



Experimental and Theoretical Investigation of Regioselectivity for a Series of Ketoimines with Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy and Density Functional Theory

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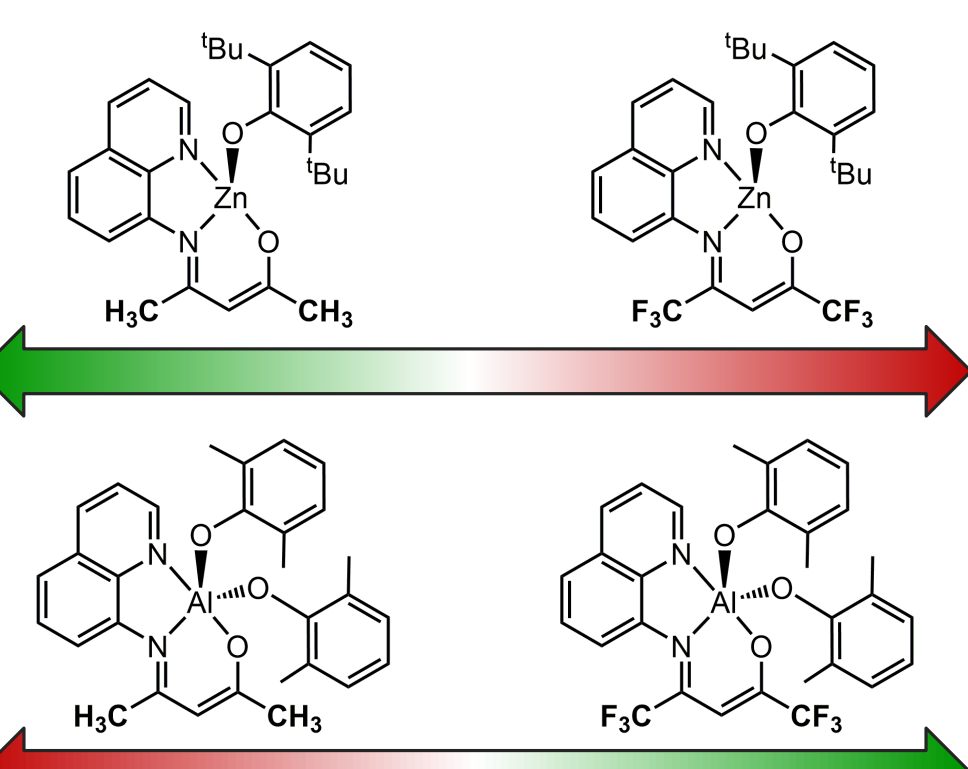
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Biodegradable Plastics & Synthesis

- Seeking to synthesize polymers used in the manufacturing of biodegradable plastics
- Want to synthesize efficient complexes as initiators for polymerization
- Ring-opening polymerization occurs via a coordination-insertion mechanism that is often mediated by inorganic complexes

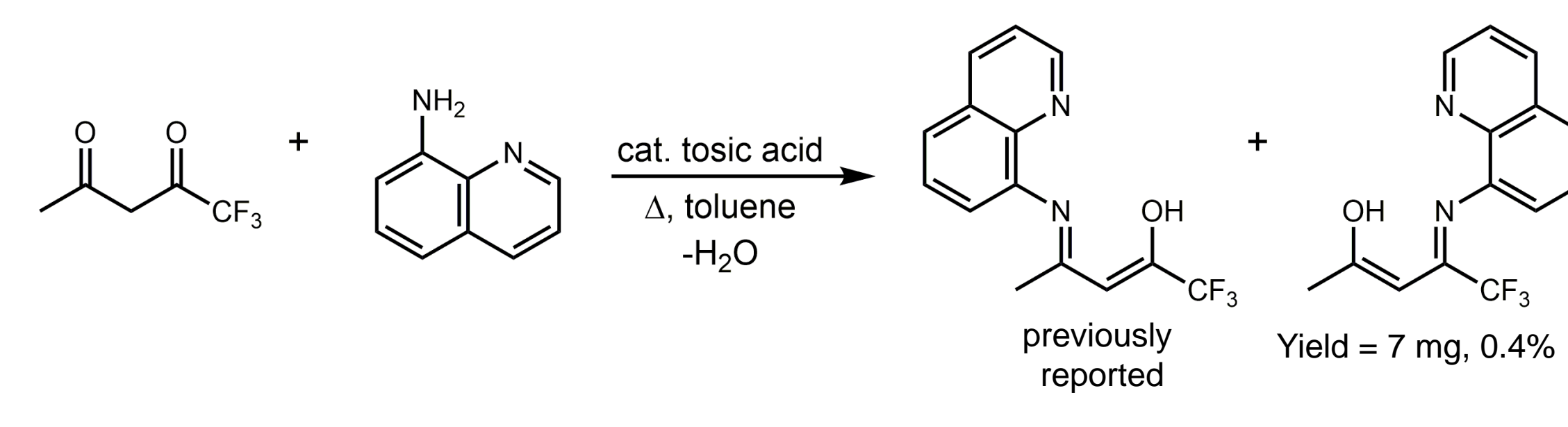


Ring-opening polymerization (ROP) efficiency of initiating complexes for lactide and ϵ -caprolactone varies with the electronic properties of supporting ligand and for the metal center.



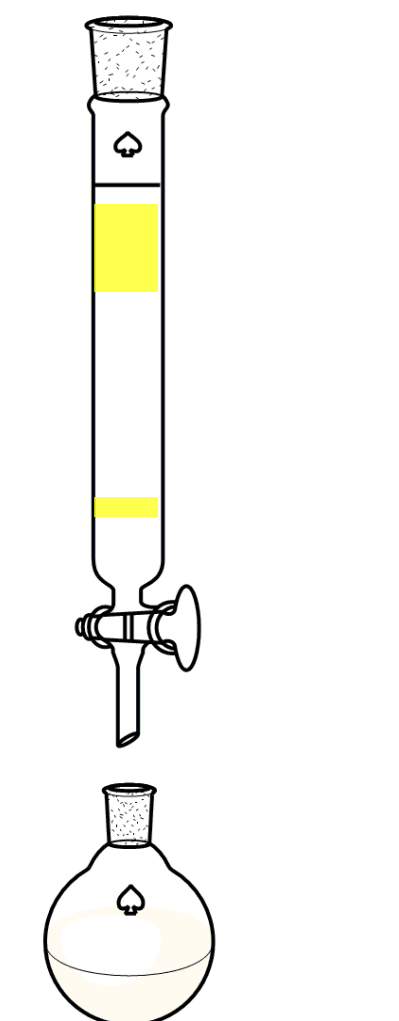
Rezaee, N. M.; Gerling, K. A.; Rheingold, A. L.; Fritsch, J. M. *Dalton Trans.* 2013, 42, 5573. As yet unpublished results.

Synthesis of Additional Regioisomer

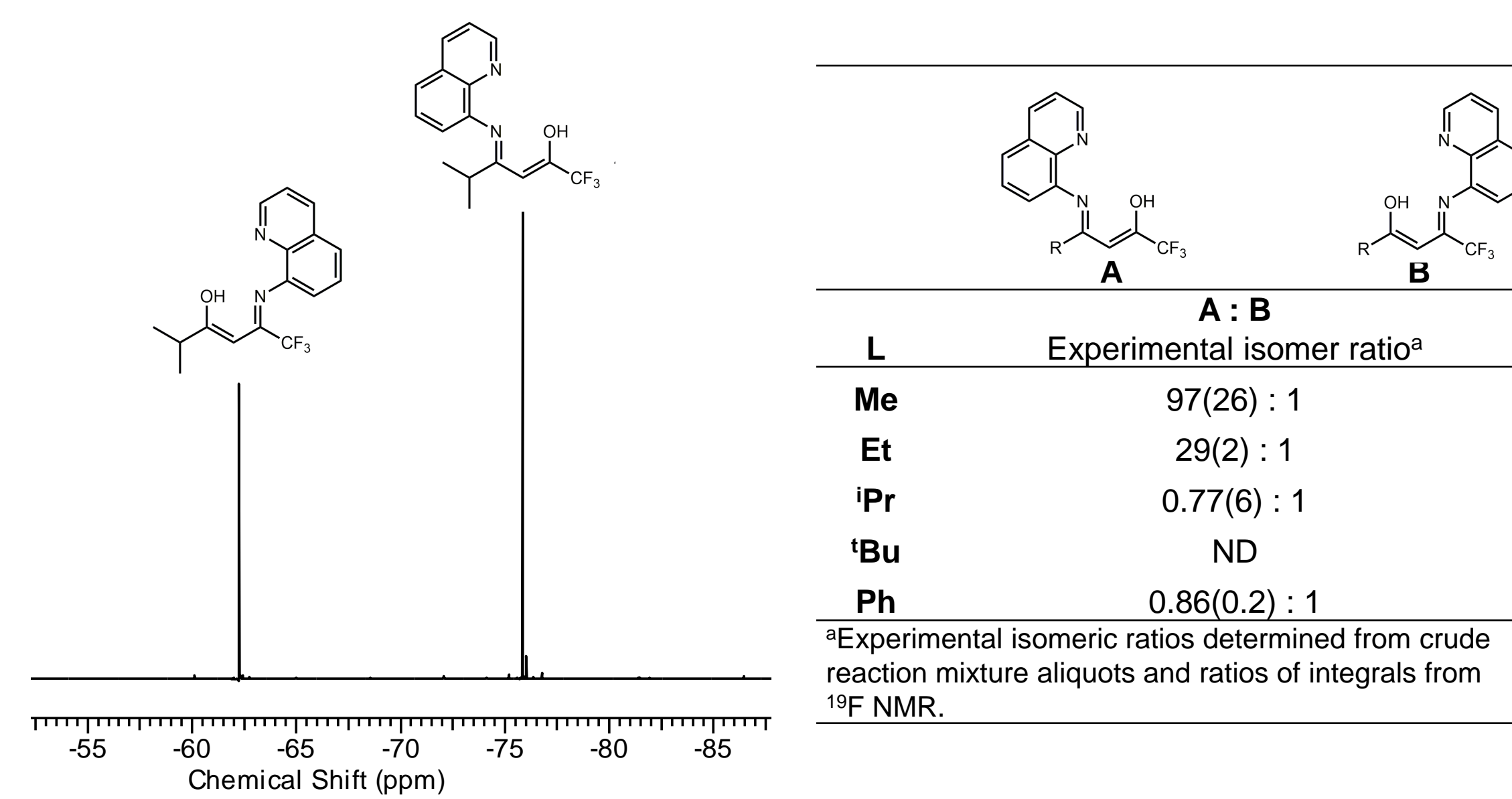
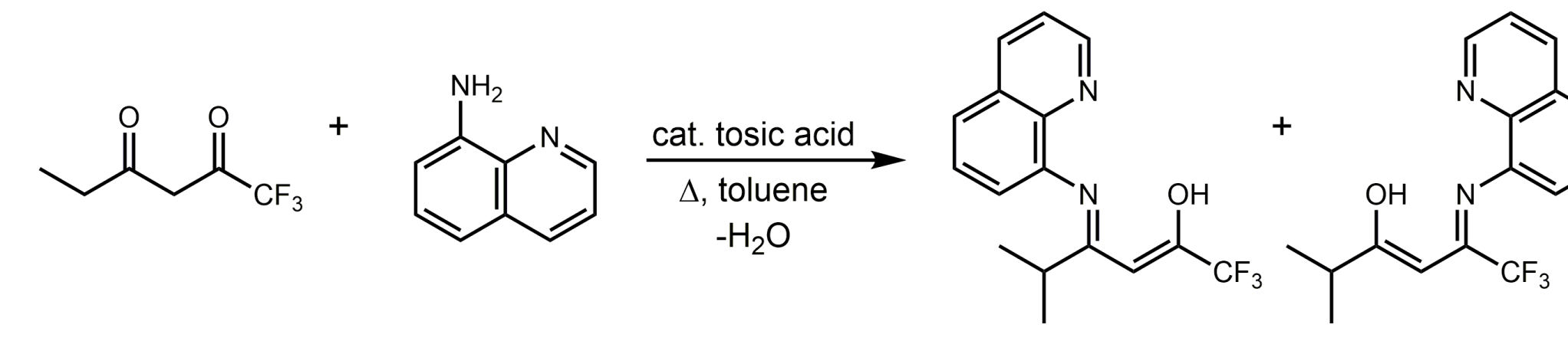


Details

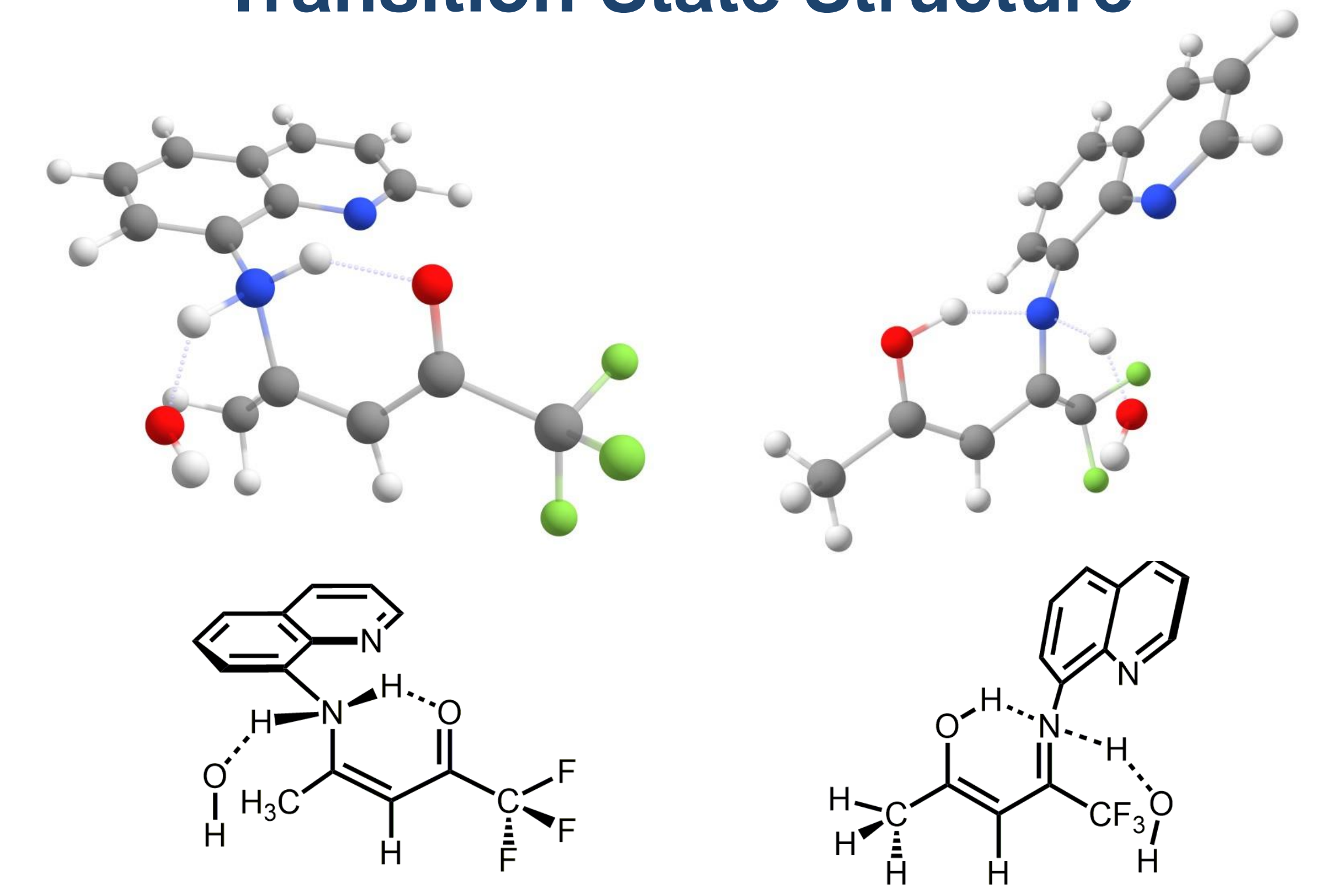
- Dissolved in toluene
- Catalytic tosic acid
- Reaction time extended from 3 h to 18 h
- Isolated with column chromatography (SiO₂, gradient 8:1 Hex : EtOAc to 3:1 Hex : EtOAc 3% Et₃N)



¹⁹F NMR of Reaction Mixtures



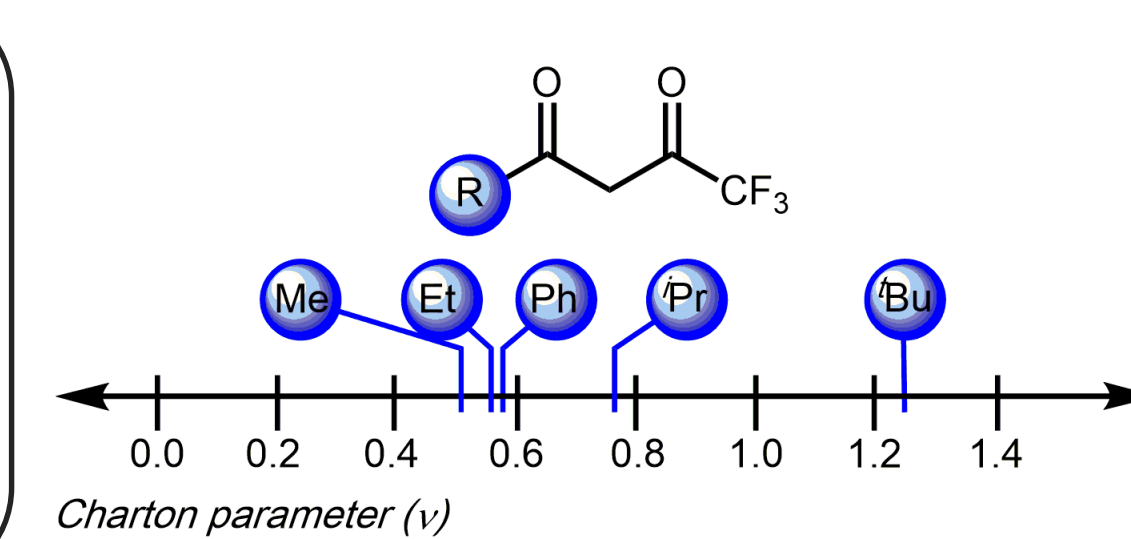
Transition State Structure



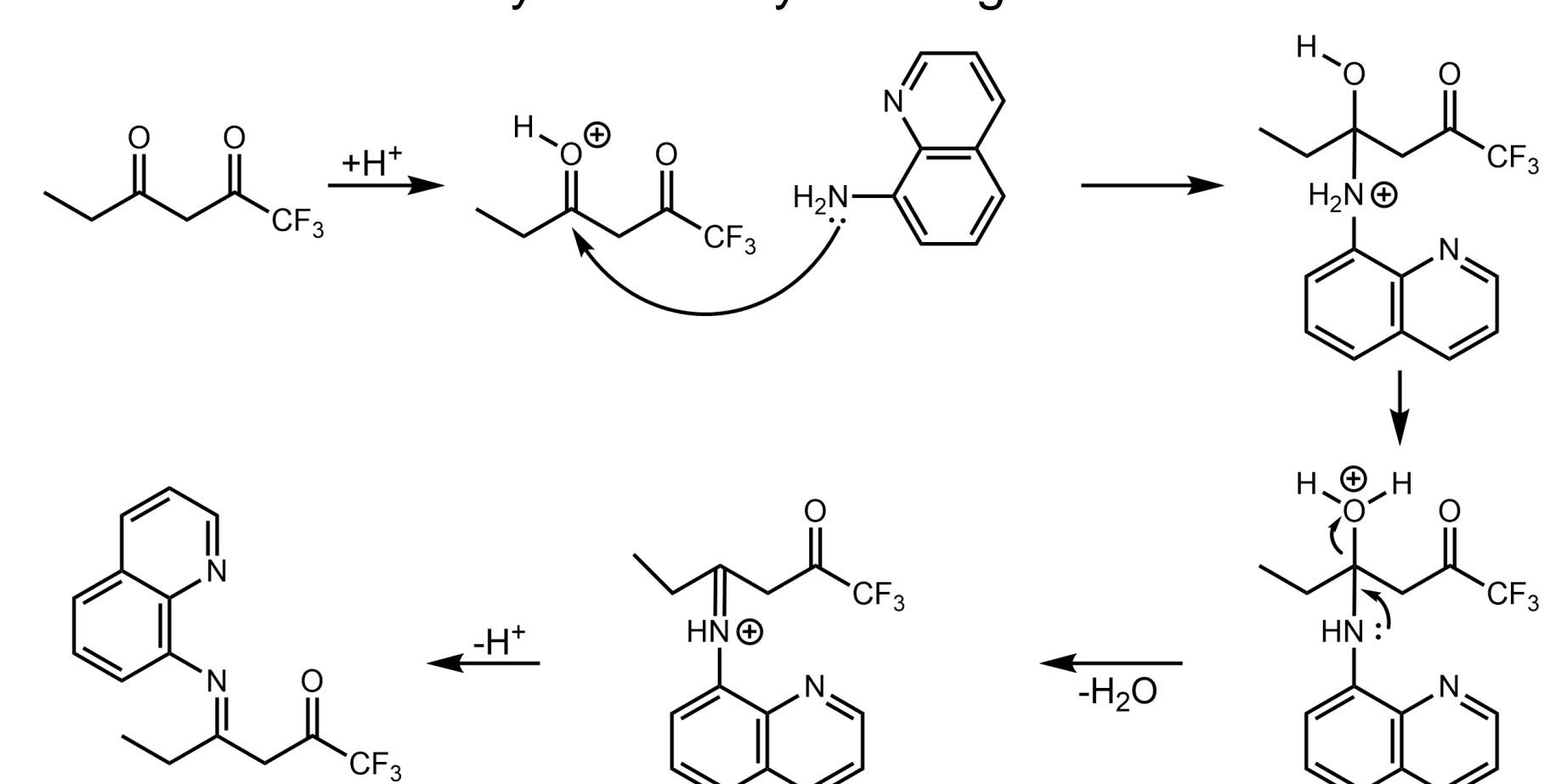
All transition states had one imaginary frequency corresponding to the stretching of the hydrogen-nitrogen bond towards the water molecule

Varying Electronic Properties

Initiator's ketoiminate supporting ligands prepared by Schiff base condensation of 8-aminoquinoline and 1,3-diketones with varying electronic properties and Charton parameter.

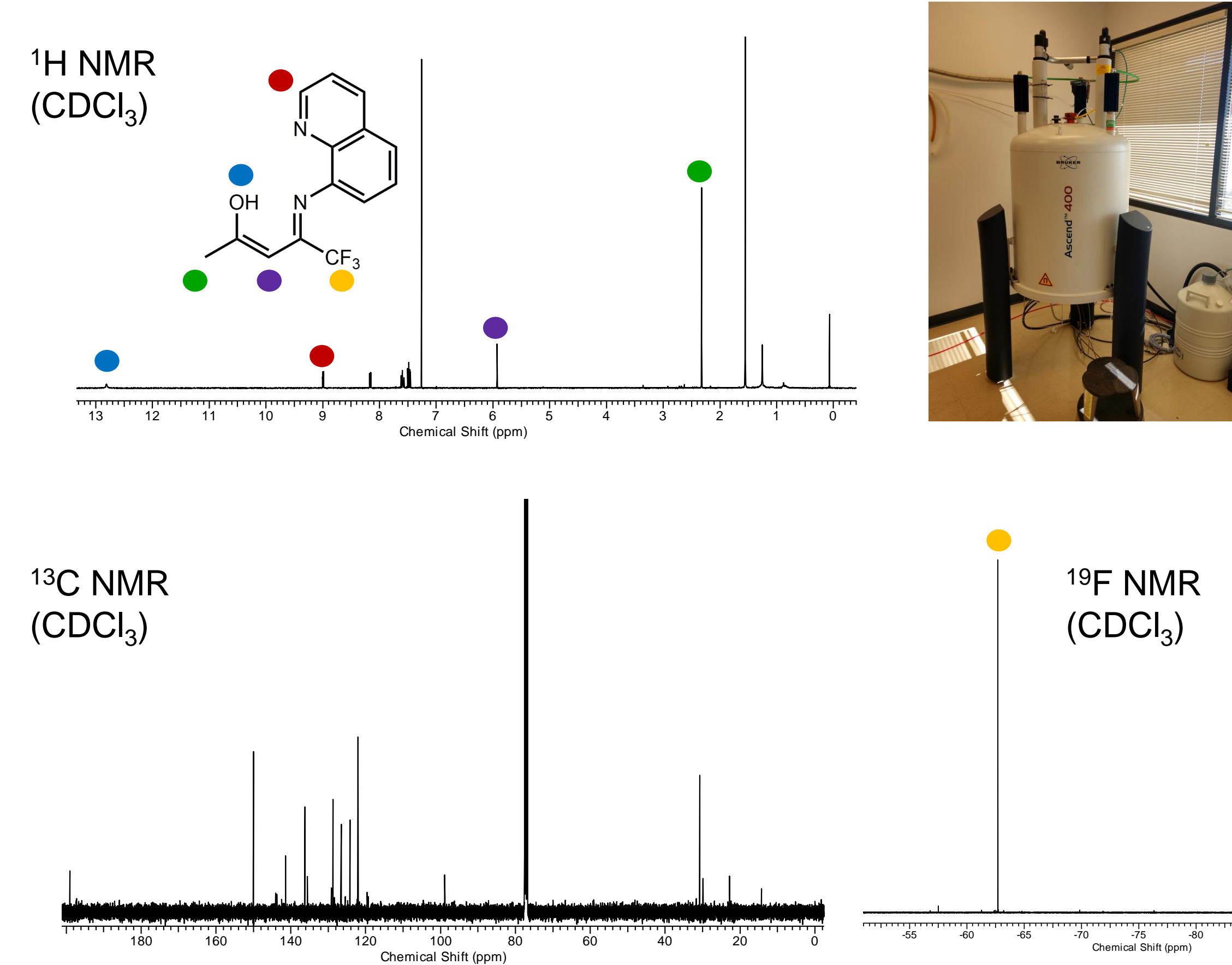


Schiff base condensation mechanism – nucleophilic attack at different carbonyl carbons yields regioisomer ketoimines

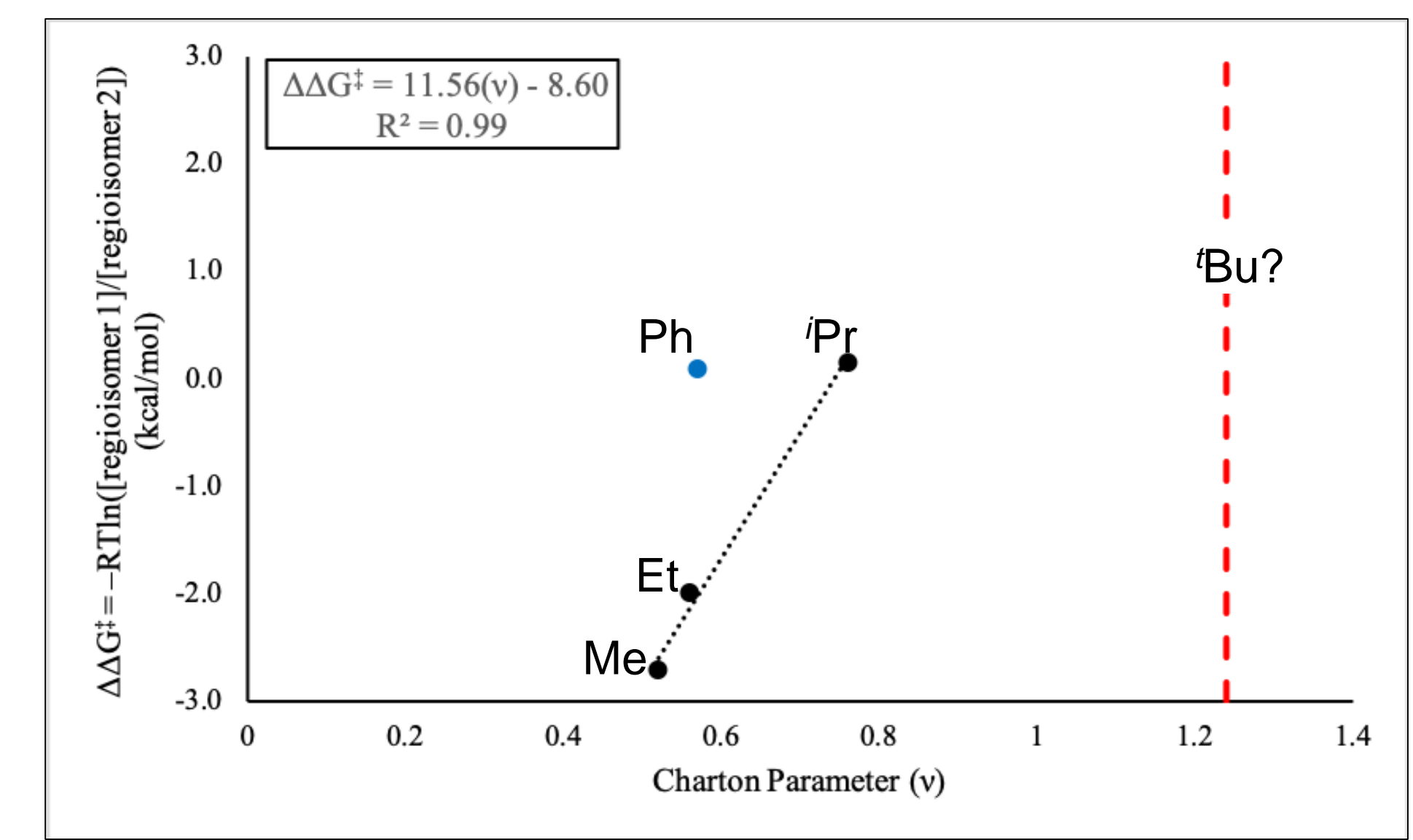


Sigman, M.S., Miller, J.J., *J. Org. Chem.* 2009, 74, 7633-7643.

NMR Characterization

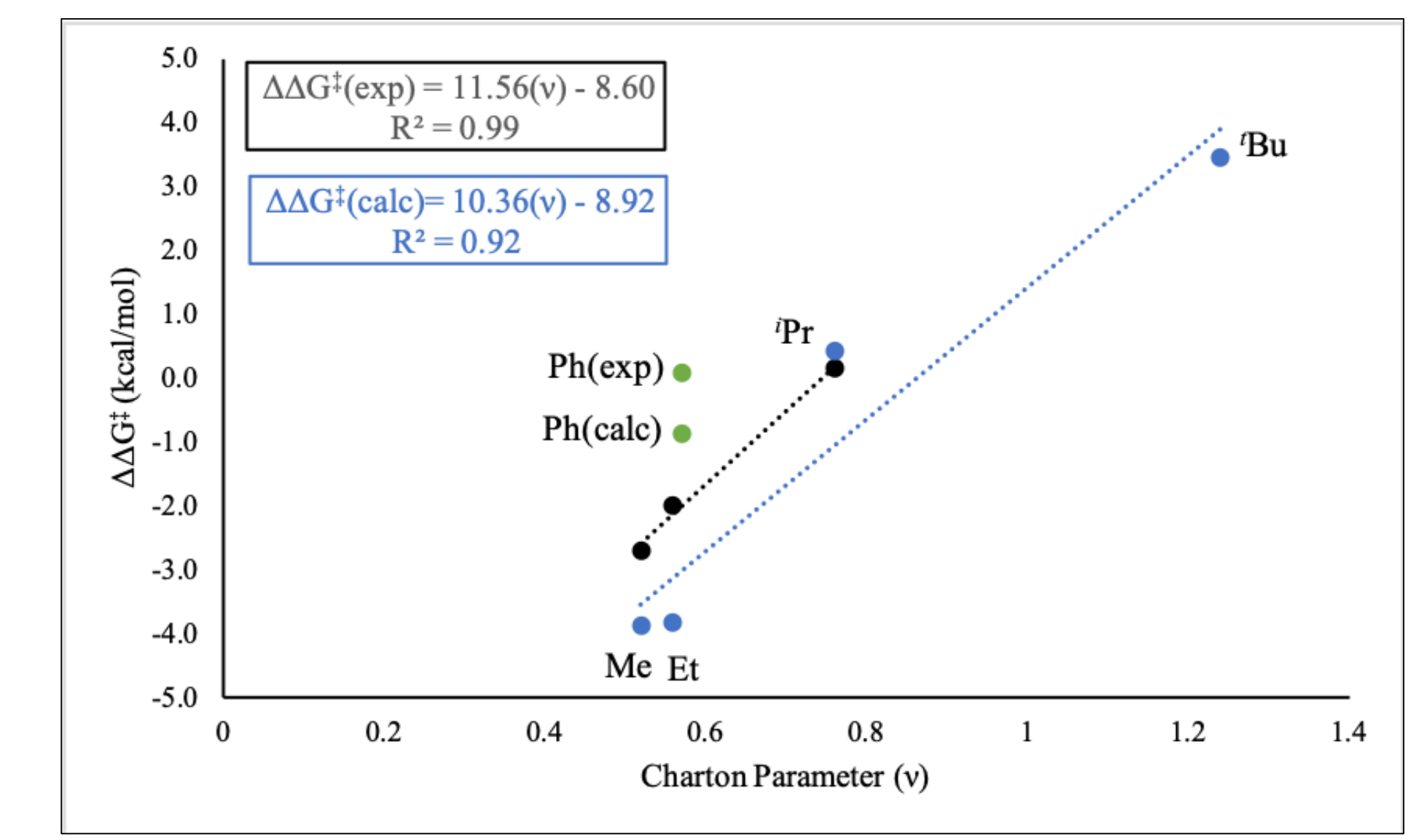


Linear Free Energy Relationship



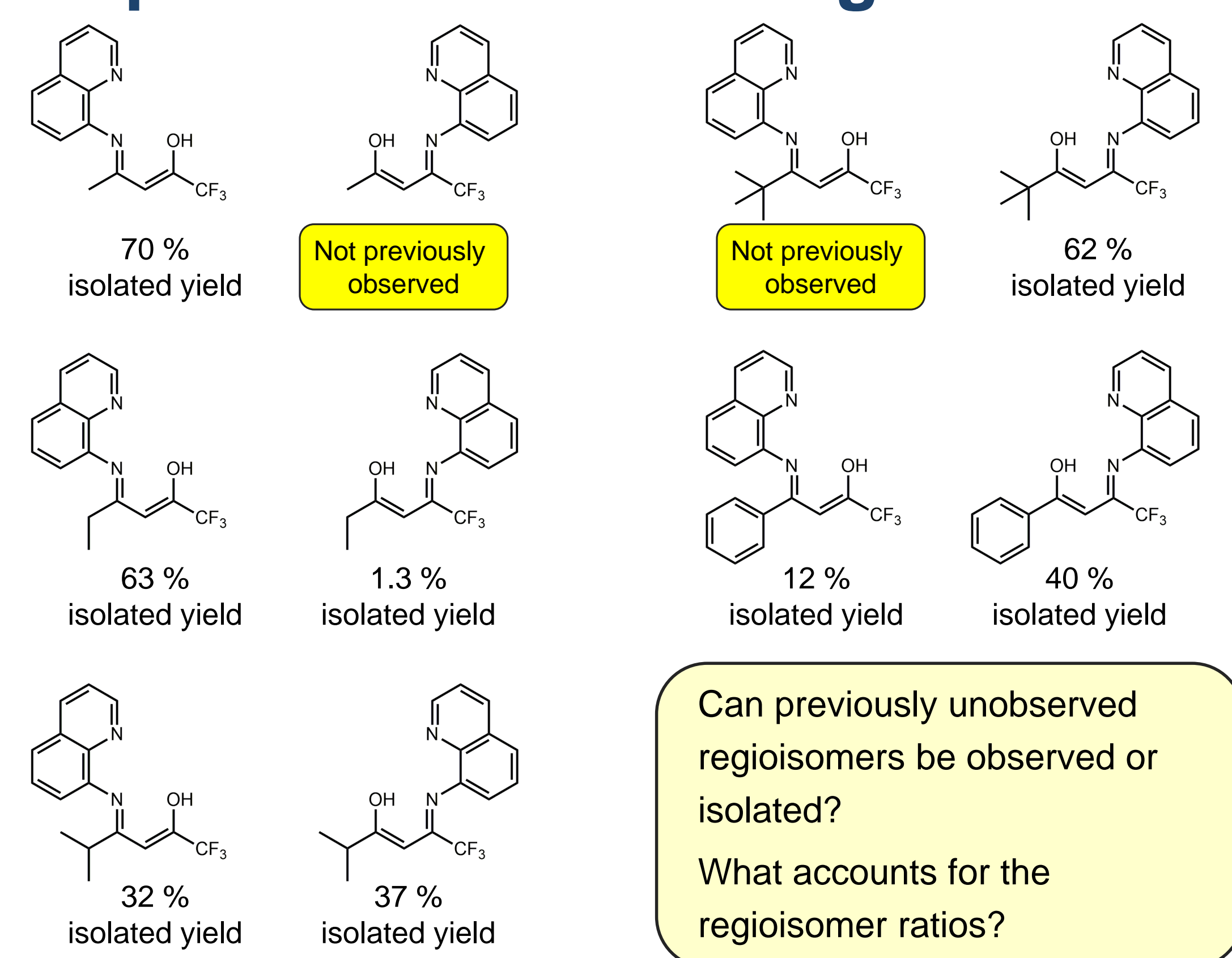
- Correlation between Charton parameters and experimental regioisomeric ratios observed.
- Computational methods pursued to determine energetics for unobserved ^tBu regioisomer

Comparison of Experimental and Theoretical results



- Calculated LFER consistent with experimentally observed ratios.
- Sterically encumbered ^tBu isomer calculated to be < 3 kcal/mol endergonic, consistent with lack of observation experimentally.

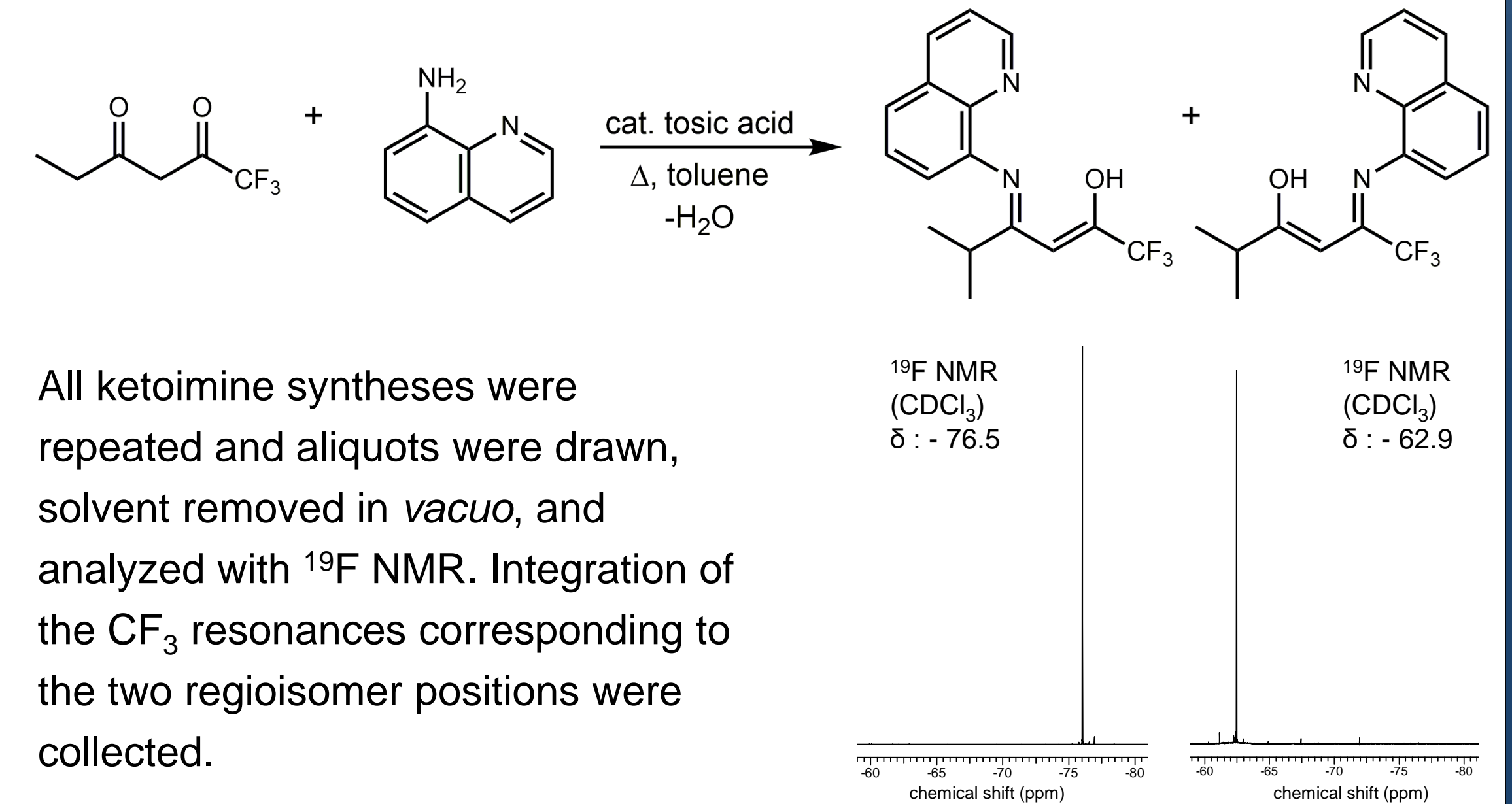
Reported Ketoimine Regioisomers



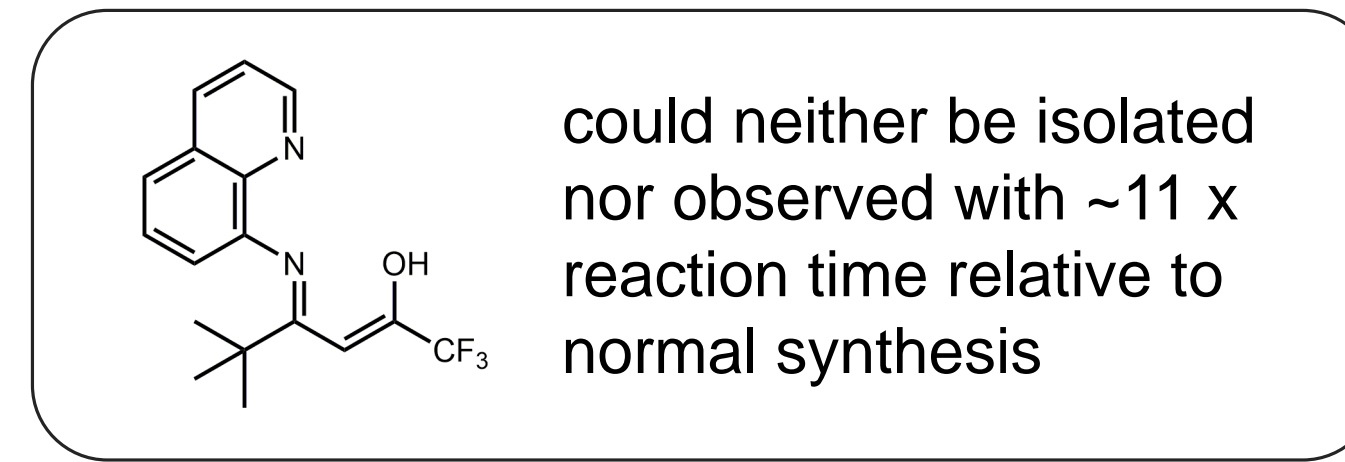
Can previously unobserved regioisomers be observed or isolated? What accounts for the regioisomer ratios?

Rezaee, N. M.; Gerling, K. A.; Rheingold, A. L.; Fritsch, J. M. *Dalton Trans.* 2013, 42, 5573. Schmitz, L.A., McCollum, A.M., Rheingold, A.L., Green, D.B., Fritsch, J.M., *Polyhedron*, 2018, 94.

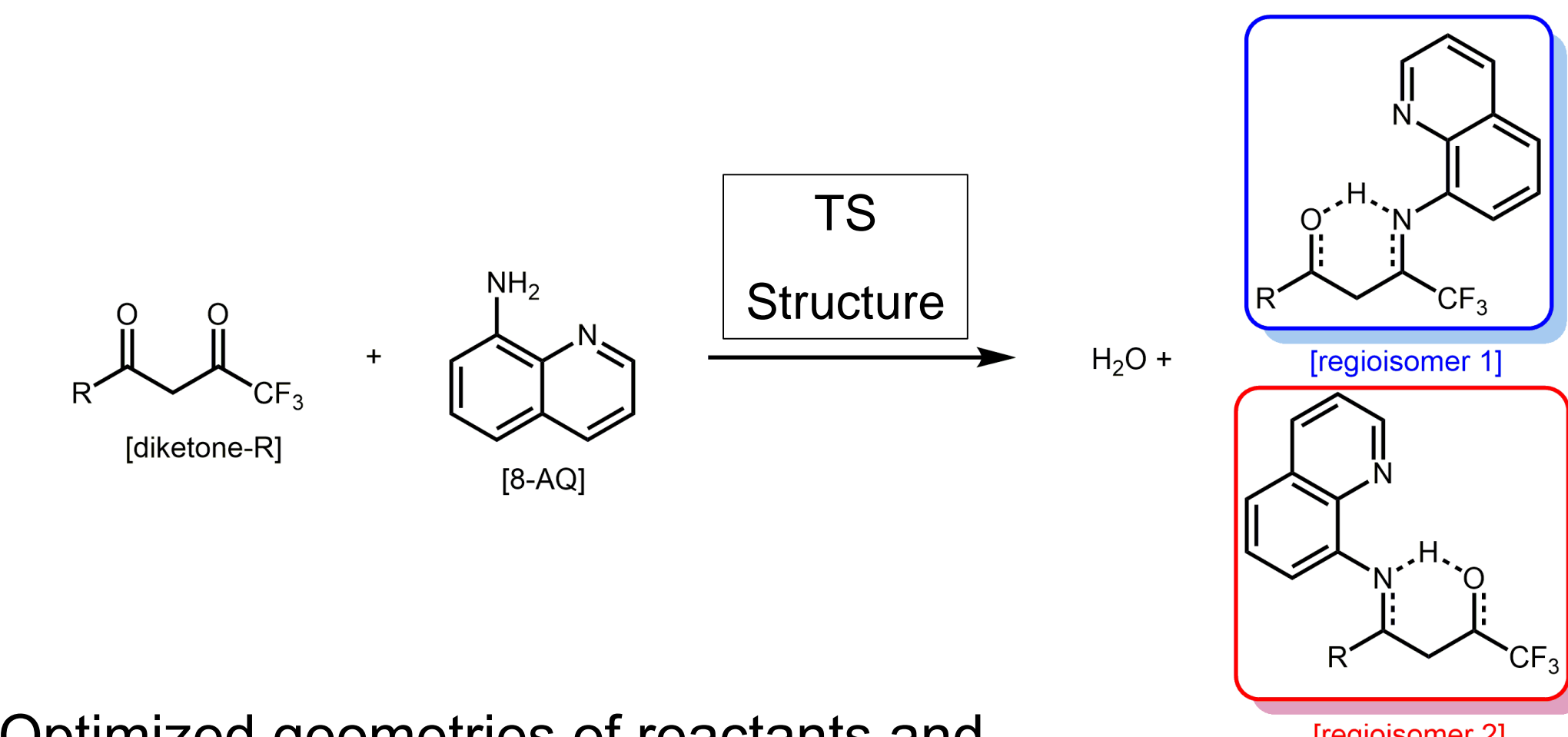
Syntheses Revisited – ¹⁹F NMR



All ketoimine syntheses were repeated and aliquots were drawn, solvent removed in *vacuo*, and analyzed with ¹⁹F NMR. Integration of the CF₃ resonances corresponding to the two regioisomer positions were collected.



DFT Calculations Protocol

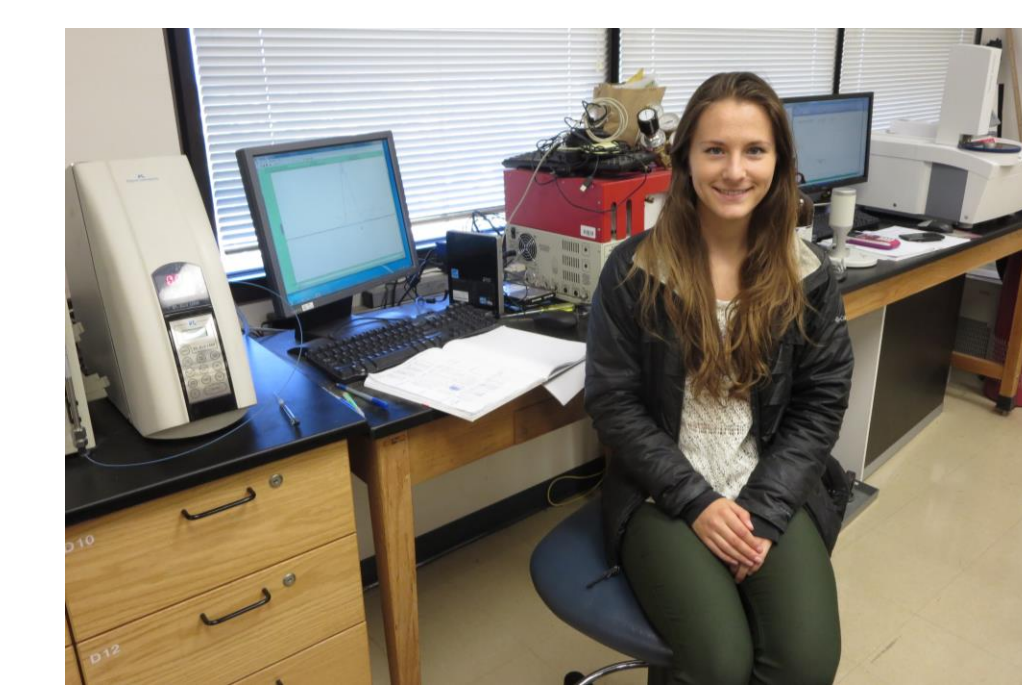


- Optimized geometries of reactants and products using Gaussian 16 (B3LYP/6-31G(d))
- Reactant structures optimized in the same space used to calculate probable transition state structures using QST3 calculations
- Calculated ΔG^\ddagger calculated by the equation:

$$\Delta G^\ddagger_{\text{calc}} = G_{\text{calc}}(\text{TS Structure}) - G_{\text{calc}}([\text{diketone-R}] + [\text{8-AQ}])$$

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