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Asymmetric Synthesis of Novel Fluorine-Containing β -Lactams for Application to Unnatural β -Amino Acid Synthesis

Unnatural β -Amino Acid Synthesis						
A Thesis Presented						
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Wen Chen						
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in						
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The Graduate School

Wen Chen

We, the thesis committee for the above candidate for the

Master of Science degree,

hereby recommend acceptance of this thesis

Professor Iwao Ojima
Thesis Advisor
Department of Chemistry

Professor Frank W. Fowler Chairman

Department of Chemistry

Professor Kathlyn A. Parker
Third Member
Department of Chemistry

This thesis is accepted by the Graduate School

Lawrence Martin Dean of the Graduate School

Abstract of the Thesis

Asymmetric Synthesis of Novel Fluorine-Containing β -Lactams for Application to Unnatural β -Amino Acid Synthesis

Wen Chen

Master of Science in Chemistry

Stony Brook University

2011

 β -Lactams are four-membered cyclic amides which can be found in many biologically active compounds. β -Lactams may possess two stereocenters. In enantiopure form, β -lactams can be used as chiral building blocks for the synthesis of various biologically relevant compounds, such as antibacterial drugs, antitumor agents, peptides, peptidomimetics and enzyme inhibitors. In addition, fluorine-containing β -lactams have drawn substantial interests among bioorganic and medicinal chemists. Studies have shown that the incorporation of fluorine efficiently blocks metabolism of the drug molecules, especially by cytochrome P-450 family of enzymes, providing improved pharmacokinetic properties.

Different diastereomers of fluorine-containing β -lactams with high enantiopurity were synthesized utilizing a base-catalyzed C4-specific epimerization. Highly enantioenriched cis- β -lactams were obtained using the Staudinger [2+2] ketene-imine cycloaddition reaction, followed by kinetic enzymatic resolution. Ozonolysis of an exocyclic double bond of the enantioenriched cis- β -lactam afforded the key intermediate for selective epimerization, i.e., a C4-formyl- β -lactam. The epimerization reaction was optimized for the isolation of trans- β -lactams. A difluorovinyl group was incorporated through a Wittig reaction, and subsequent modification of the substituents gave the desired 4-difluorovinyl- β -lactams. Using this protocol, a novel trans-difluorovinyl- β -lactam, (3S,4S)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one with excellent enantiopurity, was obtained. These novel cis- and trans-fluorine-containing β -lactams can be used for the synthesis of fluorine-containing α -hydroxy- β -amino acids and their congeners or for the incorporation of fluorines into biologically

active compounds via the β -lactam synthon method to investigate the effects of the fluorine moieties on their biological activities.

Table of Contents

List of Figures	vii
List of Schemes	viii
List of Tables	ix
List of Abbreviations	X
Acknowledgments	xii
§ 1.1 Introduction	1
§ 1.1.1 Structure and Reactivity of β -Lactams	1
\S 1.1.2 Applications of β -Lactams in Biologically Active Compounds	1
§ 1.1.3 Synthetic Methods Towards β -lactams	2
§ 1.1.3.1 Staudinger Reaction.	2
§ 1.1.3.2 Enzymatic Optical Kinetic Resolution	4
§ 1.1.3.3 Chiral Ester Enolate-Imine Cyclocondensation	5
§ 1.1.4 Introduction of Fluoro-β-Lactams	6
§ 1.1.4.1 Applications of Fluorine in Biologically Active Compounds	7
$\S 1.1.4.2$ Synthesis of Fluorine-Containing β -Lactams	7
§ 1.1.5 Epimerization of Enantiomerically Enriched <i>cis-β</i> -Lactams into <i>trans-β</i> -Lactams	9
§ 1.1.5.1 Epimerization using Treatment of Base	9
§ 1.1.5.2 Epimerization using Formation of Schiff Base	10
§1.1.6 Asymmetric Synthesis of Fluoro-α-Hydroxy-β-Amino Acids	11
§ 1.1.7 Applications of Fluoro-α-Hydroxy-β-Amino Acids	13
§ 1.2 Results and Discussion	13
§ 1.2.1 Synthesis of β -lactams	13
§ 1.2.2 Synthesis of Fluoro-β-lactams	16
§ 1.2.3 Optimization of Epimerization reactions	18
§ 1.2.3.1 Epimerization using Treatment of Base	18
§ 1.2.3.2 Epimerization using Formation of Schiff Base	19
§ 1.2.3.3 Optimization of Epimerization Reactions using Treatment of Base	22
§ 1.2.4 Isolation and Characterization of the <i>trans-β</i> -Lactams	27
§ 1.3 Conclusion	29
§ 1.4 Experimental Section.	30

References	41
Appendix	44

List of Figures

Figure 1:Azetidin-2-one	1
Figure 2: Examples of bioactive compounds containing α-hydroxy-β-amino acid unit	
Figure 3: Staudinger reaction between imine and ketene	3
Figure 4: Proposed pathways in the Staudinger [2+2] reaction leading to the formation of both cis- and	
<i>trans-</i> β -lactams ¹²	4
Figure 5: Mechanism of chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation ¹⁶	
Figure 6: Fluorine-containing drugs ¹⁹	7
Figure 7: Epimerization mechanism of (3 <i>R</i> ,4 <i>S</i>)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one	. 11
Figure 8: The expected enamine (36a _d) and the speculated enamine structures (37)	. 21
Figure 9: Proposed strategy for acid catalyzed hydrolysis of enamine (37)	. 22

List of Schemes

Scheme 1: Application of enzymatic kinetic resolution on racemic cis-1-(p-methoxyphenyl)-3-	-
acetoxy-4-phenylazetidin-2-one	4
Scheme 2: Chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation	5
Scheme 3: Formation of racemic <i>cis</i> -3-benzyloxy-4-trifluoromethylazetidin-2-one using	
Staudinger reaction	7
Scheme 4: Enzymatic kinetic resolution of racemic 3-AcO-4-CF ₃ -β-lactam	8
Scheme 5: Chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation with fluorine	8
Scheme 6: Formation of 4-difluoromethylazetidin-2-one	8
Scheme 7: Wittig reaction on (3 <i>R</i> ,4 <i>S</i>)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one	9
Scheme 8: Epimerization of (3 <i>R</i> ,4 <i>S</i>)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one using treatment base	
Scheme 9: Possibilities of deprotonation at C3 and C4 of (3R,4S)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-	
formylazetidin-2-one	. 10
Scheme 10: Epimerization of (3R,4S)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one	10
Scheme 11: Ring-opening hydrolysis of R _f -β-lactams	. 12
Scheme 12: Methanolysis of R _f -β-lactams	. 12
Scheme 13: Ring-opening coupling of R _f -β-lactams with amino acid esters	. 12
Scheme 14: Staudinger [2+2] ketene-imine cycloaddition reaction	14
Scheme 15: Enzymatic kinetic resolution on (±)-1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-acetoxyl-4-(2-	
methylprop-1-enyl)azetidin-2-one [24(±)]	15
Scheme 16: Hydrolysis of (+) 2-2 followed by TIPS-protection	15
Scheme 17: CAN-mediated deprotection followed by Boc protection to give (3R,4S)-1-t-Boc-3	3-
TIPSO-4-(2-methyl-1-propenyl)azetidin-2-one [29(+)] with high enantiopurity	15
Scheme 18: Ozonalysis of (+) 27	16
Scheme 19: Formation of 1- <i>p</i> -Methoxyphenyl-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-	
difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one [31(+)] via the Wittig reaction	. 18
Scheme 20: CAN-mediated deprotection followed by Boc-protection on 31(+)	. 18
Scheme 21: TIPS-protection on high enantiomerically excess 25(-)	18
Scheme 22: Epimerization reaction of 30 for the determination of side product	24
Scheme 23: Formation of (3 <i>S</i> ,3 <i>S</i>)-3-Triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one	
(40)	. 29
Scheme 24: Formation of (3 <i>S</i> ,4 <i>S</i>)-1-(<i>tert</i> -butoxycarbonyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-	
difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one 41(-)	29

List of Tables

Table 1: Screening reaction conditions for improving the yield of the ozonolysis product 30	17
Table 2: Epimerization reactions of 30(+) using various bases	19
Table 3: Epimerization of 30 using the formation of Schiff base followed by hydrolysis	20
Table 4: Optimization for the epimerization reaction conditions of 30 using DBU	23
Table 5: Solvent effect on the epimerization of 30	25
Table 6: Optimization of epimerization reactions with toluene	26
Table 7: Temperature effect of the epimerization reaction	27
Table 8: Isolation of <i>cis</i> - and <i>trans-β</i> -lactams	28
Table 9: Characteristics of the <i>cis</i> - and <i>trans</i> -1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one	28

List of Abbreviations

Ac - acetyl

Bn - benzyl

Boc - *tert*-butyloxycarbonyl

CAN - ammonium cerium(IV) nitrate

CH₂Cl₂ dichloromethane

d - doublet

DAST - diethylaminosulfur trifluoride

DBU - 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene

DMAP - 4-Dimethylaminopyridine

DMF - Dimethylformamide

ee - enantiomeric excess

Et₃N - triethylamine

FIA - flow-injection analysis

g - grams

h - hour

 $HMPT (P(NMe_2)_3)$ - hexamethylphosphorous triamide

HPLC - high performance liquid chromatography

Hz - hertz

kJ - kilo joules

KOH - potassium hydroxide

LDA - lithium diisopropylamide

LiHMDS - lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide

M - molarity

Me - methyl

 Me_2S - dimethyl sulfide

MeOH - methanol

mg - miligrams

MHz - mega hertz

mL - milliliter

Mmol - millimole

mp - melting point

NaOH - sodium hydroxide

NMR - nuclear magnetic resonance

PBS - phosphate buffered saline

Ph - phenyl

PMP - *p*-methoxyphenyl

PPM - part per million

s - singlet

R_f - fluorine-containing group

r.t. - room temperature

t - triplet

TEA - triethylamine

THF - tetrahydrofuran

TIPS - triisopropylsilyl

TIPSCl - triisopropylchlorosilane

TLC - thin-layer chromatography

TMS - trimethylsilyl

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§ 1.1 Introduction

§ 1.1.1 Structure and Reactivity of β -Lactams

 β -lactams are four-membered cyclic amides (**Figure 1**) which can be found in many biologically active compounds. β -lactams may possess two stereocenters. β -lactams with high enantiopurity are beneficial as chiral synthons for the synthesis of stereospecific compounds. Cleaving any of the C-C or C-N bonds can resolve chiral precursors for several syntheses. The strain in the β -lactam ring makes the azetidin-2-one core prone to nucleophilic attack at the C2 carbonyl. The C2 carbonyl is also the most exploited nucleophilic center as the N1-C2 amide bond is susceptible to a variety of nucleophilic reagents. Notably, cleavage of N1-C2 bond yields enantiopure β -amino acids, while the reductive cleavage of the N1-C4 bond leads to formation of α -amino acids and α -hydroxy acids. Thus, β -lactams are very useful in the synthesis of various α - and β -amino acids, which are the building blocks for many potential therapeutic drugs.

$$R^2_{1,3}$$
 R^3 R^3 R^1 R^1

Figure 1: Azetidin-2-one

§ 1.1.2 Applications of β -Lactams in Biologically Active Compounds

Since the development of the β -lactam synthon method, β -lactams have drawn great interest from scientists for the synthesis of antibacterial drugs, antitumor agents, peptides, peptidomimetics and protease inhibitors.² For example, β -lactams have been used for the synthesis of antibiotics for decades. These antibiotics include penicillins, cephalosporins, carbapenems, and monobactams.² Moreover, antitumor agents such as Taxol® (paclitaxel) (4) as shown in **Figure 2** and Taxotère® (docetaxel) have utilized β -lactams as intermediates to introduce the C13 side chain isoserine (α -hydroxy- β -amino acid) moiety. The isoserine moieties (1) are obtained through the cleavage of the N1-C2 bond of C3-hydroxy β -lactams. These isoserine units are essential for the cytotoxicity of taxoids.³

 β -lactams have also been used as intermediates in the synthesis of biologically active peptides. For example, the stereoselective synthesis of Bestatin (2) can be accomplished through the β -lactam synthon method.⁴ Bestatin functions as an aminopeptidase inhibitor and has been used for the treatment of various forms of cancers such as chronic myelogenous leukemia,⁵ and early lung cancer.⁶ Peptidomimetics such as Kinostatin-227 (3),⁷⁻⁸ an anti-HIV agent and

microginin $(5)^9$, an angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor, have been successfully synthesized using β -lactams as intermediates.

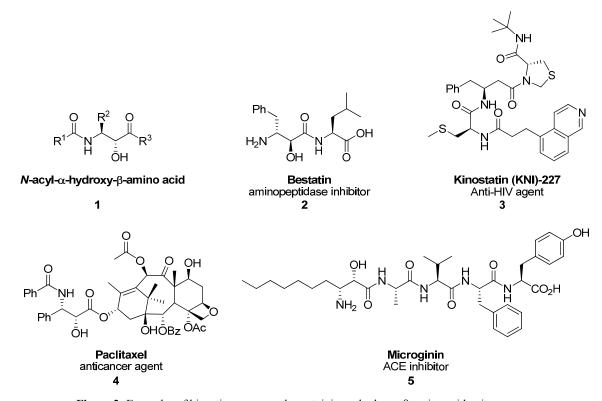


Figure 2: Examples of bioactive compounds containing α -hydroxy- β -amino acid unit

§ 1.1.3 Synthetic Methods Towards β -lactams

Two major synthetic methods have been developed to synthesize enantiomerically enriched β -lactams. The Staudinger [2+2] ketene-imine cycloaddition reaction is the first reported synthesis of β -lactams. β -lactams could be synthesized in racemic form and the enantiomers may be separated by means of enzymatic resolution. The ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation was one of the first asymmetric syntheses reported for the preparation of β -lactams. By using a chiral auxiliary in the starting material, β -lactams can be synthesized with high enantiopurity.

§ 1.1.3.1 Staudinger Reaction

The β -lactam core can be achieved by the Staudinger [2+2] ketene-imine cycloaddition reaction, which was first reported by Staudinger in 1907. In this first example, a Schiff base derived from aniline and benzaldehyde underwent a [2+2] cycloaddition with diphenylketene (**Figure 3**). ¹¹

Figure 3: Staudinger reaction between imine and ketene

Although the Staudinger [2+2] ketene-imine cycloaddition reaction has been widely used for the synthesis of various β -lactams, the detailed mechanism has remained controversial. Several experiments and computational analyses have revealed that the Staudinger reaction undergoes a two-step process. The reaction involves the nucleophilic attack of an imine to a ketene, generating a zwitterionic intermediate. The zwitterionic intermediate then undergoes a four-electron conrotatory electrocyclization to form the β -lactam ring. In the cycloaddition process, two stereocenters can be produced in the ring. As a result, both *cis*- and *trans-\beta*-lactam products can be obtained.

The stereoselectivity of β -lactams can be controlled by various factors such as the order of addition of the reagents and the electronic nature of the substituents. Three pathways have been proposed for the formation of the *cis*- and *trans-\beta*-lactam diastereomers. As shown in Pathway I (**Figure 4**), after the formation of the zwitterionic intermediate, it can have two fates. If the ring closing happens faster than the isomerization of the zwitterionic intermediate, a *cis-\beta*-lactam product is formed. Alternatively, if the zwitterionic intermediate is relatively stable, an isomerization may occur which allows rotation around the N-C bond, thus the *trans-\beta*-lactam product is formed. Pathway III gives a similar prediction for the formation of the two diastereomers, however, the nucleophilic attack of the acyl chloride by the imine happened first. Pathway II suggests a stabilization of the zwitterionic intermediate by chlorine which can later behave as a leaving group at the ring closing step and give the two diastereomers. In general, (*E*) imines lead preferentially to the more hindered *cis-\beta*-lactams, while (*Z*) imines give predominantly the *tran*-isomers. The two products can be isolated by means of column chromatography or recrystallization. Enantiomerically enriched β -lactams can also be achieved by incorporating chiral imines or ketenes in the synthesis.

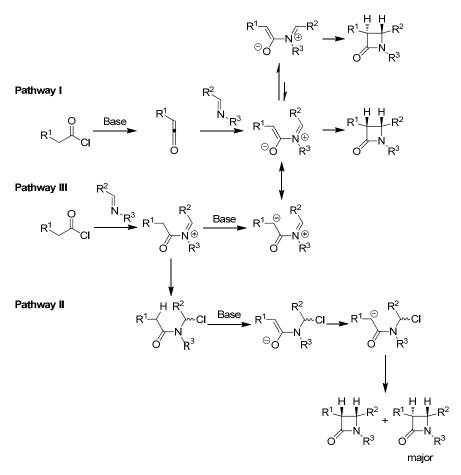


Figure 4: Proposed pathways in the Staudinger [2+2] reaction leading to the formation of both cis- and trans- β -lactams¹²

§ 1.1.3.2 Enzymatic Optical Kinetic Resolution

In most cases, the Staudinger reaction affords a racemic mixture of β -lactam. If there is a hydroxyl group at C3, the two enantiomers can be separated and isolated via an enzymatic kinetic resolution using lipases. Lipases have been employed for the kinetic resolution of racemic alcohols and carboxylic esters. Due to the commercial availability and the relative stability of the lipases, they have been utilized to synthesize β -lactams with excellent enantiomeric excess. ¹⁴ For example, Sih *et. al.* applied P-30 lipase to catalytically hydrolyze the racemic β -lactam (6) and obtained 6(+) as the remaining substrate with an absolute configuration of (3R, 4S) (Scheme 1). ¹⁴

Scheme 1: Application of enzymatic kinetic resolution on racemic cis-1-(p-methoxyphenyl)-3-acetoxy-4-phenylazetidin-2-one

§ 1.1.3.3 Chiral Ester Enolate-Imine Cyclocondensation

An alternative method towards the synthesis of enantiomerically enriched β -lactams is through the chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation reaction. An example of this reaction proceeds, by forming a chiral lithium ester enolate (8) that contains Whitesell's chiral auxiliary followed by cyclocondensation with *N*-trimethylsilylimines (Scheme 2). After acidic workup highly stereospecific β -lactams 9(+) are obtained in good yield and high enantiopurity.

OR* TIPSO OR*
$$R^{1}$$
 TIPSO R^{1} R^{1}

Scheme 2: Chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation

In the chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation reaction, an *E*-enolate is preferentially formed first. The *E*-enolate is the kinetically favored product as compared to the *Z*-enolate. Moreover, Ojima *et. al.* carried out calculations which proved that the *E*-enolate is also the thermodynamically favorable product. The cyclocondensation reaction between the *E*-enolate and the imine can undergo two possible transition states. For the first transition state, the enolate has a chair like conformation (**A**), whereas in the other transition state the enolate takes on a boat like conformation (**B**) (**Figure 5**). Transition state **A** is kinetically favored, and thus the *cis*-product is formed instead of the *trans*-product, provided that care is taken during addition to maintain the temperature at -78 °C. The transition state also explains the high enantioselectivity of the reaction. The chiral auxiliary blocks the front side of the ester enolate causing the imine to approach only from the back side, thus giving the highly enantiomerically enriched *cis*-product.

Figure 5: Mechanism of chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation¹⁶

§ 1.1.4 Introduction of Fluoro-β-Lactams

Fluorine containing β -lactams have drawn a substantial amount of interest from scientists, as these β -lactams can be used for the synthesis of biologically relevant compounds. Studies have shown that the incorporation of fluorine moieties often improves the activity of bioactive drugs. Fluorine is the most electronegative atom, thus the C-F bond is stronger than the C-H bond. As a result, fluorine provides higher oxidative stability. Molecules without fluorine often contain active moieties that can be oxidized by the cytochrome P450 enzyme to allow excretion. This oxidation would terminate the drug action and influence the compound's residence time. The incorporation of fluorine efficiently blocks the oxidation at the active moieties of the drug molecule providing improved pharmacokinetic properties. Furthermore, fluorine is also isoelectronic to oxygen ions and hydroxyl groups, which can have profound effects on binding affinities of the drug to the protein. Moreover, incorporation of fluorine increases the lipophilicity of the drug, thus improving membrane permeability.¹⁷

From an analytical point of view, fluorine possesses large ¹⁹F-¹H coupling constants and has better sensitivity in ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy, simplifying the analysis of complex molecules. In addition, due to the fact that fluorine is absent in human tissues, the activities of fluorine-containing molecules in a biological environment (i.e. protein) can be observed easier. ¹⁸

Therefore, the synthesis of fluoro- β -lactams is very beneficial as intermediates for the synthesis of fluoro- β -amino acids.

§ 1.1.4.1 Applications of Fluorine in Biologically Active Compounds

In the past decade, many fluorine-containing drugs have been widely applied in experimental and clinical use. These fluorine-containing drugs have been used as treatments for various diseases. For example, Roflumilast (10) has been used to inhibit phosphodiesterase enzymes that inactivate cAMP and cGMP. These proteins are responsible for the regulation of autocoids, drugs, hormones and neurotransmitters. Roflumilast and related compounds are considered useful for the treatment of inflammatory diseases such as asthma, allergic rhinitis and pulmonary hypersensitivity, as well as central nervous system disorders. BMS 201038 (11) is a potent inhibitor of the microsomal triglyceride transfer protein, which is beneficial in lowering cholesterol level. Eflornithine (12) has been designed as an ornithine decarboxylase inhibitor and can be used to cure infections caused by *Trypanosoma gambiense*. 19

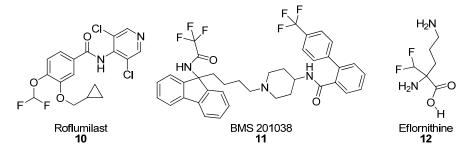


Figure 6: Fluorine-containing drugs¹⁹

§ 1.1.4.2 Synthesis of Fluorine-Containing β -Lactams

All the synthetic methods described previously for general β -lactams can be applied for the synthesis of fluorine-containing β -lactams. In 1996, Bonnet-Delpon *et al.* reported the synthesis of $syn-\alpha$ -hydroxy- β -trifluoromethyl- β -amino acid using the Staudinger reaction (**Scheme 3**). Racemic $cis-\beta$ -lactam (**13**) was obtained in 50 % yield.²⁰

BnO CI
$$\xrightarrow{\text{Et}_3\text{N}}$$
 $\begin{bmatrix} OBn \\ C \\ O \end{bmatrix}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{N}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{PMP}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{F}_3\text{C}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{OBn}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, 40 °C}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{PMP}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{O}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{O}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{C}}$ $\xrightarrow{$

Scheme 3: Formation of racemic cis-3-benzyloxy-4-trifluoromethylazetidin-2-one using Staudinger reaction

In 1997, Ojima *et al.* utilized kinetic optical resolution on acetyl protected β -lactam **14**(±) in the presence of PS-Amano lipase and buffer (pH 7) at 50 °C to give **14**(+) in high enantiopurity with 42% yield (50% was the theoretical yield). **15(-)** with high enantiopurity could not be isolated due to hydrolysis of **6**(+) to alcohol (**Scheme 4**). Careful temperature control and PS-Amano lipase activity may prevent over hydrolysis. ¹⁸

Scheme 4: Enzymatic kinetic resolution of racemic 3-AcO-4-CF₃-β-lactam

Ojima *et al.* successfully applied the chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation strategy to synthesize the fluoro- β -lactams **16(+)** with very high enantioselectivity (**Scheme 5**). ¹⁶

TIPSO OR* TIPSO OR*
$$R^1$$
—P-PhCF3, p-PhF

OR*= R^1 =p-PhCF3, p-PhF

81-84%
98-99% ee

Scheme 5: Chiral ester enolate-imine cyclocondensation with fluorine

Furthermore, in 2000 Ojima *et al.* subjected TIPS-protected β -lactam **17(+)** to an ozonolysis reaction to give aldehyde **18(+)**. The aldehyde was then treated with excess dialkylaminosulfur trifluorides (DAST) to afford the 4-difluorinated- β -lactam **19(+)** (Scheme **6**).²¹

TIPSO, O₃, MeOH/CH₂Cl₂, TIPSO, O₈ Et₂NSF₃ (DAST), TIPSO, CH₂Cl₂
$$\frac{-78\,^{\circ}\text{C}}{\text{Me}_2\text{S}}$$
 O PMP (86 %) PMP 17(+) 18(+)

Scheme 6: Formation of 4-difluoromethylazetidin-2-one

Recently in 2009, Ojima patented a new synthetic method exploiting the Wittig reaction by using the TIPS-protected **18(+)** and obtained 4-difluorovinyl- β -lactam **20(+)** in moderate yield (**Scheme 7**).²²

Scheme 7: Wittig reaction on (3R,4S)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one

§ 1.1.5 Epimerization of Enantiomerically Enriched *cis-β*-Lactams into *trans-β*-Lactams

To synthesize $trans-\beta$ -lactams with high enantiomeric excess, two strategies can be applied starting with a $cis-\beta$ -lactam possessing high enantiopurity. The first strategy involves the use of a base to epimerize the aldehyde and the second strategy involves the formation of a Schiff base, followed by epimerization and hydrolysis.

§ 1.1.5.1 Epimerization using Treatment of Base

 β -lactam (21) contains two acidic protons at C3 and C4, thus it can be used as the key intermediate for the epimerization step. It is proposed that after deprotonation by base and careful control of reaction conditions, the *trans*-diastereomers (22) were expected to be the major products as they are thermodynamically more stable than *cis*-diastereomers (Scheme 8).

Scheme 8: Epimerization of (3R,4S)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one using treatment of base

As shown in **Scheme 9**, deprotonation at C3 would generate a highly unstable charged intermediate. After deprotonation, the intermediate has a double bond in the four-membered β -lactam ring introducing more strain into the already highly strained ring. Alternatively, when the C4 proton is deprotonated a more stable intermediate is formed. After deprotonation, C4 changes its hybridization from sp^3 to sp^2 , allowing a change of the stereocenter at the re-protonation step and forming the (3R, 4R) trans-diastereomer as the expected product.

Deprotonation at C3

Scheme 9: Possibilities of deprotonation at C3 and C4 of (3R,4S)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one

§ 1.1.5.2 Epimerization using Formation of Schiff Base

An alternative method for the epimerization is to employ a Schiff base strategy. A bulky amine could be reacted with the aldehyde to give an imine, which would epimerize after treating with a base (**Scheme 10**). The epimerization is facilitated by the steric hindrance between the TIPS group and the bulky imine moiety. As a result, a *trans*-imine could be formed to avoid steric interactions between bulky groups at C3 and C4 (**Figure 7**). Finally, hydrolysis would give the aldehyde with desired stereochemistry. Similarly, upon the addition of base, deprotonation at C3 would generate an unstable intermediate thus is not favorable.

Scheme 10: Epimerization of (3*R*,4*S*)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one

Figure 7: Epimerization mechanism of (3R,4S)-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one

Once the stereochemistry has been established, the fluoro-*trans-* β -lactams can be synthesized using the Wittig reaction, followed by CAN-mediated deprotection and Boc protection. The fluoro- β -lactams with high enantiomeric excess can be used as precursors for the synthesis of fluoro- α -hydroxy- β -amino acids with high enantiopurity.

§1.1.6 Asymmetric Synthesis of Fluoro-α-Hydroxy-β-Amino Acids

Fluorine-containing β -amino acids have drawn a substantial amount of interest in the last two decades due to the unique and intrinsic properties of fluorine. As mentioned previously, α -hydroxy- β -amino acids (isoserines) could be found in many biologically active compounds. The β -lactam synthon method is especially useful in the synthesis of isoserines. Utilizing the ring strain of the four-membered β -lactam ring, a ring-opening reaction would give chemically important isoserines. Therefore, to obtain stereospecific fluoro- α -hydroxy- β -amino acids fluoro- β -lactams could be used as versatile synthetic building blocks.²³

Isoserines can be obtained from fluoro- β -lactams using various methods. A facile ring-opening hydrolysis was reported by Ojima *et al.*²¹ (**Scheme 11**) which gave the β -CF₂H- and CF₃- α -TIPSO- β -amino acids in good yields.²³

TIPSO
$$R_f$$
 KOH, THF, H_2O R OH OTIPS $R_f = CF_2H$, $R = Tosyl$ $R_f = CF_3$, $R = t - Boc$ $R_f = CF_2H$

Scheme 11: Ring-opening hydrolysis of $R_{\Gamma}\beta$ -lactams

Another method was reported for the synthesis of β -CF₂H- and CF₃- α -TIPSO- β -amino acids methyl ester through a facile methanolysis of R_f- β -lactams with good to excellent yield (**Scheme 12**).²³

TIPSO
$$R_f$$
 MeOH, DMAP, Et_3N R_f OMe OTIPS $S_f = CF_2H$, $S_f = CF_3$ $S_f = t$ -Boc, Cbz, Tosyl

Scheme 12: Methanolysis of R_f - β -lactams

The synthesis of R_f -containing isoserine dipeptides was also reported and synthesized through a ring-opening coupling reaction. The isoserine dipeptides were obtained with good to excellent yields. This method was done without any peptide coupling reagents such as N.N-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and N.N-diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIC), and therefore provides a much easier method to the formation of dipeptides.²³

Scheme 13: Ring-opening coupling of $R_{\Gamma}\beta$ -lactams with amino acid esters

§ 1.1.7 Applications of Fluoro-α-Hydroxy-β-Amino Acids

Fluoro- α -hydroxy- β -amino acids can be found in many biological applications, thus fluoro- β -lactams are very useful intermediates for the facile synthesis of biologically active molecules such as dipeptides, depsipeptides and peptidomimetics. Fluoro- β -lactams also can be used as building blocks for fluorine-containing hydroxyethylene, dihydroxylethylene, and hydroxyethylamine dipeptide isosteres.²³

Ojima *et al.* used β -lactams as versatile intermediates in the synthesis of taxoids using the Ojima-Holton coupling. The isoserine moiety can be conveniently introduced in one step in which the β -lactam ring opens after coupling with a modified-baccatin core in the presence of base. The isoserine moiety at the C-13 side chain of taxoids is essential for the cytotoxicity of the taxoids. A series of 3'-CF₃-docetaxel congeners, CF₂H- and CF₃-containing taxoids, and C-3'-difluorovinyl-taxoids have been synthesized. The cytotoxicity assay against different human cancer cell lines showed that fluoro-taxoids are significantly more potent than paclitaxel and docetaxel. $^{22-23, 25}$

§ 1.2 Results and Discussion

The synthesis of fluoro- β -lactam diastereomers for the preparation of various fluoro- β -amino acids is the focus of the present study. β -amino acids are constituents of proteins and peptides, and β -amino acids moieties can be found in many biologically active compounds. It is proposed that different fluoro- α -hydroxy- β -amino acids with high enantiopurity could be synthesized by utilizing 1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluorovinyl)azetidin-2-one as the key intermediate. Both enantiopure (+) and (-) cis-diastereomers can be obtained using enzymatic resolution, while their corresponding trans-diastereomers could be achieved using epimerization. The synthetic method of achieving (+) and (-) trans-diastereomers from cis- β -lactams was explored in the present study.

§ 1.2.1 Synthesis of β -lactams

The synthesis of β -lactams with excellent enantionmeric excess begins with the construction of the four-membered heterocyclic ring core. Using the Staudinger [2+2] keteneimine cycloaddition reaction, imine **23** was obtained in the condensation reaction of 3-methyl-2-butenal in the presence of p-anisidine and a desiccating reagent (**Scheme 14**).

Scheme 14: Staudinger [2+2] ketene-imine cycloaddition reaction

Imine 23 is highly unstable. To prevent loss of the imine due to decomposition or isomerization, the condensation reaction was done in the dark. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was filtered; the solvent was evaporated under vacuum pressure at room temperature. Without further purification the resulting material was carried onto the next step. The [2+2] cycloaddition between imine 23 and acetoxyacetyl chloride generated a racemic mixture of 24 accompanied by a racemic mixture of 25.²⁶

The -78 °C temperature had to be maintained to prevent *trans*-isomer formation of the β -lactam. This temperature was achieved using acetone with a cryocool. However, instead of adding acetoxyacetyl chloride dropwise against the sides of the reaction vessel to further assure the cold temperature was maintained, it was added dropwise directly into the solution which may account for the generation of **25** *trans*- β -lactam isomer. The temperature was held at -78 °C for at least 2 hours after the addition of the chloride. After 7 hours, the reaction was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature. β -lactam **24** was purified by column chromatography, however, trace amounts of the *trans*- β -lactam isomer were still present. Half of the product mixture was therefore carried to the next step. At the same time, recrystallization was performed to further purify the other half of the mixture. The purified **24** was eventually added to the next reaction.

The Ojima-Holton protocol requires β -lactam **24**(+) with high enantiomeric excess. This can be achieved *via* enzymatic resolution using PS-Amano lipase.¹⁴ Ideally, the lipase should preferentially cleave the acetate group of the (-) enantiomer leaving the (+) enantiomer intact. The reaction was monitored by ¹H NMR and was quenched when the ratio of the acetate to alcohol was 1:1.²⁷ The ideal yield for **24**(+) should be 50%, but only a 15% yield was obtained experimentally after 3 steps. This poor yield could be due to the high temperature at the

beginning of the reaction which promoted enough energy for the enzyme to hydrolyze the (+) enantiomer. Moreover, residual *trans*-diastereomer may also account for the low yield.

Scheme 15: Enzymatic kinetic resolution on (±)-1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-acetoxyl-4-(2-methylprop-1-enyl)azetidin-2-one [24(±)]

Later, the desired **24(+)** was converted to an alcohol **26(+)** using base-hydrolysis and the alcohol was protected with a TIPS moiety to give **27(+)**. ²⁸

Scheme 16: Hydrolysis of (+) 2-2 followed by TIPS-protection

Further modification of **27(+)** involved the deprotection of the *p*-methoxyphenyl (PMP) moiety in the presence of ceric ammonium nitrate (CAN).²⁸ The mechanism for the removal of PMP involves two Single Electron Transfers. Cerium (IV) takes a single electron from the PMP group forming a radical cation intermediate that is susceptible to a nucleophilic attack by water. After the nucleophilic attack, another electron is transferred to another cerium molecule to give a quinone like radical which is then cleaved by the addition of a second water molecule producing the free amine, quinone and methanol as the primary products. After CAN-mediated deprotection, the amine was protected with Boc to yield **29(+)**. Following Boc protection, **29(+)** can be used in various stereospecific syntheses (**Scheme 17**). For example, it could be coupled to a modified baccatin core to yield a highly potent 2nd generation taxoid, SB-T-1214.²⁸

Scheme 17: CAN-mediated deprotection followed by Boc protection to give (3*R*,4*S*)-1-*t*-Boc-3-TIPSO-4-(2-methyl-1-propenyl)azetidin-2-one [29(+)] with high enantiopurity

§ 1.2.2 Synthesis of Fluoro-β-lactams

The synthesis of fluoro- β -lactams began with subjecting **27(+)** to an ozonolysis reaction (**Scheme 18**). In the reaction, a malozonide would be formed as the first intermediate followed by decomposition into Criegee zwitterion and a carbonyl. Another cycloadditon between the two species would give rise to the ozonide intermediate. Due to the fact that the malozonide is very unstable and may be explosive, the reaction has to take place at low temperature. Upon workup with dimethylsulfide the ozonide can be reduced to give **30**.

Scheme 18: Ozonalysis of (+) 27

Several ozonolysis reactions were carried out using (-) 27 with low % ee to test the reaction conditions and to see if literature reported results are reproducible. The results are shown in **Table 1**. Although the same reaction conditions were followed according to literature procedure, the ozonolysis reaction gave poor to moderate yields. Unfortunately, the yield for ozonolysis could not be improved despite various changes in the reaction conditions. For example, a stream of N₂ instead of O₂ was bubbled into the reaction to clear excess O₃ in the solution, as shown in entries 4 to 5 and 7 to 8; a new bottle of dimethyl sulfide was used; the amount of time that the reaction was quenched, and the amount of dimethyl sulfide were varied; the solvent was changed based on another literature procedure, ²¹ a mixture of dichloromethane and methanol was used (entries 5 to 6 and 8). However, not much improvement in the yield was observed. No obvious trend was observed for the poor to moderate yield, therefore the next reaction was carried on.

Table 1: Screening reaction conditions for improving the yield of the ozonolysis product 30

Entry	27	Solvent	Gas ¹	Me ₂ S (eq.)	Time (h) ³	Isolated Yield (%)
1	27(-)	CH_2Cl_2	O_2	5	6	80
2	27(-)	CH_2Cl_2	O_2	5	4	42
3	27(-)	CH_2Cl_2	O_2	10	7	45
4	27(-)	CH_2Cl_2	N_2	10	3	68
5	27(-) >99.9 %ee	$CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ $(2/1)^4$	N_2	10^2	4	61
6	27(-) >99.9 %ee	$CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ $(2/1)^4$	O_2	10^2	18	38
7	27(+) >99.9 %ee	CH ₂ Cl ₂	N_2	10^2	2	25
8	27(+) >99.9 %ee	$CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ $(2/1)^4$	N_2	$10 + 10^2$	16	61

¹Gas used to get rid off excess O₃ in the reaction

The fluorovinyl- β -lactam **30(+)** was obtained using a Wittig reaction. The reaction involved the *in situ* generation of (bromodifluoromethyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide by adding hexamethylphosphorous triamide to a solution of dibromodifluoromethane in THF under 0 °C. The *in situ* mixture was then added to a mixture of zinc metal and **30(+)** solution in THF which was also cooled to 0 °C. The presence of zinc metal promoted dehalogenation to form difluoromethylene triphenylphosphonium ylide (Ph₃P⁺-CF₂⁻) and zinc bromide (ZnBr₂). Reaction of the ylide with the aldehyde gave **31(+)** in good yield.

²A new bottle of dimethyl sulfide was purchased and used

³The amount of time allowed for Me₂S to quench the reaction

⁴The solvent was changed according to the literature²¹

Scheme 19: Formation of 1-*p*-Methoxyphenyl-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one [**31(+)**] via the Wittig reaction

The CAN-mediated deprotection of **31(+)** in acetonitrile and water under -10 °C gave **32(+)** in good yield. The Boc protection on **32(+)** in the presence of TEA and DMAP, however, gave **33(+)** in an over quantitative yield (114%) (**Scheme 20**). The ¹H-NMR showed the presence of *p*-methoxyphenyl group which may explain excess weight of the final product. Several attempts of purification were done by using column chromatography on silica gel, but they all failed. The final purification on alumina gel eventually caused the decomposition of **33(+)**, only 12 mg of the pure starting material **32(+)** was recovered.

Scheme 20: CAN-mediated deprotection followed by Boc-protection on 31(+)

Highly enantiopure 25(-) was obtained from enzymatic kinetic resolution. The TIPS protection on the alcohol 25(-) gave 34(-) in high yield (Scheme 21).

Scheme 21: TIPS-protection on high enantiomerically excess 25(-)

§ 1.2.3 Optimization of Epimerization reactions

§ 1.2.3.1 Epimerization using Treatment of Base

To initiate the epimerization reactions, experiments were carried out to find a suitable base for the deprotonation of the C4 proton of the aldehyde-bearing enantiomerically enriched β -

lactam **30(+)**, which was synthesized by a previous group member. As shown in **Table 2**, deprotonation with 1,8-diazabicycloundec-7-ene (DBU) gave trans- β -lactam to cis- β -lactam in a 7:3 ratio according to the crude ¹H-NMR (entry 1). When NaH was applied, after 24 h the reaction gave a very messy result with neither trans- nor cis- β -lactam observed (entry 2). Another reaction with NaH was carried out, however, at lower concentration and shorter time (entry 3). The crude ¹H-NMR again showed no trans- nor cis- β -lactam. In another reaction, LiHMDS was used for deprotonation. Unfortunately, after 2 h only a trace amount of cis- β -lactam was observed (entry 4). From this initial study, it was found that NaH and LiHMDS were not suitable for the deprotonation of **30(+)**. A moderately strong base, DBU, was found to be a potential base for the epimerization reaction.

Table 2: Epimerization reactions of **30(+)** using various bases

TIPSO, TIPSO, R R R Solvent [M], °C, time OMe 2. NH ₄ Cl (Sat.), 0 °C OMe							
		30(+) (3R, 4S)			(;	35 3R, 4R)	
Entry	30(+)	Base (eq.)	[M]	T.	Time	Cis	Trans
	(mg)			(°C)	(h)	30(+)1	35 ¹
1	50	DBU (2)	0.44	22	16	29	71
2	50	NaH (1.5)	0.1	22	24	N/O^2	N/O
3	50	NaH (1.5)	0.05	22	5	N/O	N/O
4	25	LiHMDS (1.1)	0.1	- 30 – 0	2	trace	N/O

¹The ratio of **30(+)** and **35** were determined by crude ¹H-NMR based on H3, H4 or H5.

§ 1.2.3.2 Epimerization using Formation of Schiff Base

In a parallel study, the possibility of epimerization through formation of a Schiff base was explored. As shown in **Table 3**, imine **36a** was first synthesized using *cis*-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one **30** in the presence of *t*-butyl amine and sodium sulfate at room temperature. Due to the expected instability of the imine species, no purification was done to the

²N/O indicates not observed

crude. Minimum light exposure was also ensured while handling the reaction. The low boiling point of *t*-butyl amine (44-46 °C) allowed the excess to be evaporated under reduced pressure, thus provided a clean imine which was carried to the next step. Upon treatment with 2 equivalents of DBU, followed by workup using saturated NH₄Cl, surprisingly, the crude ¹H-NMR showed no hydrolysis at all (entry 1). Only clean imine was observed. Therefore, excess DBU was used to force the reaction (entry 2) affording a trace amount of *trans*-product (35) and some *cis*-product (30) in a 1:9 ratio. The ratio of unreacted imine (36a) to 30 was 2:1.

Table 3: Epimerization of 30 using the formation of Schiff base followed by hydrolysis

TIPSO, Amine Amine Na₂SO₄, CH₂Cl₂, r.t.
$$O$$
Me O Me

Imine	Base (eq.)	Time (h)	Workup	30:35:36 cis:trans:imine Crude ¹ H-NMR ratio ⁴
36a	DBU (2)	16	NH ₄ Cl (sat.)	0:0:1
36a	DBU (7)	12	NH ₄ Cl (sat.)	9:1:18
36a	LiHMDS (1.3+1.3)	4.5	D_2O	-
36a	LiHMDS (1.3)	6	H_2O	1:0:7
36a	LiHMDS (1.3)	16	1N HCl	4:0:1
36b	DBU (2)	14	NH ₄ Cl (sat.)	0:0:1
36b	LiHMDS (1.3)	4	NH ₄ Cl (sat.)	-
	36a 36a 36a 36a 36a 36b	36a DBU (2) 36a DBU (7) 36a LiHMDS (1.3+1.3) 36a LiHMDS (1.3) 36a LiHMDS (1.3) 36b DBU (2)	36a DBU (2) 16 36a DBU (7) 12 36a LiHMDS (1.3+1.3) 4.5 36a LiHMDS (1.3) 6 36a LiHMDS (1.3) 16 36b DBU (2) 14	36a DBU (2) 16 NH ₄ Cl (sat.) 36a DBU (7) 12 NH ₄ Cl (sat.) 36a LiHMDS (1.3+1.3) 4.5 D ₂ O 36a LiHMDS (1.3) 6 H ₂ O 36a LiHMDS (1.3) 16 1N HCl 36b DBU (2) 14 NH ₄ Cl (sat.)

An enamine formation as observed from the coupling in ¹H-NMR

Disappointed by the result obtained from DBU, LiHMDS was used to treat **36a**. In entry 3, D₂O was used to quench the reaction to examine if the deprotonation of **36a** at C4 occurred.

² Messy reaction, other side products were formed.

³ Crude ¹H-NMR showed messy peaks, no cis-, trans-, or imine β-lactams were observed

⁴The crude ¹H-NMR ratio were determined based on H3, H4 or H5.

The ¹H-NMR showed only a trace amount of **30**, and the majority of the crude was thought to be the non-hydrolyzed imine. ¹H-NMR showed the disappearance of H4, which suggested that deprotonation by LiHMDS occurred as expected. Interestingly, further study on the crude ¹H-NMR coupling suggested the possibility of enamine formation. The structure of the non-hydrolyzed imine was expected to be **36a_d**, while the possible structure of the enamine was speculated to be **37** with no substitution of deuterium (**Figure 8**). If the imine was **36a_d**, one would expect a triplet for H5 and H3 each coupled to 4D. The ¹H-NMR of the experimental result, however, showed a doublet for both H3 and H5. Moreover, a broad bump was observed at around 4.6 to 4.8 ppm which may also suggest the possible enamine formation.

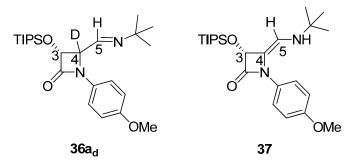


Figure 8: The expected enamine $(36a_d)$ and the speculated enamine structures (37)

Thus, it was suggested that upon an acid catalyzed hydrolysis of the enamine the epimerization may occur before the hydrolysis. The major step is the proton transfer between the two intermediates **A** and **B** which are in equilibrium after the treatment of acid. If the proton approaches from the back, the epimerization may occur and **36a** may be obtained after hydrolysis. Otherwise, the *cis* product (**30**) would be formed. In order to test this hypothesis, a second reaction was carried out quenching with H₂O instead of D₂O. Unfortunately, crude ¹H-NMR showed no formation of enamine. Crude ¹H-NMR showed a ratio of 1:7 for compounds *cis* **30** and **36a**. No *trans*-product was observed at all. Seeing that the imine was stable even upon the treatment of strong base, acidic conditions were attempted. For the first acid-catalyzed reaction, 1 N HCl was used to catalyze the hydrolysis reaction (entry 5). The reaction afforded **30** to **36a** in a 4:1 ratio. No *trans*-product was observed at all. The FIA of the crude also showed the presence of imine.

Figure 9: Proposed strategy for acid catalyzed hydrolysis of enamine (37)

Since epimerization using Schiff base **36a** was unsuccessful, a new Schiff base was synthesized using aniline. Aniline is less bulky than the *t*-butyl amine thus it was used to help facilitate the hydrolysis of the imine, as the bulkiness from the *t*-butyl amine may have prevented hydrolysis. Unlike *t*-butyl amine, the equivalents of aniline were controlled to 1.1 equivalents since excess amount of aniline cannot be easily removed at this step. As shown in entry 6, after treating **36b** with DBU followed by saturated NH₄Cl, no reaction was observed. Therefore LiHMDS was used as base, the crude 1 H-NMR showed to be messy and no *trans*- (**35**), **36b**, nor *cis-\beta*-lactam (**30**) was observed (entry 7). Finally, 2,4-dinitroaniline, a bulkier and more electron withdrawing moiety was used to synthesize **36c**. It was thought that 2,4-dinitroaniline may give better steric interaction with the TIPS moiety, thus forcing the imine into *trans* conformation and act as a better leaving group. Unfortunately, the reaction between 2,4-dinitroaniline and **30** did not proceed at all and no **36c** was obtained.

§ 1.2.3.3 Optimization of Epimerization Reactions using Treatment of Base

The use of DBU as a base gave optimal results for the epimerization of 30 into 35, therefore other reaction conditions were optimized. The results are summarized in **Table 4**. For these reactions, β -lactam with low enantiomeric excess was used. Entries 1 to 3 showed that as the amount of DBU increases the ratio of 35 to 30 decreases. When comparing entries 1 and 4 to 6, the results showed that as the concentration increased the ratio of 35 to 30 increased. Due to the detection limit of the NMR, entries 6 and 7 were the reactions with the highest concentration 0.4 M and 1.0 M, respectively, gave essentially the same ratio. This may imply that the effect of high concentrations on the ratio of 35 to 30 eventually levels out. When the temperature effect was investigated, entries 1 and 8 showed that at higher temperature the ratio of 35 to 30 decreased significantly. It was hypothesized that the conditions in which the reaction was quenched could influence the epimerization. Thus, another reaction was carried out using

concentrated acetic acid as the quenching reagent (entry 9). This quenching procedure did not provide much difference as seen from entry 5 and entry 9. Finally, the reaction time was shortened to 8 hours (entry 10). Shortening the reaction time did not provide any improvement for the epimerization. In conclusion, as the amount of DBU increases the ratio of *trans* to *cis* product decreases. Moreover, high reaction concentration gave the highest ratio of **35** to **30**, whereas increasing the temperature decreased the ratio. Change of quenching reagent did not make much of a difference in the ratio. Whereas, shortening the time may increase the ratio slightly in a small scale, it may not be applicable to a larger scale reaction.

Table 4: Optimization for the epimerization reaction conditions of 30 using DBU

	TIF	PSO R	=OOMe	DBU (eq.) THF [M], time, r.t.	TIPSO S S S		
		30 (3 <i>S</i> ,4 <i>R</i>)	Cinic		35 (3 <i>S</i> , 4 <i>S</i>)		
Entry	30 (mg)	DBU	[M]	Time	Work up ²	30 ⁴	35 ⁴
		(eq.)		(h)			
a^1	50	2	0.44	16	NH ₄ Cl	29	71
1	80	2	0.1	16	NH ₄ Cl	22	78
2	25	4	0.1	16	NH ₄ Cl	23	77
3	25	6	0.1	16	NH ₄ Cl	29	71
4	25	2	0.025	18	NH ₄ Cl	57	43
5	25	2	0.1	16	NH ₄ Cl	43	57
6	25	2	0.4	16	NH ₄ Cl	16	84
7	170	2	1	16	NH ₄ Cl	20	80
8^3	80	2	0.1	16	NH ₄ Cl	47	53
9	25	2	0.1	16	Acetic acid (conc.)	38	62
10	25	2	0.1	8	NH ₄ Cl	38	62

¹Entry a was the result obtained from **Table 2**

² Saturated NH₄Cl was added dropwise to quench the reaction at 0 °C

³ The reaction was carried out at 60 °C

⁴The ratio of **30** and **35** was determined by crude ¹H-NMR based on H3, H4 or H5.

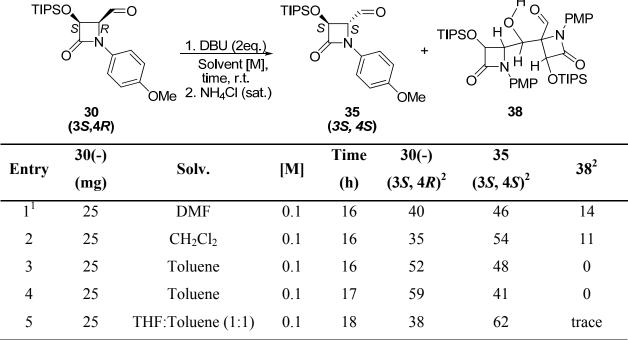
Purification was performed with column chromatography using alumina gel for the crude mixtures in Table 4. Despite several purification attempts, the reaction products were not isolated. In addition, a side product was observed for the epimerization of 30 made the isolation even more challenging. When comparing the peaks in ¹H-NMR for collected crude of the three products, an extra aldehyde proton peak was observed near the aldehyde proton of both 30 and 35. It was suspected that the side product may possess an aldehyde moiety. To characterize the structure of the side product, a reaction was carried out using 30(-) (58 % ee) that would give predominantly the side product. This reaction was done in a 1g scale with higher concentration (0.4 M) in THF (Scheme 22). The purification of the products was performed and the isolation for 30, 35 and the side product was again challenging. Fortunately, the side product did not decompose on silica gel, thus a mixture of the three products with predominantly the side product were purified using column chromatography on silica gel. An additional recrystallization from hexanes and ethyl acetate gave the side product (176 mg) in good purity. FIA, proton and carbon NMR all suggested a structure of 38, the aldol product. The major formation of 38 could be explained because when the acidic H3 is deprotonated in the presence of base, an enolate is formed. In addition, under high concentration the intermolecular reaction with another aldehyde molecule is facilitated.

Scheme 22: Epimerization reaction of 30 for the determination of side product

Since the side product was resolved, solvent effects of the epimerization reaction were examined to minimize side product formation (**Table 5**). The reaction with DMF gave a rather messy reaction although all three compounds were observed on the crude 1 H-NMR (entry 1). Dichloromethane also gave the formation of **38**. The two repeating reactions in entries 3 and 4 with toluene showed no side product, although the ratio of *trans*- to *cis-\beta*-lactam was relatively low compared to THF. Furthermore, the reaction using THF and toluene in a 1:1 ratio was attempted to minimize side product formation while simultaneously improving the ratio of *cis*- to *trans*- (entry 5). As seen from the table, a higher ratio of **35** to **30** was observed along with a

trace amount of side product when THF and toluene were used as co-solvents. Therefore, it was decided that toluene should be used for the epimerization reaction. Remarkably, the side product formation is the highest when DMF was used in the reaction, and none for toluene. This result may be hypothesized due to the higher polarity of DMF compared to dichloromethane or toluene. Solvent with high polarity may drive the equilibrium towards deprotonation as compared to re-protonation because the solvent may better stabilize the enolate anion, thus facilitate the nucleophilic attack of another aldehyde.

Table 5: Solvent effect on the epimerization of **30**



¹Entry 1 has more than one side product formed, the crude ¹H-NMR was messy

Furthermore, the concentration and reaction time of the epimerization reaction were investigated (**Table 6**). When comparing entries 1 to 2 and 6, the results shows that as the concentration increased, the ratio of **35** to **30** increased. At the same time, the side product also increased as with the case using THF. When the reaction time was prolonged, entries 1, 3 and 5 with 0.2 M showed a similar trend, however, with more side product formation. Entries 2 and 4 with only slightly higher concentration (0.25 M) showed more side product formation. Finally, when the reaction scale was increased with a decreased reaction time, side product formation was again observed (entry 7), but the ratio of **35** to **30** obtained is comparable to entry 1. In

²The ratio of 30, 35 and 38 was determined by crude ¹H-NMR based on H3, H4 or H5.

conclusion, the optimized reaction condition using toluene at 0.2 M with careful control of reaction time should eliminate the formation of **38**. The resulting ratio of **35** to **30** might be low, however if a clean reaction could be carried out and if the products can be isolated successfully, the starting material can be recovered and be reused for another epimerization reaction.

 H_{\triangle}

54

1.5

Table 6: Optimization of epimerization reactions with toluene

TIPSO							
Endans	30(-)	DMO	Time	38 ²	30(-)	35(-)	trans/cis
Entry	(mg)	[M]	(h)	38	$(3S,4R)^2$	$(3S,4S)^2$	ratio
a^1	25	0.1	17	0	59	41	0.7
1	25	0.2	21.5	7	37	56	1.5
2	25	0.25	21.3	11	29	60	2.1
3	25	0.2	29	16	24	60	2.5
4	25	0.25	29	23	22	55	2.5
5	25	0.2	40	18	20	62	3.1
6	25	0.3	18	14	21	65	3.1

¹Entry a was a result from **Table 5**

942.3

7

TIDCO

19.3

0.2

The temperature effect of the epimerization reaction was also investigated. The results in table 7 showed that as the temperature increased the formation of the side product 38 increased, and the ratio of 35 to 30 decreased. The temperature at which the reaction was quenched was also critical to the ratio of 35 to 30. The ratio of *trans* to *cis* is higher when the reaction was quenched at lower temperature as compared to at higher temperature. Further investigation on the temperature effect will be needed to draw further conclusion.

10

36

² The ratio of **30**, **35** and **38** was determined by crude ¹H-NMR based on H3, H4 or H5.

Table 7: Temperature effect of the epimerization reaction

Entry	30(-) (mg)	Temp.	Time (h)	Quenching Temp. (°C)	38 ²	$30(-)$ $(3S, 4R)^2$	$35(-)$ $(3S, 4S)^2$	trans/cis ratio
1	25	22	8	0	0	38	62	1.7
2	25	22	8	40	0	47	53	1.1
3	25	40	8	40	6	49	45	0.9

¹Entry a was a result from Table 6

§ 1.2.4 Isolation and Characterization of the *trans-β*-Lactams

The epimerization reactions were done on a larger scale and isolations were performed to obtain the trans- β -lactams (35). However, the isolation still remained a challenge. Many epimerization reactions were carried out using 30 with low enantiopurity, however isolation of 35 with acceptable purity was unsuccessful. Interestingly, the R_f for 30 is 0.66, while for 35 is 0.33. The big separation on alumina plate for the two spots was expected to provide easy separation for the two products; however the experimental results did not match this prediction. Somehow the 30 and 35 coeluted from the column. Several column chromatography conditions were examined. The speed of increment on the eluent, the eluent solvent, and the dimensions of the column were all investigated. Eventually some separation was achieved. The results are shown in Table 8. Unfortunately, the isolated yield did not reflect the amount of 35 that was formed. Several attempts on purifying 30(-) to recover the starting material also failed due to the presence of the side product and impurities.

²The ratio of **30**, **35** and **38** was determined by crude ¹H-NMR based on H3, H4 or H5.

Table 8: Isolation of *cis*- and *trans-\beta*-lactams

Entry	30(-) (mg)	ee % of 30(-)	[M]	Time (h)	35(-) (3S, 4S) (mg)/ Isolated % yield	30(-) (3S, 4R) (mg)/ Isolated % yield
1	500	74	0.025	16	127/ 25	350 (crude)
2	1000	74	0.2	17.5	344/34	T/B
3	659	> 99.9	0.2	15.5	174/26	100/15

The ${}^{1}\text{H-NMR}$ of the isolated *trans-\beta-*lactam (**35**) matched literature values. The *J*-coupling of H3 and H4 is much larger in the *cis-*product (**30**) as compared to the **35**. Moreover, a rough calculation using Spartan showed that **35** is 5.9 kJ/mol more stable than **30**, thus it is the thermodynamically favorable product as expected.

Table 9: Characteristics of the *cis*- and *trans*-1-PMP-3-TIPSO-4-formylazetidin-2-one

		TIPSO 3	5=0 4 -N PMP	TIPSO 3	S=O B=4 N PMP	
		;	30 (-)		35	
	<i>J</i> Н3-Н4	<i>J</i> Н3-Н4				Heat of
Products	(Hz)	(Hz)	H3 (ppm)	H4 (ppm)	H5 (ppm)	Formation ¹
	(Lit.) ²⁰	(Exp.)				(kJ/mol)
Cis	5-6 Hz	5 1 Hz	d (5.2)	44 (4 47)	1 (0.77)	125.051
30	3-0 ПZ	5.1 Hz	d (5.3)	dd (4.47)	u (9.77)	-135.051
Trans			1 (- 0 1)		1 (0.04)	
35	2 Hz	2.1 Hz	d (5.04)	dd (4.37)	d (9.81)	-140.999

¹The heat of formation was calculated by Spartan 08 V1.2.0: Energy, semi-empirical PM3

Once the *trans*-aldehyde **35** with high enantiopurity was isolated, it was subjected to the Wittig reaction to give **39** in moderate yield. A CAN-mediated deprotection gave **40(-)** in moderate yield (**Scheme 23**).

TIPSO CBr₂F₂ (4 eq), P(NMe₂)₃ (12 eq), Zn (5 eq) TIPSO THF (0.005 M)
$$0$$
 °C to reflux, 30 min 35% - 51% OMe 35% - 51% OMe

Scheme 23: Formation of (3S,3S)-3-Triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one (40)

Finally, the Boc-protection of **40(-)** gave **41(-)** in quantitative yield. **41** can be used as intermediate for the synthesis of α -hydroxy- β -amino acid.

Scheme 24: Formation of (3S,4S)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one 41(-)

§ 1.3 Conclusion

 β -Lactams are very useful for the synthesis of various biologically relevant compounds. They can be used as intermediates for the facile syntheses of α -hydroxy- β -amino acids. As such, β -lactam 29(+) with high enantiopurity was successfully synthesized. Since fluorine-containing molecules play an important role in biological system, fluorine-containing β -lactam 33(+) with high enantiopurity was also synthesized. Unfortunately, it decomposed after the fifth purification on alumina gel. Two new protocols for the synthesis of trans- (35) from $cis-\beta$ -lactams (30) were developed. The epimerization using Schiff base has failed. Hydrolysis of imine gave predominantly the $cis-\beta$ -lactams (30). The epimerization using base, however, was successfully developed. DBU was found to be a promising base for the epimerization reaction. Toluene was also found to eliminate the formation of side product in small scale reaction. The reaction conditions were optimized. It was found that higher temperature decreased the ratio of 35 to 30 and at the same time increased the formation of the side product 38. Higher reaction concentration, however, increased the ratio of 35 to 30 and also promoted the formation of the side product (38). Moreover, careful control of reaction time and reaction concentration should eliminate the formation of the side product. However, the isolation of 35 and 30 remained a challenge. Further investigation will be needed to allow a successful isolation of 35 and 30. Remarkably, a novel fluoro- β -lactam was synthesized for (3S,4S)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-3triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one (41), the enantiomeric excess can be determined after its enantiomer is also synthesized. This novel fluorine-containing β -lactam can be used for the synthesis of α -hydroxy- β -amino acids or be incorporated into other biologically active compounds to investigate its potency.

§ 1.4 Experimental Section

General Information:

All chemicals were obtained from either Sigma-Aldrich, Fisher Scientific or VWR International, and used as received unless otherwise noted. All reactions were carried out under nitrogen in oven dried glassware using standard Schlenk techniques unless otherwise noted. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using E. Merck 60F254 precoated silica gel plates and alumina plate depending on the compounds. Dry solvents were dried using the PURESOLV system (Inovatative Technologies, Newport, MA). Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium metal and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. Toluene was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. Yields refer to chromatographically and spectroscopically pure compounds. Flash chromatography was performed with the indicated solvents using Fisher silica gel (particle size 170-400 Mesh). H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR data were obtained with either a 300 MHz Varian Gemni 2300 (75 MHz ¹³C, 121 MHz ¹⁹F) spectrometer, a 400 MHz Varian INOVA 400 (100 MHz ¹³C) spectrometer or a 500 MHz Varian INOVA 500 (125 MHz ¹³C) using CDCl₃ as solvent unless otherwise stated. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm and standardized with solvent as internal standard based on literature reported values.²⁹ Normal phase analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed with a Shimadzu LC-2010AHT system using a CHIRALCEL®OD-H column, employing isopropanol/hexanes (15/85 and 10/90 depending on the compounds) as the solvent system with a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min. Purity was determined by an Agilent 1100 series HPLC assembly. The analytical conditions was used and noted as a part of the characterization data for new compounds. HPLC: Kinetex C18, 2.6 µm, 100 A (pore size), 2 x 100 mm column, solvent A of H₂O/ACN, 95:5 (10 mM ammonium acetate, pH 6.5), solvent B of H₂O/ACN, 5:95 (10 mM ammonium acetate, pH 6.5), temperature of 35 °C, flow rate of 0.4 mL/min, t = 0-30 min, gradient of 5-95% solvent B. Melting points were measured on a Thomas

Hoover Capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer Model 241 polarimeter. The ozonolysis reaction was performed using ozone generator from Ozone Services, A DIVISION OF YANCO INDUSTRIES LTD. (Ozone dial = 8, flow of oxygen = 1/8 lpm).

Experimental Procedure:

N-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-2-butenaldimine (23) ²⁶

To a solution of recrystallized p-anisidine (9.5 g, 77 mmol) and excess anhydrous Na₂SO₄ (38 g, 269 mmol) dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (150 mL) was added 3-methylbut-2-enal (7.8 g, 93 mmol). The reaction was monitored using TLC. After 3 h at room temperature the solvent was evaporated to yield **2-1**, as dark-red viscous oil, which was then used immediately in the subsequent step without further purification: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.03 (d, 3H, J = 0.9 Hz), 2.09 (d, 3H, J = 0.9 Hz), 3.89 (s, 3H), 6.32 (d, 1H, J = 9.3 Hz), 6.93-6.99 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.22 (m, 2H), 8.46 (d, 1H, J = 9.6 Hz). All data are in agreement with literature values. ²⁶

(\pm) -1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-acetoxyl-4-(2-methylprop-1-enyl)azetidin-2-one (24) 26

To a solution of crude **23** in CH₂Cl₂ (260 mL), cooled to -78 °C and maintained for at least 30 min was added a cooled solution of TEA (16.0 g, 159 mmol) followed by the slow dropwise addition of acetoxyacetyl chloride (14.1 g, 103 mmol). The -78 °C temperature of the mixture was maintained for 7 h. Then, the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over a period of 9 h. The reaction was monitored using TLC. Upon completion, the reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl. The organic layer was washed three times with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was done using column chromatography on silica gel with increasing polarity of eluent (5% to 8% to 10% to 13% to 20% to 28% ethyl acetate in hexanes). A brown solid was obtained (16.344 g). About half of the brown solid (8.150 g) was further purified by recrystallization using hexanes and ethyl acetate to yield racemic **24** (5.822 g, 20.12 mmol), as a light yellow-brown solid: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.79 (d, 3H, J = 1.5 Hz), 1.82 (d, 3H, J = 0.9 Hz), 2.11 (s, 3H), 4.97 (dd, 1H, J = 9.6, 4.8 Hz), 5.10-5.15 (m, 1H), 5.79 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 6.83-6.88 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H). All data are in agreement with literature values. ²⁶

Enantioselective Enzymatic Resolution of β-lactam 24 ^{27,30}

To a solution of 24 (8.19 g, 28.3 mmol) in 0.2 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH = 7.5) (400 mL) with 10 volume % acetonitrile (40 mL) at 70 °C was added PS-Amano Lipase (1.67 g). After the addition, the mixture was stirred vigorously with a mechanical stirrer. The reaction was monitored using TLC and ¹H-NMR, looking for 50% conversion of the acetate moiety to the hydroxyl moiety. Upon 50% conversion, the remaining Lipase was filtered off using vacuum filtration and washed with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was collected, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification was done using column chromatography on silica gel with increasing polarity of eluent (hexanes to 40% ethyl acetate in hexanes). The same procedures were repeated, however, with much lower temperature (35 °C) until 24(+) was obtained. After 13 days, 24(+) was obtained as a white solid (3.01 g, 15 % in three steps) with >99.9% ee: m.p. = 112-113 °C (lit. 107-109 °C). The enantiomeric purity was determined by using normal phase analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with a Shimadzu LC-2010AHT system using a CHIRALCEL®OD-H column, employing isopropanol/hexanes (15/85) as the solvent system with a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min. The alcohol 25(-) (3.04 g, 43% in three steps) was also obtained in this reaction as a white solid: m.p. = 160-162 °C; $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$ -123 (c 0.22, CH₂Cl₂), For **24**(+), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.79 (d, 3H, J =1.5 Hz), 1.82 (d, 3H, J = 0.9 Hz), 2.12 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.97 (dd, 1H, J = 9.6, 4.8 Hz), 5.11-5.15 (m, 1H), 5.80 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 6.83-6.88 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.34 (m, 2H). All data are in agreement with literature values. ²⁶

(3R,4S)-1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-hydroxy-4-(2-methylprop-1-enyl) azetidin-2-one $[26(+)]^{26-27}$

To a solution of **24(+)** (3.00 g, 10.4 mmol) in THF (104 mL) at 0°C was added 1 M NaOH (104 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred, allowed to warm to room temperature and monitored using TLC. The reaction was complete after 40 min. The reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was collected, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield **26(+)** (2.49 g, 97%), as a white solid: 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.86 (d, 6H, J = 0.9 Hz), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.89 (dd, 1H, J = 9.0, 5.1 Hz), 5.03 (d, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz), 5.24-5.28 (m, 1H), 6.82-6.87 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.34 (m, 2H). All data are in agreement with literature values. 26 The enantiomeric purity was determined by using normal phase analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with a Shimadzu LC-

2010AHT system using a CHIRALCEL®OD-H column, employing isopropanol/hexanes (15/85) as the solvent system with a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min.

(3R,4S)-1-p-Methoxyphenyl-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2-methylpropen-2-yl)azetidin-2-one $[27(+)]^{28}$

To a solution of **26**(+) (3.00 g, 12.1 mmol) and DMAP (0.445 g, 3.64 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (120 mL) at 0°C was added TEA (2.46 g, 24.2 mmol) followed by the dropwise addition of TIPSCI (3.50 g, 18.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and monitored using TLC. The reaction was complete after 20 h and then it was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was collected, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was done using column chromatography on silica gel with increasing polarity of eluent (hexanes to 30% to 45% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to yield **27**(+) (3.81 g, 77%), as a white solid: m.p. = 94-95 °C; $[\alpha]^{22}_D$ +63 (*c* 0.49, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.03-1.20 (m, 21H), 1.79 (d, 3H, J = 1.5 Hz), 1.85 (d, 3H, J = 1.5 Hz), 3.77 (s, 3H), 4.81 (dd, 1H, J = 10.2, 4.8 Hz), 5.05 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 5.31-5.35 (m, 1H), 6.81-6.86 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.34 (m, 2H). All data are in agreement with literature values. ²⁶ The enantiomeric purity was determined by using normal phase analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with a Shimadzu LC-2010AHT system using a CHIRALCEL®OD-H column, employing isopropanol/hexanes (10/90) as the solvent system with a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min.

(3R,4S)-3-Triisopropylsilyloxy-4-(2-methylpropen-2-yl)azetidin-2-one [28(+)] ²⁸

To a solution of 27(+) (800 mg, 1.98 mmol) in acetonitrile (33 mL) at -10 °C was added a solution of cerium ammonium nitrate (3.80 g, 6.93 mmol) in H₂O (35 mL) dropwise using an addition funnel. The reaction temperature of -10 °C was maintained throughout the reaction using dry ice and acetone. The reaction was monitored using TLC. After completion, the resulting solution was quenched with ethyl acetate. The resulting solution was washed with H₂O, then with sodium bisulfite. The organic layer was collected, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was done using column chromatography on silica gel with increasing polarity of eluent (10% to 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to yield **28**(+) (471 mg, 80% yield), as a white solid: m.p. = 89-90 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.02-1.15 (m, 21H), 1.69 (d, 3H, J=

1.5 Hz), 1.76 (d, 3H, J = 1.5 Hz), 4.44 (dd, 1H, J = 9.6, 4.8 Hz), 4.99 (dd, 1H, J = 4.8, 2.4 Hz), 5.29-5.35 (m, 1H), 5.34 (s, 1H). All data are in agreement with literature values.²⁶

(3R,4S)-1-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2-methylpropen-2-yl)azetidin-2-one $[29(+)]^{28}$

To a solution of **28**(+) (463 mg, 1.56 mmol), DMAP (57.5 mg, 0.467 mmol) and TEA (315 mg, 3.11 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (9.5 mL) at 0 °C was added di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate.(339 mg, 1.56 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (9.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and monitored using TLC. After 8 h, the reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was collected, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was done using column chromatography on silica gel with increasing polarity of eluent (hexanes to 5% to 8% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to yield **29(+)** (619 mg, quant. yield), as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{22}_{\rm D}$ +35 (*c* 1.2, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.01-1.11 (m, 21H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.76 (d, 3H, J = 1.2 Hz), 1.79 (d, 3H, J = 1.2 Hz), 4.75 (dd, 1H, J = 9.9, 5.7 Hz), 4.97 (d, 1H, J = 5.7 Hz), 5.26-5.30 (m, 1H). All data are in agreement with literature values. ²⁶

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxyazetidine-2-one-4-carbaldehyde [(+) and (-) 30] ²¹

Nitrogen was bubbled into a solution of **27(-)** (5.33 g, 13.2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (128 mL/64 mL) for 5 min. The solution was cooled to -78 °C. Ozone was then bubbled into the solution for 2 h until the color of the solution turned blue. Nitrogen was bubbled into the reaction mixture again until the blue color disappears. Dimethylsulfide was added and the mixture was warmed to room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for another 4 h. The solvent was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude product was purified by column chromatography on alumina gel with increasing polarity of eluent (hexanes to 5% to 10% to 24% to 30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to yield **30(-)** (2.20 g, 61% yield), as a white solid: m.p. = 72-81 °C; $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$ -152 (c 0.29, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.04-1.23 (m, 21H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.47 (dd, 1H, J = 5.4, 4.2 Hz), 5.30 (d, 1H, J = 5.1 Hz), 6.84-6.89 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 2H), 9.77 (d, 1H, J = 3.9 Hz). All data are in agreement with literature values. ²¹ The enantiomeric purity was determined by using normal phase analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)

with a Shimadzu LC-2010AHT system using a CHIRALCEL®OD-H column, employing isopropanol/hexanes (15/85) as the solvent system with a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min.

Using **27(+)** (950 mg, 2.35 mmol) following the same procedure as above, **30(+)** was obtained (539 mg, 61%, yield) as a white solid: m.p. = 82-85 °C (lit. 78-80 °C); $[\alpha]^{22}_D$ +159 (c 0.85, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.07-1.23 (m, 21H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.47 (dd, 1H, J = 5.1, 4.5 Hz), 5.30 (d, J = 5.1 Hz), 6.85-6.89 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 2H), 9.77 (d, 1H, J = 3.9 Hz). All data are in agreement with literature values except for the melting point.²¹

(3R,4S)-1-p-Methoxyphenyl-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one $[31(+)]^{22}$

In a two-necked, round-bottomed flask, to a solution of **30(+)** (200 mg, 0.530 mmol) in THF (60 mL) was added Zn (173 mg, 2.65 mmol) at 0 °C. In another flask, to a solution of dibromodifluoromethane (445 mg, 2.12 mmol) in THF (40 mL) at 0 °C was added hexamethylphosphorous triamide (1.04 g, 6.36 mmol) to form a white precipitate. To the suspension in the two-necked, round-bottomed flask was added the white precipitate in a successive manner. The ice bath was removed immediately and the mixture was allowed to reflux for 30 min. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was filtered over celite and the precipitate was washed with ethyl acetate. The solution was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was done using column chromatography on silica gel with increasing polarity of eluent (hexanes to 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to yield **31(+)** (171 mg, 78% yield), as a yellow solid: m.p. = 48-51 °C; $[\alpha]^{21}_D$ +58 (c 0.40, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.05-1.25 (m, 21H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.54 (ddd, 1H, J = 9.9, 5.1, 2.1 Hz), 4.80-4.86 (m, 1H), 5.14 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 6.85-6.89 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.35 (m, 2H). ¹⁹F (121 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 80.7 (d, 1F, 14.9 Hz), 86.3 (dd, 1F, 10.9, 14.0). All data are in agreement with literature values.²²

(3R,4S)-3-Triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one $[32(+)]^{22}$

To a solution of **31(+)** (137 mg, 0.333 mmol) in acetonitrile (6.55 mL) at -10 °C was added cerium ammonium nitrate (809 mg, 1.17 mmol) in H₂O (6.55 mL) dropwise using an addition funnel. The reaction temperature of -10 °C was maintained throughout the reaction. The reaction was monitored using TLC. After 4 h, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl

acetate. The resulting solution was washed with H₂O followed by sodium bisulfite and then brine. The organic layer was collected, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was done using column chromatography on silica gel with increasing polarity of eluent (hexanes to 5% to 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to yield **32(+)** (67.3 mg, 66% yield) as yellow oil: $[\alpha]^{21}_D$ +42 (c 1.2, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.05-1.25 (m, 21H), 4.44-4.57 (m, 2H), 5.04 (dd, 1H, J = 4.2, 2.4 Hz), 6.27 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.0, 17.8 (t, 2.3 Hz), 50.4 (d, 4.5 Hz), 79.3 (d, 13.7 Hz), 157.6 (t, 289.9 Hz), 169.3. ¹⁹F (121 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 82.3 (d, 1F, 14.9 Hz), 87.5 (m, 1F). All data are in agreement with literature values. ²²

(3R,4S)-1-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one $[33(+)]^{22}$

To a solution of **32(+)** (50 mg, 0.16 mmol), DMAP (58 mg, 0.05 mmol) and TEA (49.9 mg, 0.494 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.1 mL) at 0 °C was added di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (90 mg, 0.20 mmol) dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and monitored using TLC. After 3 h the reaction was complete and it was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was collected, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was done using column chromatography on silica gel with increasing polarity of eluent (hexanes to 5% to 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to yield **33(+)** (76 mg, 114% yield) as light yellow oil: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.04-1.20 (m, 21H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 4.51 (ddd, 1H, J = 23.7, 9.9, 1.5 Hz), 4.75 (dddd, 1H, J = 0.6, 2.1, 5.7, 9.9 Hz), 5.04 (d, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz). All data are in agreement with literature values. ²² Attempted purification on alumina gel caused decomposition of the compound.

(3R,4S)-4-(tert-Butyliminomethyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-triisopropylsilyoxyazetidin-2-one (36a)

To a solution of **30(+)** (174 mg, 0.462 mmol) and disodium sulfate (459 mg, 3.24 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (9.2 mL) was added dropwise *t*-butylamine (0.10 mL). After 10 h, excess amine was removed in *vacuo* to give **36a** (quantitative yield) as a waxy yellow solid: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.07-1.17 (m, 21 H), 1.21 (s, 9H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 4.62 (dd, 1H, J = 7.5, 4.8 Hz), 5.19 (d, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz), 6.81-6.85 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.67 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz).

(3S,4R)-1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(N-phenylcarboximidoyl)-3-triisopropylsilyoxyazetidin-2-one (36b)

The same procedure for **36a** was used to give **36b** (quantitative yield) as yellow oil: 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.08-1.26 (m, 21H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.83 (dd, 1H, J = 7,2, 4.8 Hz), 5.31 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 6.84-6.89 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.45 (m, 4H).

37 (reaction crude)

To a solution of **36a** (25 mg, 0.06 mmol) in THF (0.6 mL) was added LiHMDS (1 M) (0.08 mL), dropwise at -40 $^{\circ}$ C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h and allowed to warm up to -10 $^{\circ}$ C. Then the reaction mixture was stirred for another 1.5 h at 0 $^{\circ}$ C. LiHMDS (1M) (0.08 mL) was added dropwise to the solution at 0 $^{\circ}$ C and stirred at room temperature for another 2 h. The reaction was quenched by dropwise addition of D₂O and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic

layer was collected, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Crude ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.05-1.15 (m, 21H), 1.25 (s, 9H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 5.22 (d, 1H, J = 5.1 Hz), 6.82-6.86 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d, 1H, J = 7.7 Hz).

General reaction procedure for the epimerization of 1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxyazetidin-2-one-4-carbaldehyde (30) using a base:

To a solution of **30** in toluene (0.2 M) was added 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene in toluene, dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. After the reaction was complete, the flask was cooled to 0 °C, quenched by dropwise addition of saturated NH₄Cl, and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was collected, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous NaSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was done using column chromatography on alumina gel.

(3S,4S)-1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-formylazetidin-2-one [35(-)]

Purification was done using column chromatography on alumina gel with increasing polarity of eluent (hexanes to 10% to 15% to 20% to 25% to 33% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to give **35** as yellow oil: $[\alpha]^{21}_{D}$ -13 (c 0.15, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.07-1.29 (m, 21H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.37 (dd, 1H, J = 4.2, 1.8 Hz), 5.04 (d, 1H, J = 1.8 Hz), 6.82-6.89 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 2H), 9.81 (d, 1H, J = 3.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.9, 17.7, 55.6, 68.7, 78.8, 114.7, 118.3, 130.7, 156.9, 163,8, 197.8. HPLC: 25.16 min.

Aldol adduct [38]

White solid; m.p. = 165-167 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.916-1.024 (m, 42H), 2.87 (d, 1H, J = 5.1 Hz), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.21 (dd, 1H, J = 6.9, 1.2 Hz), 4.85 (d, 1H, J = 1.5Hz), 4.95-5.00 (m, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 6.82-6.88 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.52 (m, 2H), 9.83 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.8, 12.3, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 55.6 (t, 3.1 Hz), 63.9 (6.1 Hz), 68.9 (d, 8.3 Hz), 76.1, 79.8(d, 9.8 Hz), 81.2 (d, 9.9 Hz), 114.6 (d, 10.6 Hz), 120.5, 120.6, 130.3, 130.6, 157.2, 157.4, 164.2, 165.5, 200.4, 200.4; MS (ESI) m/z 755 (M)⁺, 756 (M+1)⁺. HPLC: 31.93 min, purity 77%; 32.99 min, 16%.

(3S,4S)-1-4-Methoxyphenyl-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one [39(-)]

The same procedure for 31(+) was employed. Compound 35 (154 mg, 0.408 mmol) was used to give 39(-) (85 mg, 51% yield), as a white solid: m.p. = 75-78 °C; $[\alpha]^{21}_{D}$ -27 (c 0.29, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.08-1.17 (m, 21H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.22-4.50 (m, 2H), 4.76 (d, 1H, J = 1.5 H), 6.87-6.89 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.9, 17.6, 55.4, 57.1 (d, 6.1 Hz), 77.3 (dd, 22.9, 16.8 Hz), 82.3, 114.5, 118.6, 130.3, 156.5, 157.5 (t, 292.3 Hz), 164.2; ¹⁹F (121 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -80.9 (d, 1F, 13.4 Hz), -84.1 (ddd, 1F, 13.1, 9.8, 1.3 Hz). HPLC: 28.04 min, purity 78%.

(3S,3S)-3-Triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one [40(-)]

The same procedure for (+) 2-11 was employed. Compound 39(-) (152 mg, 0.369 mmol) was used to give **40** (58 mg, 51% Yield), as a waxy vellow solid; $[\alpha]^{21}_{D}$ -18 (c 0.54, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.05-1.16 (m, 21H), 4.15 (dd, 1H, J = 8.7, 1.2 Hz), 4.36 (ddd, 1H, J = 8.7, 4.36 (ddd, 1H, J = 8.7, 4.37 (ddd, 1H, J = 8.7, 4.37 (ddd, 1H, J = 8.7), 4.36 (ddd, 1H, J = 8.7), 4.36 (ddd, 1H, J = 8.7), 4.36 (ddd, 1H, J = 8.7), 4.37 (ddd, 1H, J = 8.7), 4.38 (ddd, = 23.4, 9.6, 1.5 Hz), 4.64 (t, 1H, J = 1.8 Hz), 6.37 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.1, 17.8, 53.6 (d, 6.6 Hz), 78.6 (dd, 22.9 Hz, 16.8 Hz), 84.0, 157.3 (t, 290.9 Hz), 168.6; ¹⁹F (121 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -82.8 (d, 1F, 14.2 Hz), -85.4 (dd, 1F, 14.2 Hz, 10.2 Hz). HPLC: 22.22 min, purity 58%.

(3*S*,4*S*)-1-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-3-triisopropylsiloxy-4-(2,2-difluoroethenyl)azetidin-2-one [41(-)]

The same procedure for (+) **2-12** was employed. Compound **40(-)** (52 mg, 0.17 mmol) was used to give **41(-)** (69 mg, quantitative yield), as clear oil; $[\alpha]^{21}_D$ -11 (c 0.38, CH_2Cl_2); 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.04-1.15 (m, 21H), 1.49 (s, 9H), 4.29-4.39 (m, 2H), 4.63 (d, 2.1 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 11.9, 17.7, 28.1, 56.8 (d, 7.1 Hz), 77.0 (dd, 16.6, 8.6 Hz), 82.1, 83.9, 147.9, 158.1 (dd, 290.3, 292.8 Hz), 165.2; ^{19}F (121 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 84.1 (d, 1F, 5.4 Hz), 84.2 (m, 1F). HPLC: 28.39 min, purity 72%.

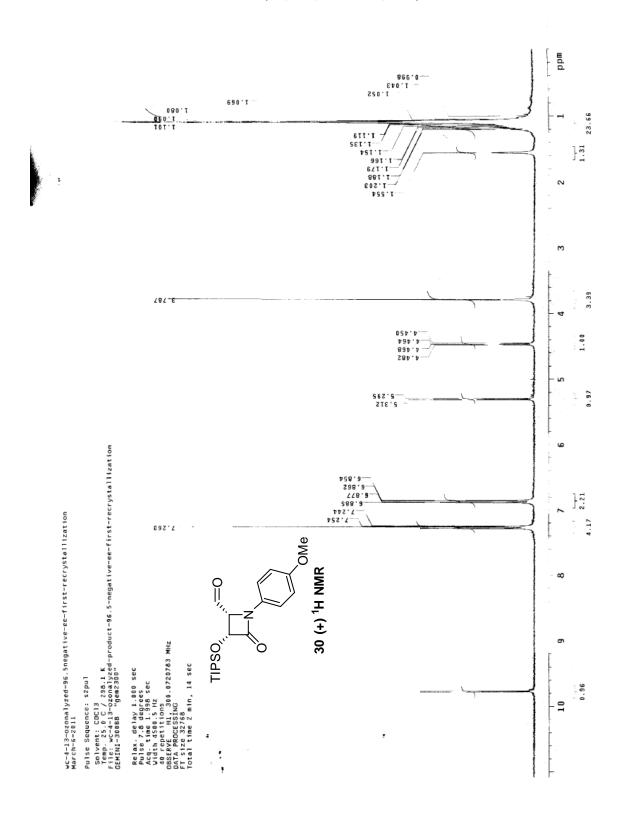
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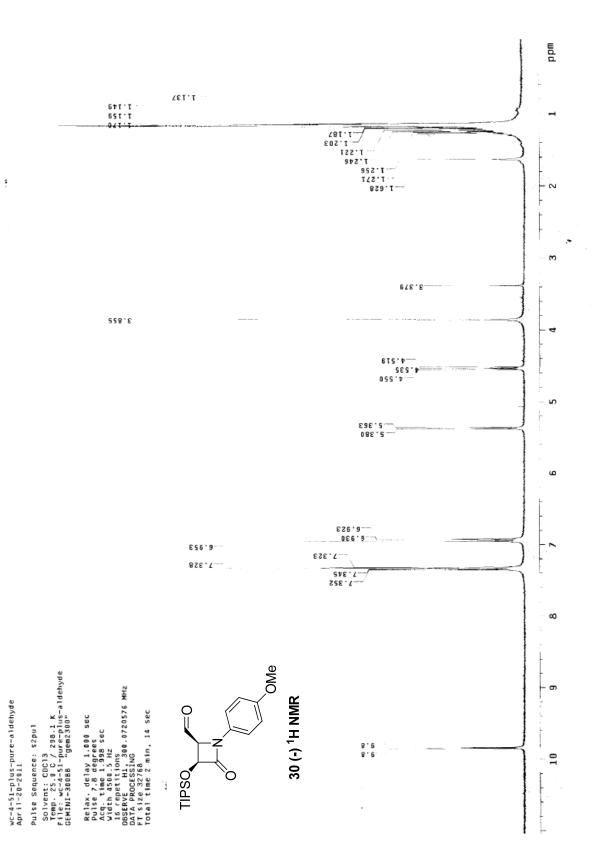
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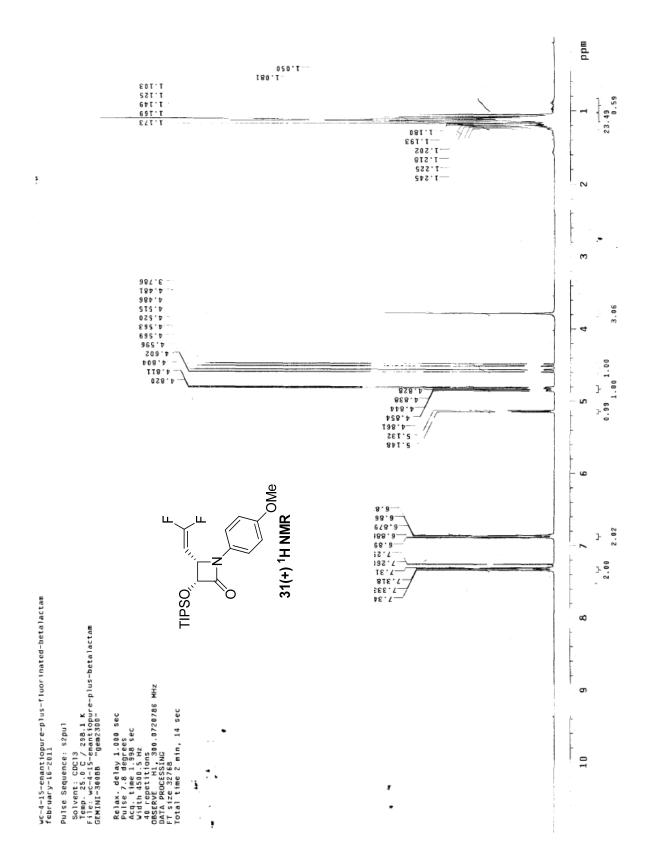
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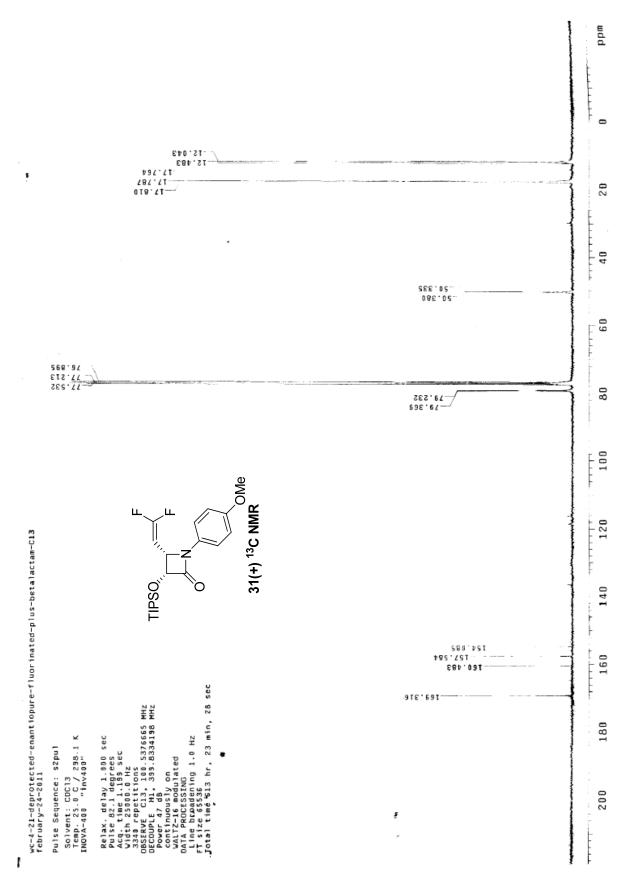
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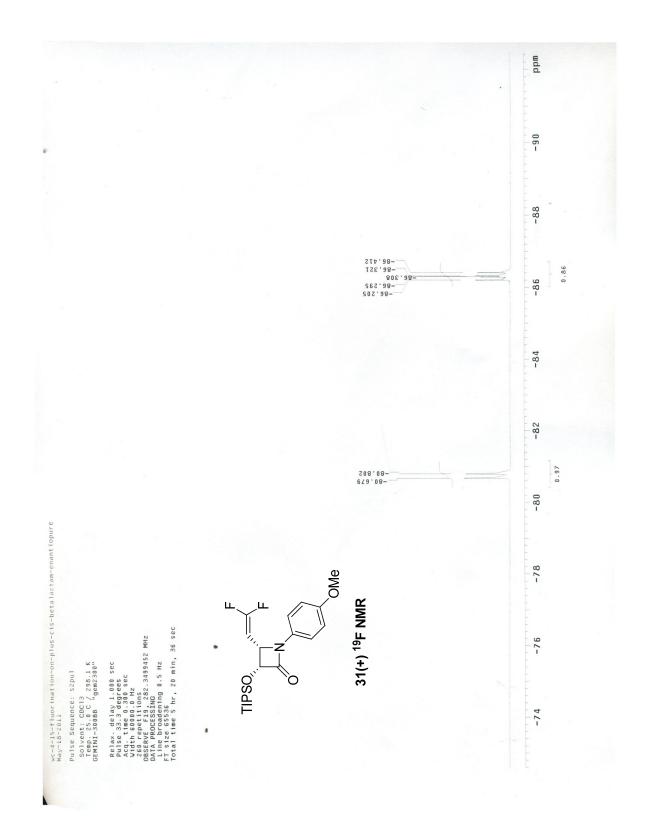
Appendix (¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F NMR, FIA)

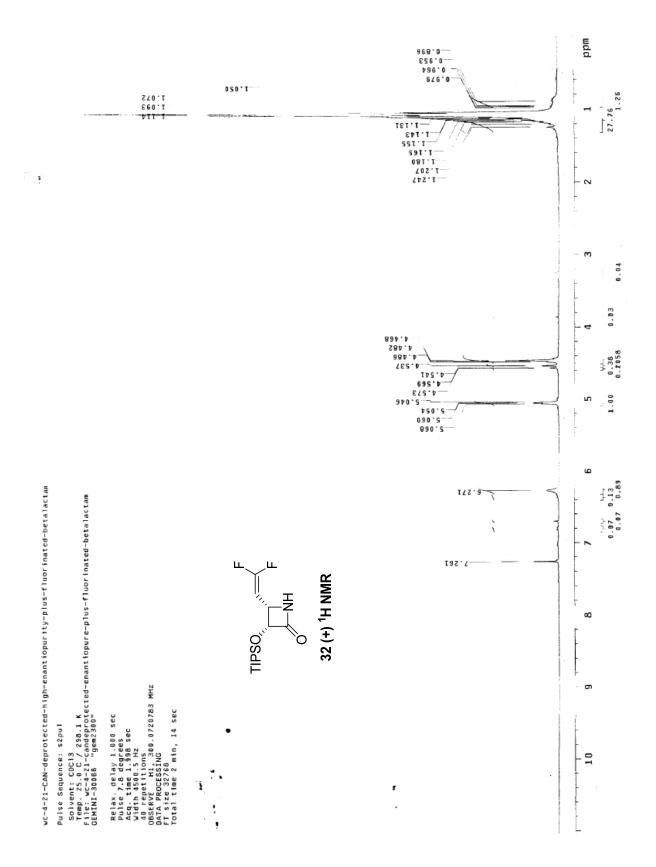


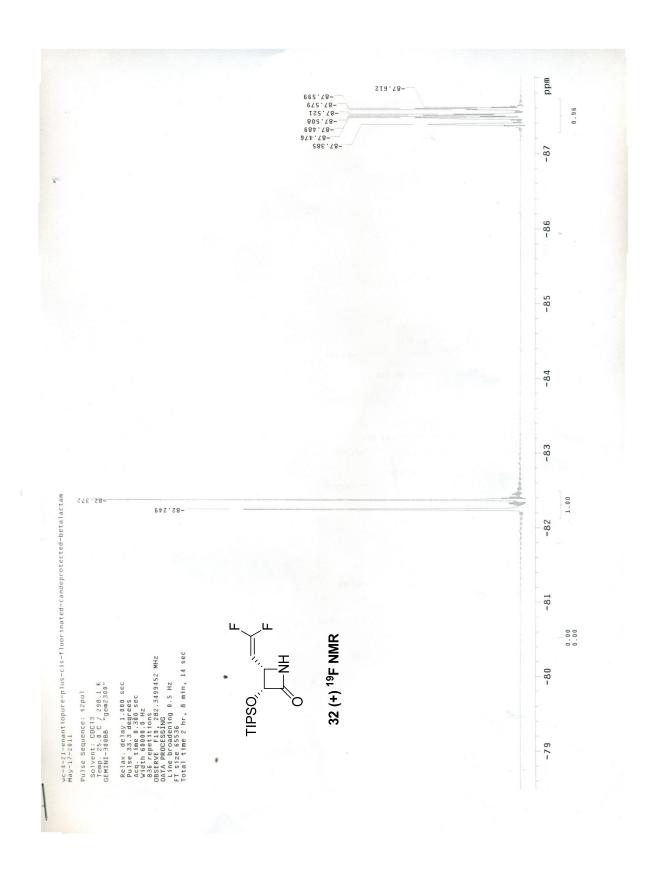


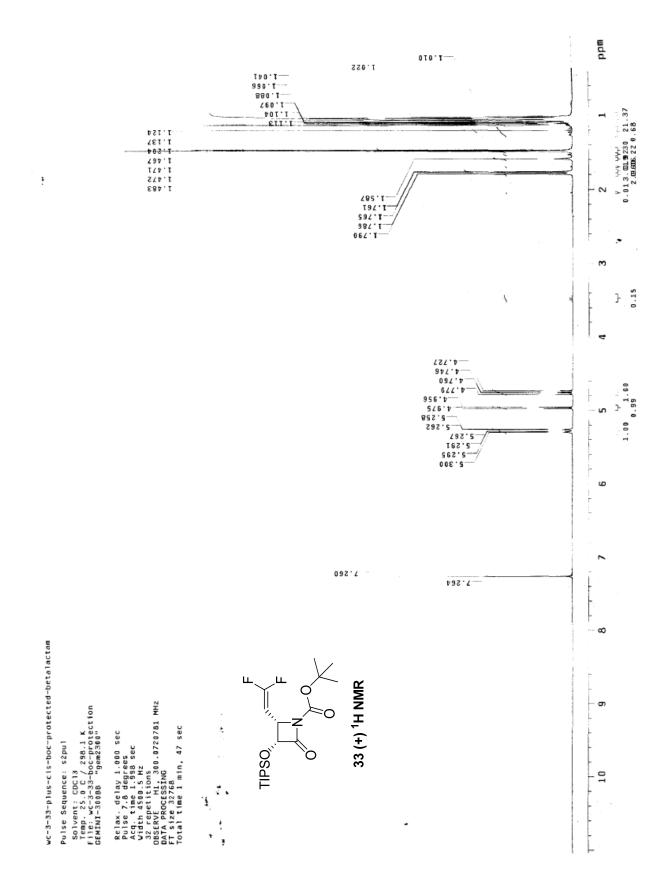


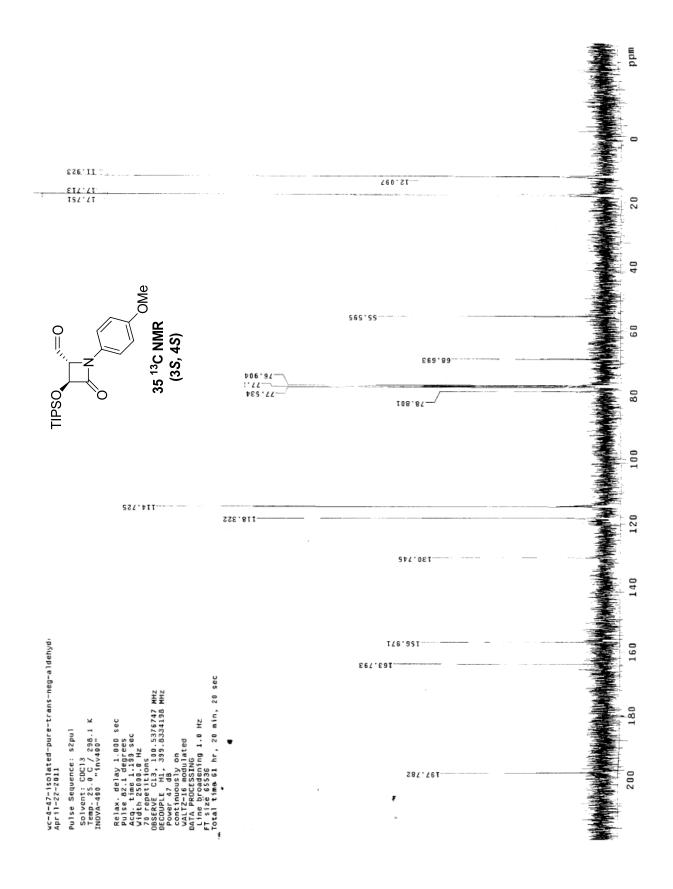


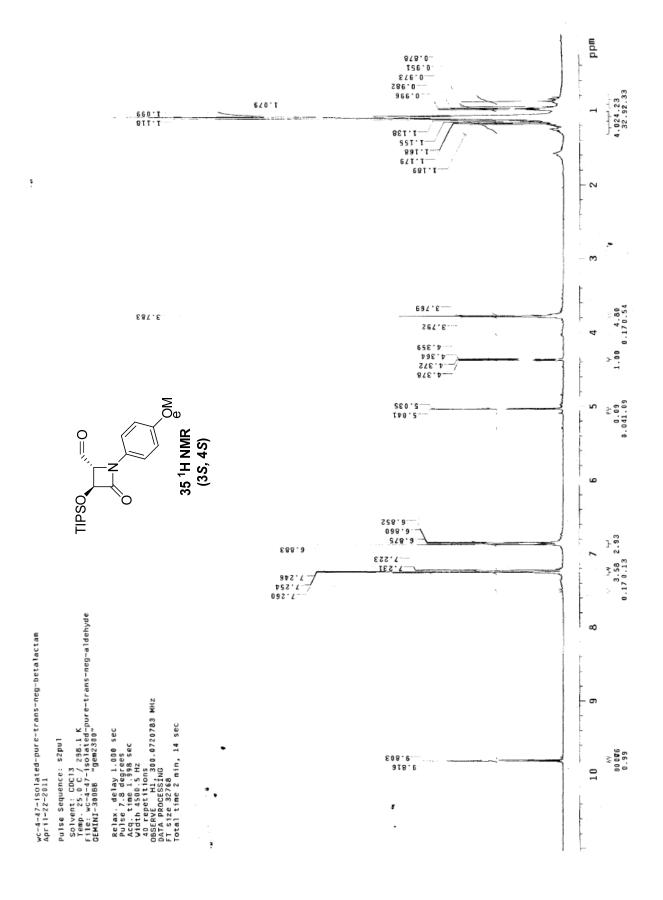


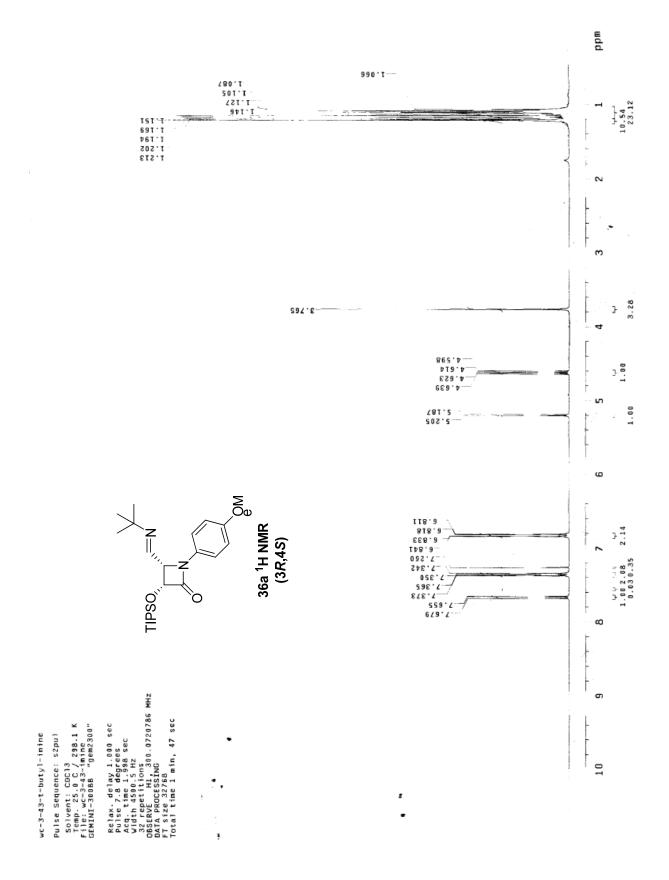


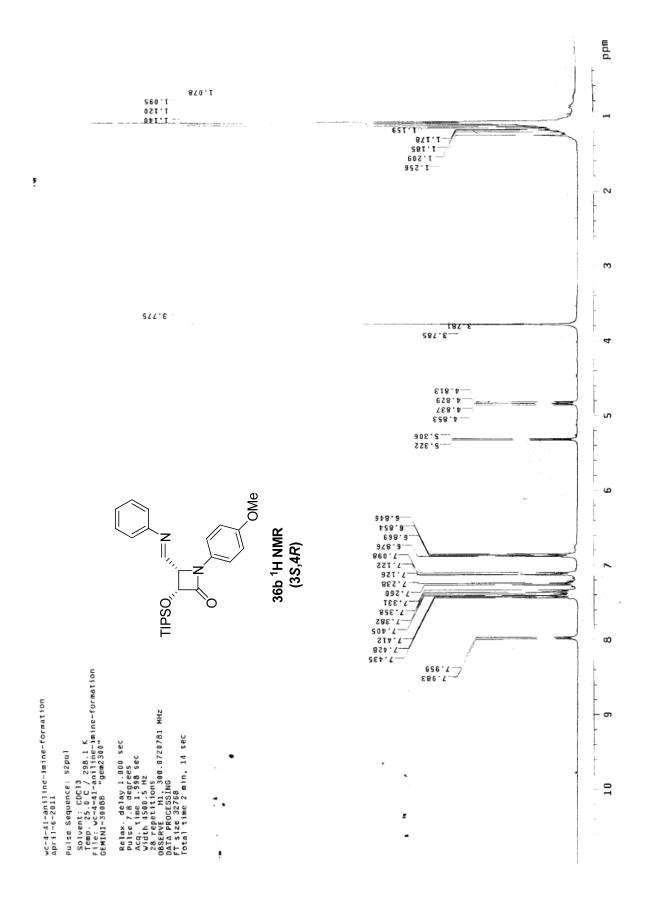


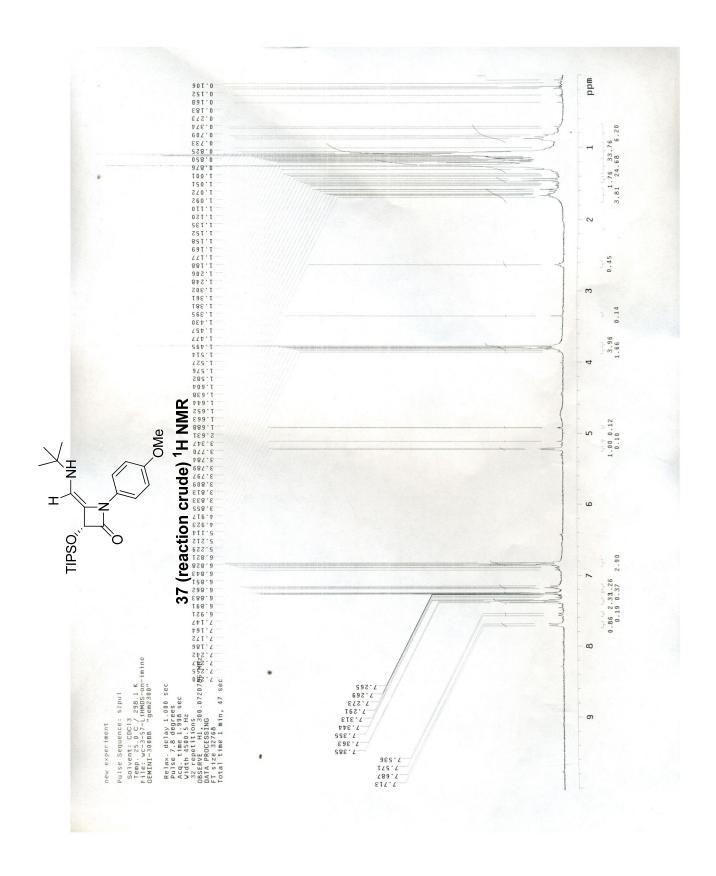


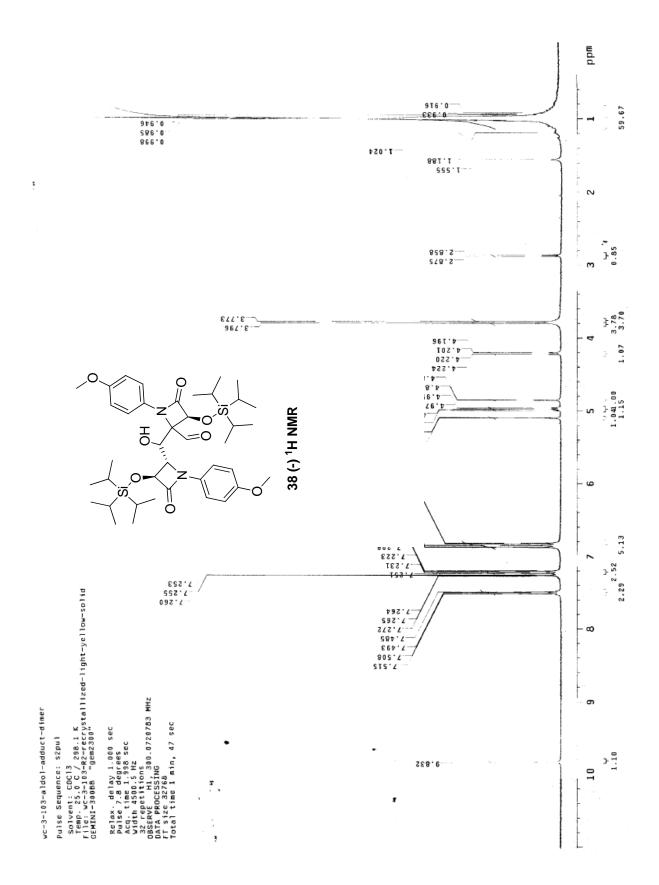


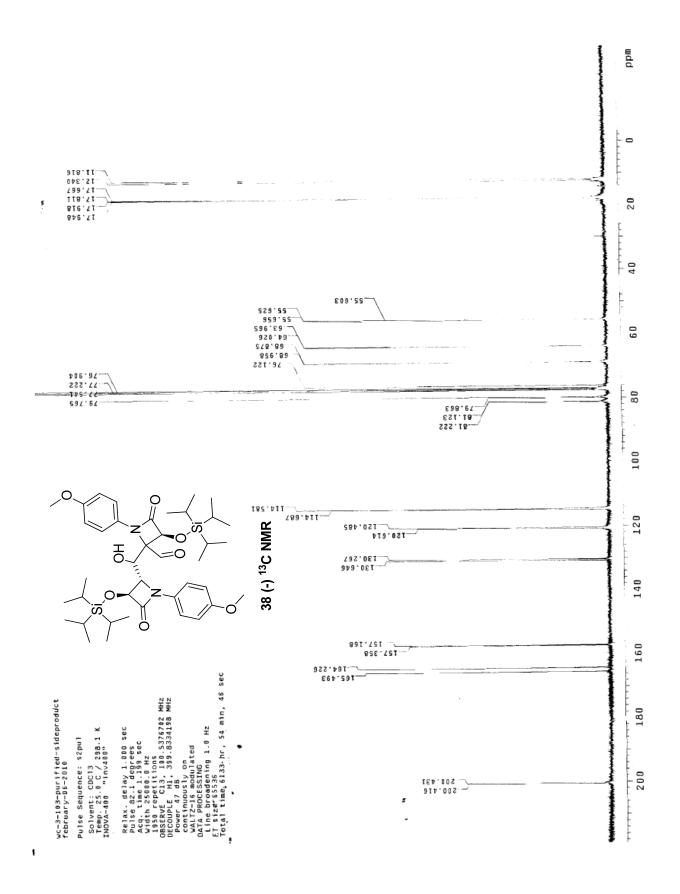












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Acq. Operator : bpr

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(modified after loading)

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Last changed : 2/4/2011 10:41:23 AM by bpr

Method Info : FIA positive ion mode

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Solv B2 - MeOH

Sample Info : Wen Chen

Flow Injections :

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