
Current Haber-Bosch process requires high pressure of  $N_2$  and  $H_2$ .

Like gasoline, ammonia is toxic.

Ammonia cracking to  $N_2$  and  $H_2$  is inefficient

**Fundamental research is needed  
to address these challenges**

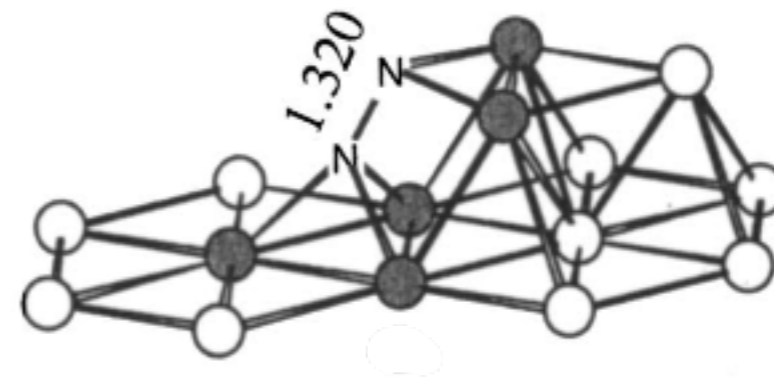
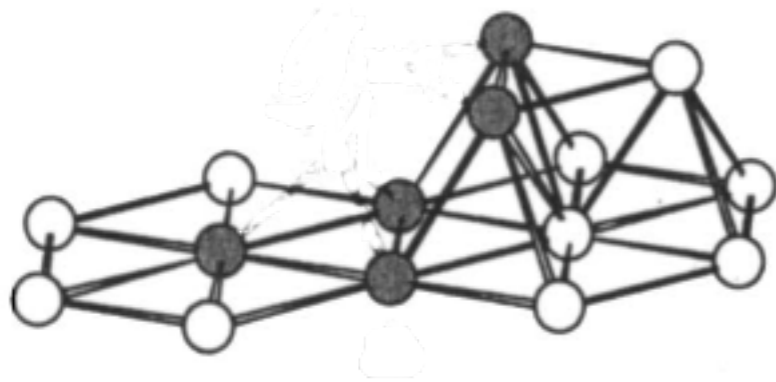
# Current Cracking Technology: Reverse Haber-Bosch



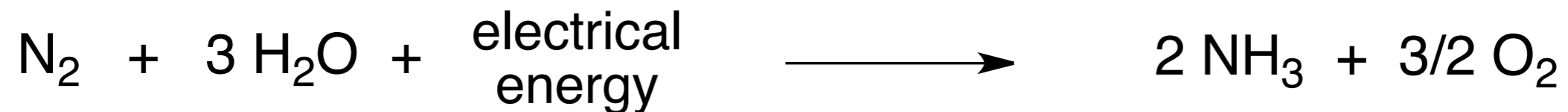
# Carbon Free Fuels: Proposed Research

## New catalysts for ammonia synthesis

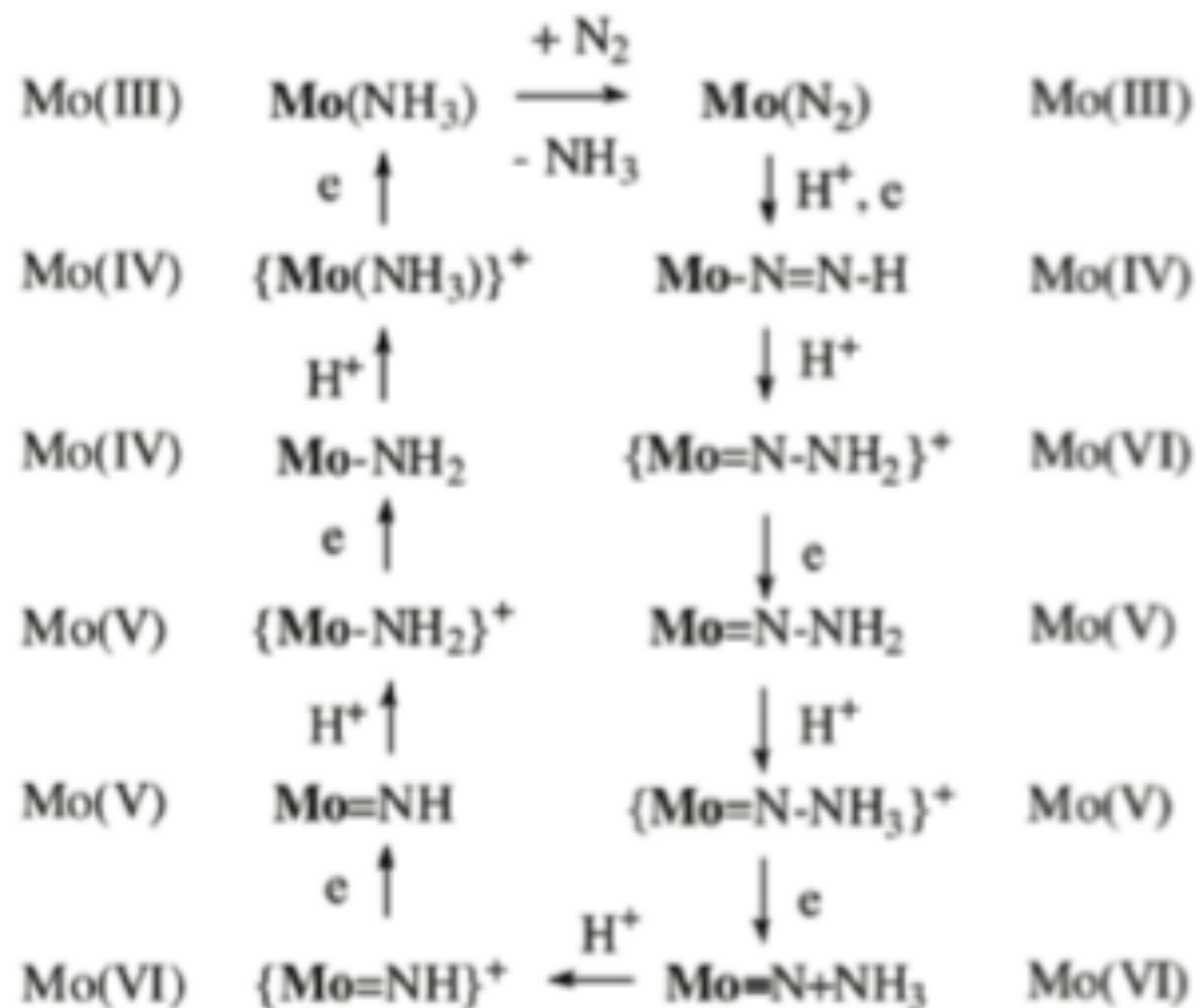
Improve current Haber-Bosch by synthesizing nano-structures that increase active sites for catalysis.



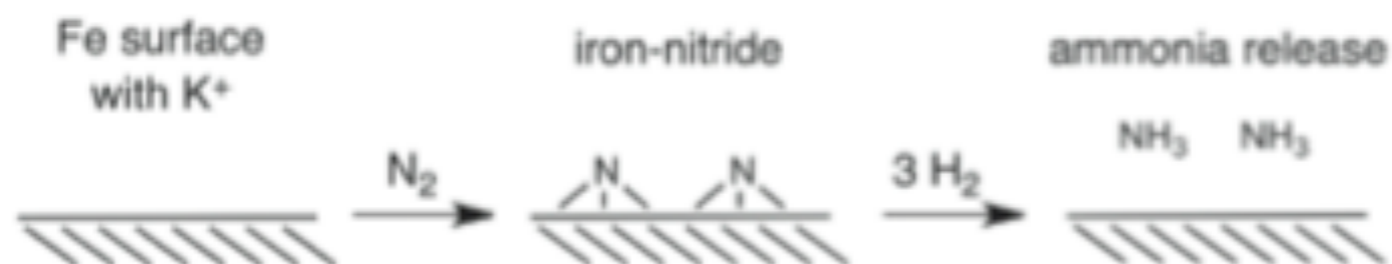
Develop ammonia synthesis where water is the hydrogen source instead of hydrogen gas.



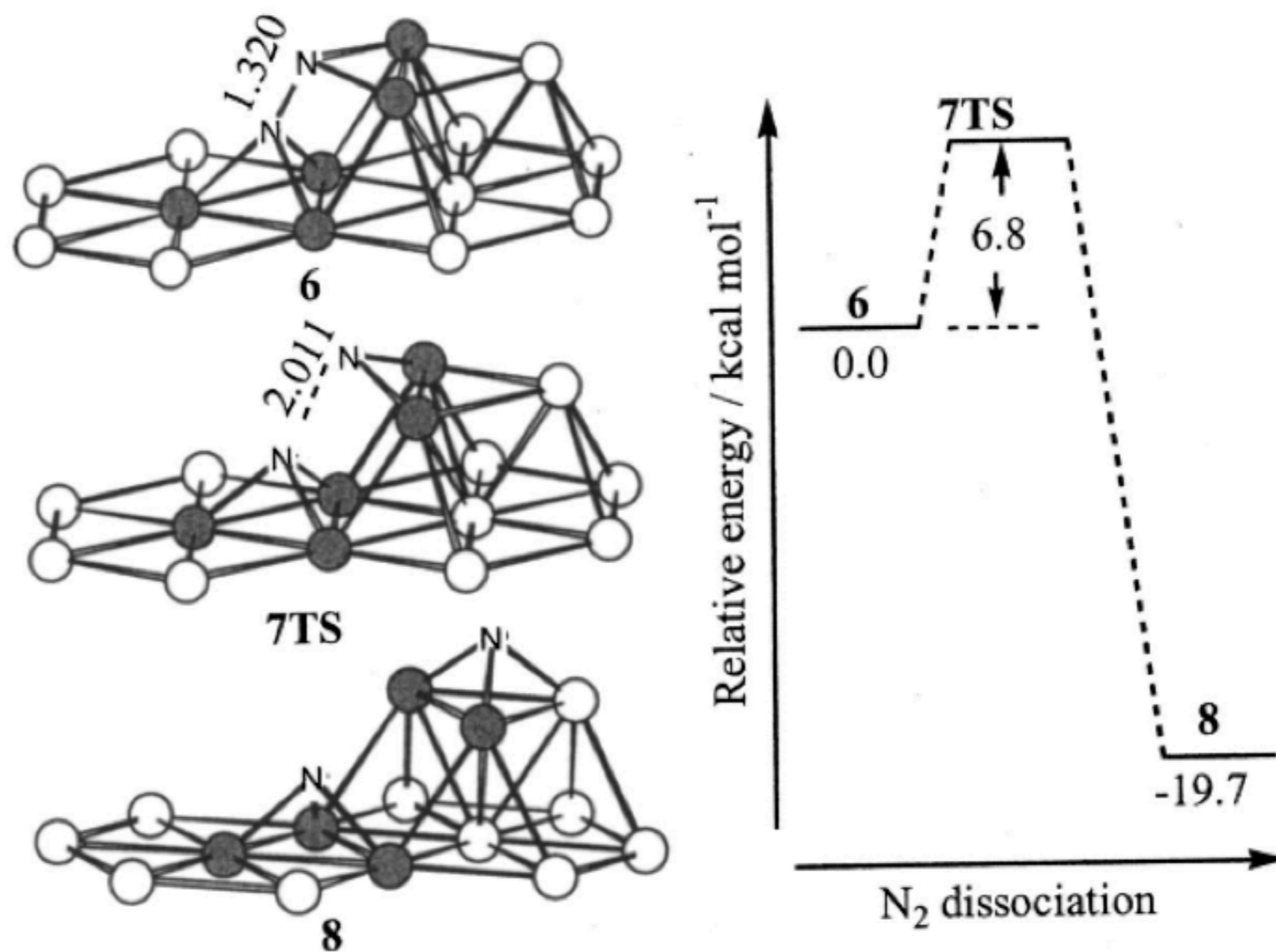
# Ammonia Synthesis



a



# Computational Studies of Haber-Bosch



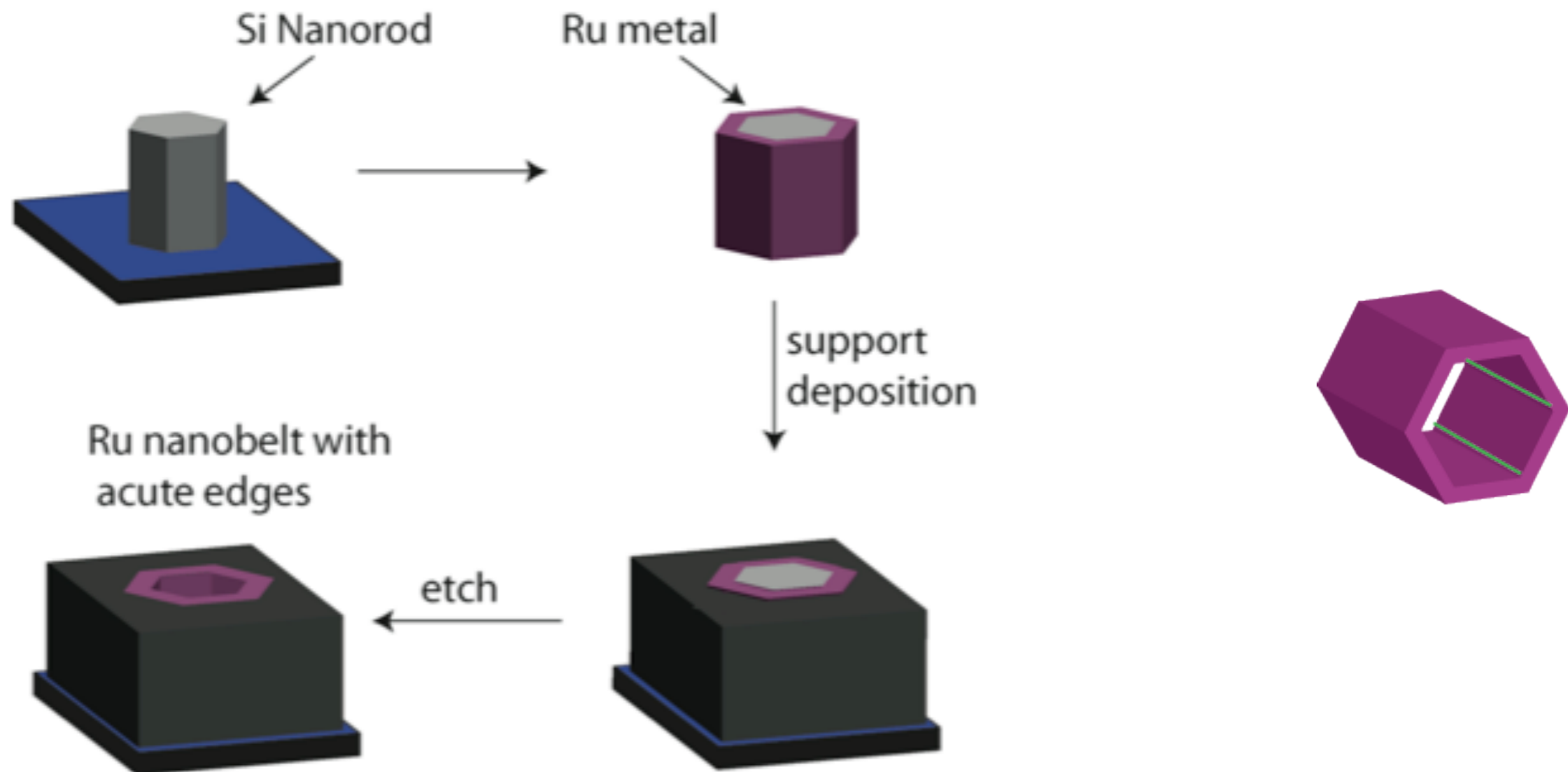
Cao, Z. X.; Wan, H. L.; Zhang, Q. N., *J. Chem. Phys.* **2003**, *119*, 9178-9182.



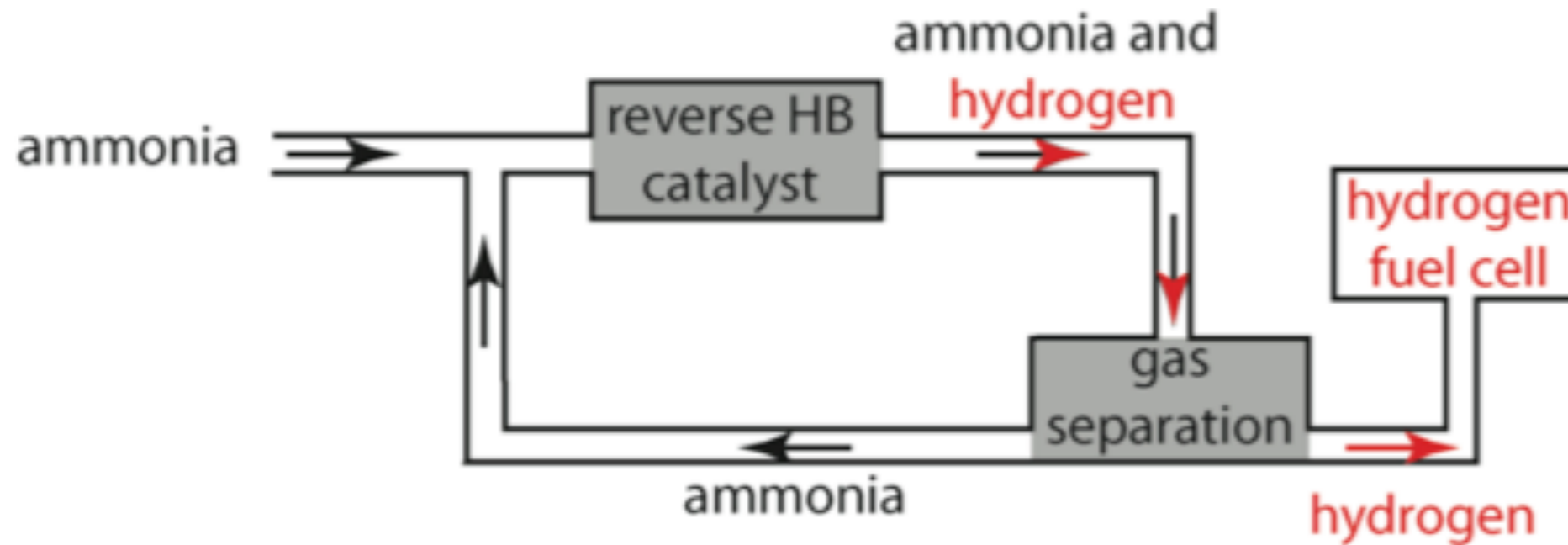
# Carbon Free Fuels: Proposed Research

## New catalysts for ammonia synthesis

Improve current Haber-Bosch by synthesizing nano-structures that increase active sites for catalysis.



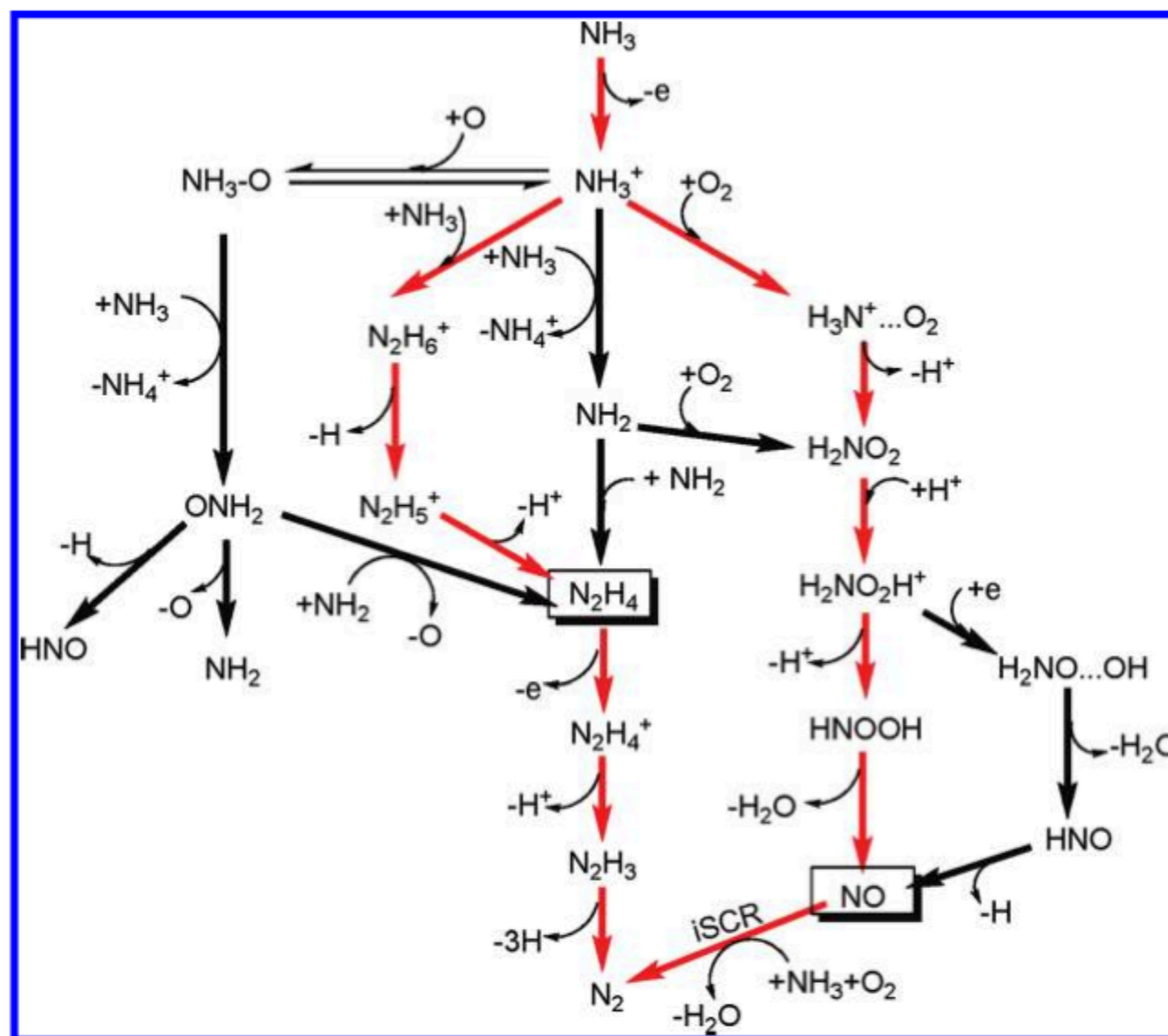
# Carbon Free Fuels: Proposed Research

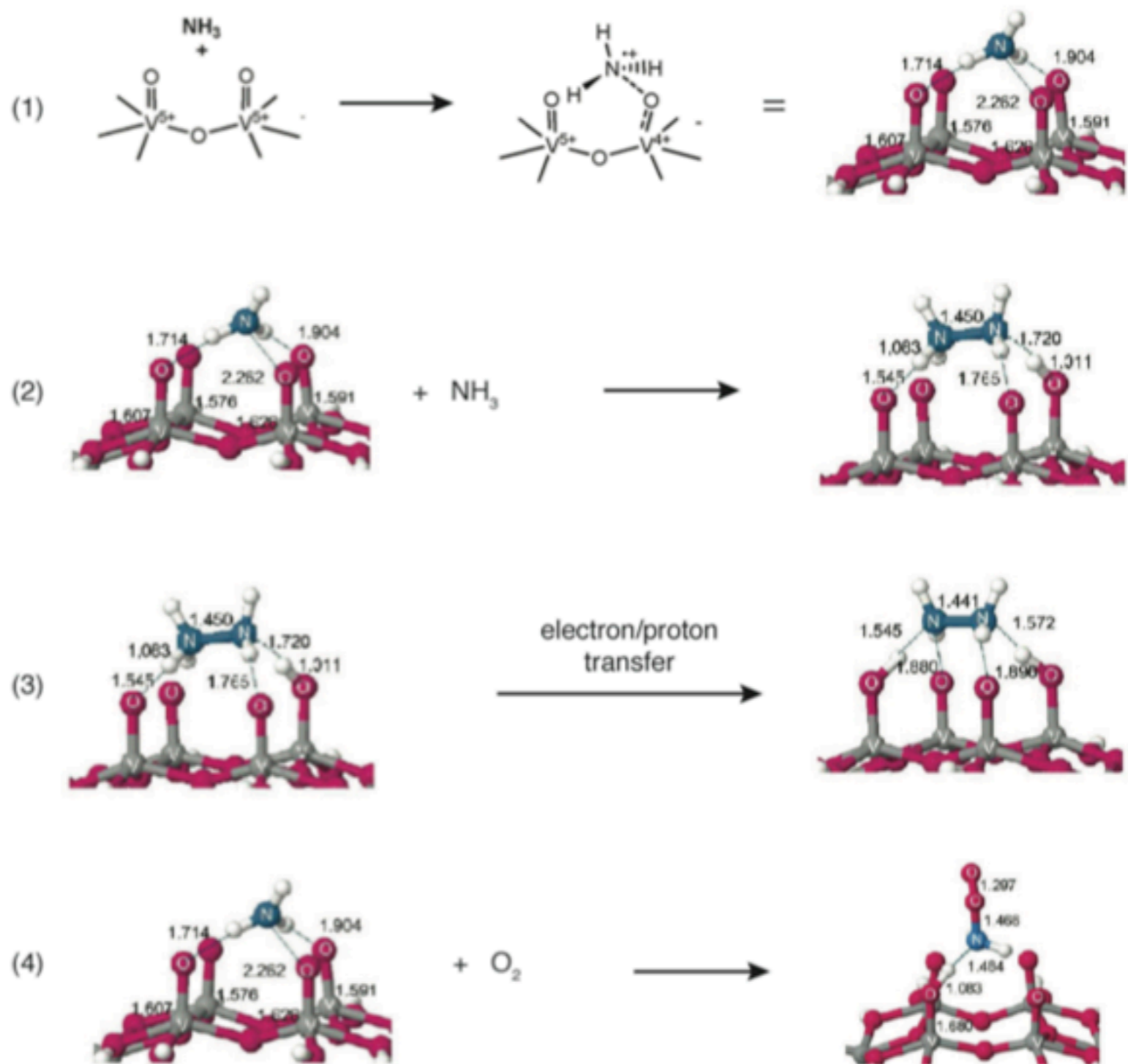


*Reverse Haber-Bosch/hydrogen fuel cell*

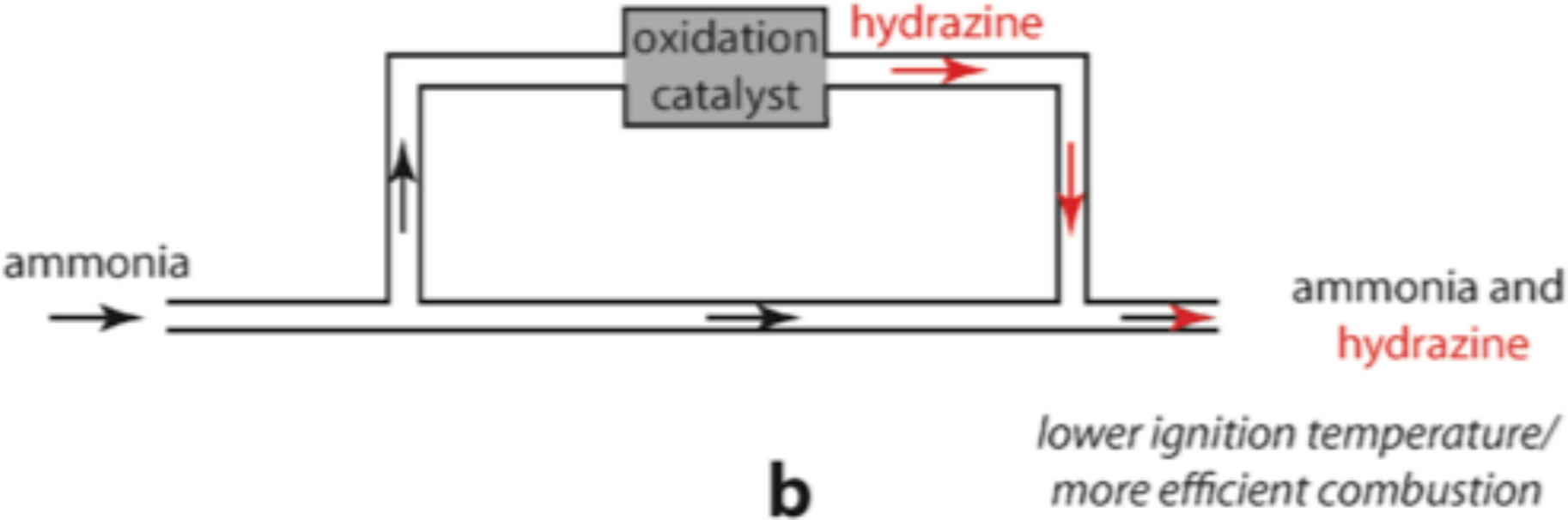
**Figure 3.** Hydrogen synthesis from ammonia feeding a hydrogen fuel cell.

# Upgrading $\text{NH}_3$ by Selective Oxidation to Hydrazine





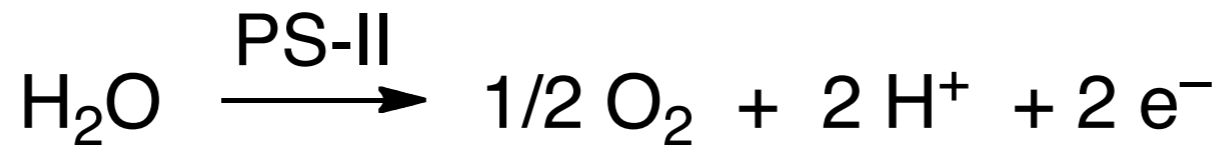
# Upgrading $\text{NH}_3$ by Selective Oxidation to Hydrazine



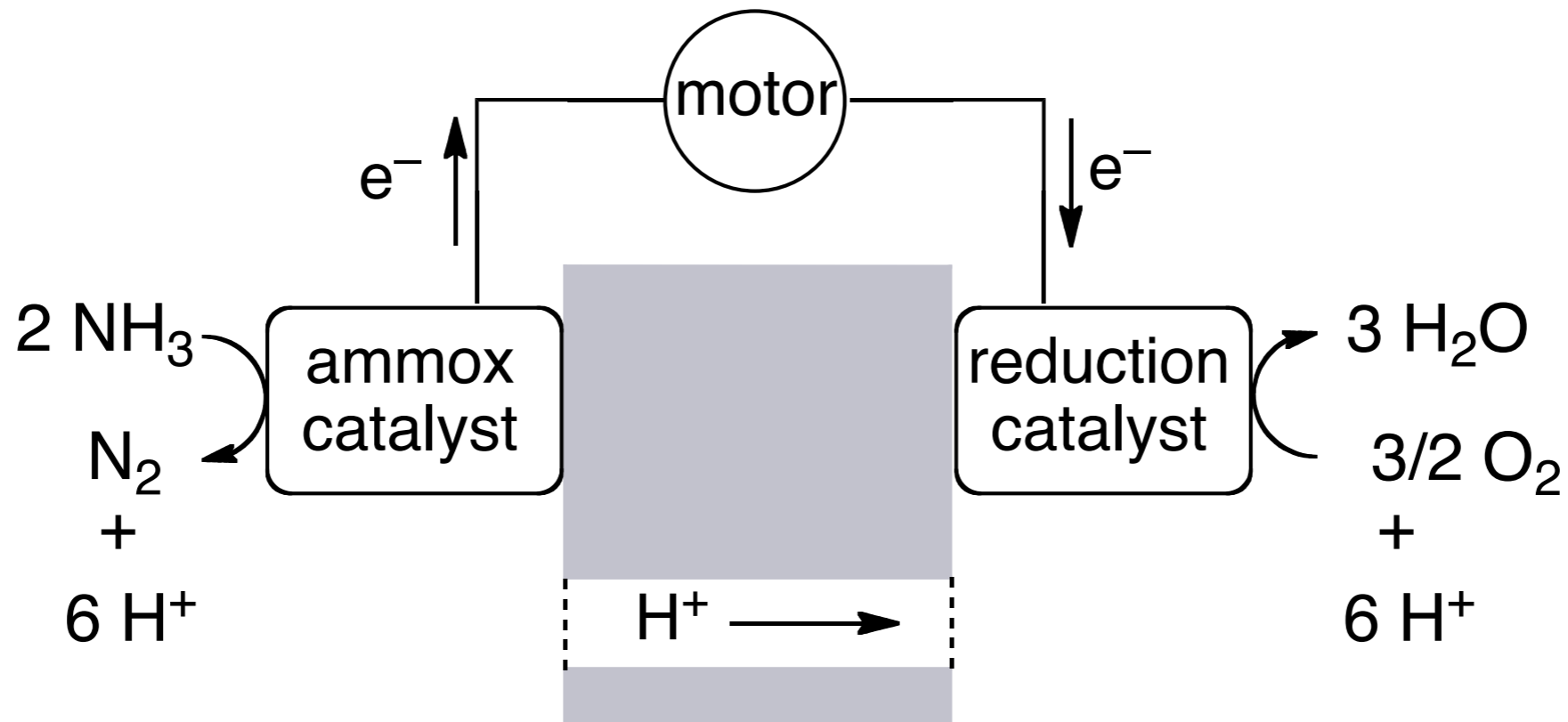


# Proposed Research: Ammonia to Energy

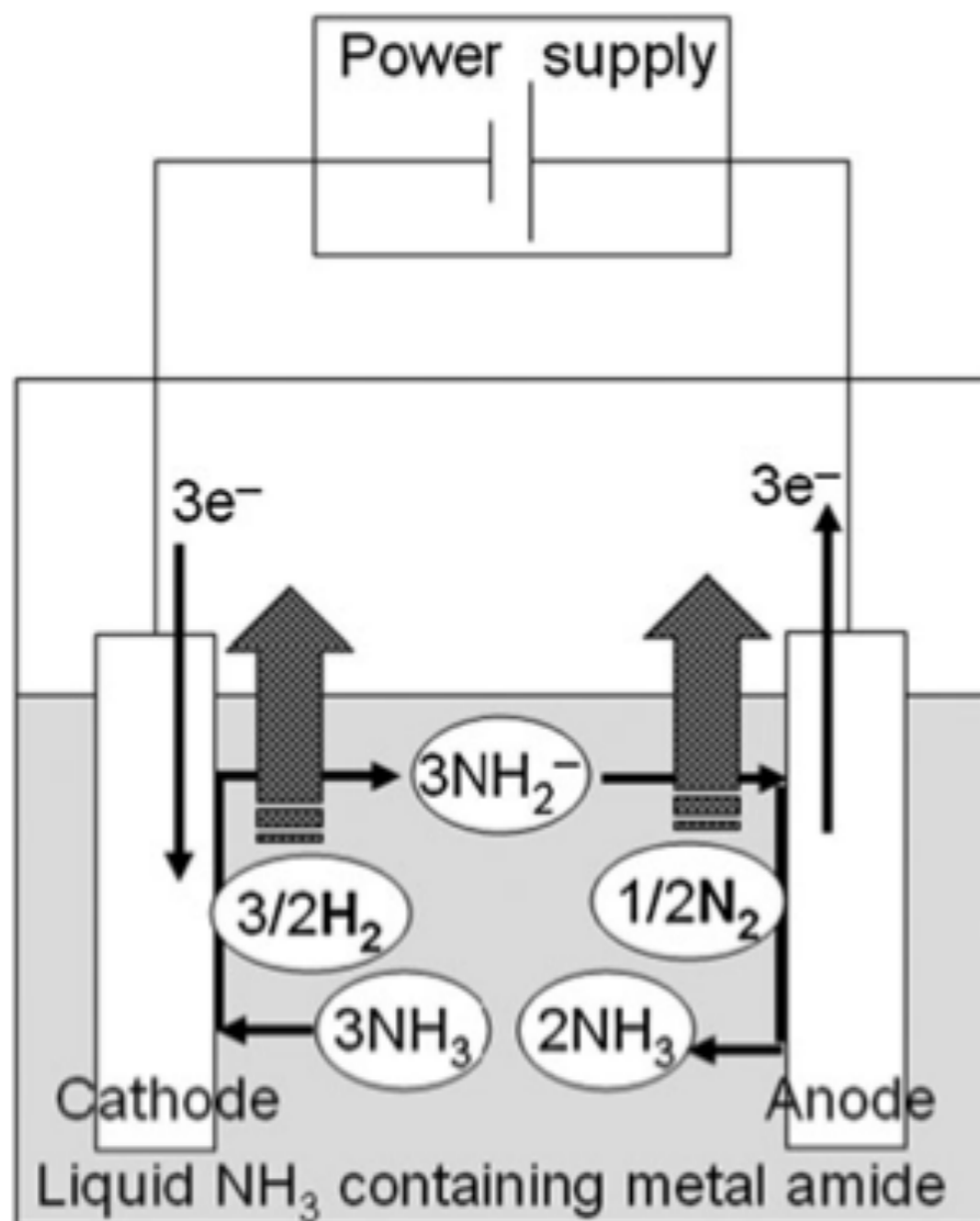
## Develop catalysts for ammonia oxidation



## Design new ammonia fuel cells



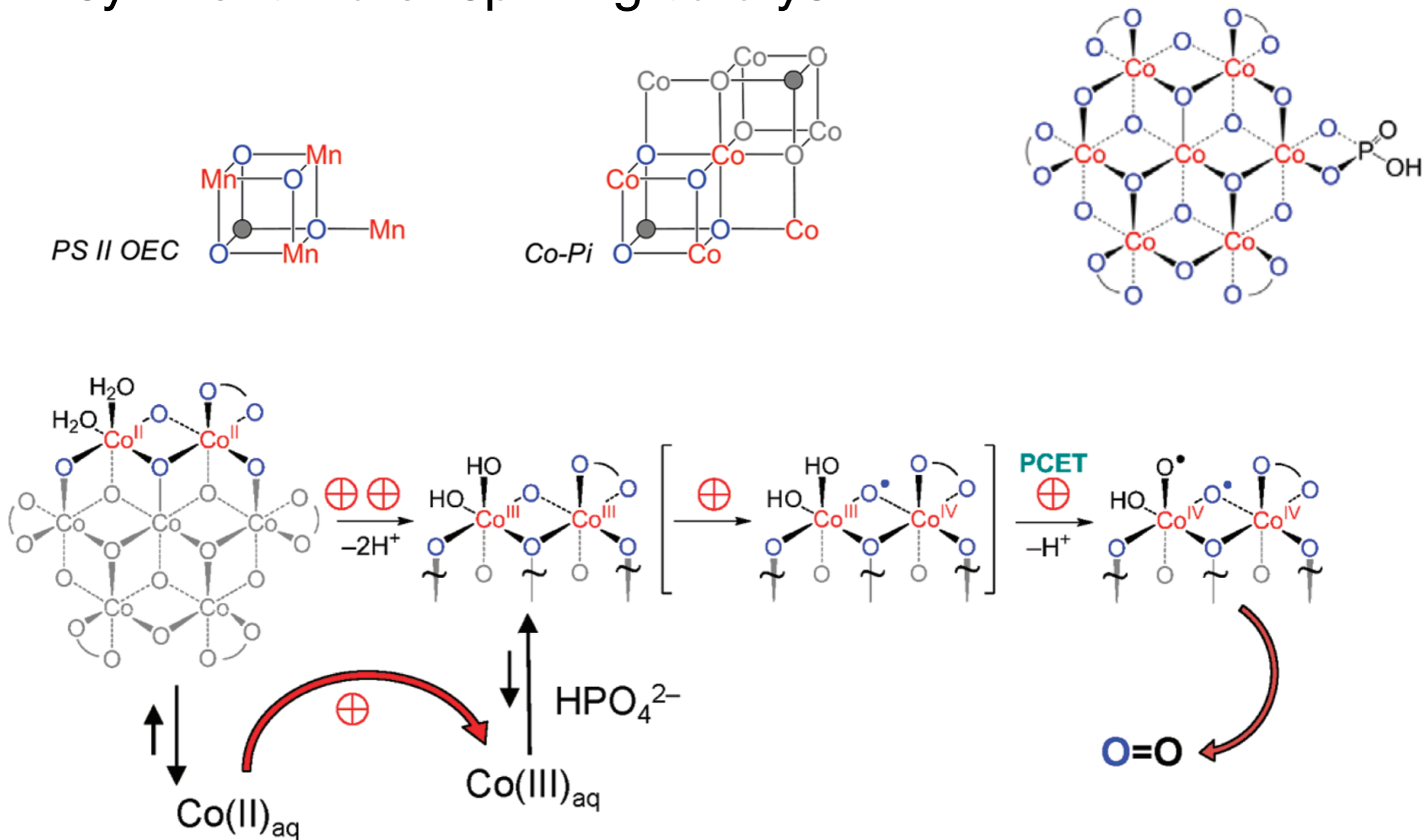
# Proposed Research: Ammonia to Energy



Electrolysis at 2 V potential!

Hanada, N.; Hino, S.; Ichikawa, T.; Suzuki, H.; Takai, K.; Kojima, Y., *Chem. Commun.* **2010**, 46, 7775-7777.

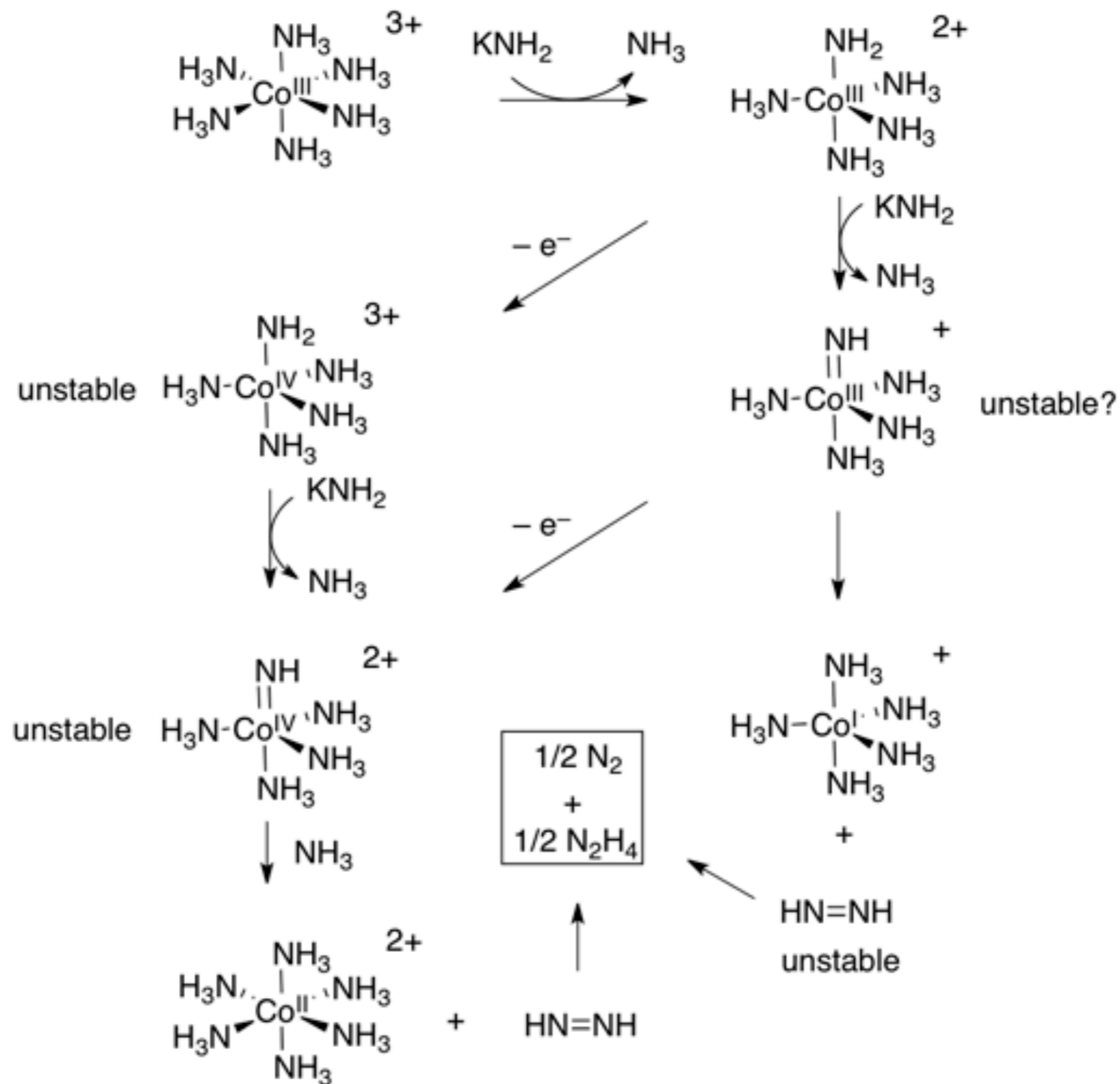
# A synthetic water splitting catalyst:



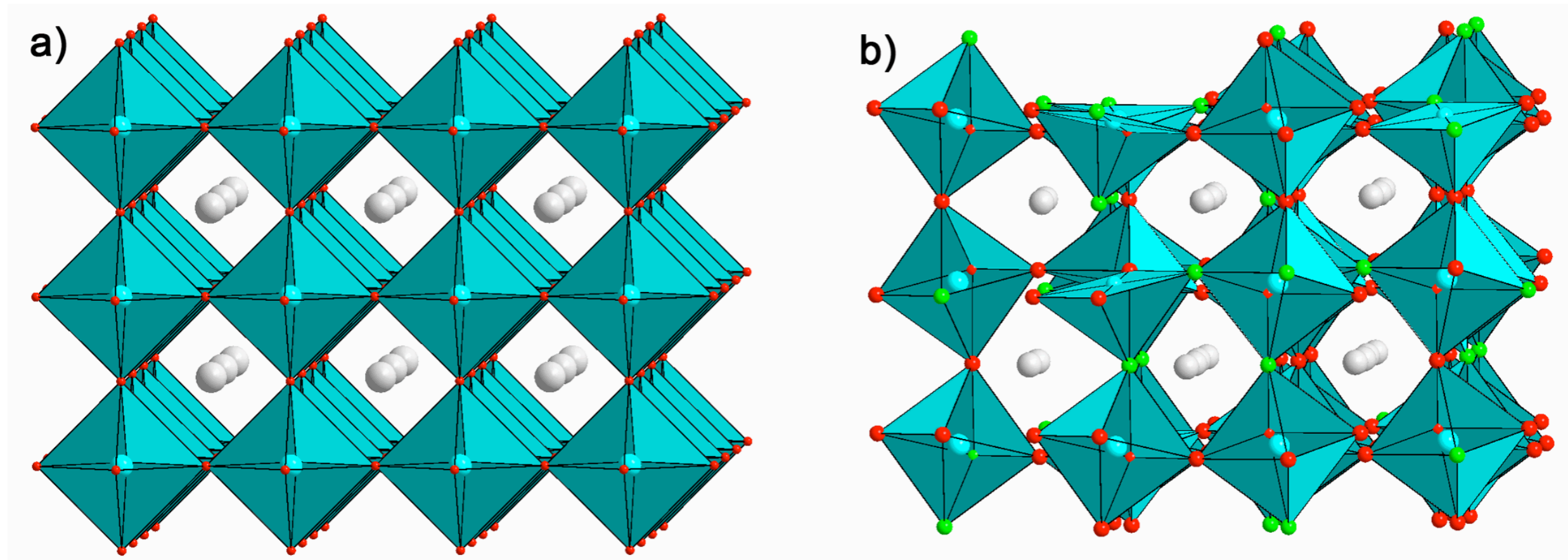
Nocera and coworkers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2011, 133, 5174–5177

Nocera and coworkers, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 2011, 45, 767-776.

# Proposed Research: Metal Catalyzed Oxidation



# Proposed Research: Metal Catalyzed Oxidation



**Figure 10.** Crystal structure models of a)  $AMO_3$  perovskite and b)  $AMO_{3-x-y}N_y$  anion deficient oxynitride perovskite. The A cations are shown as light grey spheres, the B cations are situated in the octahedra and the square pyramids, and the O and N atoms are represented by red and green spheres respectively.



# Impacts: Local and Global

Complements MSU's efforts in Biofuels making us the leader in fuel research

Significant IP opportunities in energy and agricultural sectors

Elimination of CO<sub>2</sub> emission at the tailpipe of transportation vehicles

Hydrogen storage from Earth abundant feedstocks

Off-grid synthesis of fuel and fertilizer for third-world countries by converting electrical energy (from solar, wind, etc.) to fuel