

Microwave-initiated living free  
radical polymerization:  
Optimization of the preparative  
scale synthesis of Rasta resins.

Presented by Joe Pawluczyk  
Merck Research Laboratories

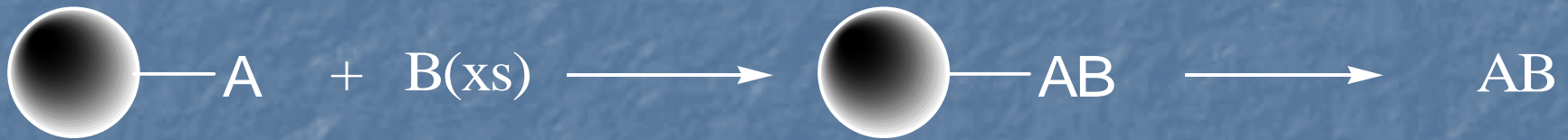
Microwave Synthesis and Other Enabling Tools & Technologies in  
Drug Discovery

University of Pennsylvania  
Thursday October 19, 2006

# Overview

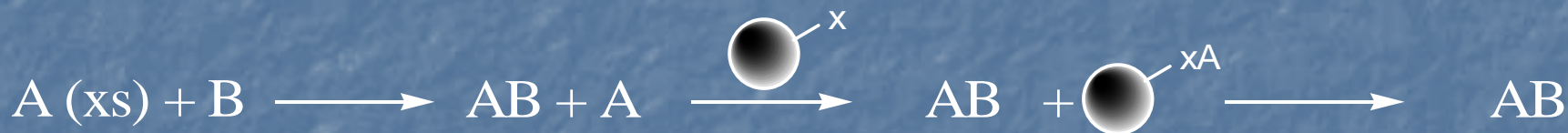
- Historical background of SPOS
- Introduction and description of Rasta resins and LFRP
- Microwave initiated LFRP in synthesis of Rasta resins
- Microwave preparative scale synthesis of Rasta resins in the Biotage Advancer
- Summary

# Solid Phase Organic Synthesis



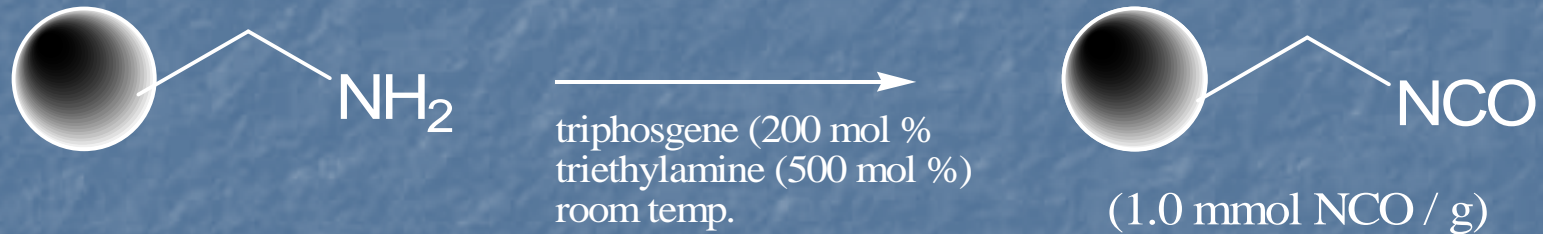
- methodology by Merrifield over 40 years ago
- gave birth to the field of combinatorial chemistry
- limitations: limited chemistry      solution: solution-phase

# Solid-Supported Scavengers



- solid-supported reagents to aid in purification
- published by Kaldor (*Tet Lett Vol 37, No 4, pp7193-7196 (1996)*)
- Hodges publishes paper on Polymer-Supported Quenching (*JACS 1997, 119 4882-4886*)

# Methylisocyanate for Amines



- the highest loading possible with commercially available resin
- for scavenging, want highest loading of functionality as possible
- maximal reproducible loading achieved was 1.5 mmol/g
- disadvantage: urea cross linking vs isocyanate formation at higher loading. Uses expensive and hazardous reagents.

# In Search of ...

- Hodges et al *J. Comb Chem* 2000, 2, 80-88
- Begin investigating polymerization of isocyanate bearing monomers
- Investigate living free radical polymerization

# Living Free-Radical Polymerization

- Defined in the 1950's as the process of chain polymerization that proceeds in the absence of irreversible chain-termination.
- Realized by anionic polymerization (1950)
- Did not really emerge until the 1980's, the first successful form was nitroxide-mediated polymerization (NMP)

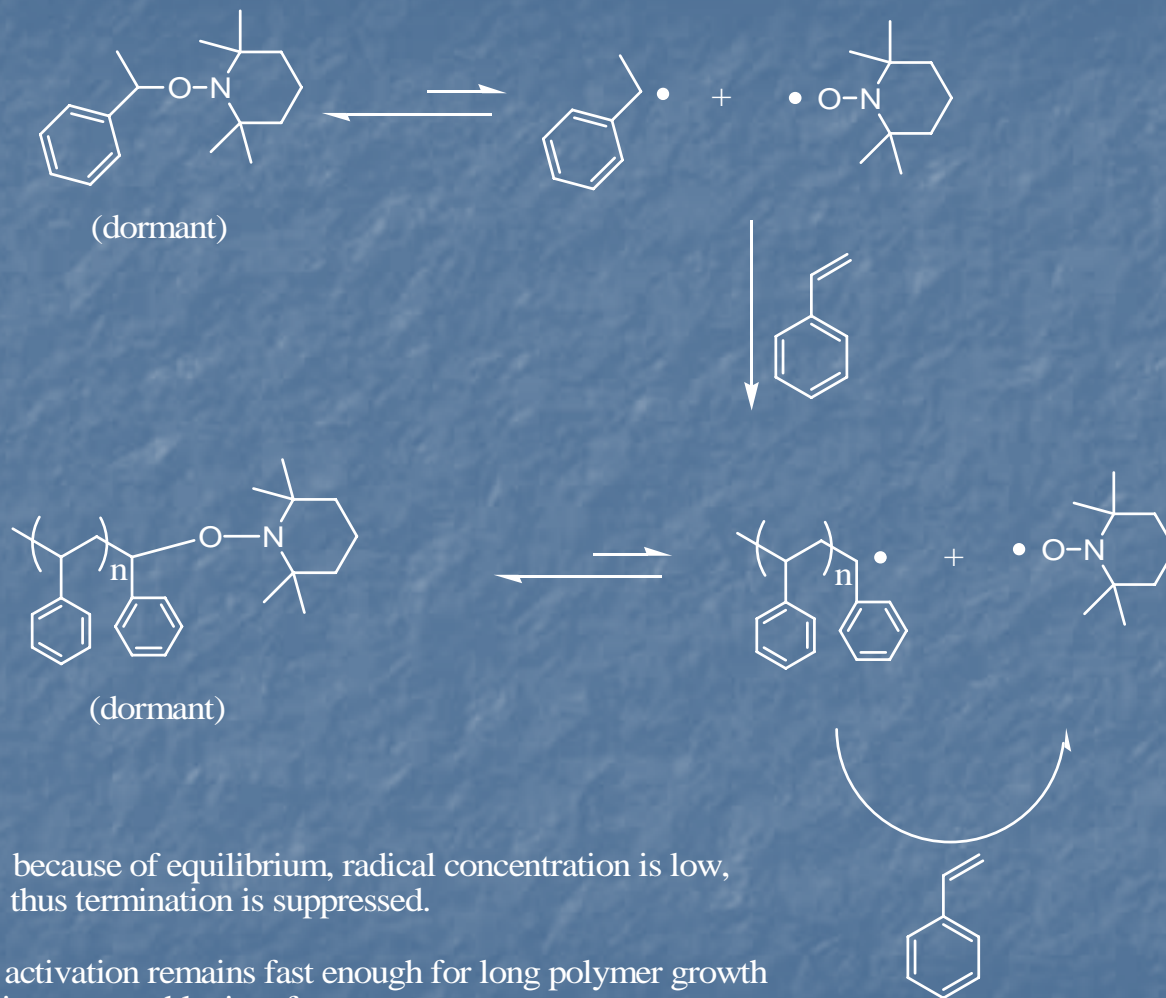
# Living Free-Radical Polymerization



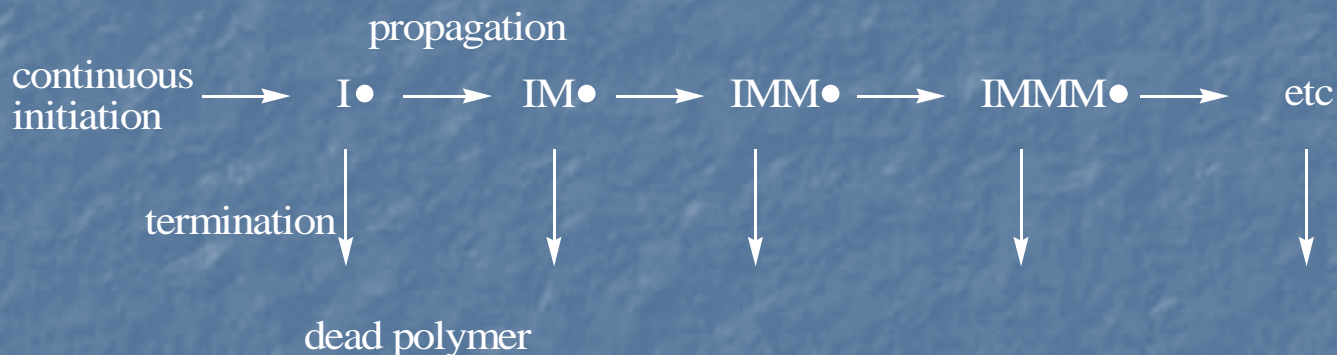
- polymer chain remains dormant until reactivated then a second monomer may be introduced. Equilibrium exists between dormant and active species.
- method provides end-group control and enables synthesis of macromolecules (ie block copolymers) by sequential addition of monomers.
- advantage: all chains are approximately the same if initiation is rapid on the time scale of monomer consumption.



# Nitroxide-mediated Polymerization

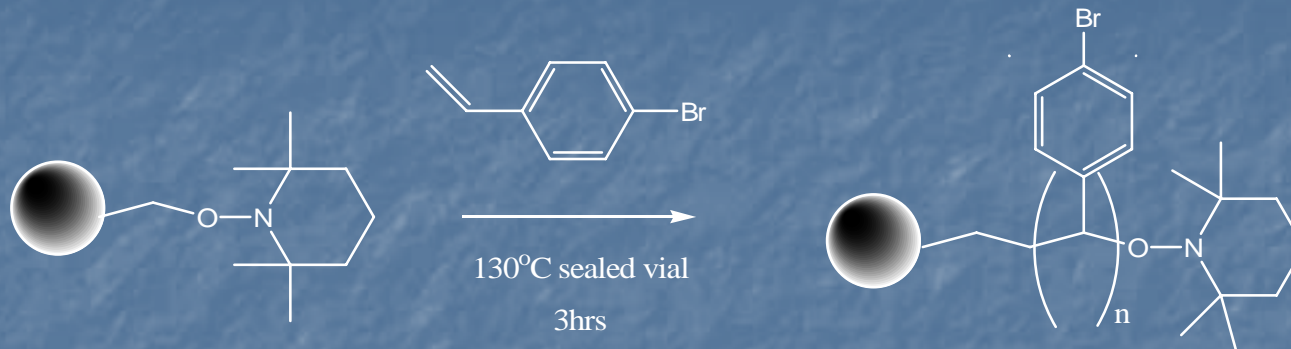


# Conventional Free-Radical Polymerization

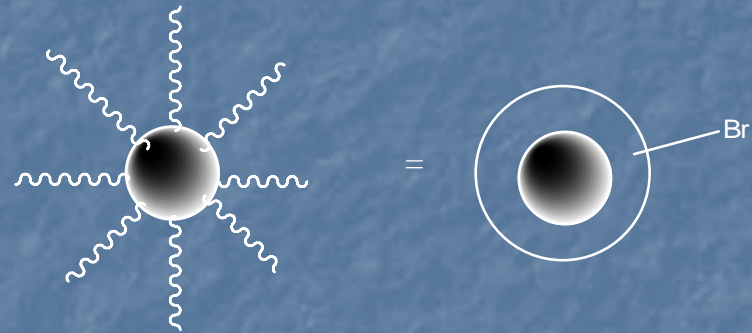


- many commercial polymers are prepared this way.
- allows for a wide range of monomers to be used under mild conditions
- disadvantage: polymer product is polydiverse

# Proof of Concept



"Rasta resin"



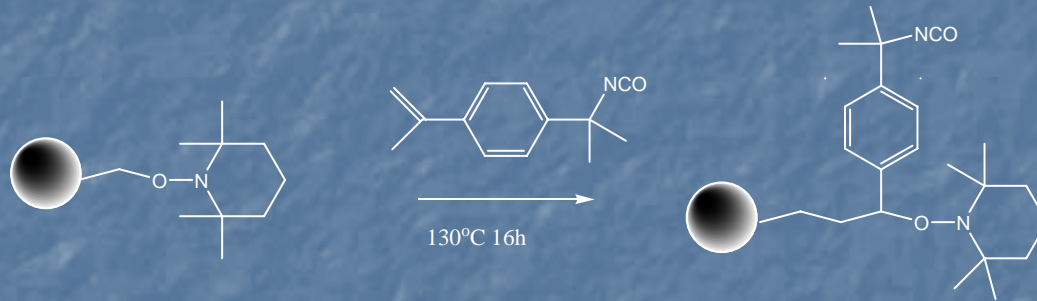
Results:

visibly larger bead with linear polymers

9- fold increase in mass

40.4% Br by elemental analysis (5.05 mmol/g loading)

# Isocyanate Rasta Resin



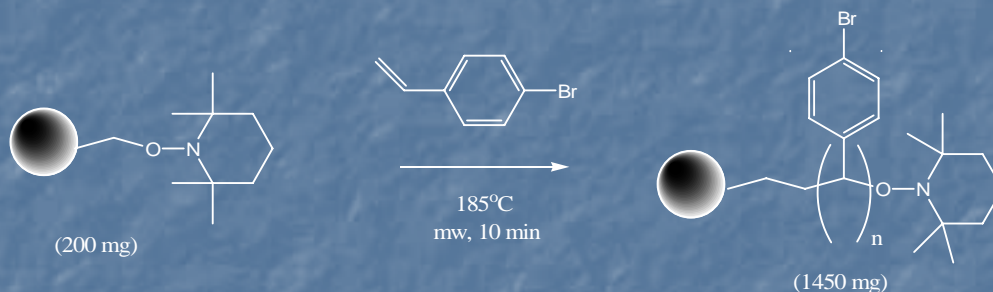
Results:

- workup of resin resulted in a disappointing 1.0 mmol NCO/g
- were able to achieve a Rasta resin through copolymerization with styrene (~2.5 mmol NCO/g)
- successful investigation as an amine scavenger

**5 Rasta resins are commercially available through Aldrich !**

# Microwave-initiated LFRP

Wisnoski et al *Tetrahedron Letters* 44 (2003) 4321-4325



Results:

## microwave preparation

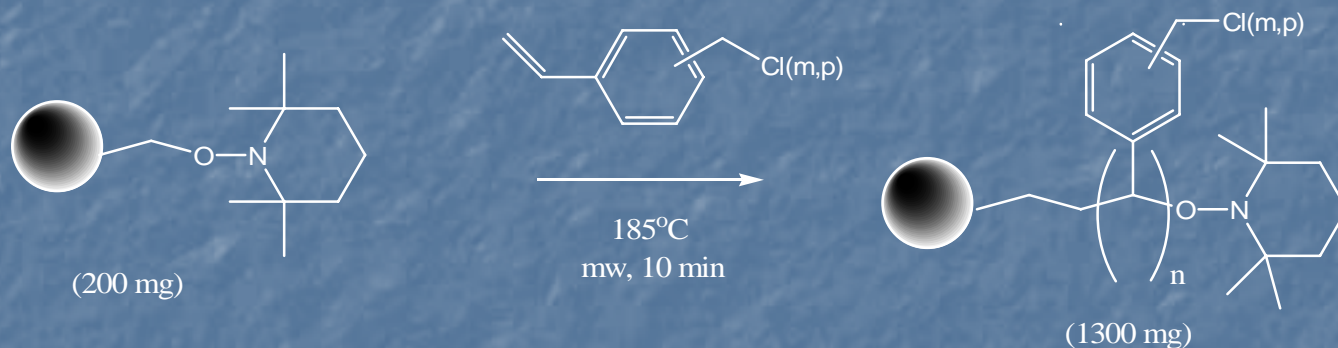
7.2 fold increase of mass  
5.5 mmol/g loading (44% Br)  
192um  $\longrightarrow$  ~ 550 um  
spherical

## conventional preparation

9 fold increase of mass  
5.0g mmol/g (40.4% Br)  
75-150 um  $\longrightarrow$  250um  
spherical

# Rasta Merrifield Resin

Wisnoski et al *Tetrahedron Letters* 44 (2003) 4321-4325

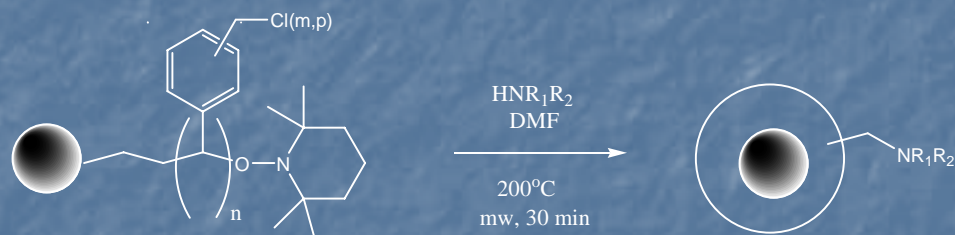


Initial run provided a 6.5 fold increase of mass and a loading level of 5.9 mmol/g (20.8% Cl)

Subsequent runs gave an average 6 fold increase of mass and ~5.8 mmol/g loading (23% Cl)

# Rasta Amines

Wisnoski et al *Tetrahedron Letters* 44 (2003) 4321-4325



Amine	Loading
NEt	5.0 mol/g
	4.5 mmol/g
	5.0 mmol/g
	4.2 mmol/g
	4.2 mmol/g

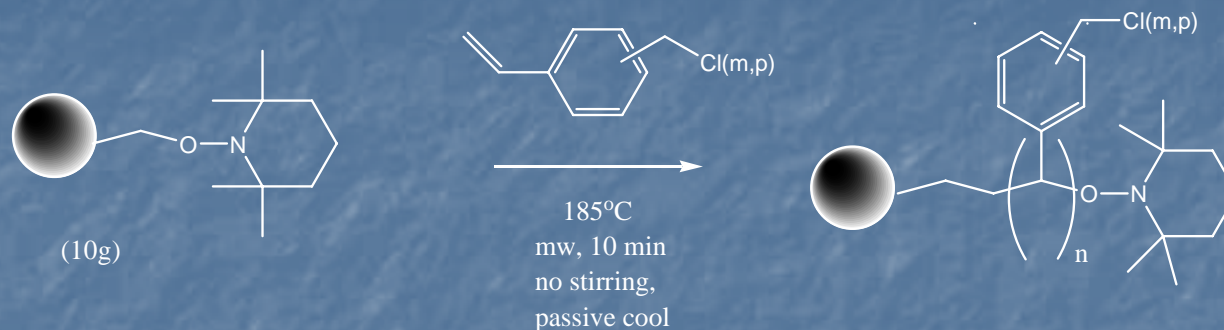
Can we scale up ?



Can we scale up ?



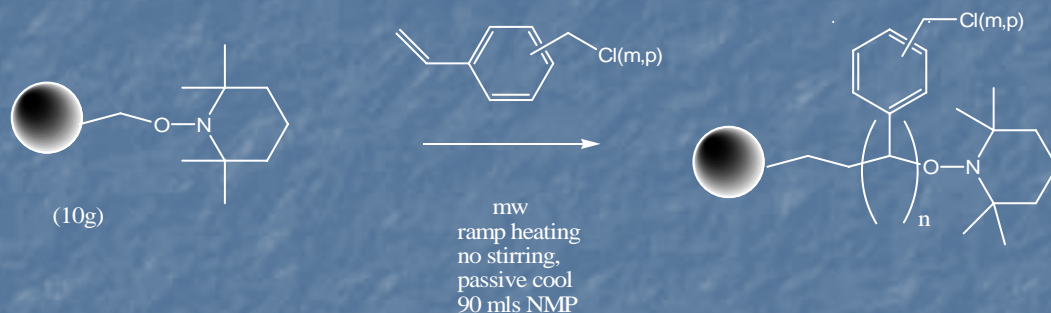
# Scale-up of Merrifield Rasta resin



## Results:

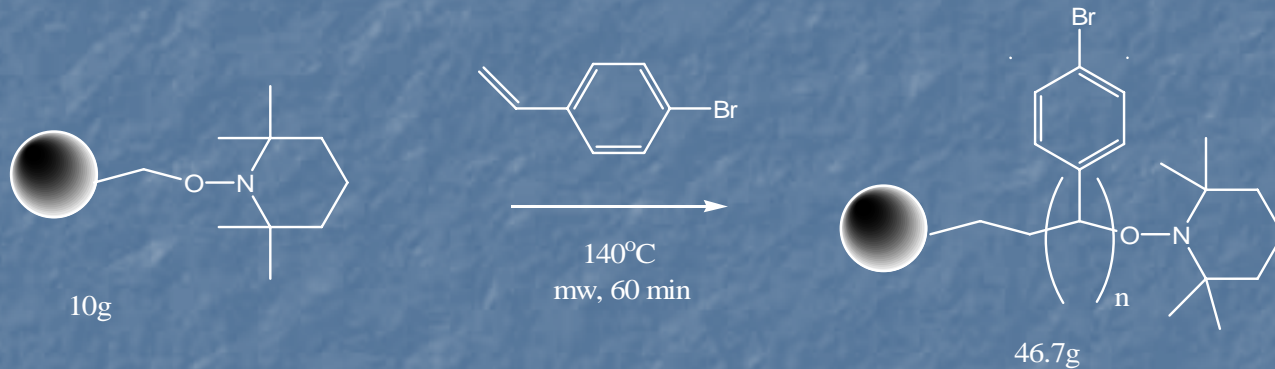
- initial run disappointing: reaction crashed cooled, internal temperature reached 225°C, fused polymeric mass
- repeat conditions, used ramp heating (.5°C/sec). Again crash cooled, temperature exceeded 200°C, polymeric mass
- repeat conditions, now add 90 mls NMP. Crashed cooled
- *reduced temperature to 140°C and increased time to 60 min*  
*Recovered 50.55g of resin with a loading of 5.43mmol/g*  
*(small scale produced a loading of 5.8 mmol/g)*

# Optimization of Temperature



Conditions	Results
15 min @ 170°C	crashed cooled (186°C)
30 min @ 160°C	41g resin 5.3 mmol/g
15 min @ 160°C	37.23g resin 5.45 mmol/g
10 min @ 160°C	32.20g resin 5.23mmol/g
5 min @ 160°C	28.96g resin 4.85 mmol/g

# Microwave-initiated LFRP



Results:

**scale up**

4.6 fold

3.85 mmol/g (30.45%)

370um to 450um

spherical

**microwave preparation**

7.2 fold increase of mass

5.5 mmol/g loading (44% Br)

192um → ~ 550 um

spherical

**conventional preparation**

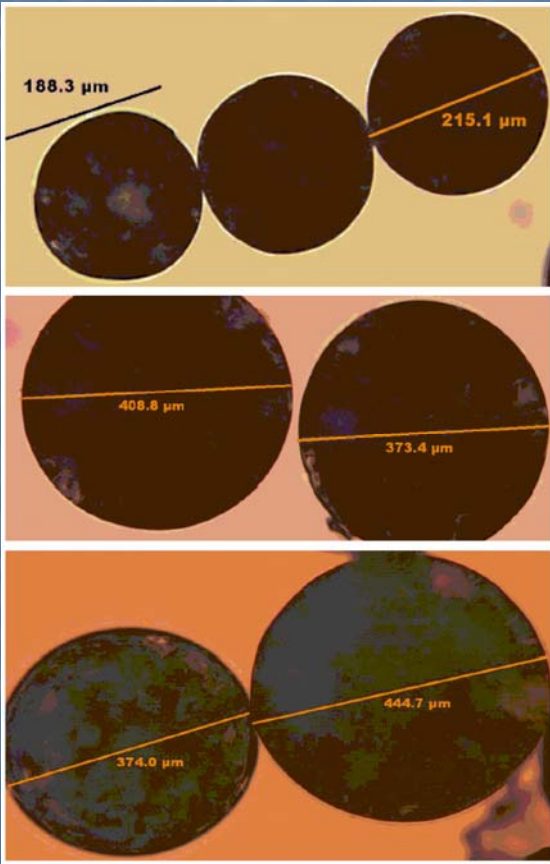
9 fold increase of mass

5.0g mmol/g (40.4% Br)

75-150 um → 250um

spherical

# Rasta Resins

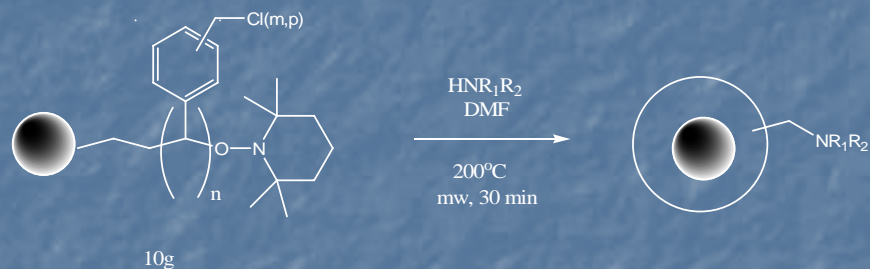


- PS – TEMPO resin

- Bromide

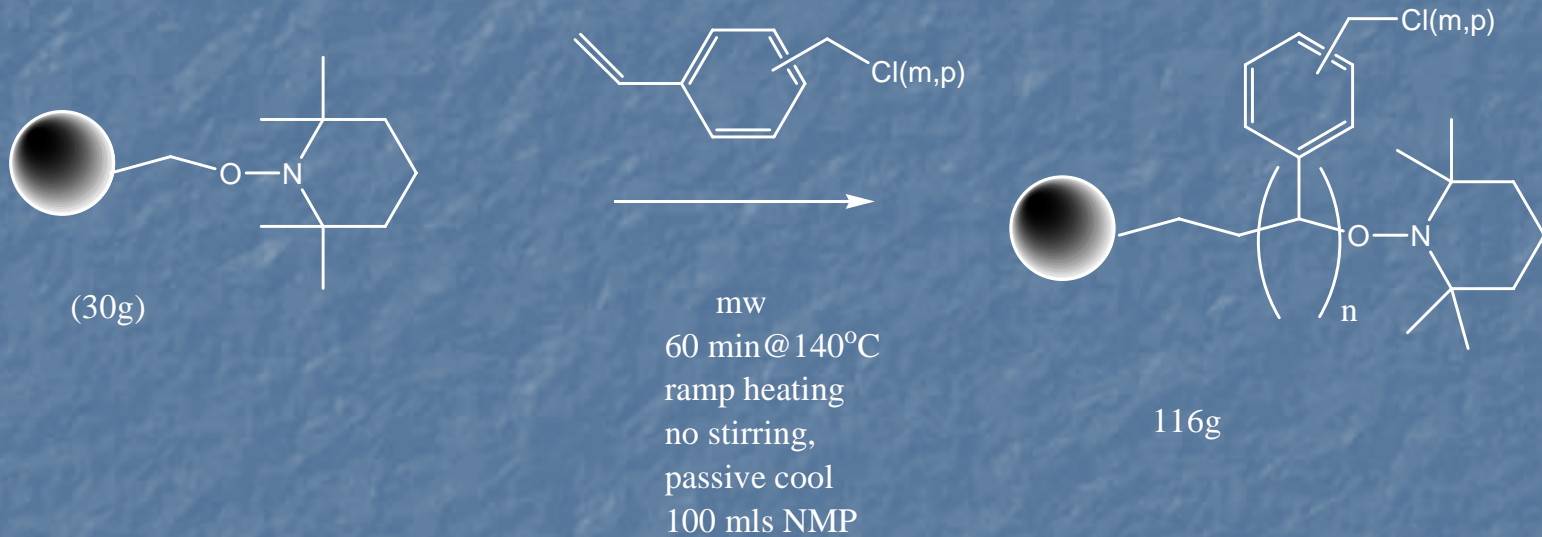
- Merrifield

# Rasta Amines



Amine	Small scale	Large scale
NEt <sub>2</sub>	5.0 mmol/g	4.5 mmol/g
	4.5 mmol/g	3.28 mmol/g
	5.0 mmol/g	4.51 mmol/g
	4.2 mmol/g	4.44 mmol/g
	4.2 mmol/g	3.17 mmol/g

# How Much ?



- unbreakable solid mass in core of rxn vessel
- 5.23 mmol/g loading

# Conclusion

- Used LFRP to develop Rasta resins
- Microwave energy assisted in creating high loading Rasta resins
- A new scalable protocol that affords multi-gram quantities of custom Rasta resins.



# Acknowledgements

- Craig Lindsley
- Deanne Jackson Rudd
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