Quantitative Kinetic Investigation on Transmetalation of ArZnX in a Pd-Catalysed Oxidative Coupling

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Analytical methods and reagents.

All reactions and manipulations were conducted in a nitrogen-filled self-prepared three-necked micro reactor. IR spectra were recorded on a Mettler Toledo ReactIRTM 15 spectrometer using a diamond comb. Yields of Ar-Ar were obtained from GC and naphthalene was added as internal standard. All glasswares were oven dried at 120 °C for more than 1 hour prior to use. THF was dried and distilled from sodium/benzophenone ketyl in nitrogen atmosphere. Anhydrous ZnCl₂ was from commercial source (Alfa Aesar 98+%) and used without further purification. $Pd(OAc)_2$ was commercial available. All arylzinc reagents were prepared from the corresponding aryl lithium with ZnCl₂ and the concentration was based on the titration by $I_2/LiCl.^1$

Preparation of arylzinc reagents.

To a 100 mL Schlenk flask was added aryl bromide (20 mmol) and THF (7.5 mL) in nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was allowed to stir at -78 °C for 5 min. Butyllithium (2.4 M solution in hexanes J&K, 21 mmol) was added slowly via a syringe. 2 h later, the solution of $ZnCl_2$ (24 mmol, in 30 mL THF) was injected to the flask. The mixture temperature was allowed to increase to room temperature. After stirring for about 1 h, the arylzinc reagent concentration was identified based on the titration by $I_2/LiCl.^1$

General procedure of Pd-catalyzed Negishi-type oxidative

coupling reactions.

In an oven dried self-prepared three-necked micro reactor with a magnetic stirrer, naphthalene (30 mg) as the internal standard and 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone (0.30 mmol, 69 mg) were added. The reactor was allowed to be vacuumed and purged with nitrogen for several times. The arylzinc reagent (0.35 M in THF (as the solvent), 4.0 mL) was added in via a syringe. The mixture was allowed to stir at 10 °C and recorded by React IR. At the same time, $Pd(OAc)_2$ (3.3×10⁻⁵ M in THF, 60 µL) was added quickly in by a micro syringe. The course of the reaction could be observed from the characteristic IR absorption of 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone or

product.When 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone was consumed completely, or the product did not increase, the reaction was quenched by diluted hydrochloric acid and the yield of product was determined by GC.

Other reactions followed the same procedure under different reaction conditions.



Figure S1 The characteristic IR absorptions of homocoupling of p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl and p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl.

Following general procedure, the course of the reactions was observed from the characteristic IR absorption of homocoupling of organozinc reagent.

Kinetic studies of Pd-catalyzed Negishi-type oxidative

homo-coupling of *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl under different concentrations

of catalyst.







Figure S2 Kinetic profiles of the oxidative homocoupling of p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (**1a**) (0.35 M in THF, 4.0 mL) under different concentrations of Pd(OAc)₂ (1.1×10^{-5} M– 6.6×10^{-5} M), 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone (**3a**) (7.5×10^{-2} M in THF, 0.3 mmol), -20 °C.

Following general procedure, kinetic experiments of Pd-catalyzed homocoupling of **1a** under different concentrations of palladium have been carried out. According to Figure S2, it was revealed that with the concentration of palladium changing from

 1.1×10^{-5} M to 6.6×10^{-5} M, plotting the initial rates vs [Pd] obtained a linear relationship, suggesting that the reaction was first-order dependent on Pd concentration ([Pd] $\leq 6.6 \times 10^{-6}$ M) (Figure S2 (B)).

Kinetic studies of Pd-catalyzed Negishi-type oxidative homocoupling of *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl under different concentrations of arylzinc.



(A)



Figure S3. Kinetic profiles of the oxidative homocoupling of p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (**1a**) (0.053 M–0.32 M in THF, 6.0 mL), 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone (**3a**) (5.0×10^{-2} M in THF, 0.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (3.3×10^{-5} M in THF), 30 °C.

Following the general procedure, the oxidative homo-coupling reactions with different concentrations of arylzinc were carried out, and the kinetic profiles were shown in the Figure S3. It was clearly shown that plotting the initial rates vs [1a] obtained a linear relationship (Figure S3 (B)). In other words, the reaction displayed first-order dependent on [1a].

Kinetic studies of Pd-catalyzed Negishi-type oxidative homocoupling of *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl under different concentrations

of 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone.





(A)



Figure S4. Kinetic profiles of the oxidative homocoupling of *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (**1a**) (0.31 M in THF, 4.0 mL), 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone (**3a**) (0.050 M–0.15 M in THF), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (3.3×10⁻⁵ M in THF), 10 °C.

Following the general procedure, the oxidative homo-coupling reactions with different concentrations of [3a] were carried out; the kinetic profiles were shown in

the Figure S4, respectively. It was clearly shown that the initial rates were identical with the variation of the concentrations of [3a]. In other words, the reaction displayed zero-order kinetic behavior of [3a]. So the transmetalation should be the rate-limiting step according to the Figure S3 and Figure S4.

Kinetic studies of Pd-catalyzed Negishi-type oxidative

homocoupling of *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl at different temperatures.





Figure S5 Kinetic investigation of Pd-catalyzed oxidative homocoupling of p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (1a) at different temperatures. 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone (3a) (7.5×10^{-2} M in THF, 0.3 mmol), p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (1a) (0.31 M in THF, 4.0 mL), Pd(OAc)₂ (3.3×10^{-5} M in THF). (A) Kinetic plots of [2a] vs t. (B) Kinetic plots of ln ([1a]_t/[1a]₀) vs t. (C) Plots of ln (k_{obs} /T) vs (1/T).

Following the general procedure, these reactions were carried out under different temperatures. According to the concentration of product, the concentration of *p*-Me C_6H_4ZnCl could be derived as the formula:

$$[1a] = [1a]_{t=0} - 2 \times [2a]$$

The rate constants k_{obs} could be obtained plotting ln ($[1a]_t/[1a]_0$) vs t (Figure S5 (B)). Plots of ln (k_{obs}/T) vs (1/T) gave a linear relationship. According to Eyring equation, the activation enthalpy ΔH^{\neq} could be obtained (Table S1).

 Table S1 Kinetic parameters

According to Eyring Equation:

∖H [≠] (kcal/mol)	$\ln(k_{\rm obs}/{\rm T})$	1/T (K ⁻¹)	$k_{\rm obs}~({\rm s}^{-1})$	Т (К)
12.3	-15.84	3.80E-3	3.47E-5	263
	-15.35	3.66E-3	5.86E-5	273
	-14.17	3.53E-3	1.98E-4	283
	-13.65	3.41E-3	3.45E-4	293
	-12.76	3.30E-3	8.74E-4	303
	-12.22	3.19E-3	1.54E-3	313

$$\ln\frac{k}{T} = -\frac{\Delta H^{\neq}}{R} \times \frac{1}{T} + \ln\frac{k_B}{h} + \frac{\Delta S^{\neq}}{R}$$

Kinetic studies of Pd-catalyzed Negishi-type oxidative homocoupling of different arylzinc reagents.







Figure S6 (A) Kinetic profiles of [2] vs t in Pd(OAc)₂-catalyzed oxidative homo-coupling of different arylzinc reagents. 2-chloro-1,2-diphenylethanone (**3a**) (7.5×10^{-2} M in THF, 0.3 mmol), ArZnCl (0.30 M in THF, 4.0 mL), Pd(OAc)₂ (2.8×10^{-5} M in THF), 10 °C. (**B**) Hammett correlation.

Pd-catalyzed oxidative homocoupling reactions with p-MeOC₆H₄ZnCl, p-Me C₆H₄ZnCl, C₆H₅ZnCl, p-BrC₆H₄ZnCl and p-ClC₆H₄ZnCl were carried out according to the general procedure. As shown in Figure S6, a linear free energy relationship was

observed with a calculated ρ -value of -2.37. The electron-efficient arylzinc reagent displayed faster reaction rates than electron-deficient arylzinc reagent. The result further supported that the transmetalation was the rate-limiting step.

Kinetic studies of Pd-catalyzed Negishi-type oxidative homocoupling of *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl under different oxidants.

As shown in scheme 1: there are two theoretical paths for this reaction to get the homocoupling product of ArZnCl. For the path 1, oxidative addition of RCl to Pd(0) affords [R-Pd-Cl], the subsequent transmetalation between **1a** and **TM-I** furnishes the intermediate [Ar-Pd-R]. Then, the second transmetalation between **1a** and **II-1** forms [Ar-Pd-Ar], and the reductive elimination of [Ar-Pd-Ar] produces Ar-Ar. For the path 2, oxidative addition of RCl to Pd(0) affords [R-Pd-Cl], the subsequent transmetalation between **1a** and **TM-I** furnishes the intermediate [Ar-Pd-Ar], and the reductive elimination of [Ar-Pd-Ar] produces Ar-Ar. For the path 2, oxidative addition of RCl to Pd(0) affords [R-Pd-Cl], the subsequent transmetalation between **1a** and **TM-I** furnishes the intermediate [Ar-Pd-Cl]. Then, the second transmetalation between **1a** and **II-2** forms [Ar-Pd-Ar], and the reductive elimination of [Ar-Pd-Ar] produces Ar-Ar. Pd-catalyzed oxidative homocoupling reactions under different oxidants were carried out according to the general procedure.



Scheme 1 The Pd-catalyzed oxidative homocoupling reaction





Figure S7-1 Kinetic profiles of [2a] vs t in Pd(OAc)₂-catalyzed oxidative homo-coupling of p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl with different concentration of **3b**. **3b** (0.10 M–0.20 M in THF), p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (0.35 M, 4.0 mL), Pd(OAc)₂ (5.6×10⁻⁵ M in THF), 10 °C.

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Figure S7-2 Kinetic profiles of [2a] vs t in Pd(OAc)₂-catalyzed oxidative homo-coupling of p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl with **3b** as oxidant. **3b** (6.8×10^{-2} M in THF, 0.41 mmol), p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (0.14

M-0.42 M, 6.0 mL), Pd(OAc)₂ (3.7×10⁻⁵ M in THF), 0 °C.



Figure S7-3 Kinetic profiles of [2a] vs t in Pd(OAc)₂-catalyzed oxidative homo-coupling of

p-MeC₆H₄ZnCl with different concentration of **3c**. **3c** (7.5×10^{-2} M– 1.7×10^{-1} M in THF), *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (0.35 M, 4.0 mL), Pd(OAc)₂ (5.6×10^{-5} M in THF), 10 °C.





(B)

S17

Figure S7-4 Kinetic profiles of [2a] vs t in Pd(OAc)₂-catalyzed oxidative homo-coupling of *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl with **3c** as oxidant. **3c** $(5.1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M in THF}, 0.31 \text{ mmol})$, *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (0.12 M–0.35 M, 6.0 mL), Pd(OAc)₂ $(3.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M in THF})$, 10 °C.

Following the general procedure, we detected the kinetic behavior of different oxidants. As shown in Figure S7-1 the reaction displayed zero-order on [3b], indicating that oxidative addition was not the rate-limiting step. As shown in Figure S7-2, the reaction displayed first-order on [1a]. Hence, the transmetalation was the rate-limiting step. When **3c** was used, same kinetic behavior was determined. In other words, by employing different substituted oxidants, the rate limiting step points to the transmetalation. As shown in Figure S7-5, when employing different oxidants (**3a**, **3b**, **3c**), varied initial rates could be observed, demonstrating that II-1 was involved in the rate-limiting step, which should be assigned to TM II¹ in path 1.



Figure S7-5 Kinetic profiles of [**2a**] *vs* t in Pd(OAc)₂-catalyzed oxidative homocoupling of *p*-MeC₆H₄ZnCl (0.27 M in THF, 4.0 mL). Oxidants (**3a**, **3b**, **3c**) (5.0×10^{-2} M in THF, 0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (2.8×10^{-5} M in THF), 10 °C.

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References

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