



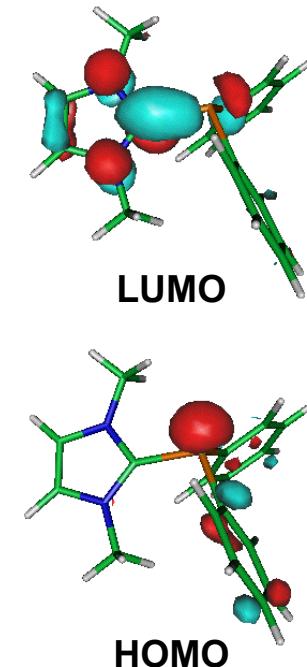
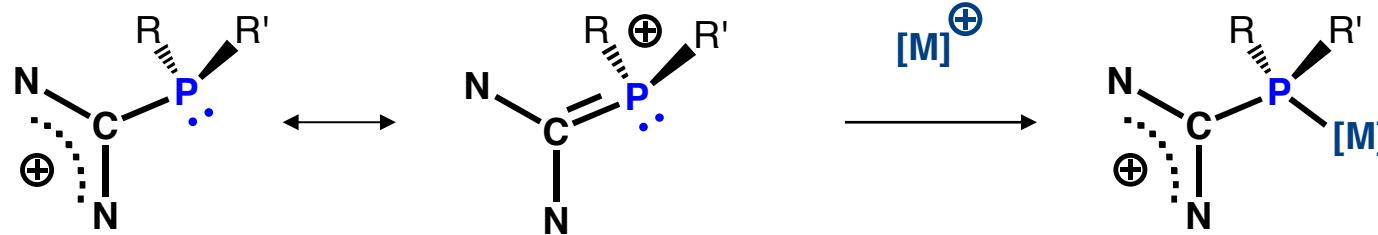
## **Theoretical studies of the metal-phenylene interaction in a P(CH)P pincer rhodium(I) complex**

**Christine Lepetit, Jordi Poater, Julia Contreras-Garcia,  
Yves Canac, Remi Chauvin**

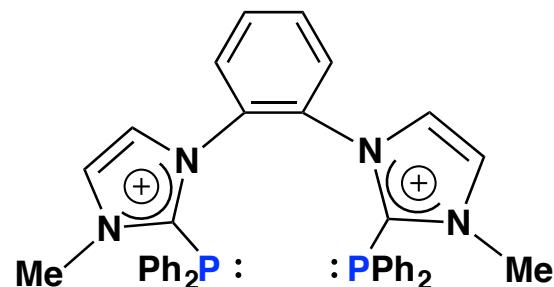
***Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination – UPR 8241 CNRS  
Toulouse - France***

# Amidiniophosphines

Cationic phosphorus ligands of L type

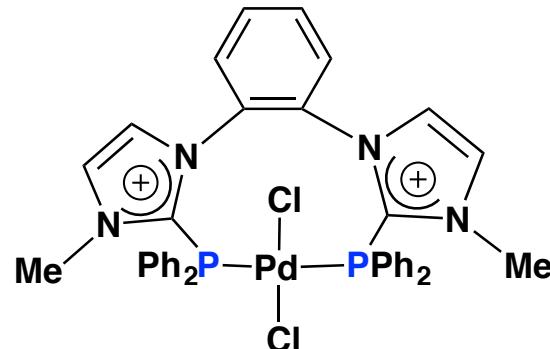


Experimental representatives



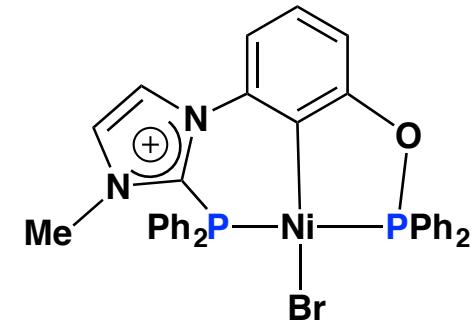
Bis - amidiniophosphine

Inorg. Chem. 2009, 48, 5562.



Trans-chelated dicationic complex

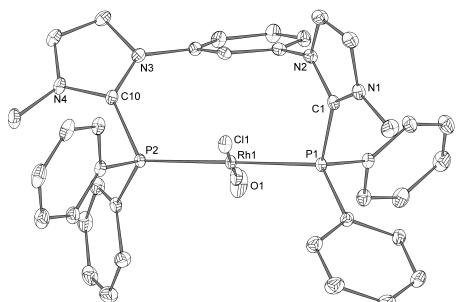
Inorg. Chem. 2011, 50, 10810.



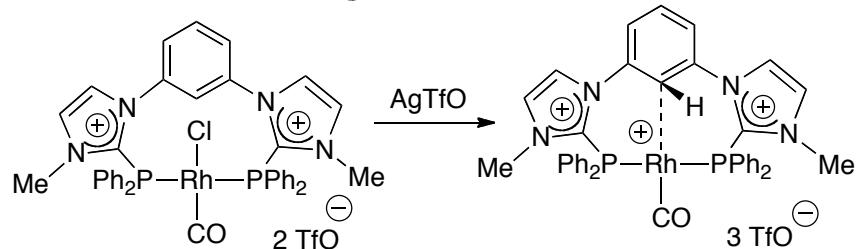
Dipolar pincer Ni complex

Chem. Commun. 2012, 48, 10446.

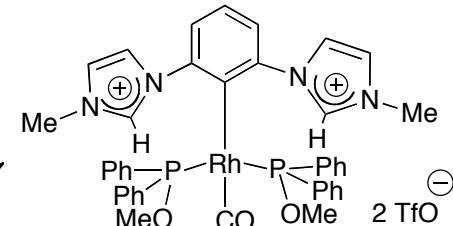
# Unexpected P(CH)P pincer rhodium(I) complex



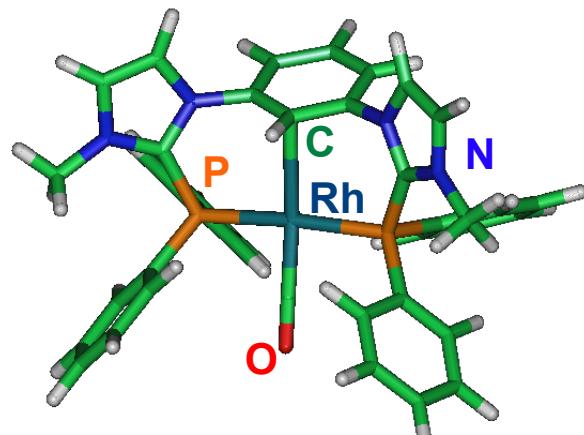
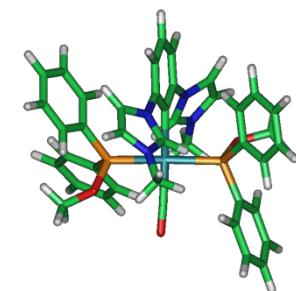
P(CH)P pincer



MeOH  
Base

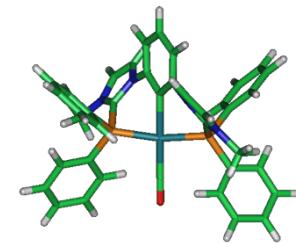


« Open » pincer



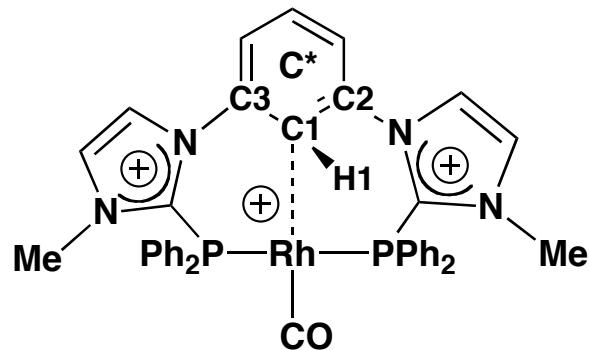
PCM - B3PW91/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Rh)

Inorg. Chem. 2013, 52, 48.



PCP pincer

# Calculated structure of the P(CH)P pincer



## Rh-C and Rh-H bond lengths

Shorter than the sum of vdW radii :

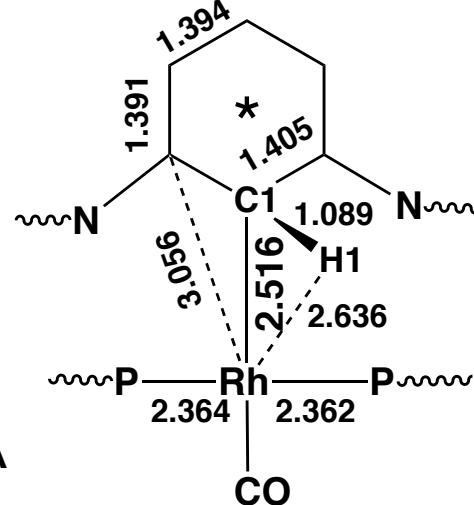
$$\text{Rh} = 2.00 \text{ \AA}, \text{C} = 1.70 \text{ \AA}, \text{H} = 1.10 \text{ \AA}$$

Sum of covalent radii of Rh and C = 2.10 \AA

## Out-of-plane C1-H1 bending

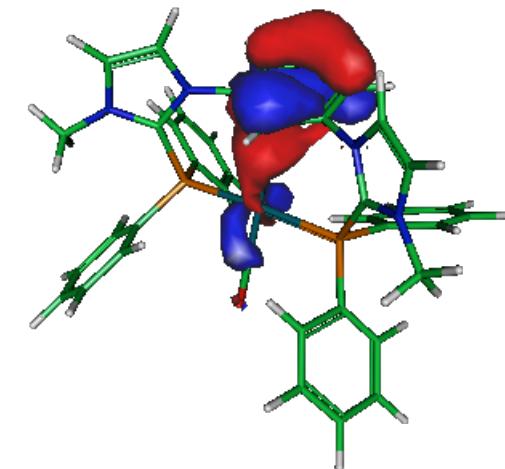
$$C^*-C1-H1 = 169.7^\circ$$

## Geometry



Quasi- $C_s$  symmetry  
Bond lengths in \AA

## Molecular orbital analysis



HOMO-14

## NBO analysis

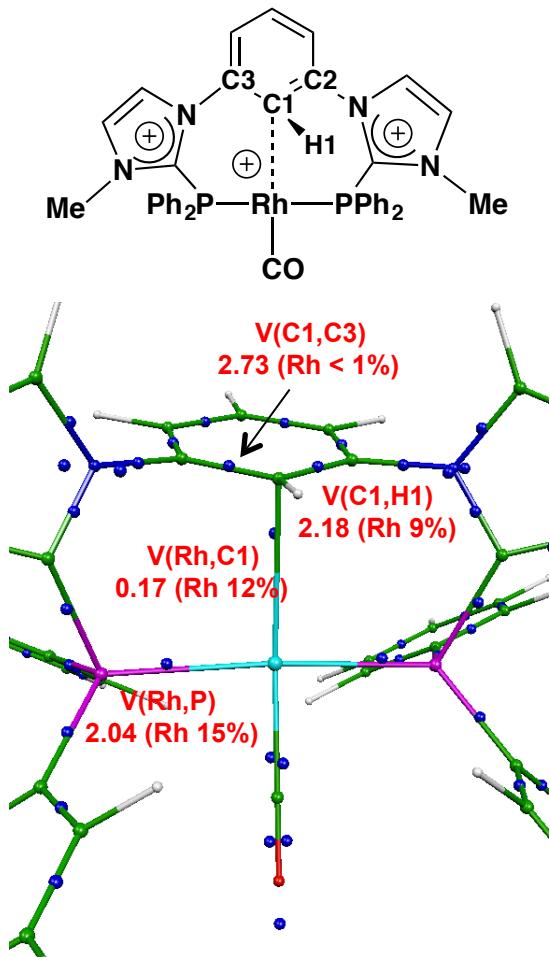
Donor-acceptor interactions :

$$\sigma_{C1-H1} \rightarrow LP^*(\text{Rh}) : E^{(2)} = 1.8 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

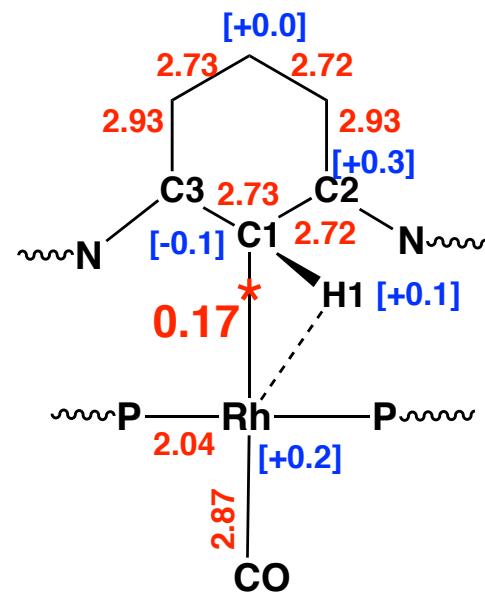
$$\pi_{C1-C3} \rightarrow LP^*(\text{Rh}) : E^{(2)} = 5.5 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

→ Weak Rh-phenylene interaction

# ELF topological analysis of the P(CH)P pincer

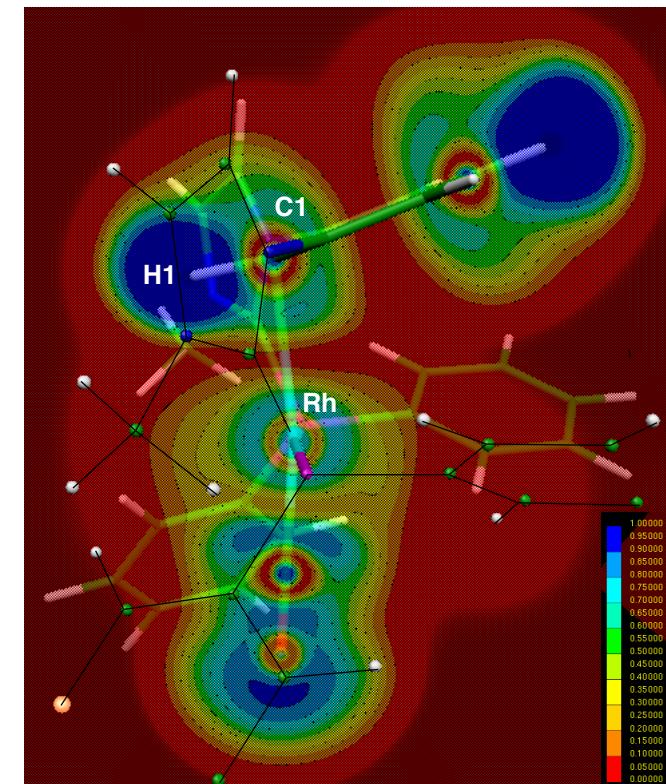


Disynaptic  $V(Rh, C1)$  basin of low population



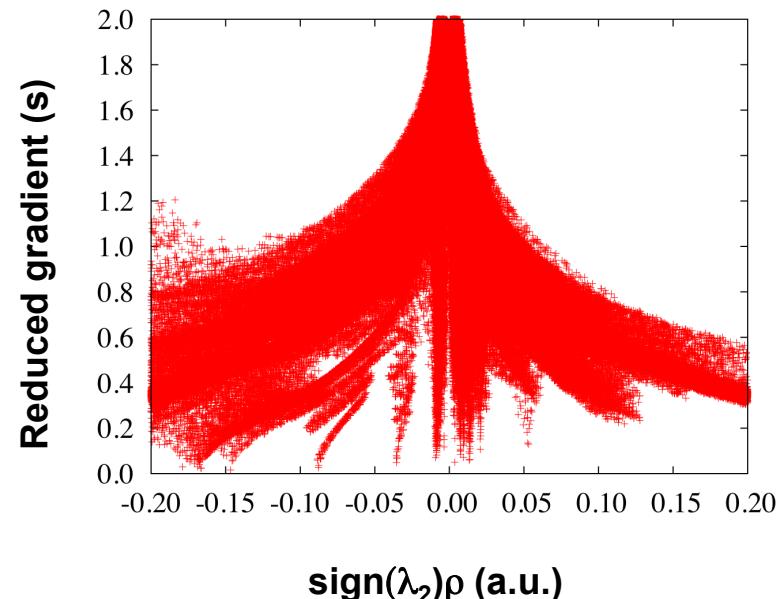
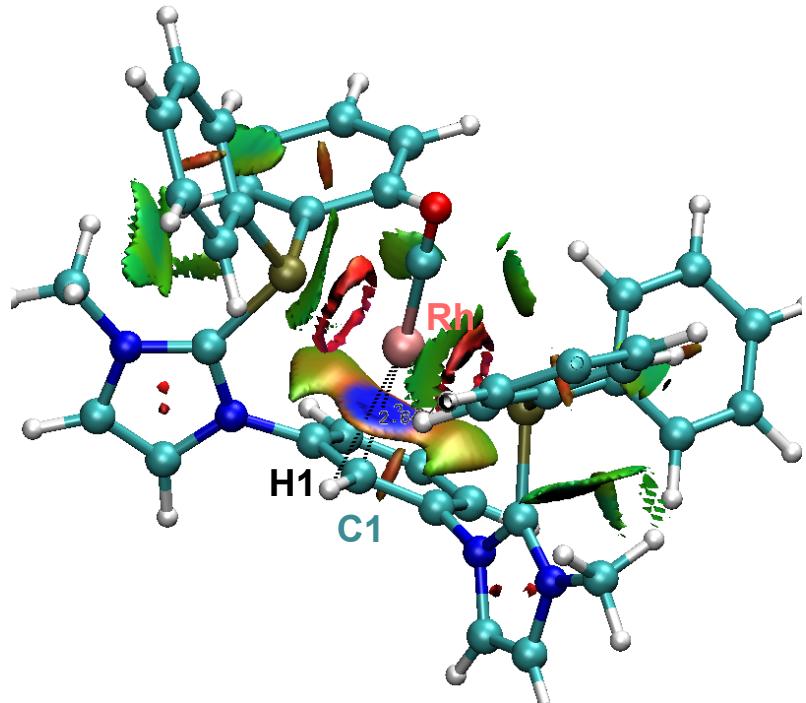
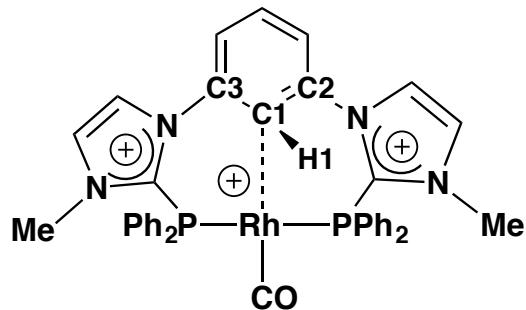
ELF populations  
AIM charges

ELF map in the Rh-C1-H1 plane



B3PW91/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Rh)//PBE-D3/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Rh)

# NCI analysis of the P(CH)P pincer



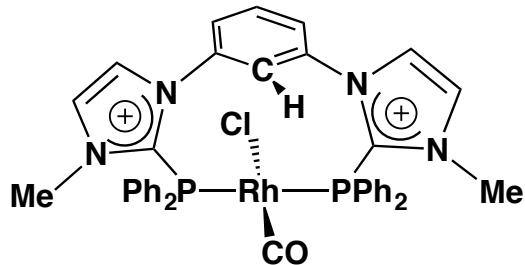
$\eta^1\text{-C}$  or  $\eta^2\text{-C,H}$  agostic?

B3PW91/6-31G\*\*/DGDZVP(Rh)//PCM - B3PW91/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Rh)

Julia Contreras-Garcia

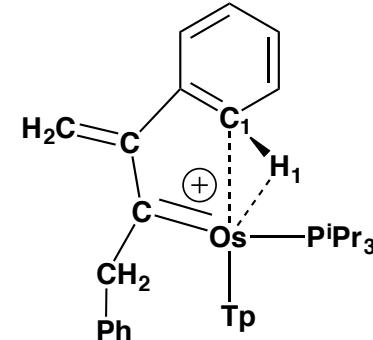
# Series of related complexes

Chlorinated precursor : no interaction?



X-ray structure

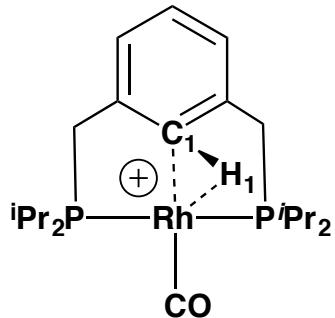
Strong  $\eta^2\text{-C,H}$  agostic interaction



X-ray structure

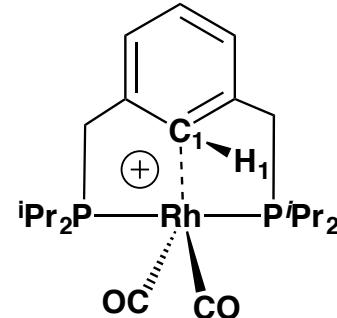
Lopez *et al.* *Organometallics* **2008**, *27*, 3547.

A :  $\eta^2\text{-C,H}$  agostic interaction



X-ray structure

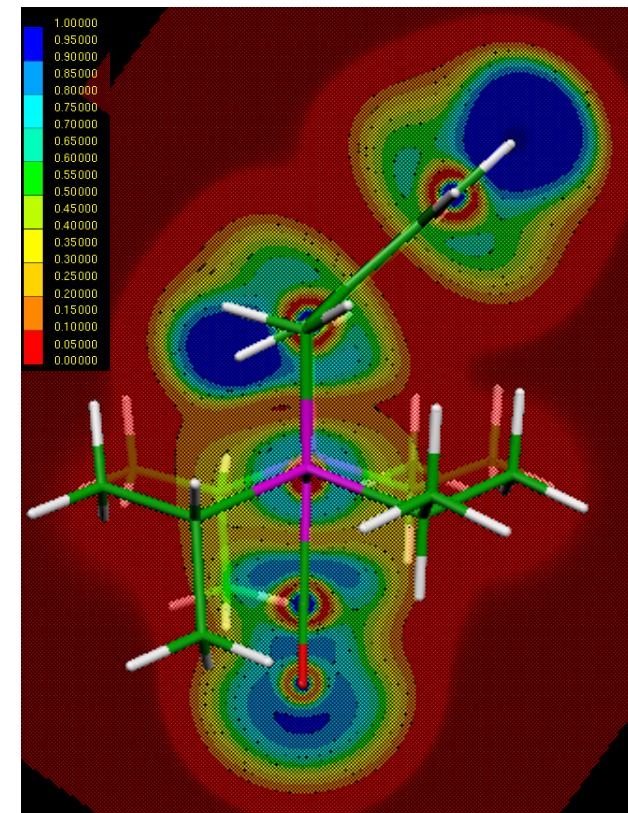
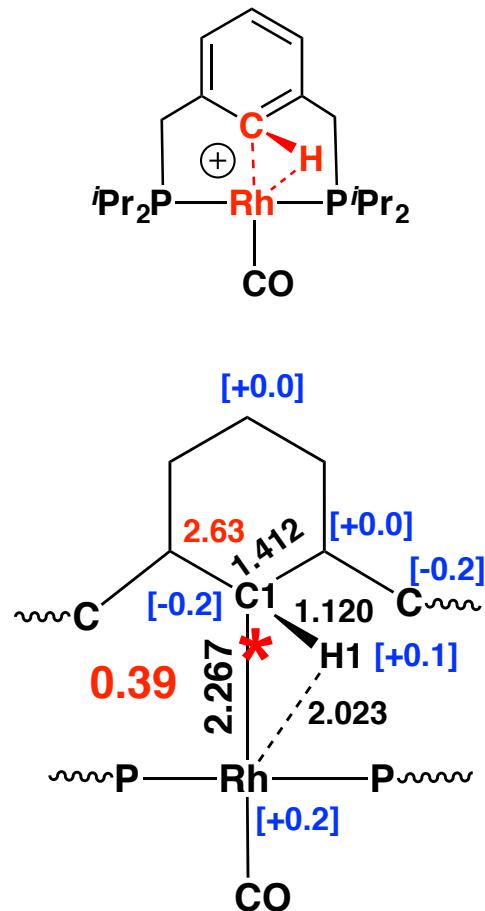
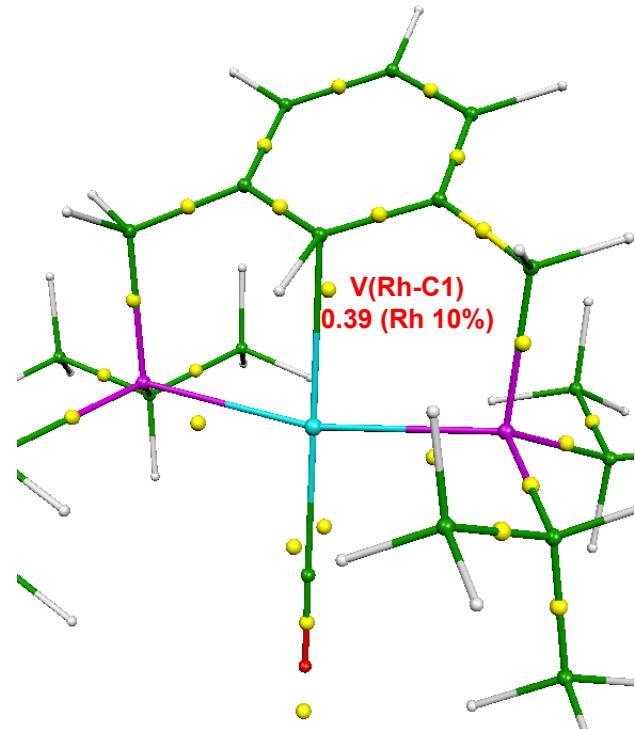
B : weak  $\eta^1\text{-C}$  interaction



Calculated structure

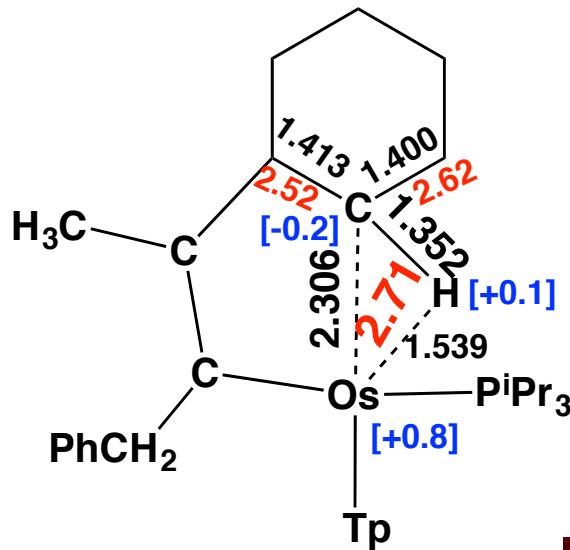
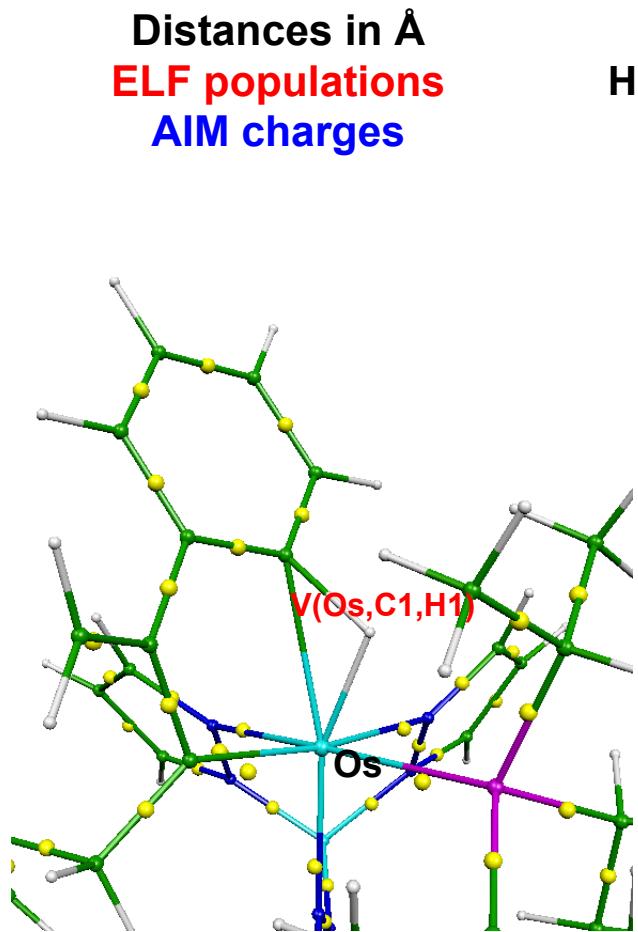
Milstein *et al.* *Chem. Eur. J.* **2010**, *16*, 328.

# ELF analysis of P(CH)P pincer A

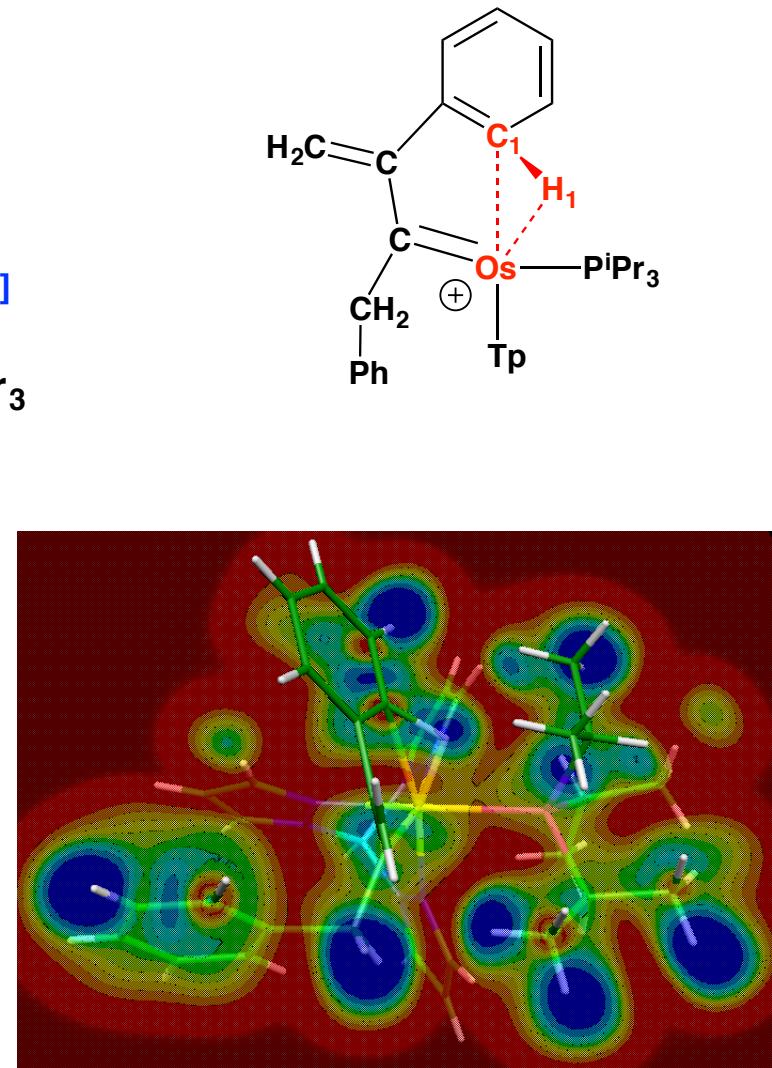


B3PW91/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Rh)//PBE-D3/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Rh)

# ELF analysis of osmium complex

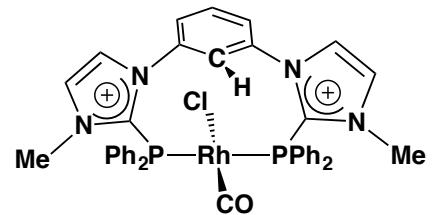


Trisynaptic basin  
 $V(\text{Os}, \text{C}1, \text{H}1)$   
 2.71  
 Os(13%)  
 C(44%) H(43%)  
 Attractor  $\approx \text{H}1$



B3PW91/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Os)

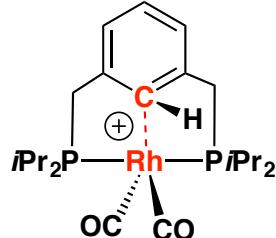
# ELF analysis



2.755  
1.088  
5.5°

-

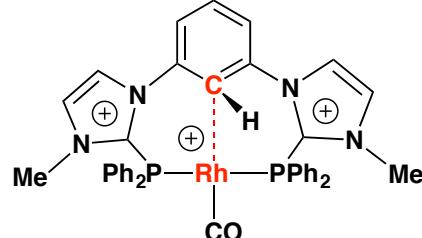
No interaction



2.599  
1.100  
6.4°

-

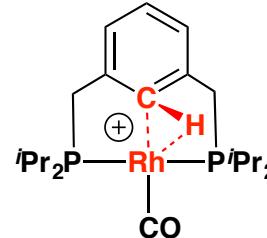
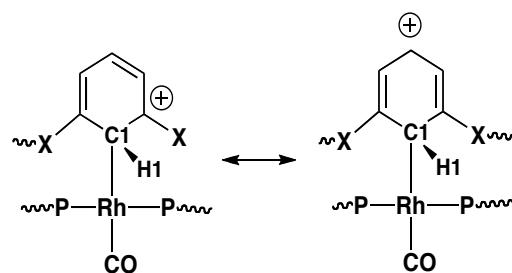
No interaction



2.508  
1.095  
10.9°

V(Rh,C)  
0.17

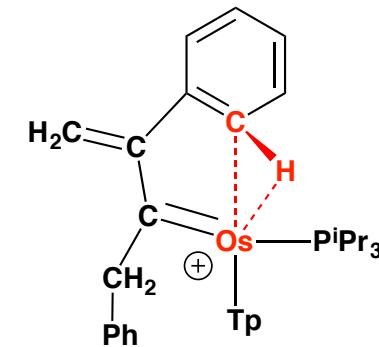
$\eta 1\text{-C}$



2.267  
1.143  
18.5°

V(Rh,C)  
0.39

$\eta 1\text{-C}$



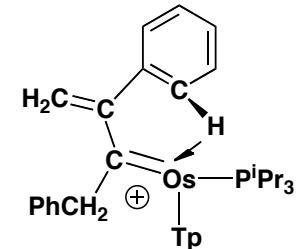
2.306  
1.352  
19.9°

M-C  
C-H

V(Os,C,H)  
2.71

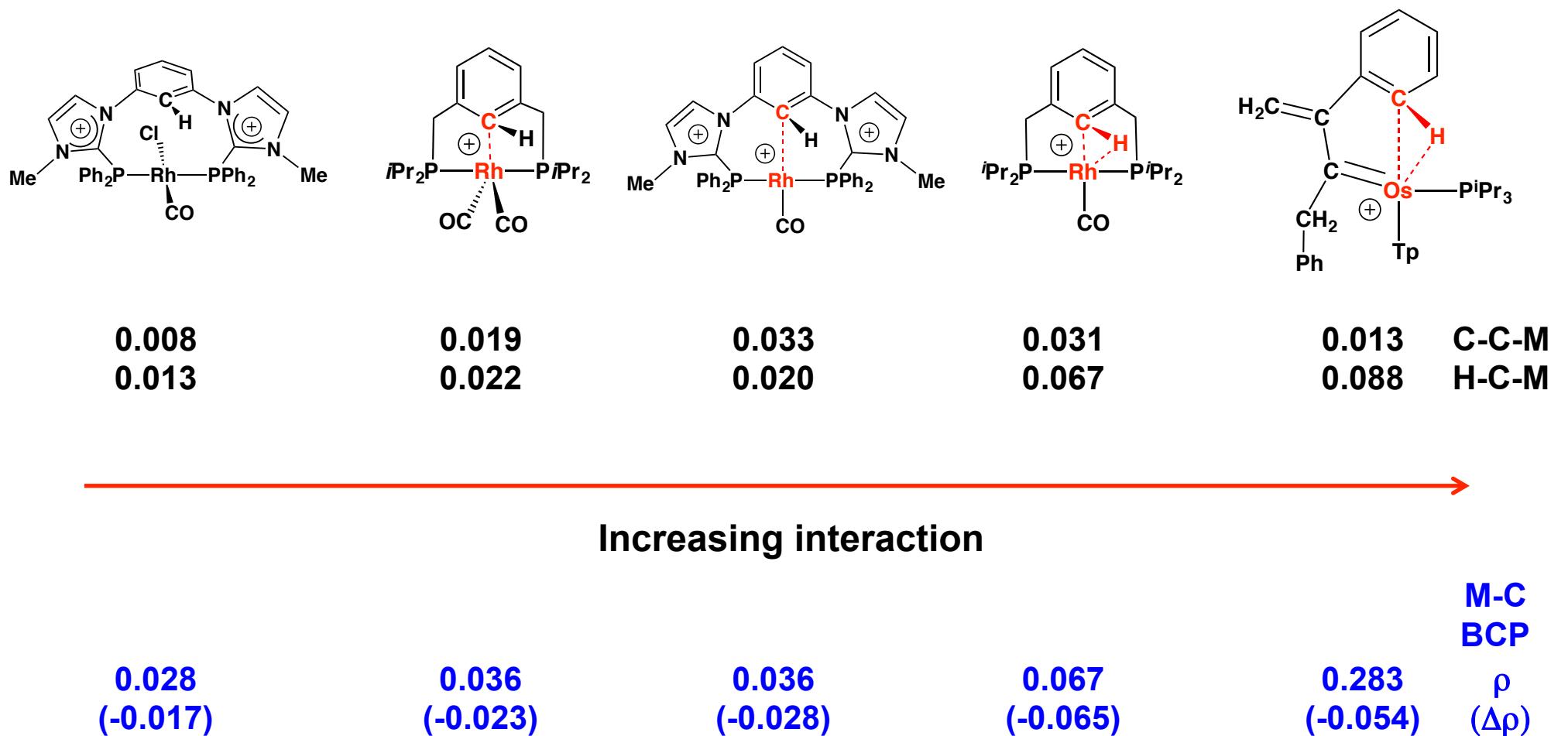
ELF

$\eta 2\text{-(C,H)}$

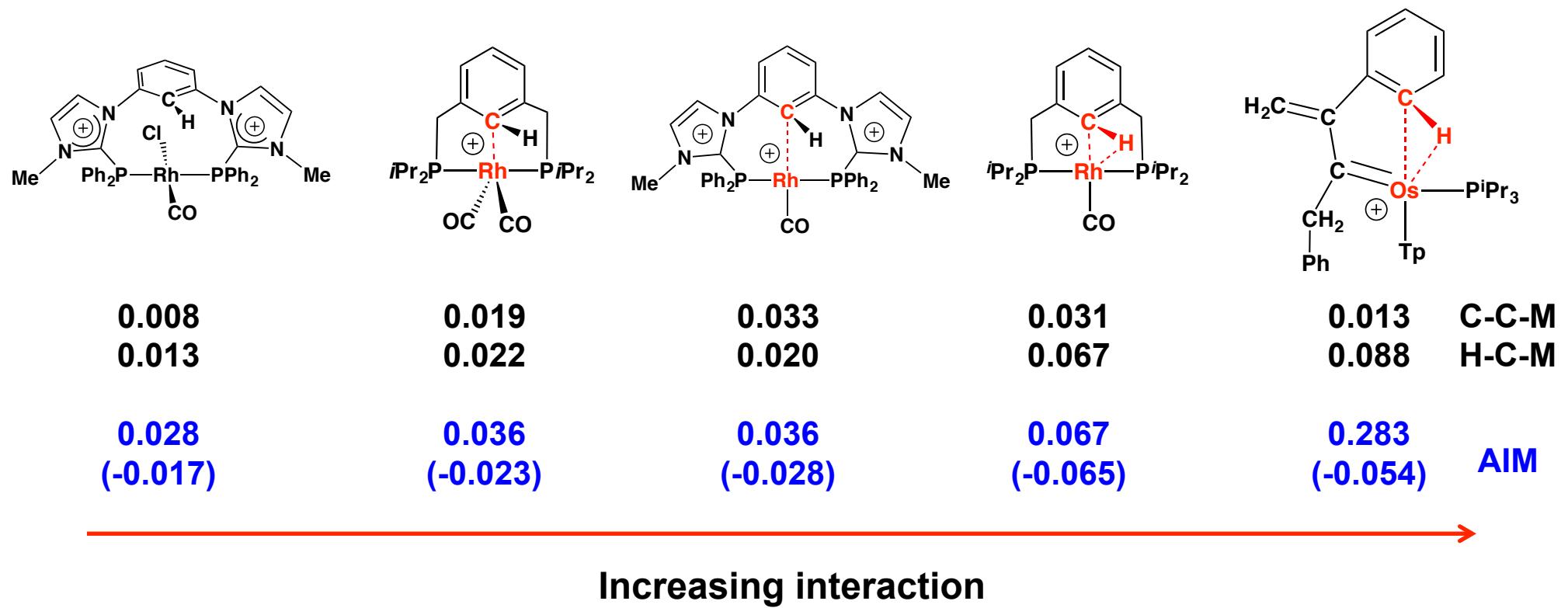


B3PW91/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Rh)//PBE-D3/6-31G\*\*/LANL2DZ\*(Rh)

# MCIs and AIM analysis



# Comparison with NBO



Increasing interaction

NBO : E<sup>(2)</sup> (kcal/mol)

$\sigma_{\text{C-H}} \rightarrow \text{LP}^*(\text{Rh})$  : 4.0

$\pi_{\text{C-C}} \rightarrow \text{LP}^*(\text{Rh})$  : 6.0

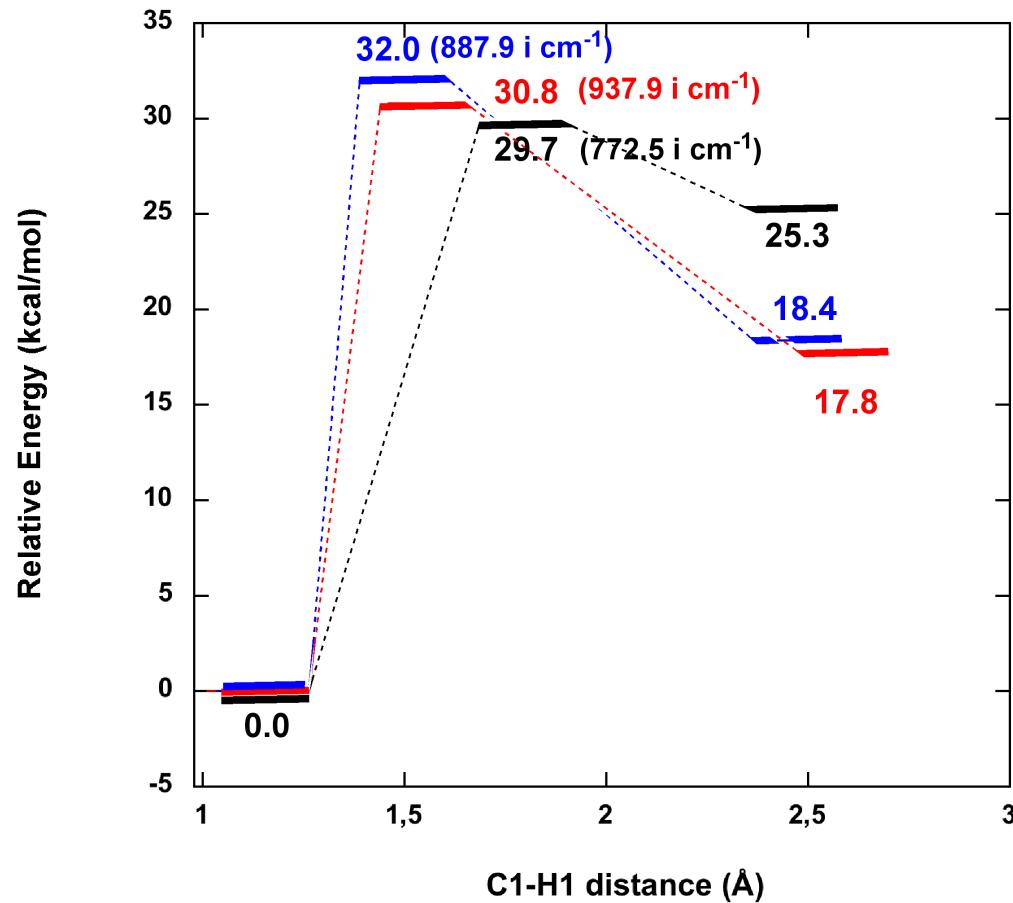
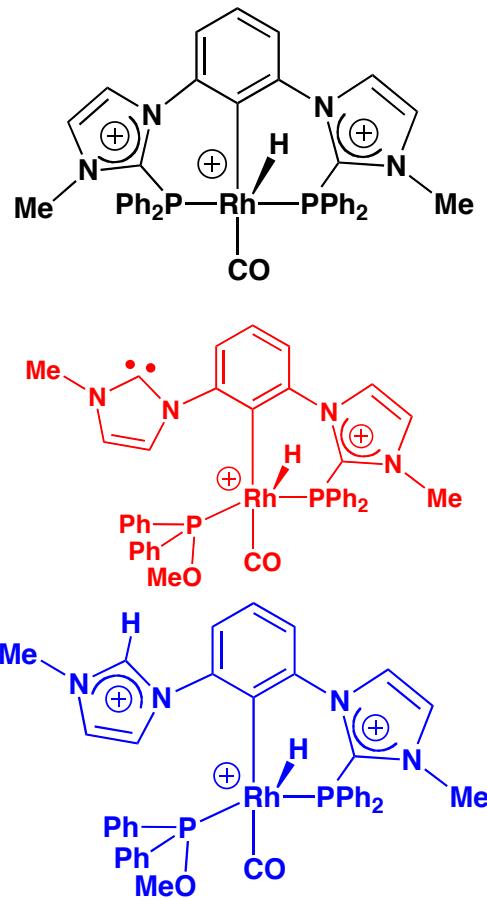
$\sigma_{\text{C-H}} \rightarrow \text{LP}^*(\text{Rh})$  : 1.8

$\pi_{\text{C-C}} \rightarrow \text{LP}^*(\text{Rh})$  : 5.5

$\sigma_{\text{C-H}} \rightarrow \text{BD}^*(\text{Rh-CO})$  : 27.6

$\sigma_{\text{C-H}} \rightarrow \text{LP}^*(\text{Os})$  : 112.6

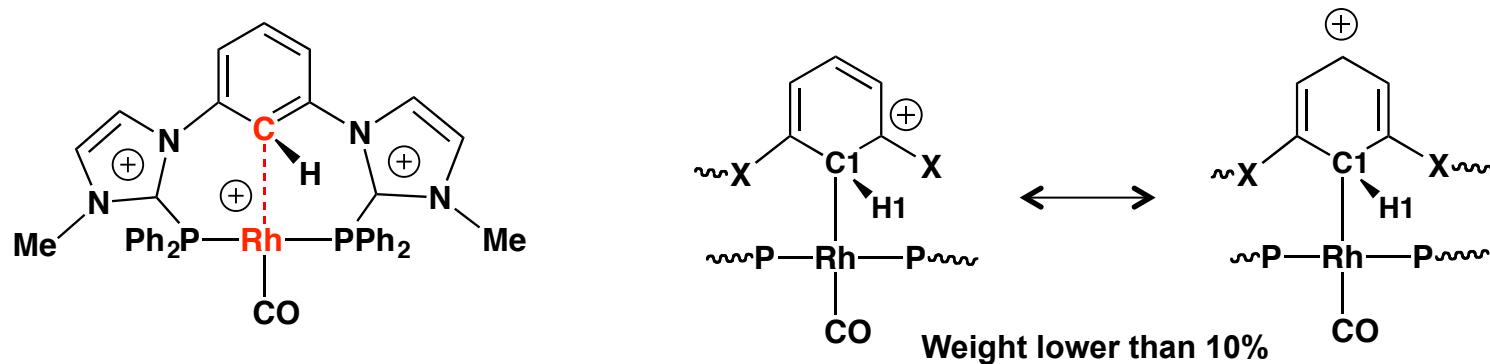
# Arrested C-H oxidative addition intermediate ?



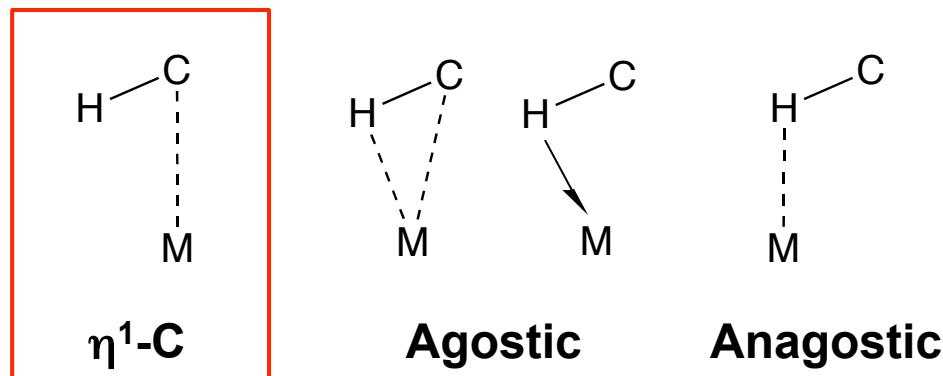
High C-H oxidative addition barriers

# Conclusions

- $\eta^1\text{-C}$  interaction in the P(CH)P pincer complex



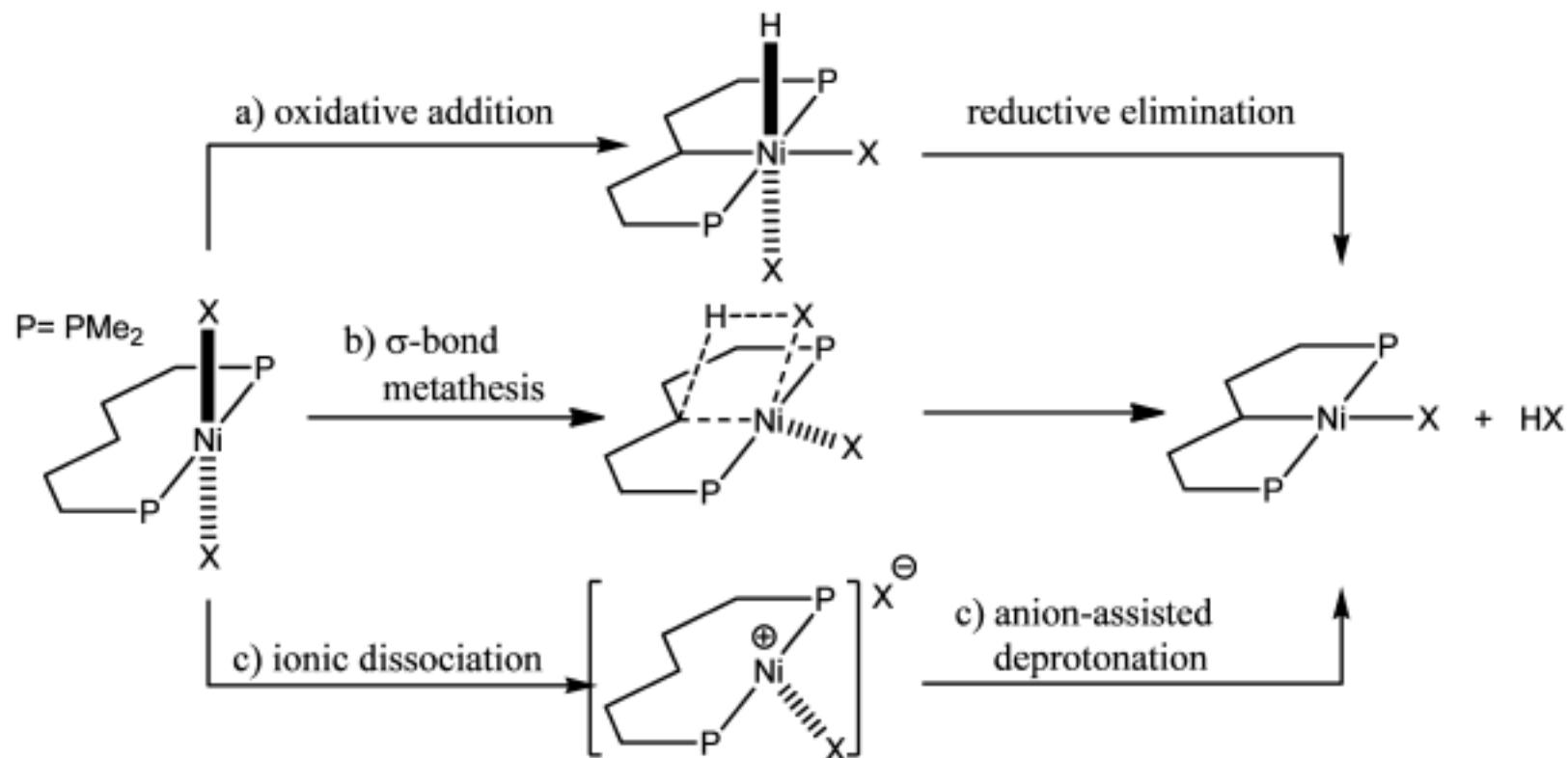
- Missing entry in the agostic - anagostic series



Brookhart *et al.* PNAS 2007, 104, 6908.

# Conclusions

- Arrested C-H oxidative addition or alternative pathway?



Zargarian *et al.* *Organometallics* **2012**, *31*, 6041.

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Miquel Solà (Girona)

Julia Contreras-Garcia



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