



# Copper(I) Catalyzed [3+2] Cycloaddition Reaction with Mechanistic Disparity: A DFT Study

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<http://youtu.be/OAXBKoUjbG8>

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# Introducing myself



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*Supervisor/s*



Dr Lydia Rhyman

# Presentation overview

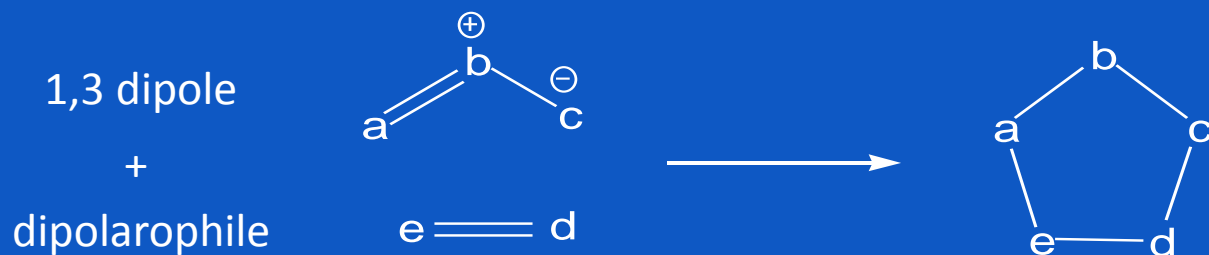
1. Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction
2. Limitations of uncatalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction
3. Catalytic [3+2] cycloaddition reaction
4. Interplay between experiment and theory
5. Transition metal catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction
6. Copper(I) catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction
7. Conclusions
8. Acknowledgements

# 1. Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

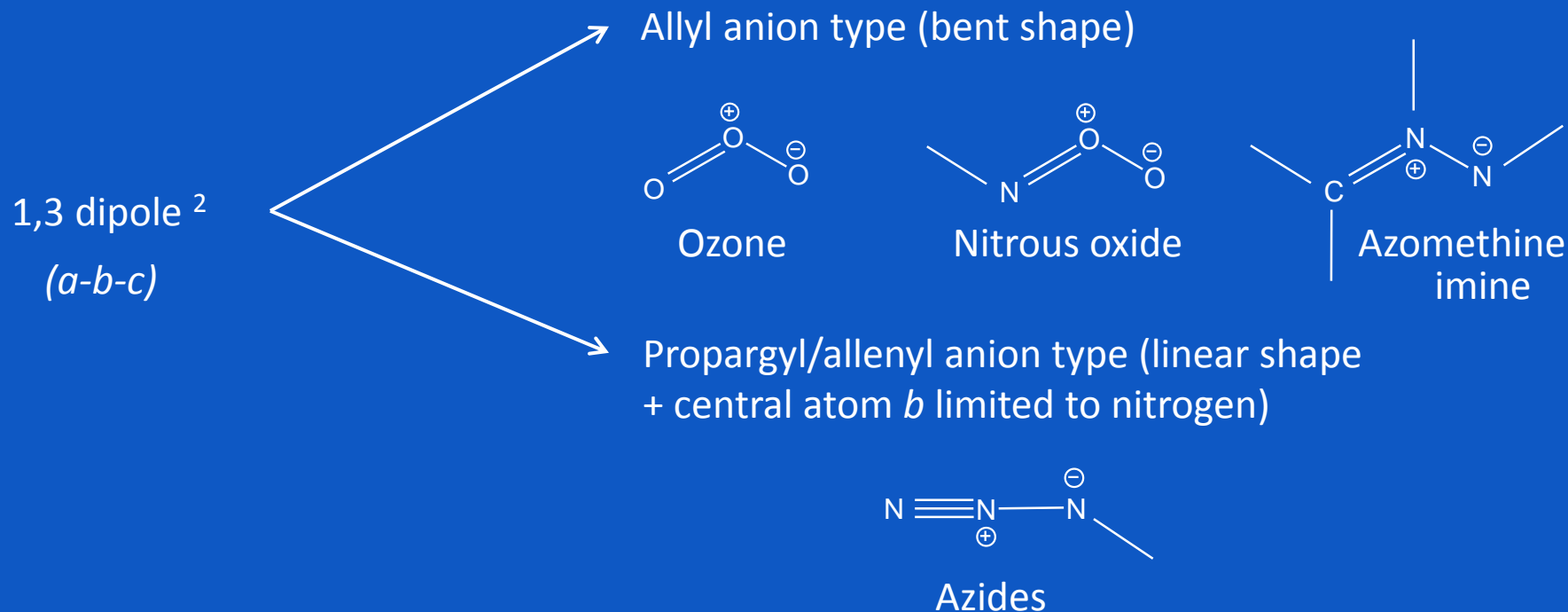
[3+2] Cycloaddition (32CA) reaction:

- Union of a dipole and a dipolarophile to yield a five membered cyclic compound.
- Formation of two new  $\sigma$ -bonds at the expense of two  $\pi$ -bonds. <sup>1</sup>

*In the 1960's, Prof Rolf Huisgen established the general application of 32CA reactions in organic chemistry. <sup>2</sup>*



# 1. Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction



*“1,3 dipoles range from the familiar atmospheric components such as ozone and nitrous oxides to the synthetically valuable azides of click chemistry fame.”<sup>3</sup>*

## 2. Limitations of the uncatalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

Thermal unactivated 32CA : *methyl azide + propyne*

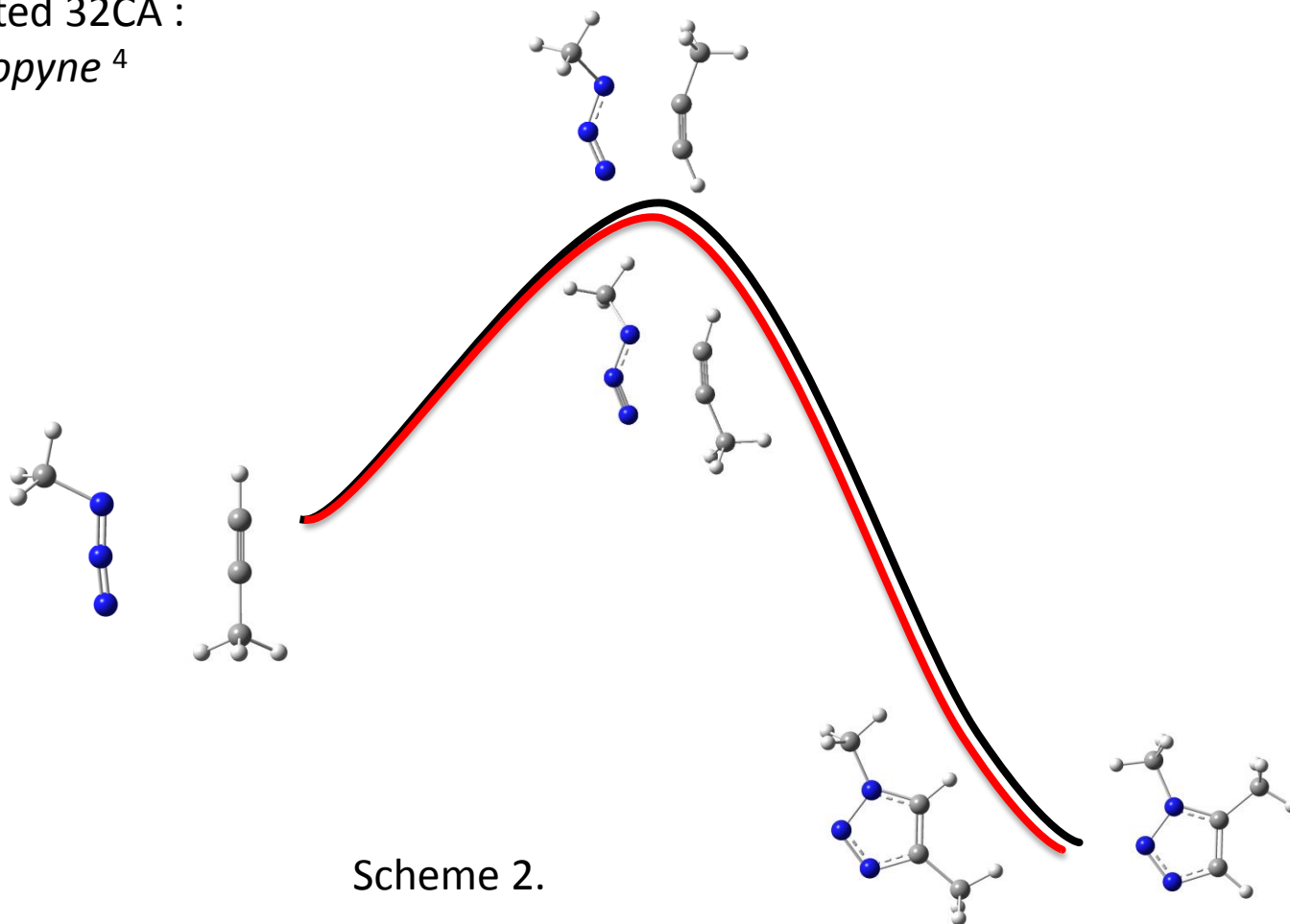
Limitations:

- Slow 32CA reaction , even at elevated temperatures (80-120°C for 12-24h).
- High activation barrier (ca. 25-26 kcal/mol) with respect to the activated 32CA reaction.
- Mixture of regioisomers (as illustrated in Scheme 2) due to the presence of unsymmetrical substituted alkyne. <sup>4</sup>

[4] Liu, P. N.; Li, J.; Su, F. H.; Ju, K. D.; Zhang, L.; Shi, C.; Sung, H. H. Y.; Williams, I. D.; Fokin, V. V.; Lin, Z.; Jia, G. *Organometallics* **2012**, 31, 4904-4915 (and references therein).

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## 2. Limitations of the uncatalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

Without activators/catalyst:

1,3 dipole + dipolarophile  $\rightarrow$  NO CYCLOADDUCT/S<sup>5</sup>

Example: Reaction of an azomethine imine + a phenylacetylene (see scheme 3)<sup>6</sup>

**Table 2. Optimization of Reaction Conditions**

The reaction scheme shows the reaction of azomethine imine **3a** (with Bn and Ts substituents) and phenylacetylene **6a** to produce two regioisomers, **7a** and **7a'**.

entry	solvent	T (°C)/time (h)	catalyst	base	7a	7a'
1	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	25/24	—	—	0	0
2	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	40/24	—	—	0	0
3	THF	60/24	—	Et <sub>3</sub> N	0	0

Scheme 3.

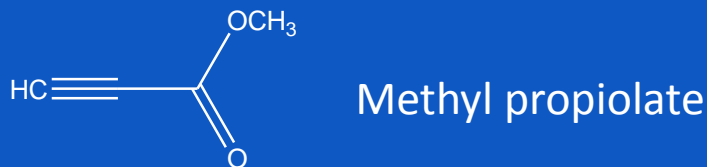
[5] Qi, X.; Ready, J. M. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 3242-3244 (and references therein). [6] Jishkariani, D.; Hall, C. D.; Oliferenko, A. A.; Leino, D.; Katritzky, A. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 5813-5818.



### 3. Catalytic [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

32CA reactions can be activated via various strategies:

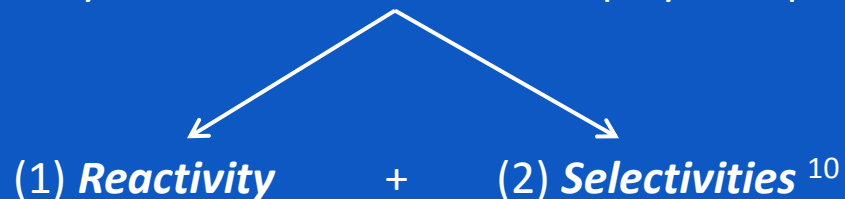
- Conjugation of the dipolarophile unit with electron-withdrawing ester groups.<sup>7</sup>  
(e.g. Propiolates derivatives, ethynyl ketones and ethynyl aldehydes)



- Use of transition metal catalyst.<sup>8</sup>  
(e.g. Gold, silver, palladium, copper, cobalt, ruthenium, nickel)
- Use of organocatalyst.<sup>9</sup>

### 3. Catalytic [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

Catalysis of 32CA reactions displays unique



*The enhanced rate of the concerted/stepwise reaction (1) and the distinct stereoelectronic effect on the reaction pathways (2)*



have initiated extensive studies on **catalytic 32CA reaction mechanisms**.

### 3. Catalytic [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

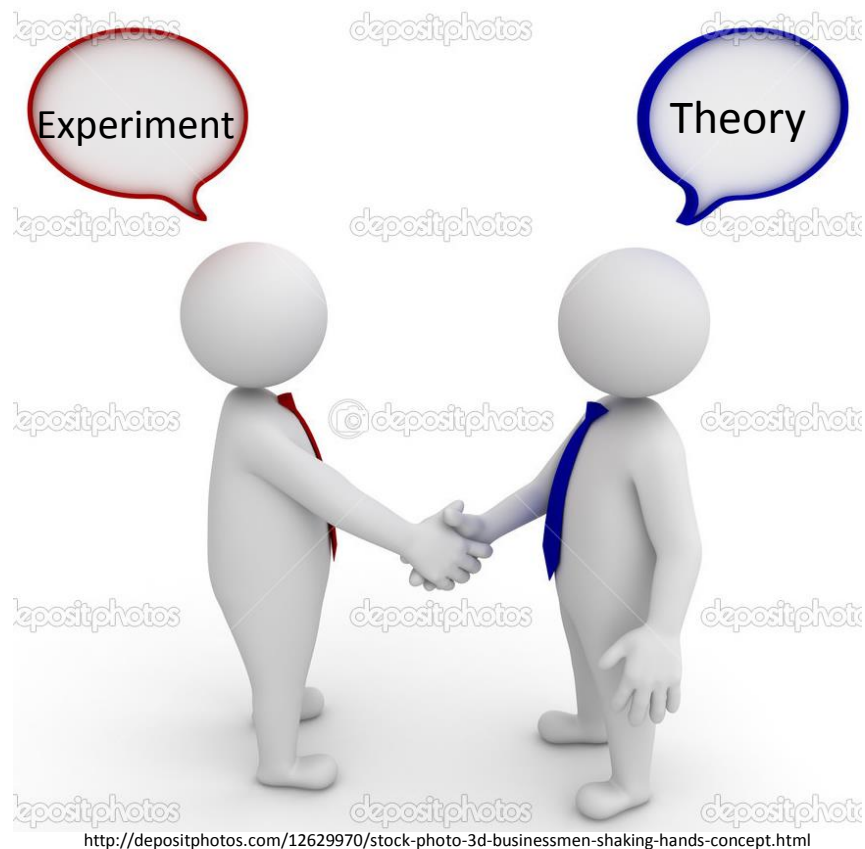
Studies on *catalytic mechanisms of 32CA reactions* are of utmost importance: <sup>11</sup>

- to optimize reaction parameters,
- to develop novel catalytic processes,
- to locate and characterize competitive catalytic pathways, and
- to enhance the understanding of fundamental reactivity.

[11] Worrell, B. T.; Malik, J. A.; Fokin, V. V. *Science* **2013**, *340*, 457-460.

## 4. Interplay between experiment and theory

- The catalytic 32CA reaction mechanisms are dictated by the subtle interplay between the electronic and steric factors.
- Thus, difficult to explain observed reactivities.
- **Quantum chemical computations** comes to the rescue.<sup>12</sup>
- Provides detailed insights into the transition states, intermediates and competing pathways.

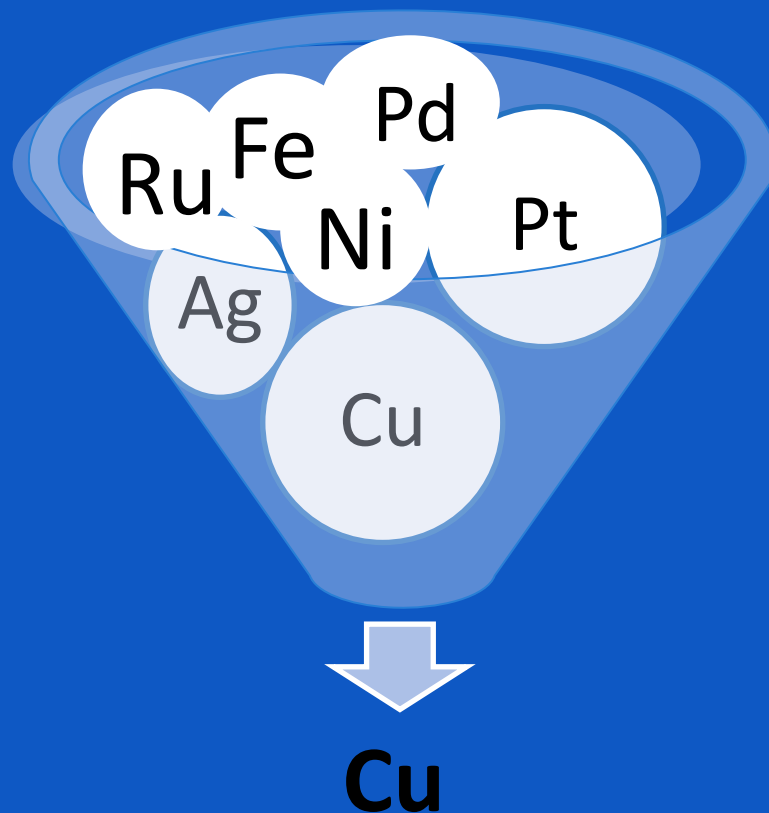


[12] Mörschel, P.; Janikowski, J.; Hilt, G.; Frenking, G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 8952-8966.

## 5. Transition metal catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

To-date, transition metal catalyzed 32CA reaction have received numerous attention from both a synthetic and theoretical point of view.

Yet, a changing trend from the rare and expensive metal catalyst (Pd, Rh, Ru) to the more abundant and cost-effective (Cu, Fe, Ni) ones is being observed .<sup>10,11, 13</sup>



Some transition metals that are involved in catalysis of 32CAs.

## 6. Copper(I) catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

Undeniably, several theoretical and experimental studies have been devoted to copper(I) catalyzed 32CA reactions.<sup>7,14,15</sup>

So far, several copper(I) catalyzed 32CA mechanisms have been postulated.<sup>6,10,16</sup>

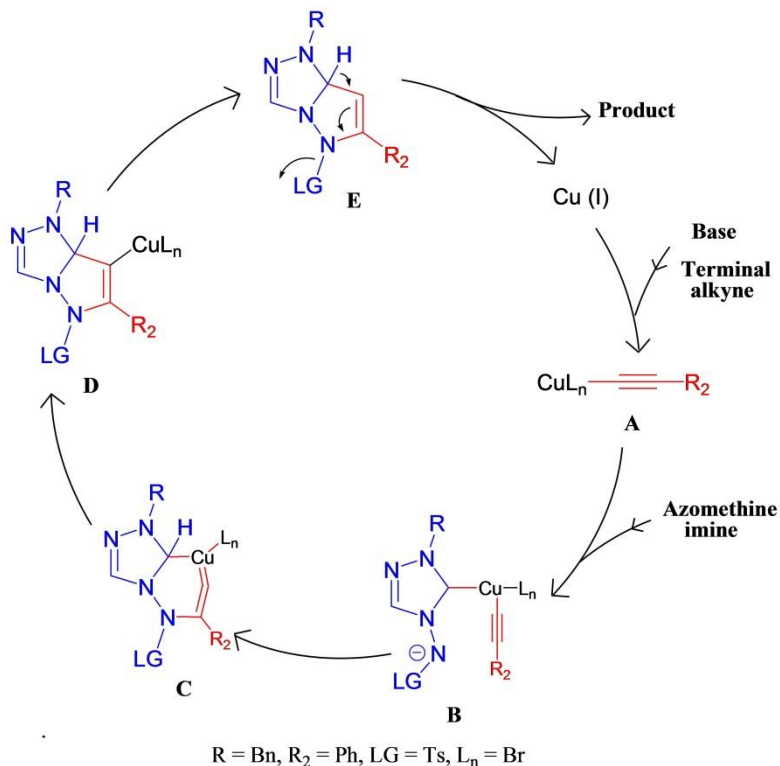
***Among the various postulates present, the mechanism related to the famous copper(I) catalyzed alkyne-azide 32CA click reaction has received widespread attention.<sup>16</sup>***

[6] Jishkariani, D.; Hall, C. D.; Oliferenko, A. A.; Leino, D.; Katritzky, A. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 5813-5818. [7] Kislukhin, A. A.; Hong, V. P.; Breitenkamp, K. E.; Finn, M. G. *Bioconjugate Chem.* **2013**, *24*, 684-689. [14] Struthers, H.; Mindt, T. L.; Schibli, R. *Dalton Trans.* **2010**, *39*, 675-696. [15] Cantillo, D.; Ávalos, M.; Babiano, R.; Cintas, P.; Jiménez, J. L.; Palacios, J. C. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2011**, *9*, 2952-2958. [16] Himo, F.; Lovell, T.; Hilgraf, R.; Rostovtsev, V. V.; Noodleman, L.; Sharpless, K. B.; Fokin, V. V. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 210-216.

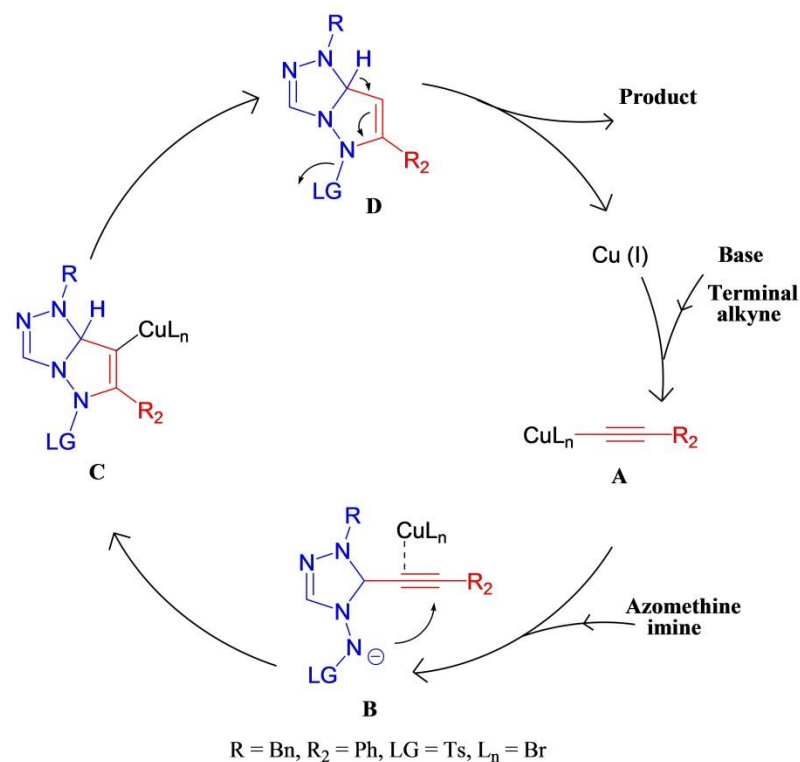
## 6. Copper(I) catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

### Objective:

Compare the click mechanism <sup>16</sup> (Scheme 4) with the recently postulated novel copper(I) catalyzed 32CA mechanism <sup>6</sup> (Scheme 5).



Scheme 4.



Scheme 5.

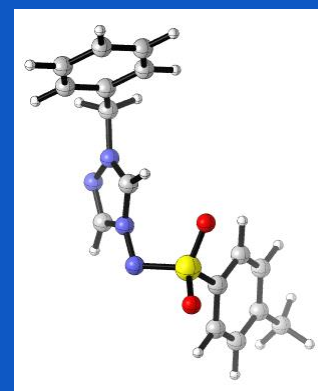
## 6. Copper(I) catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

### Methodology

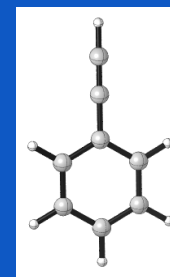
- B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory
- In solvent, DCM: To mimic reaction condition
- IRC computations: To locate all stationary points

### Representative 32CA substrates

- 1,3 dipole: azomethine imine (a)
- Dipolarophile: terminal alkyne (b)



(a)



(b)



## 6. Copper(I) catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction

### Results

- All the TSs connect the minima (reactant, intermediates and product) on the potential energy surface.
- The novel copper(I) catalyzed 32CA reaction has a lower energy barrier than the click mechanism for the reaction of azomethine imine and terminal alkyne considered herein.
- The energy barrier of the click mechanism is higher than that of the uncatalyzed reaction.

## 7. Conclusions

- It can be deduced that the click mechanism is not appropriate for the 32CA reaction of azomethine imine and terminal alkyne.
- The novel copper(I) catalyzed mechanistic postulate is well versed for the reaction of azomethine imine and terminal alkyne.
- This study can further incite experimentalists to isolate and characterize the intermediates.
- *Future work: Study the substitution effect on the 32CA reaction of azomethine imines and terminal alkynes.*

## 8. Acknowledgments

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