

# Theoretical Studies of Isomerism in Selected Ziegler-Natta Catalysts

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# Milestones in Coordinative Olefin Polymerization



1953 - Karl Ziegler discovers titanium based coordinative olefin polymerization catalysts



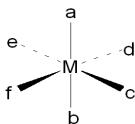
1980 - Walter Kaminsky develops extremely active and stereoselective metallocene catalysts



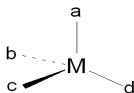
1999 - Terunori Fujita reports bis(phenoxyimine) catalysts of even higher activity

# Classical, Metallocene and Post-Metallocene Systems

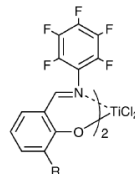
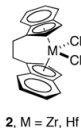
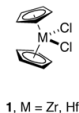
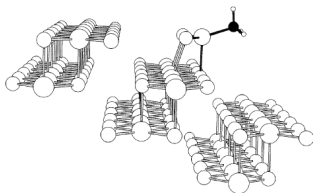
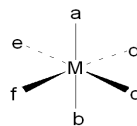
Octahedral coordination



Tetrahedral coordination



Octahedral coordination



# The Bailar Method

- Invented in 1957 to enumerate the isomers of octahedral complexes in an elegant way:  
J.C. Bailar, Jr. *J. Chem. Ed.* **1957**, 34, 334.

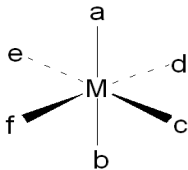
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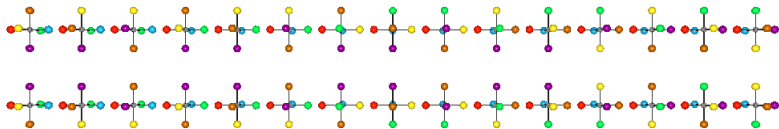
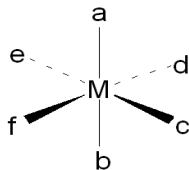
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- Graphical interface was necessary...

# Octahedral $M[abcdef]$ complex



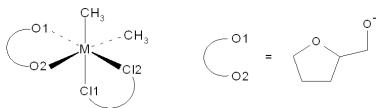


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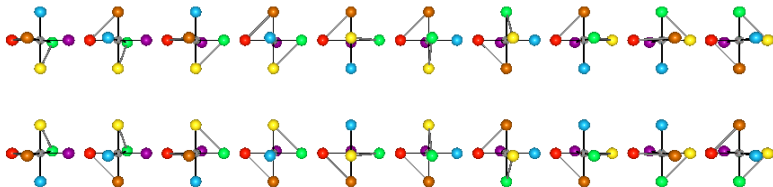
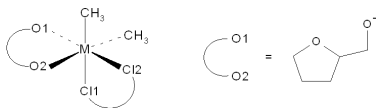


30 isomers: 15 pairs of enantiomers

# Heterogeneous system, $M[aa(BD)(CE)]$ complex



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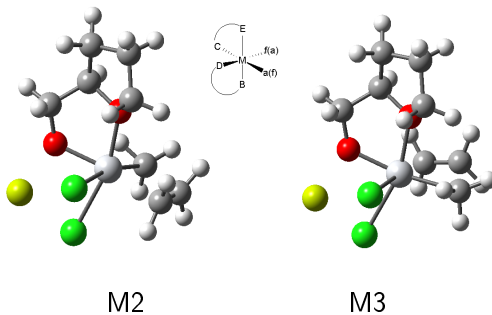
20 isomers: 10 pairs of enantiomers

# Heterogeneous system - chemistry of the system

Additional restrictions due to chemistry of the system:

- Methyl groups must be in the *cis* position with respect to each other,
- Bidentate ligand must not sterically interfere with the support surface.

There are only two pairs of diastereomers to be considered.



# Insertion barriers calculated with DFT

	THF	THFFO (M2)	THFFO (M3)
Initiation			
$\Delta E_{ins}^{\#}$ , ethylene	6.9	15.7	11.7
$\Delta E_{ins}^{\#}$ , propylene max	7.9	17.8	12.4
$\Delta E_{ins}^{\#}$ , propylene min	5.8	14.4	11.3
Propagation			
$\Delta E_{ins}^{\#}$ , ethylene	5.1	13.9	9.8
$\Delta E_{ins}^{\#}$ , propylene max	7.6	15.3	9.1
$\Delta E_{ins}^{\#}$ , propylene min	2.0	12.6	7.8

Z. Flisak, *Macromolecules* 2008, **41**, 6920.

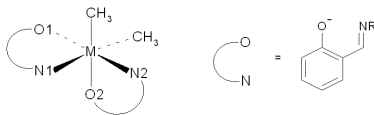
# Selectivity calculated with DFT

- Regio- and stereoselectivity

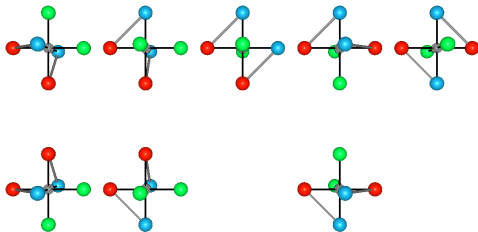
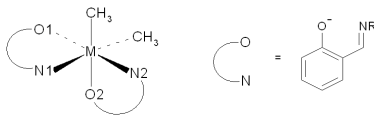
	THF	THFFO (M2)	THFFO (M3)
	Initiation		
$\Delta\Delta E_{regio}$	3.6	1.8	3.8
$\Delta\Delta E_{stereo}$	0.6	0.6	0.4
	Propagation		
$\Delta\Delta E_{regio}$	2.3	2.2	3.4
$\Delta\Delta E_{stereo}$	3.2	4.3	2.3

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# Bis(phenoxyimine) system, $M[aa(BC)(BC)]$ complex



# Bis(phenoxyimine) system, $M[aa(BC)(BC)]$ complex



N-trans-O-cis N-cis-O-cis

N-cis-O-trans

8 isomers, including 3 pairs of enantiomers



# Stability of Isomers and Corresponding Transition States

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Isomer	Ti imine	V imine	Ti amine	V amine
N-trans-O-cis	21.1	23.3	23.1	-
N-cis-O-cis	20.4	22.6	20.7	26.5
	17.1	16.7	19.9	21.1
N-cis-O-trans	<b>13.4</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>20.6</b>

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- A few termination barriers wrt insertion, kcal/mol

Isomer	Ti imine	V imine
N-trans-O-cis	15.8	19.0
N-cis-O-trans	<b>8.6</b>	<b>10.2</b>

- The existence of isomeric octahedral complexes must be considered in the theoretical study of:
  - Classical Ziegler-Natta catalysts supported on  $\text{MgCl}_2$ ,
  - Post-metallocene phenoxyimine catalysts,
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# Conclusions and Prospect

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  - Classical Ziegler-Natta catalysts supported on  $MgCl_2$ ,
  - Post-metallocene phenoxyimine catalysts,
  - Other organometallic systems of similar geometry.
- To get an insight into the action of the Fujita catalyst, this study will be supplemented by:
  - NMR spectra,
  - Laboratory polymerization tests,
  - Analyses of the resulting polymer.

This is not the equipment we utilize...



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Thank you for your kind attention