

# **Ziegler-Natta polymerization of olefins - stereoselectivity**

CHEM 462: Inorganic/Organometallic  
Chemistry

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Professor: Dr. Marcetta Y. Dahrenbourg

# Outline

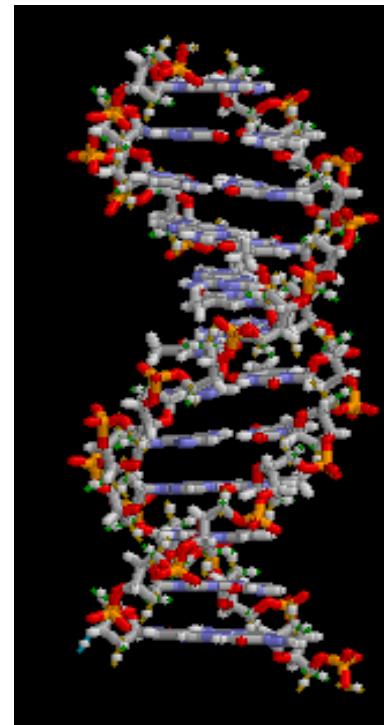
- 1. Introduction of polymerization and history of Ziegler-Natta Catalysts.
  - 1.1 Overview of polymer and polymerization.
  - 1.2 coordination polymerization and Ziegler-Natta Catalysts
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- 2. Mechanism of Ziegler-Natta polymerization.
  - 2.1 The Cossee Mechanism
  - 2.2 The Green-Rooney Mechanism
  - 2.3 The evidence supporting the Cossee Mechanism
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  - 3.1 Effect factors of 1,2-insertion
  - 3.2 Effect factors of beta-elimination
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- 5. Conclusion

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# Overview

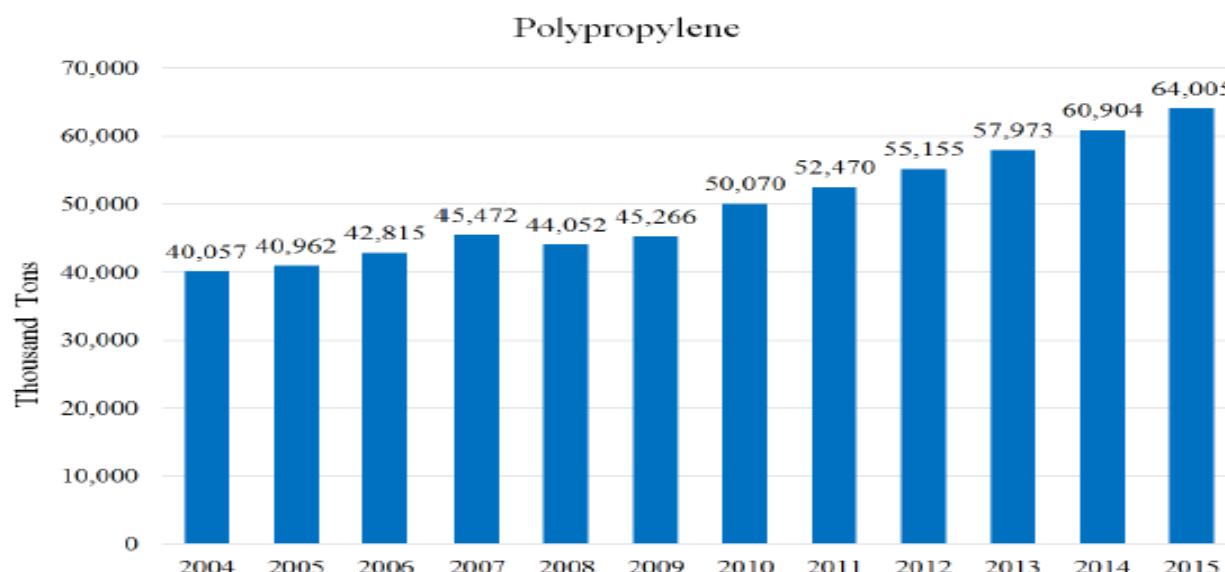
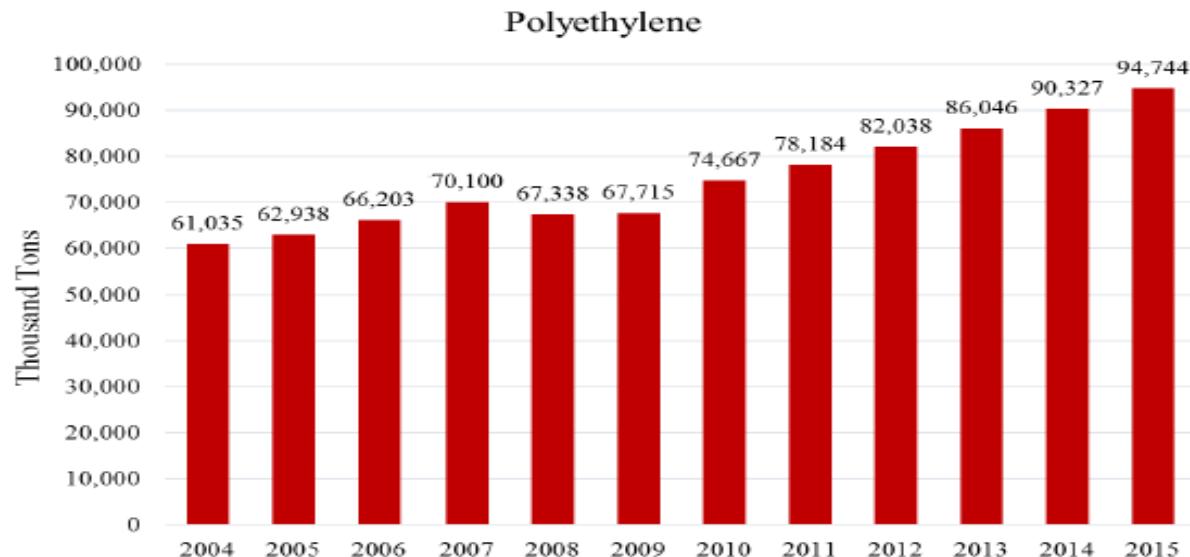
- Polymer: large molecule, composed with many repeated subunits.
- Use:
- Natural: DNA, protein
- Artificial: polystyrene,  
polyvinyl chloride (PVC)



# Artificial Polymer Products

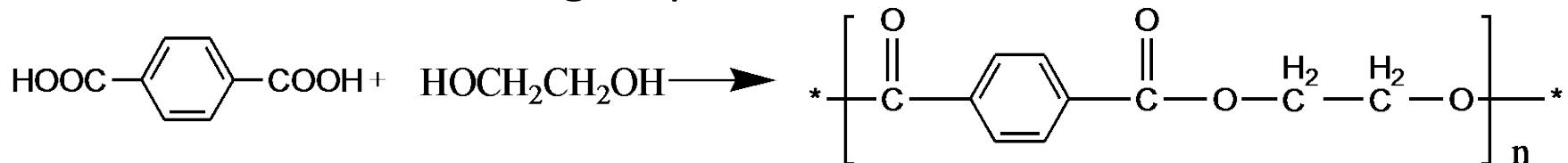


- World's demand for PE and PP



# Overview

- Polymerization reaction
- Step growth: polymers formed by the stepwise reaction between functional groups of monomers



- Chain growth: linking together of molecules incorporating double or triple carbon-carbon bonds.
  - radical addition polymerization
  - cationic addition polymerization
  - anionic addition polymerization
- Coordination polymerization (olefin binding/alkyl insertion)

# Coordination Polymerization and Ziegler-Natta Catalysts

- Coordination polymerization: an addition polymerization in which successive monomers are added to the organometallic active center.  
Examples are:
  - ROMP (Ring open metathesis polymerization)
  - Polymerization catalyzed by Ziegler-Natta catalyst
  - Polymerization catalyzed by Late Transition Metal Complexes catalyst

# Ziegler-Natta Catalyst: History

- 1953 Karl Ziegler polymerizes ethene into high MW-HDPE (high density polyethylene) with catalyst based on  $TiCl_4$ , and  $Et_2AlCl$  as co-catalyst.
- Giulio Natta, utilizes Ziegler's catalyst to produce PP.
- 1963 Ziegler and Natta are awarded the Nobel Prize
- 1973 2nd generation Ziegler-Natta catalysts introduced with  $TiCl_3$  purple phases at lower temperatures.
- 1975-1978 3rd generation catalysts supported on  $MgCl_2$  commercialized by many companies.
- 1977-1980 Kaminsky and Sinn discover high activity metallocene single-site catalysts (SSCs) using methylaluminoxane (MAO) as co-catalyst.
- 1991 Fourth generation Ziegler-Natta catalysts based on aluminium-oxane activated metallocene complexes used.
- 1997 Montel (or Lyondell Basell) commercialize PP based on 5th generation Ziegler-Natta catalyst that use 1,3-diethers, and succinate as donors.

# Nobel Prize: 1963



Karl Ziegler, Germany

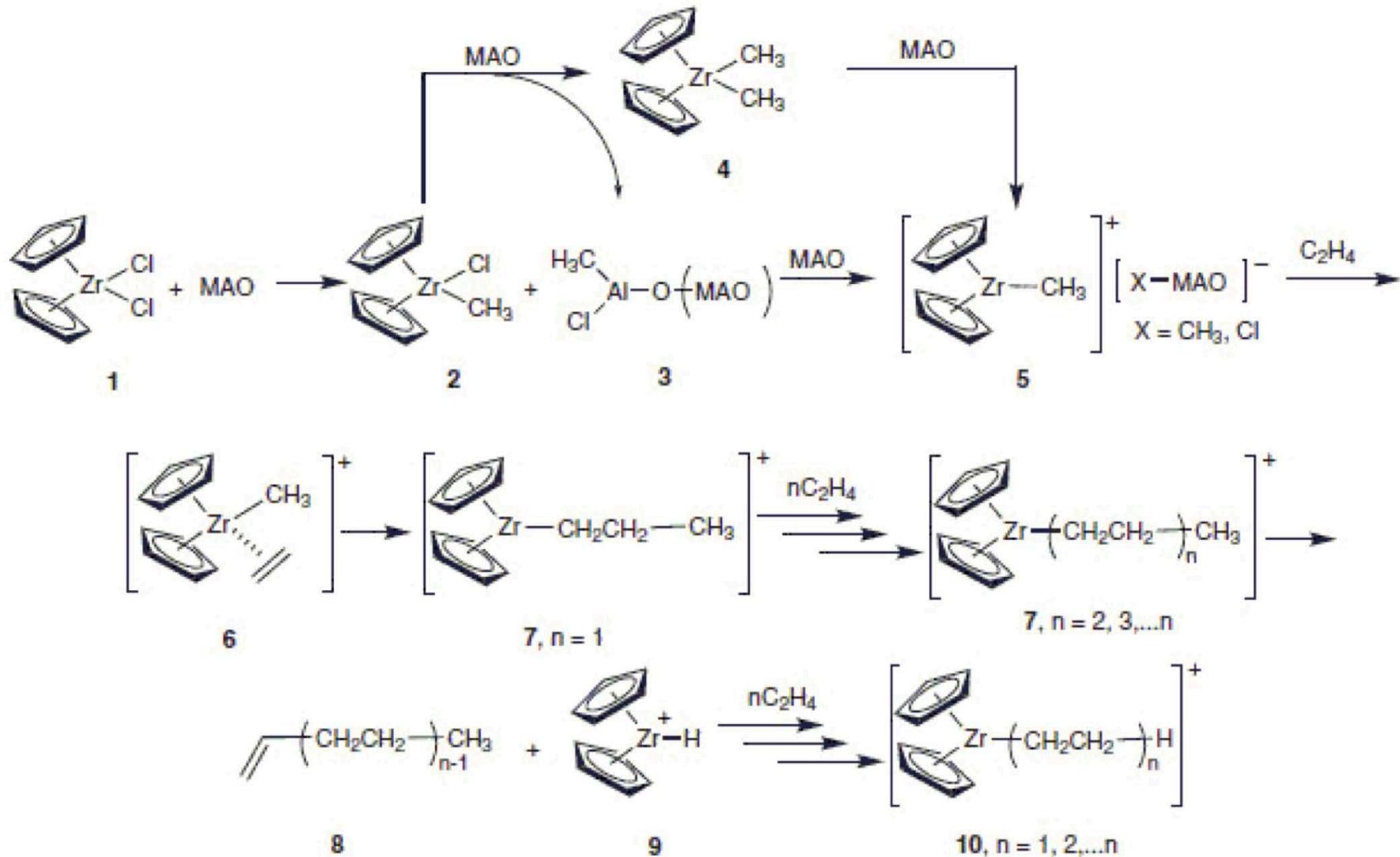


Giulio Natta, Italy

Prize motivation:

"for their discoveries in the field of the chemistry and technology of high polymers"

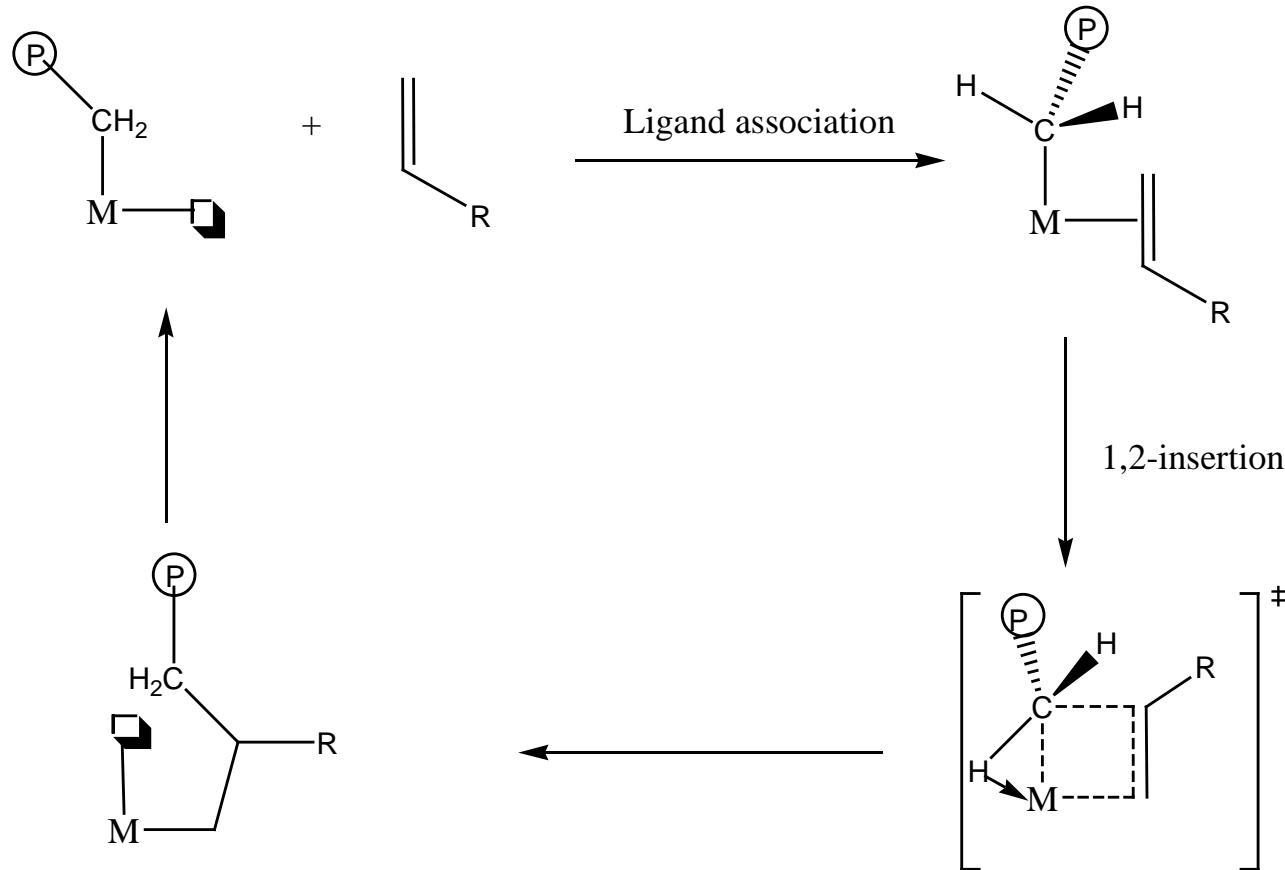
# Single Site Metallocene Catalysts: Living Polymerization



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# 2.1 The Cossee Mechanism

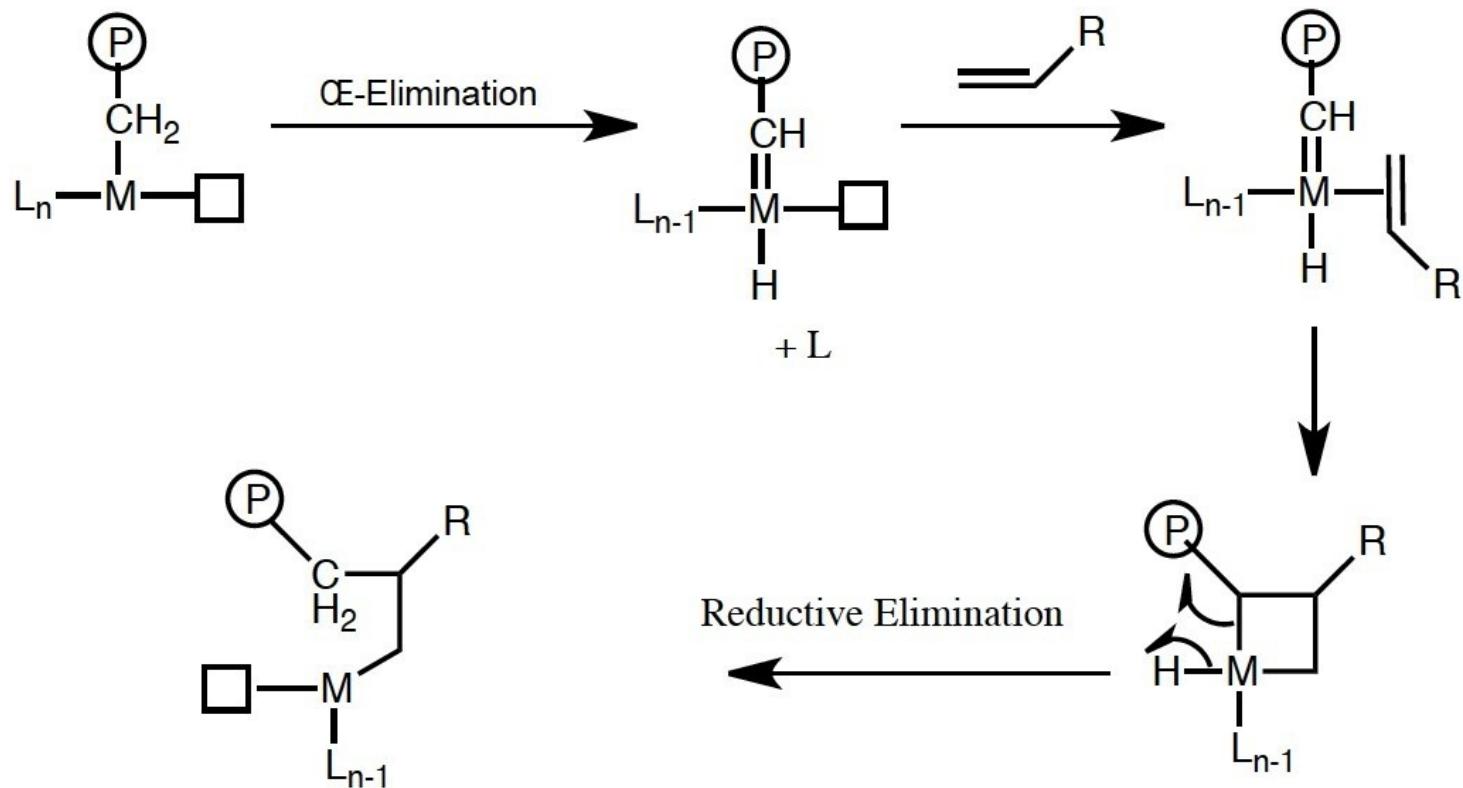


P.Cossee,*J.Catal.*,**1964**,3,80 and E.J.Arlman and P.Cossee,*J.Catal.*,**1964**,3,99

Brookhart, M.; Green, M.; Wong, L. L. *Prog. Inorg. Chem.* **1988**,36, 1-124.

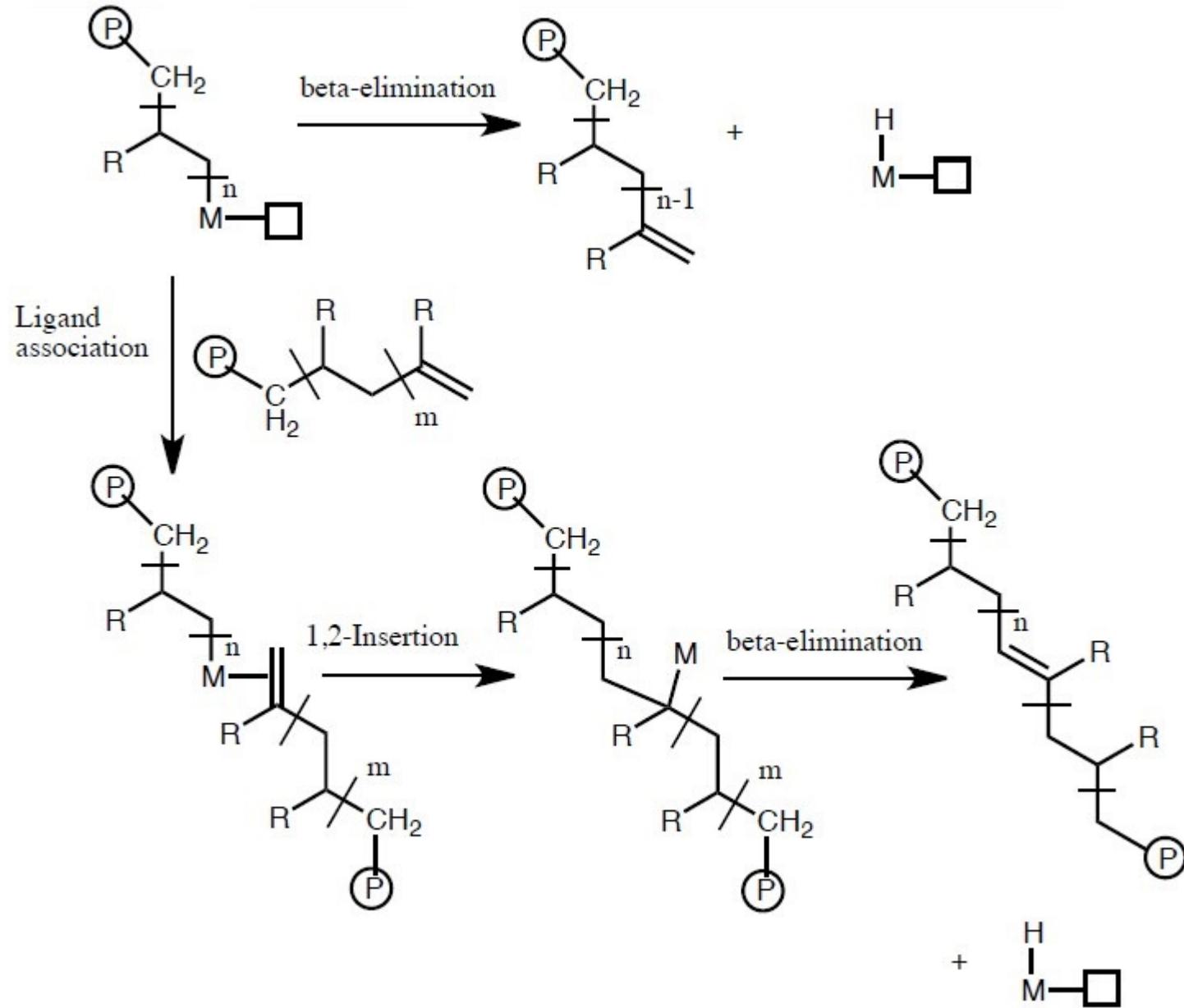
Brookhart, M.; Volpe, A. F., Jr.; Lincoln, D. M.; Horváth, I. T.; Millar, J. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 5634-13

## 2.2 The Green-Rooney Mechanism

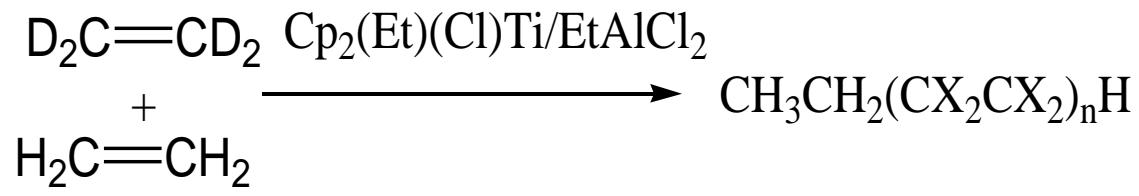
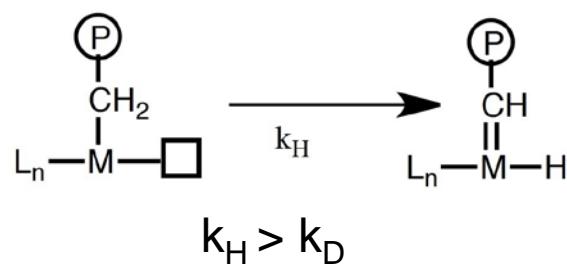
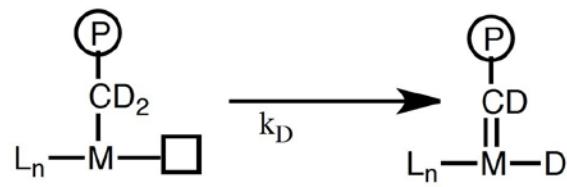


K.J.Ivin,J.J.Rooney,C.D.Stewart, M.L.H. Green, and J.R. Mahtab, *J. Chem. Soc, Chem. Commun.*, **1978**, 604  
M.L.H. Green, *Pure Appl. Chem.*, **1978**, 100,2079

# Chain Termination and Chain Transfer Steps



# Kinetic Isotope Effect



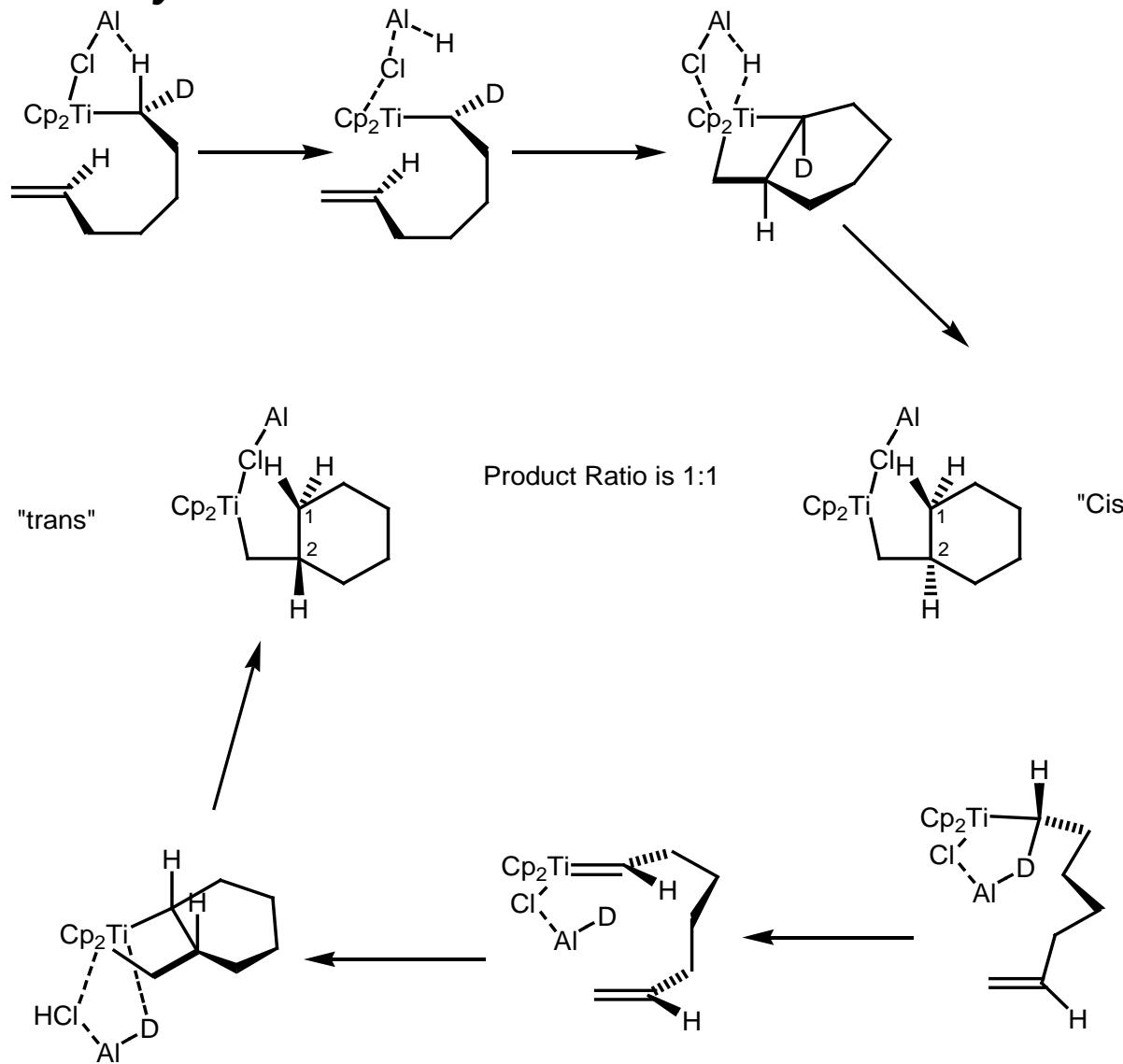
X = H, D

H:D = 1:1

Conclusion: Lack of KIE indicates no C-H bond breaking in RDS

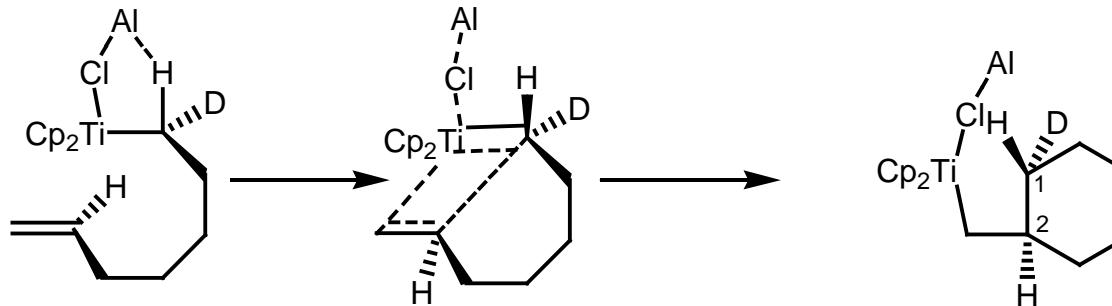
# Kinetic Isotope Effect, continued

## Green-Rooney Mechanism



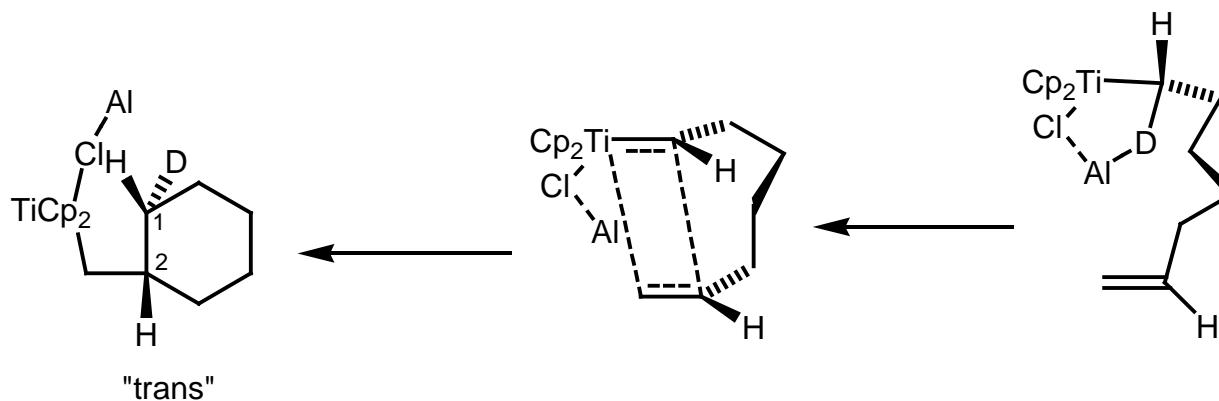
# "Stereocochemical" Isotope Effect

## Cossee Mechanism



"Cis"

Product Ratio is 1:1



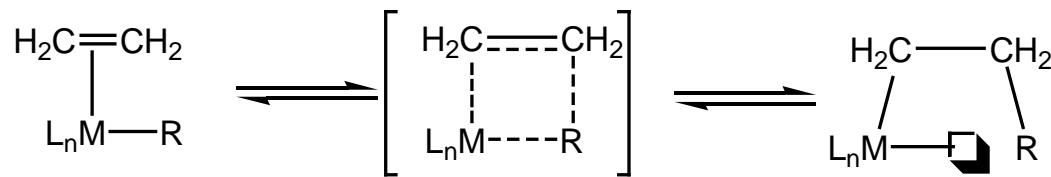
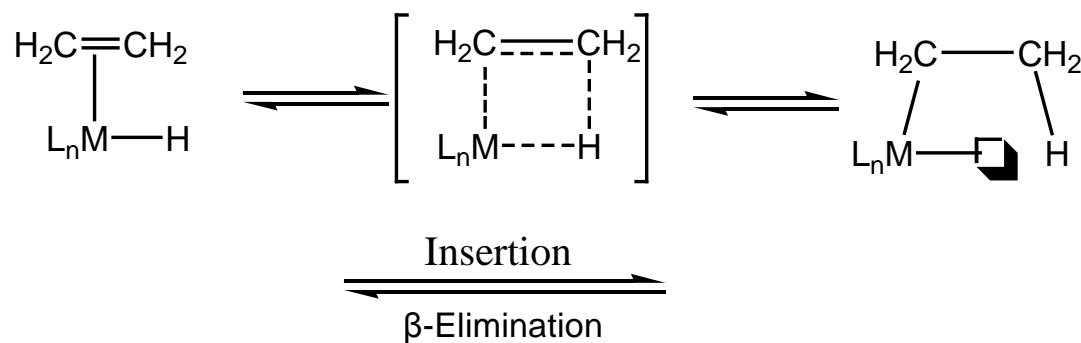
# Conclusion: Cossee Mechanism

- Negative results of Kinetic Isotope Effect excludes Green-Rooney Mechanism
- "Stereochemical" Isotope Effect shows the Cossee Mechanism is reasonable

# Outline

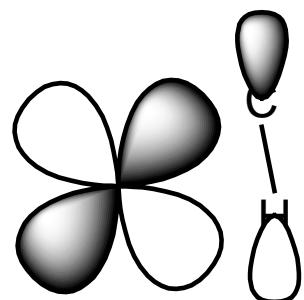
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- 1,2-insertion and  $\beta$ -Elimination



# Electronic Characteristics of Early and Late Transition Metals in Olefin Polymerization/Oligomerization Catalysis

## Catalysts for Polymerization

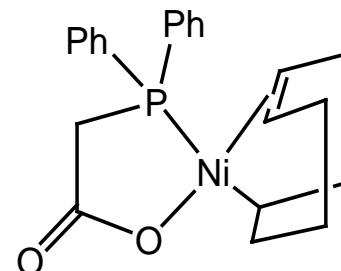
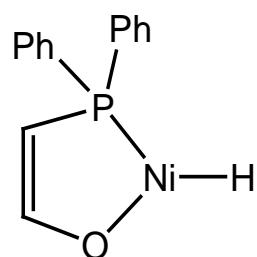


d- $\sigma^*$  Interaction  
Stabilizing factor

Ti(IV), Zr(IV), V(V): d<sup>0</sup>

Dynamically stable

## Catalysts for Oligomerization



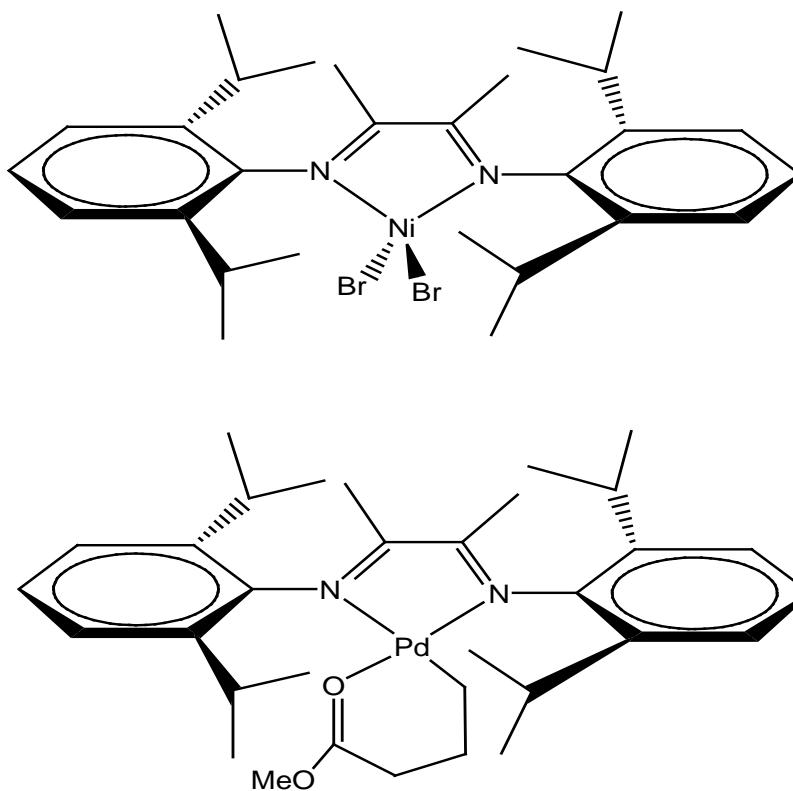
$\beta$ -elimination favored for Ni, yielding short chains

Late Transition Metal: Ni(II) d<sup>8</sup>

lower E<sub>a</sub> for  $\beta$ -Elimination

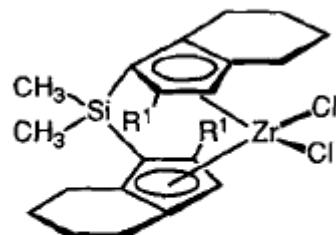
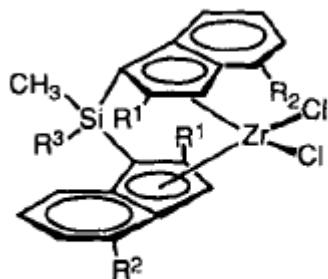
Shell Higher Olefin Process(SHOP)

# Bulky diimine groups impede the $\beta$ -Elimination



L.K.Johnson,C.M.Killian, and M. Brookhart,*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*,**1995**,*117*,6414

# • Electronic Effect of $\beta$ -Elimination



Catalyst (+ MAO)	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	Activity [ $\frac{\text{kg PP}}{\text{mmol cat. h}}$ ]	$M_w$ [ $10^3 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ]
<i>Indenyl type</i>					
<b>2a</b>	H	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	60	60
<b>2a'</b> [a]	H	H	H	2	350
<b>2b</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	40	340
<b>2c</b>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	30	370
<b>2d</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	i-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	105	460
<b>2e</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	35	450
<i>Tetrahydroindenyl type</i>					
<b>3a</b>	H			35	32
<b>3b</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>			10	65

[a] For comparison with **2a**, the hafnocene derivative with the same structural formula, **2a'**, has been listed.

Spaleck, W.; Antberg, M.; Rohrmann, J.; Winter, A.; Bachmann, B.; Kiprof, P.; Behm, J.; Herrmann, W. A. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1992**, 31, 1347-1350.

## • Effect of Metal

Bond Energy of M-C and M-H

3rd row > 4th row > 5th row

1,2-insertion :

Ti < Zr < Hr        Ni < Pb < Pt

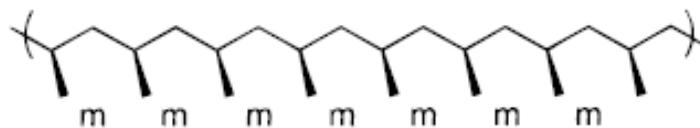
$\beta$ -Elimination:

Ti > Zr > Hr        Ni > Pb > Pt

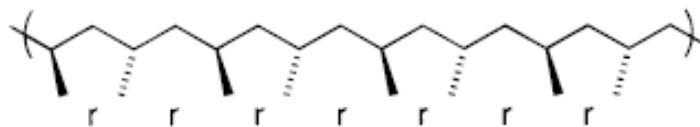
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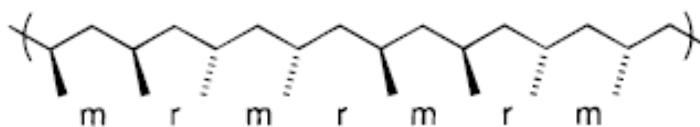
# Designation of polymer stereotype



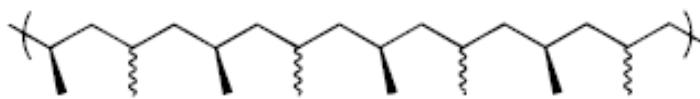
Isotactic



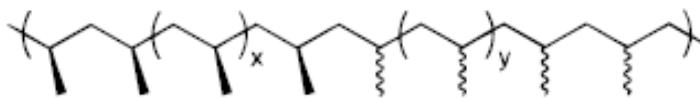
Syndiotactic



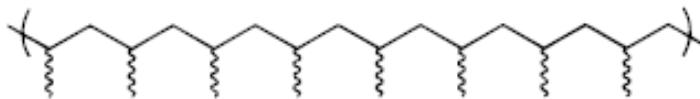
Heterotactic



Hemisotactic



Isotactic-Atactic  
Stereoblock



Atactic

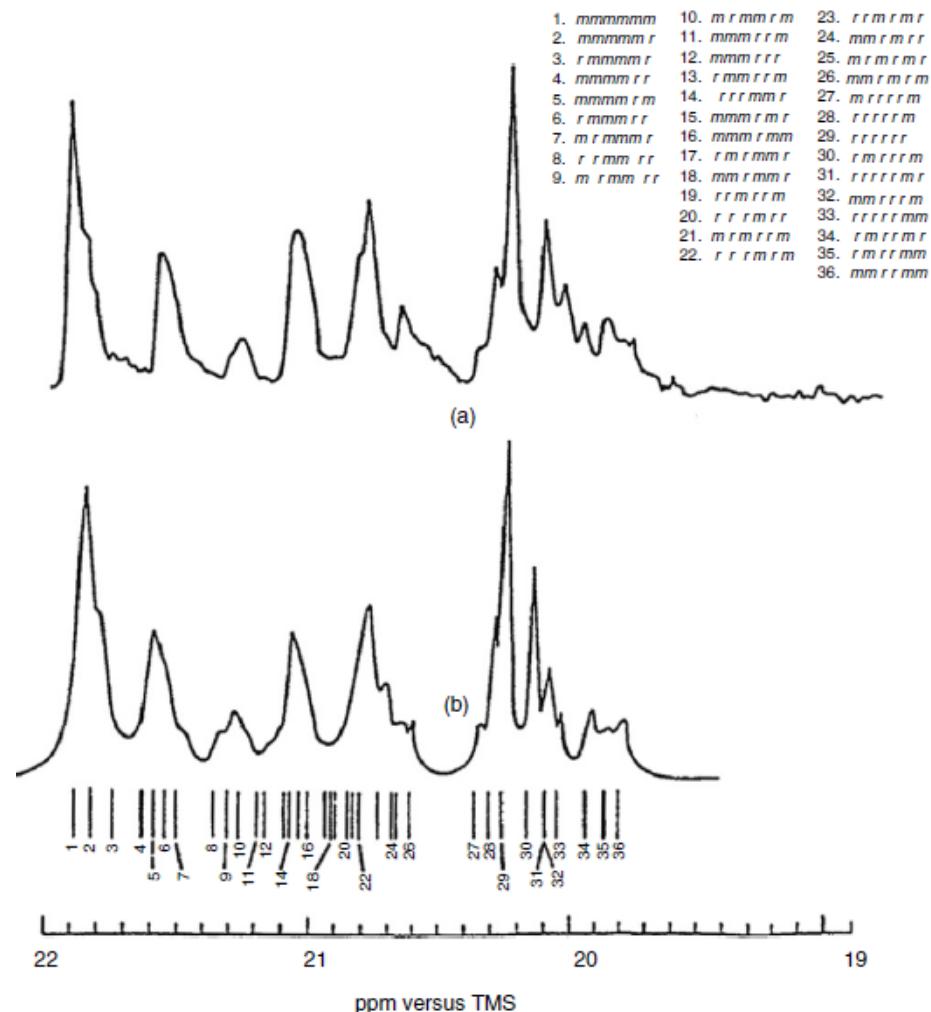
"m" for meso

"r" for racemic

# • Characterization of tacticity

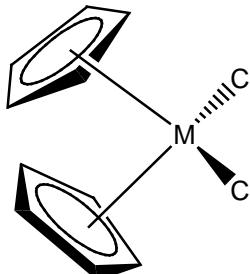
Method:

- solubility
- X-ray diffraction
- IR spectroscopy
- thermal properties
- NMR (Most Important)

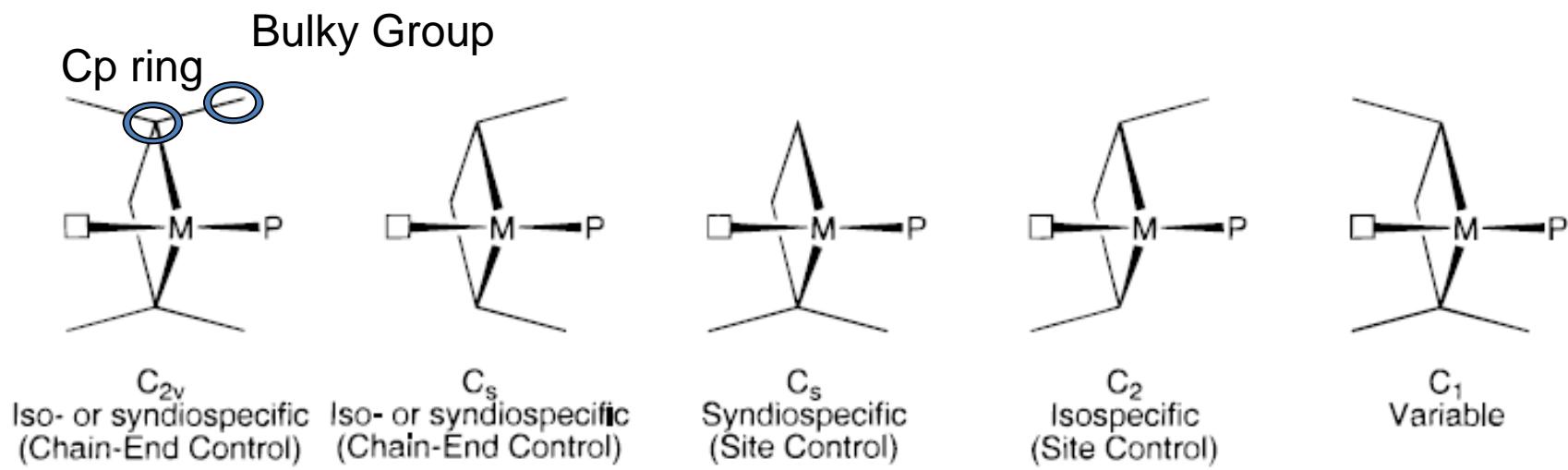


(a) methyl region of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of atactic polypropylene  
(b) Simulated  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum by using  $\gamma$ -gauche effect

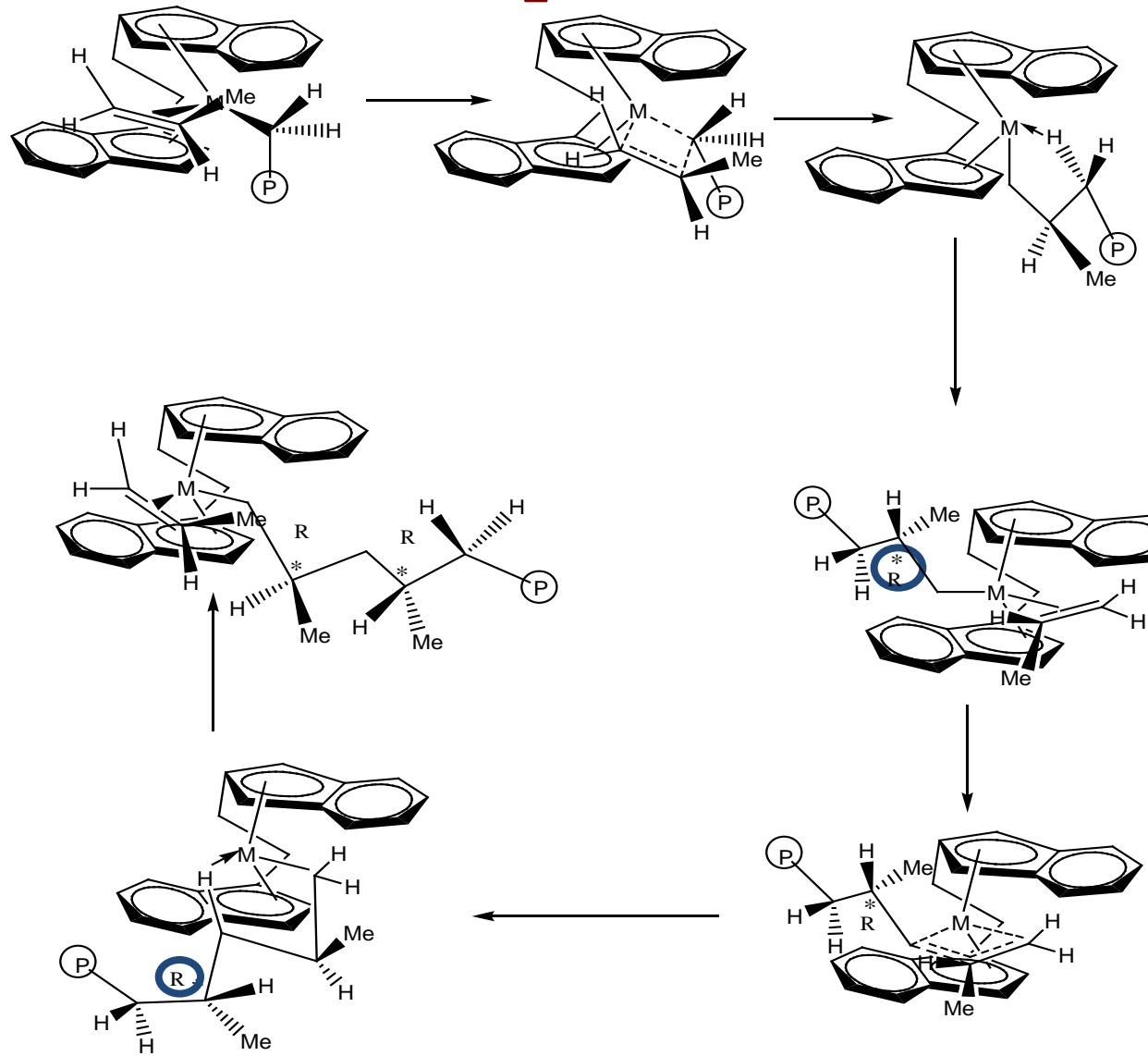
# Isotactic Polymerization

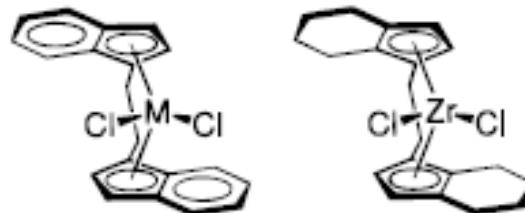
- $C_{2v}$  :  $Cp_2MCl_2$  only atactic polypropylene or End Control  $Cp_2TiPh_2$ ;  $(iPrCp)_2TiCl_2$   
  
isotactic or syndiotactic  
(temperature dependent)
- $C_2$  Catalysts most successful :  
Ligand with a bridging group  
--rigid structure

# Five Main Symmetry Catagories of Single-site Polymerization Catalysts



# Mechanism of C<sub>2</sub> Catalysts

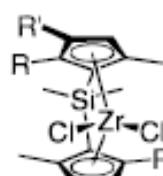




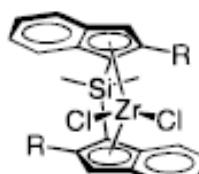
5; M = Ti

6; M = Zr

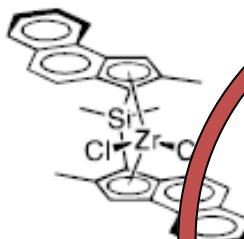
7; M = Hf



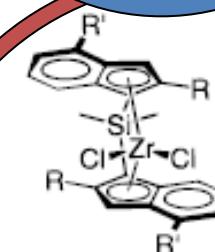
9; R = H, R' = <sup>1</sup>B  
10; R, R' = Me



11; R = H  
12; R = Me



13



14; R = Me, R' = <sup>1</sup>Pr

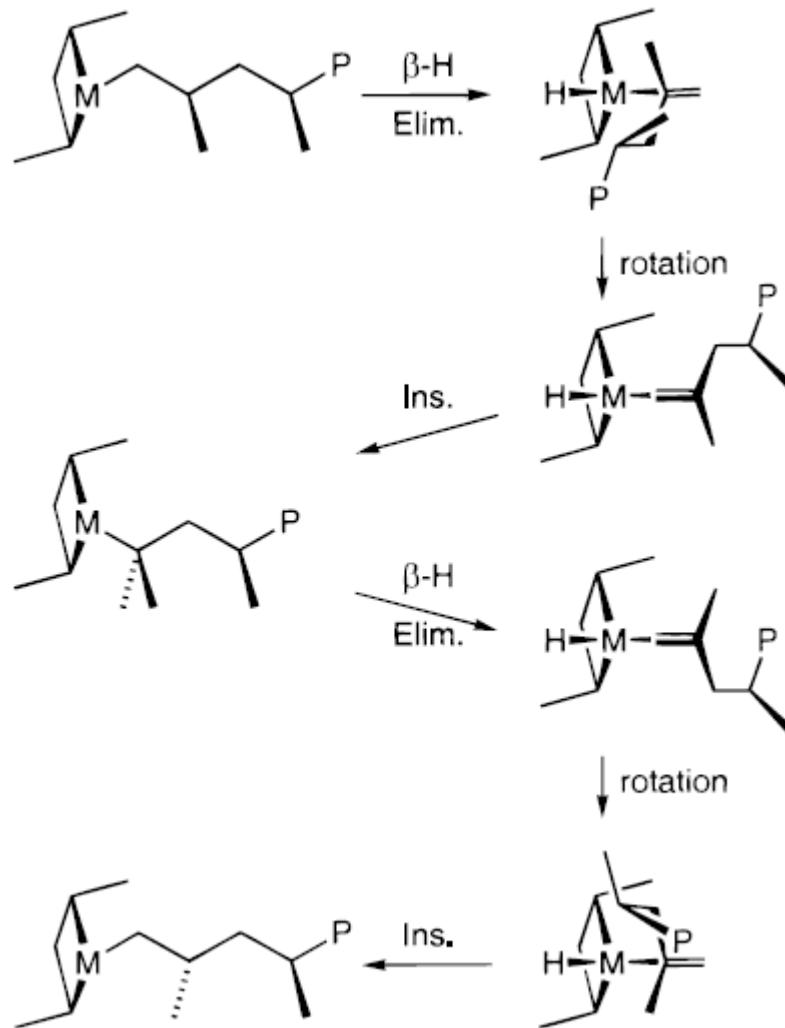
15; R = Me, R' = 1-Naphthyl

16; R = <sup>1</sup>Pr, R' = 9-Phenanthryl

**Table 1. Polymerization of Propylene with Bridged, *C*<sub>2</sub>-Symmetric Zirconocene Catalysts<sup>a</sup>**

metallocene	productivity <sup>b</sup>	T <sub>m</sub> (°C)	M <sub>w</sub>	[mmmm]
6	188	132	24 000	0.78
9	5 <sup>c</sup>	149	4 000	0.97
10	1.6 <sup>d</sup>	162	134 000	0.977
11	190	137	36 000	0.82
12	99	145	195 000	0.88
13	403	146	330 000	0.89
14	245	150	213 000	0.89
15	875	161	920 000	0.991
16	47	160	400 000	0.992

- Stereoerror:



Geoffrey W. Coates, *Chem. Rev.* **2000**, 100, 1223-1252 1226,1227

Busico, V.; Brita, D.; Caporaso, L.; Cipullo, R.; Vacatello, M. *Macromolecules* **1997**, 30, 3971-3977.

## Strategies for modifying bridged metallocene structure:

- Modification of bridge:

Si , P , B Bridged catalysts

- Modification of metallocene ligands

Substitution and derivatives of Cp rings

- Variation of the activator

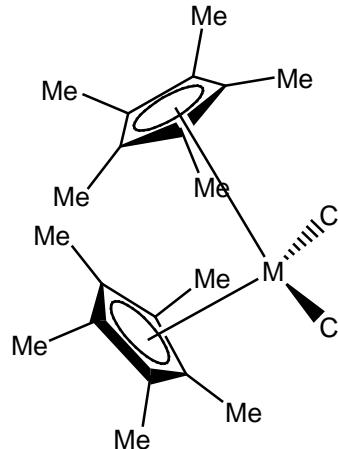
Bu<sub>3</sub>Al with [PhNHMe<sub>2</sub>][B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]

# Syndiotactic Polymerization

- $C_{2v}$ :  $Cp^*{}_2MCl_2$  ( $M=Zr, Hf$ )

Syndiotactic polymer

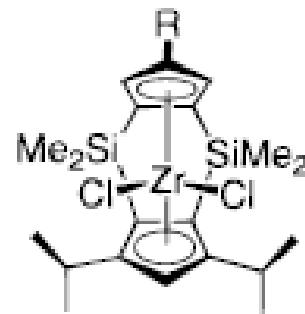
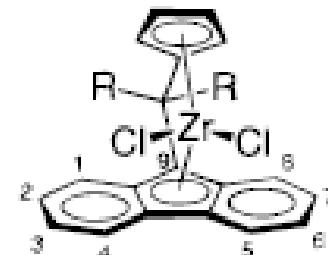
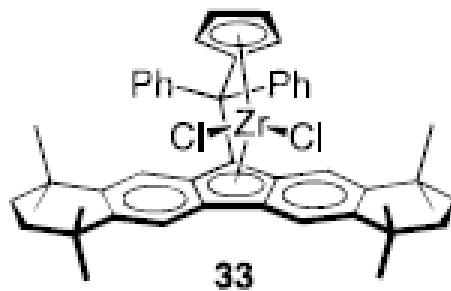
2 kcal/mol preference for syndiotactic versus isotactic



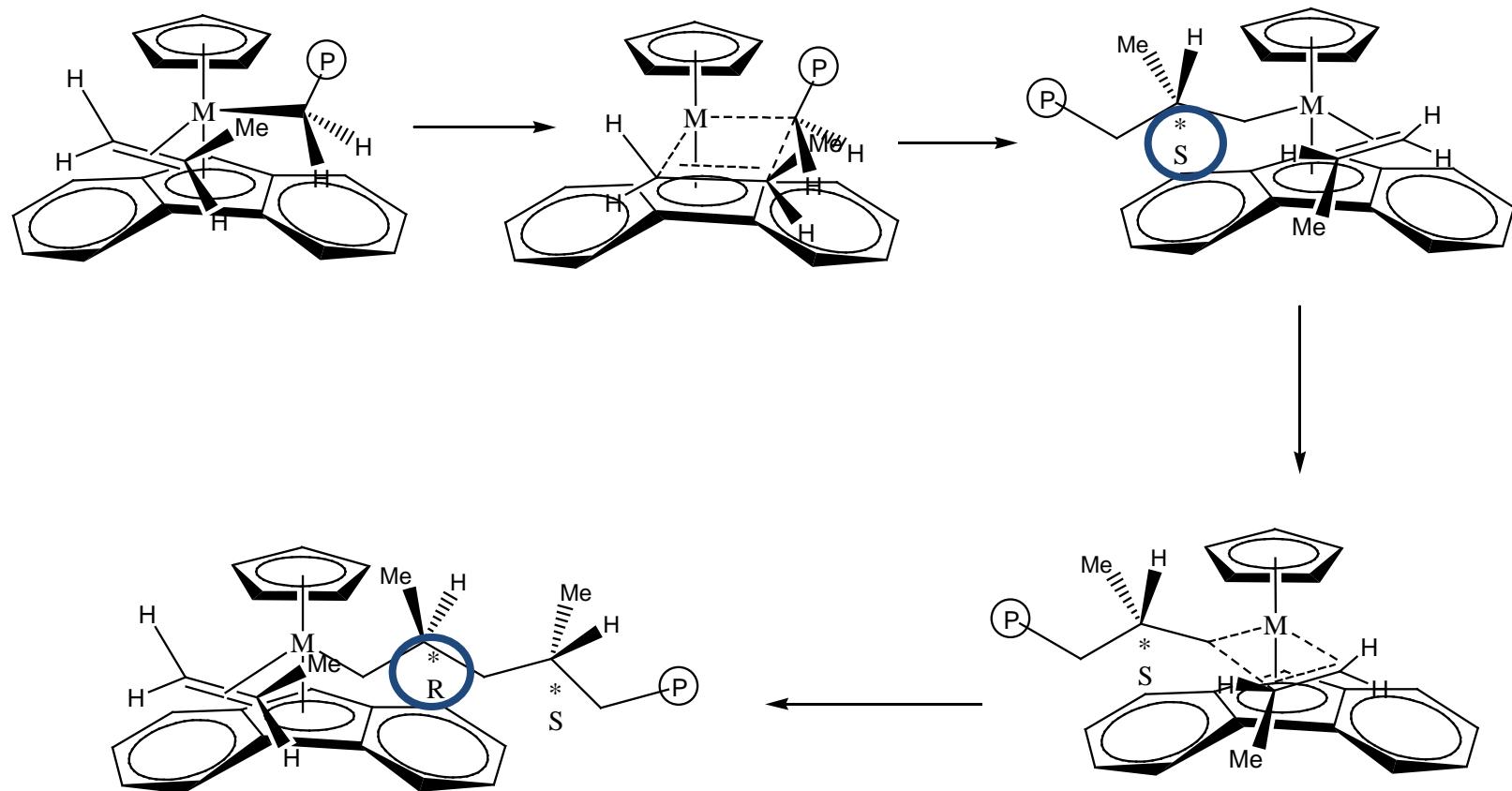
- $C_s$  Catalysts : Regularly alternating insertion of olefins at the enantiotopic sites

Resconi, L.; Abis, L.; Franciscono, G. *Macromolecules* **1992**, 25, 6814-6817.

# Examples of C<sub>s</sub> Catalysts

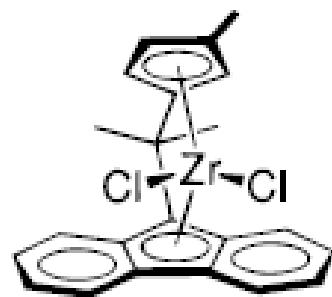


# Mechanism of C<sub>s</sub> Catalysts



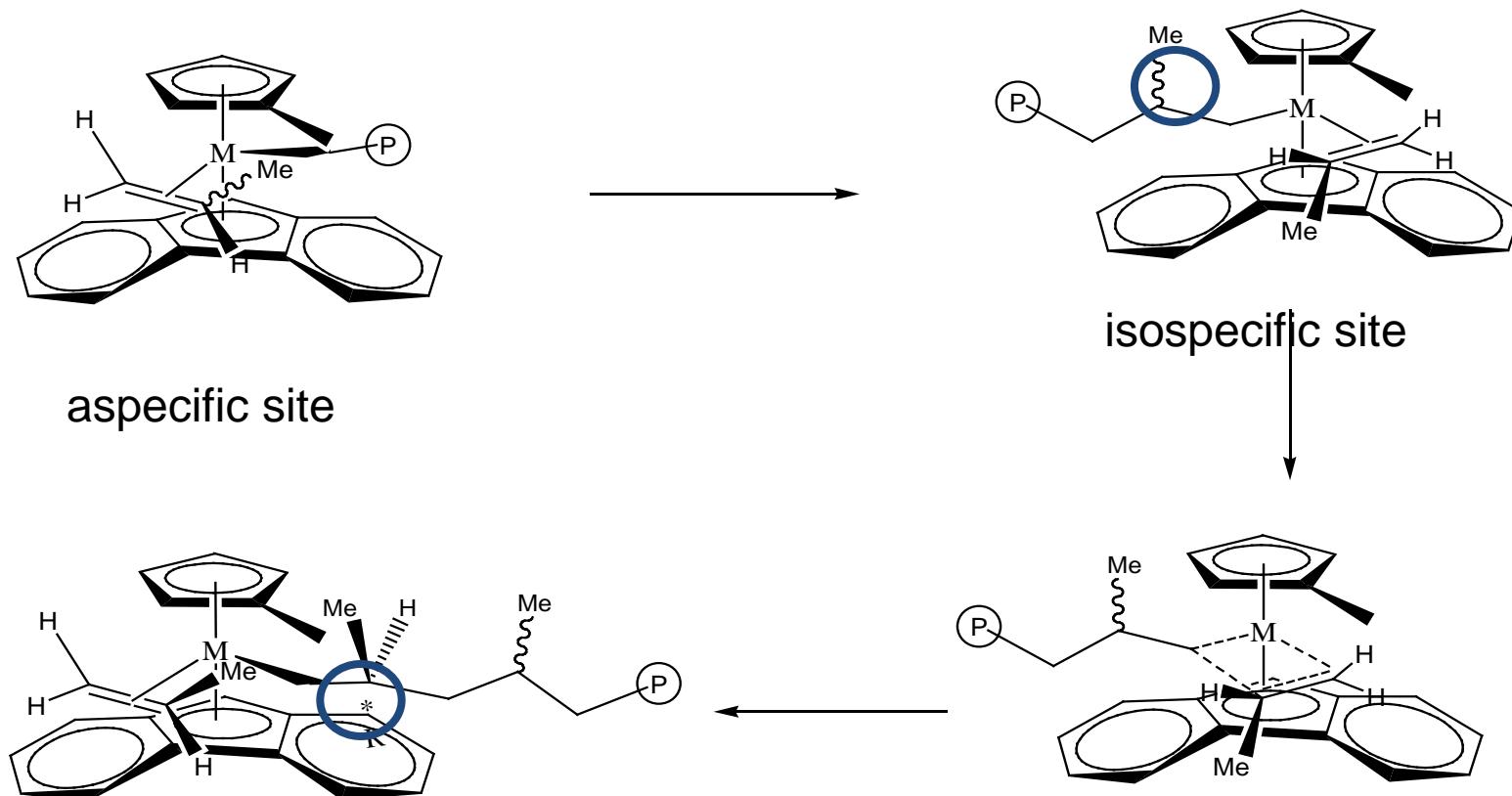
# Hemiasiotactic Polymerization

- C<sub>1</sub> Catalysts :

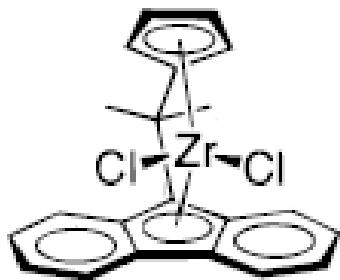


Two Different Coordination Sites  
One isospecific site, One aspecific site

# Mechanism of C<sub>1</sub> Catalysts for Hemiisotactic Polymer

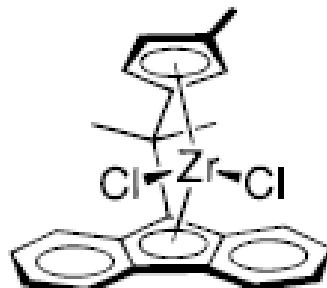


# Influence of substituent



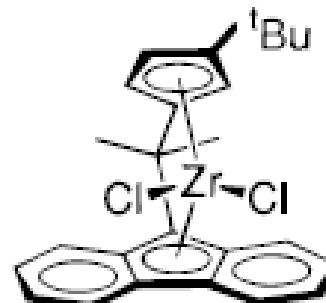
$C_s$

Syndiotactic



$C_1$

Hemiisotactic



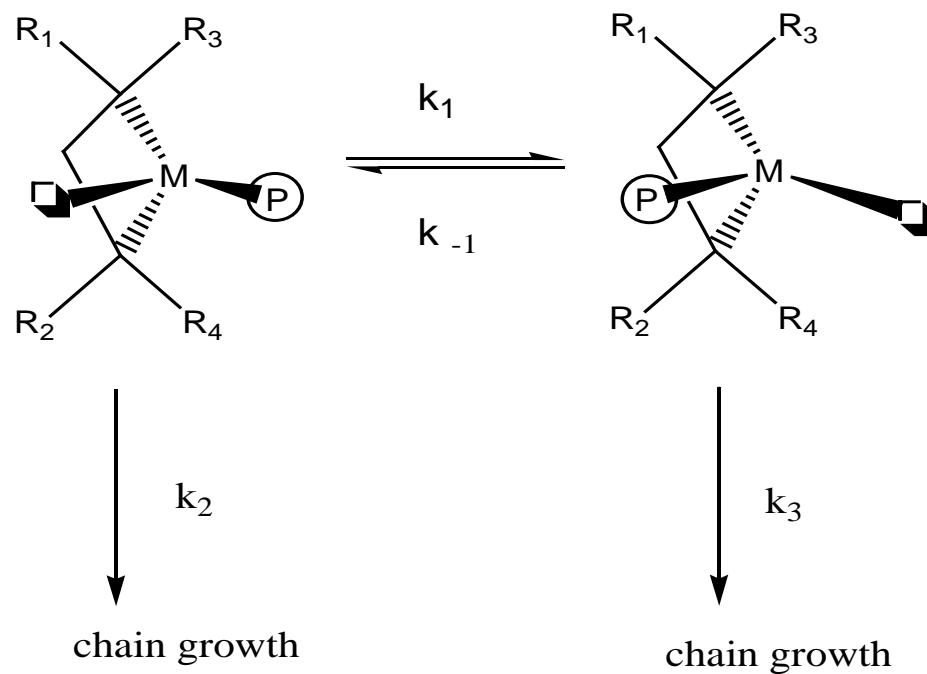
$C_1$

Isotactic

Ewen, J. A.; Jones, R. L.; Razavi, A.; Ferrara, J. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1988**, 110, 6255-6256.

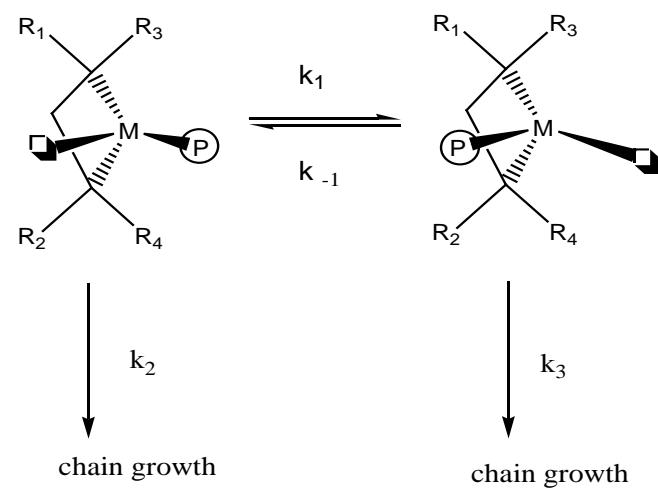
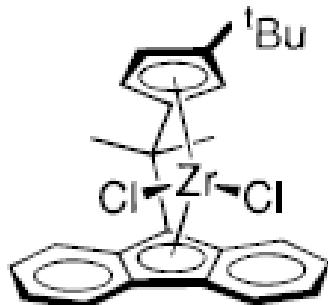
Ewen, J. A.; Elder, M. J.; Jones, R. L.; Haspeslagh, L.; Atwood, J. L.; Bott, S. G.; Robinson, K. *Makromol. Chem., Macromol. Symp.* **1991**, 48-9, 253-295.

# Site Epimerization



# Site Epimerization Induced Isotactic polymerization

One site has very bulky groups  
(for example R3,R4),  $k_1 \ll k_{-1}$   
the other is stereospecific.

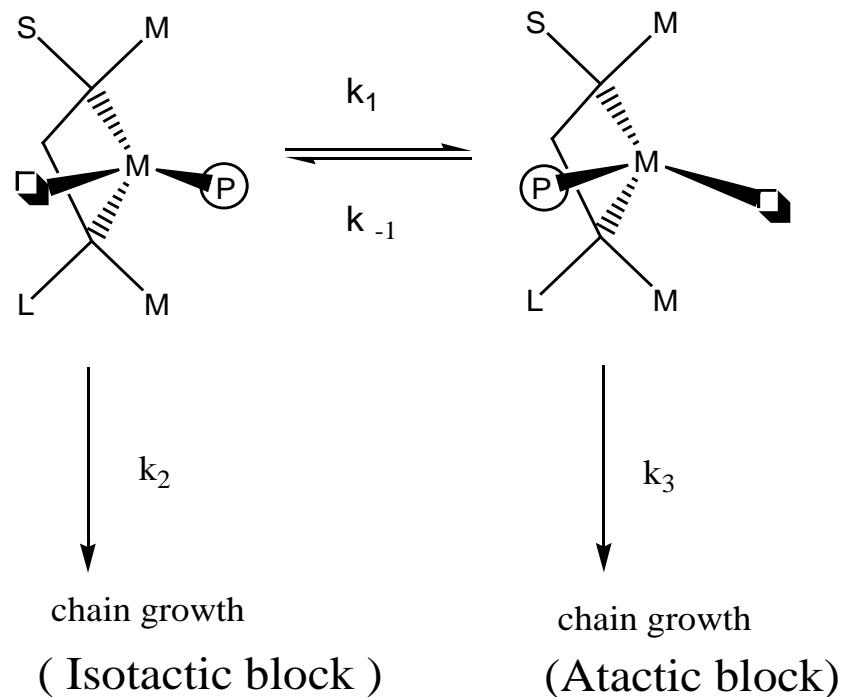
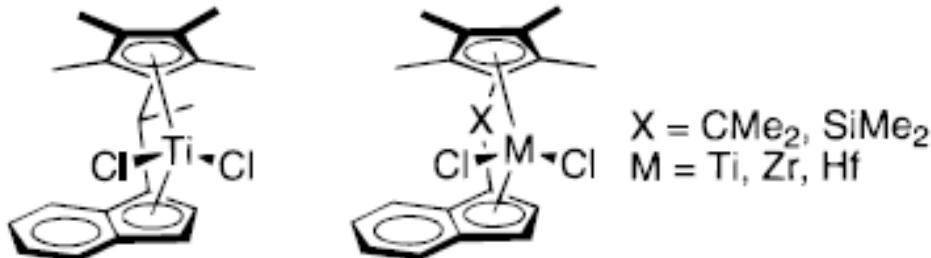


Ewen, J. A.; Elder, M. J.; Jones, R. L.; Haspeslagh, L.; Atwood, J. L.; Bott, S. G.; Robinson, K. *Makromol. Chem., Macromol. Symp.* **1991**, 48-9, 253-295.

Ewen, J. A.; Elder, M. J. *Makromol. Chem., Macromol. Symp.* **1993**, 66, 179-190

# Stereoblock Polymerization

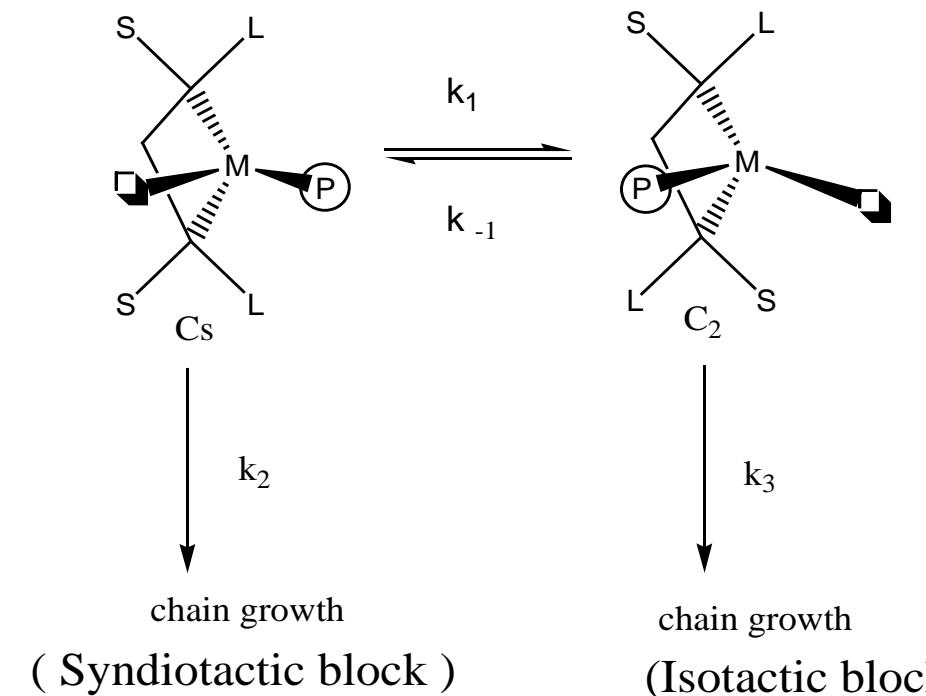
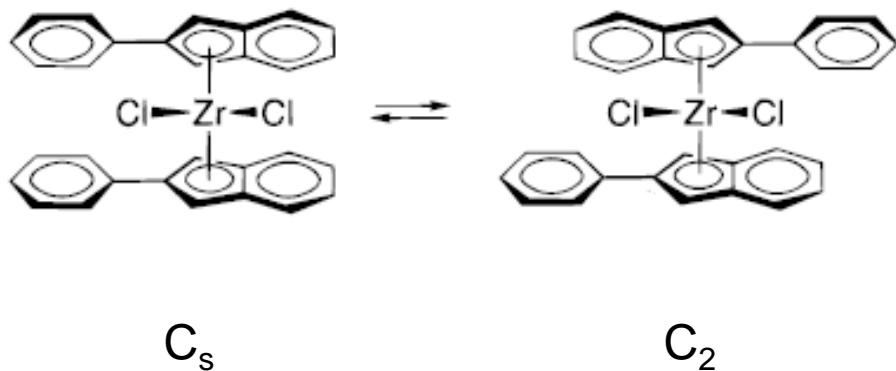
- $k_1$  and  $k_{-1}$  are large; sites exchange rapidly
- $k_2, k_3 \ll k_1, k_{-1}$
- Sensitive to the reaction temperature



Gauthier, W. J.; Corrigan, J. F.; Taylor, N. J.; Collins, S. *Macromolecules* **1995**, 28, 3771-3778.

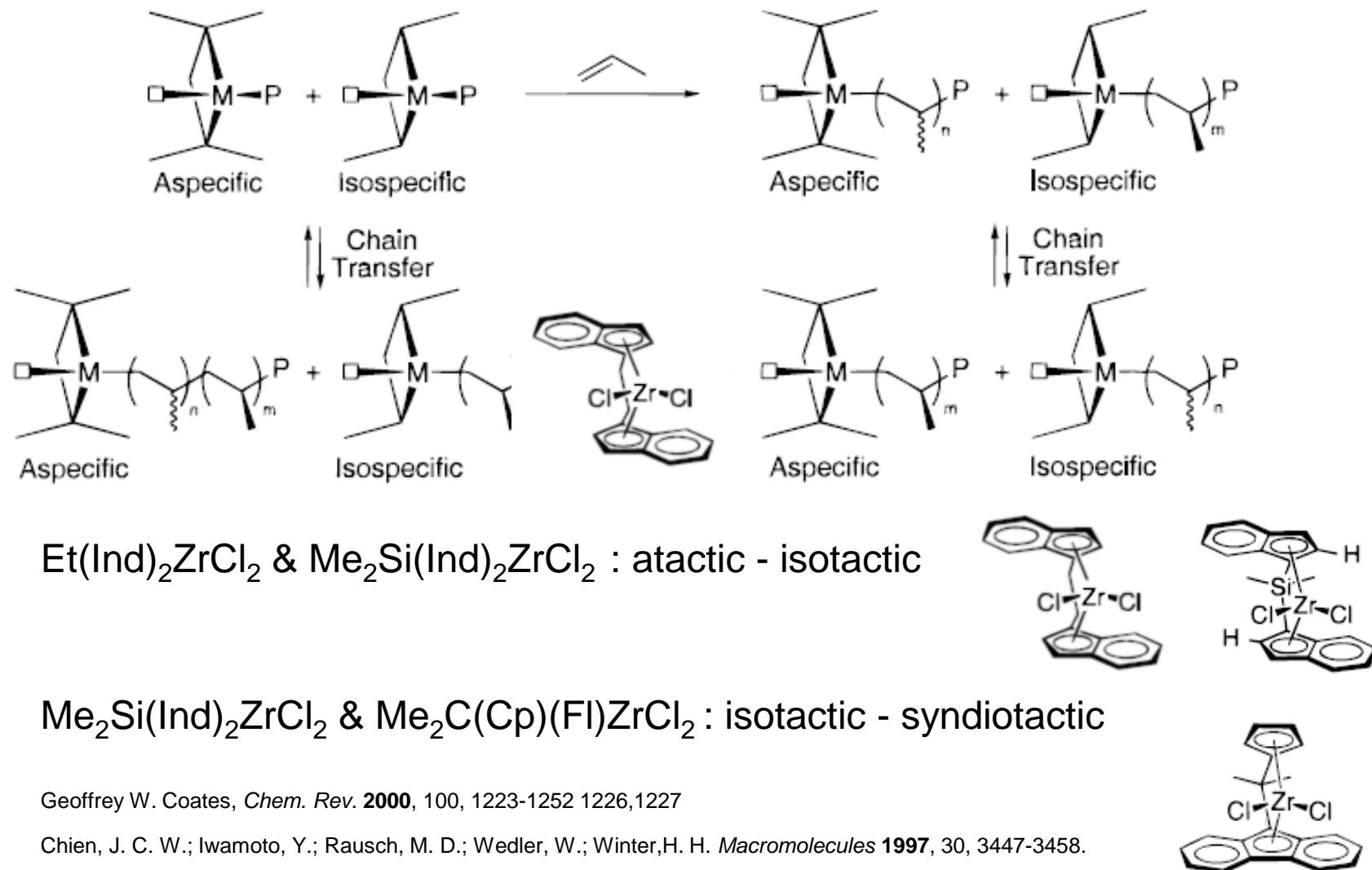
Mallin, D. T.; Rausch, M. D.; Lin, Y. G.; Dong, S.; Chien, J. C.W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, 112, 2030-2031.

## • Oscillating Catalysts



Coates, G. W.; Waymouth, R. M. *Science* **1995**, 267, 217-219.

# • Chain Transfer



# Conclusion

- Polymers play an important part in our daily lives. Various methodologies make it possible to synthesize polymers with different properties and functions. Coordination polymerization, especially Ziegler- Natta catalysis, dominates the olefin polymerization industry.
- Ziegler-Natta catalysts can be categorized into heterogenous and homogenous by their form in catalysis process. The heterogenous one is widely used in industry while the homogenous one, single site catalysts , are intensely investigated for the clarity of mechanism and development of strategies to modulate the properties of catalysts and polymers.
- Ziegler-Natta catalysts with different symmetry and ligands enrich the library of stereospecific polymers. Possibility of synthesizing different Ziegler-Natta Catalysts for multifunctional polymers remains to be explored.

Thanks for your attention!

Questions?