

CHEM-E4109

MODERN METHODS IN **BIOCATALYSIS**

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*chapter #2: reductive enzymes*

4.3.2022

[www.deskalab.com](http://www.deskalab.com)

**Jan Deska**  
**Bioorganic**  
**Chemistry**

# HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

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Learning diaries

- first week's diary open tomorrow
- due by next Wednesday, March 9th
- this time, mostly questionnaire style

# TODAY'S MENU

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## Content

- overview of redox enzyme subclasses
- spotlight on reductive enzymes
- mechanistic and application details on keto- and enoate reductases

## Intended learning outcomes

- familiarize with various redox processes
- be able to explain key structural and mechanistic aspects of bioreductions
- evaluate strategies to drive reductive processes
- distinguish between different approaches to optically active products

# Redox Enzymes - Classification

oxidoreductases can be subdivided into several classes depending on the nature of electron donor and electron acceptor

## Dehydrogenases

- remove hydrogen, hence oxidize the substrate
- require hydride-binding cofactors as electron acceptors  
= nicotinamides (NAD(P)<sup>+</sup>) or flavins (FAD/FMN) as coenzymes
- CAUTION: also reverse reaction possible  
= sometimes also called reductases



- ✓ provision of oxidized or reduced cofactor controls equilibrium

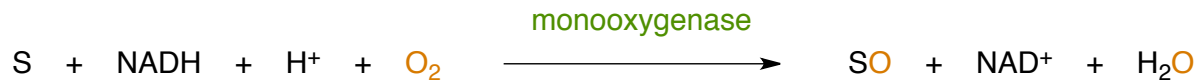
# Redox Enzymes - Classification

oxidoreductases can be subdivided into several classes depending on the nature of electron donor and electron acceptor

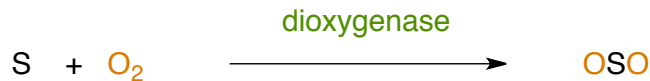
## Oxygenases

- introduce one or two atoms of oxygen from O<sub>2</sub>
- often require hydride-donating cofactors as electron sources  
= nicotinamides (NAD(P)H) or flavins (FADH<sub>2</sub>/FMNH<sub>2</sub>) as coenzymes

## Monooxygenases



## Dioxygenases



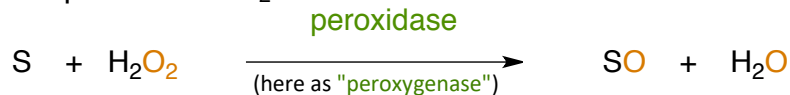
very much simplified: often associated to prereduction processes, cosubstrates to trap one oxygen atom etc...

# Redox Enzymes - Classification

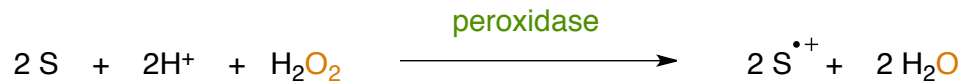
oxidoreductases can be subdivided into several classes depending on the nature of electron donor and electron acceptor

## Peroxidases

- introduce one atom of oxygen from  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$   
or
- induce single-electron transfer processes (similar to some monooxygenases)
- independent of sacrificial redox cofactors as hydrogenperoxide can be considered "prereduced  $\text{O}_2$ "



or



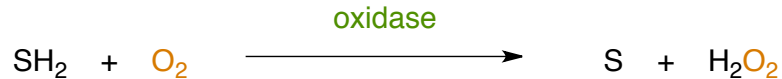
# Redox Enzymes - Classification

oxidoreductases can be subdivided into several classes depending on the nature of electron donor and electron acceptor

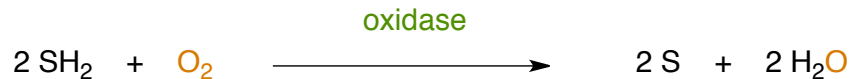
## Oxidases

- reduce  $O_2$  to  $H_2O_2$  (occasionally even to  $H_2O$ ), thereby dehydrogenating the substrate
- redox cofactor-free "dehydrogenase"

partial  $O_2$  reduction



full  $O_2$  reduction



# Redox Enzymes - Classification

oxidoreductases can be subdivided into several classes depending on the nature of electron donor and electron acceptor

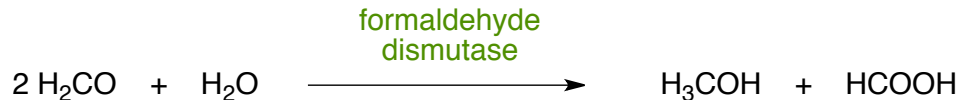
Dismutases

- catalyzes disproportionation of the substrate to yield an oxidized and a reduced derivative thereof

e.g. catalase

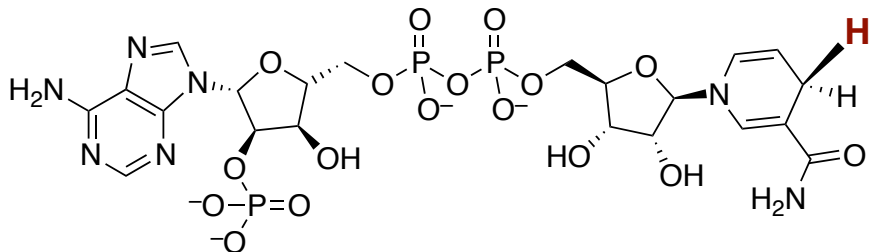


e.g. formaldehyde dismutase





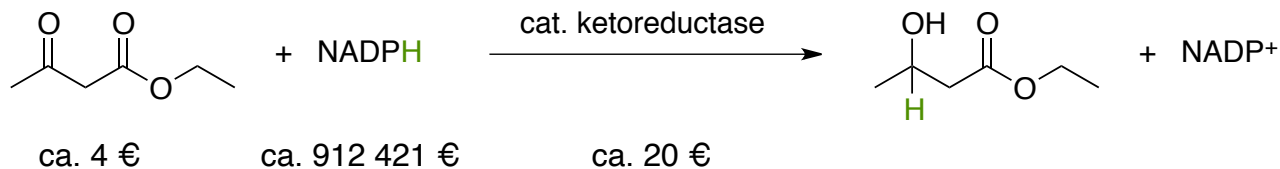
# Issues related to redox cofactors



Dehydrogenases and oxygenases require NAD(P)H as stoichiometric reducing agent!

- miserable atom economy: 0.11 wt% hydride in NADPH
- high price: 100 mg NADPH = 228 EUR (Sigma Aldrich, 3.3.2022)
- relatively low stability

costs to produce 100 g of ethyl 3-hydroxybutanoate



# Issues related to redox cofactors

In order to use oxidoreductases in a non-fermentative fashion (i.e. w/ isolated enzymes), cofactor recycling is indispensable

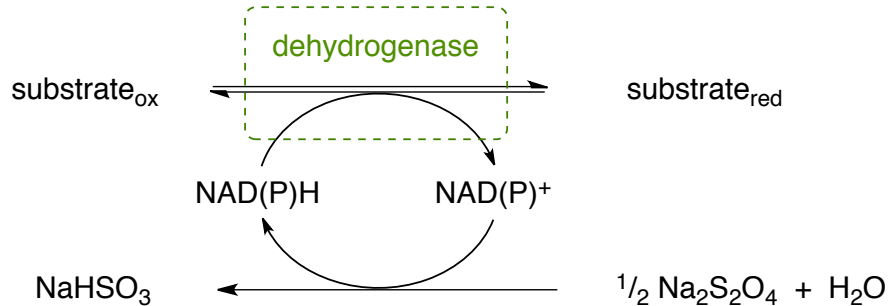
cofactor recycling = in situ reduction of NAD(P)H under consumption of a much cheaper sacrificial reducing agent

# Issues related to redox cofactors

In order to use oxidoreductases in a non-fermentative fashion (i.e. w/ isolated enzymes), cofactor recycling is indispensable

## possibility I: chemical reduction

- inorganic reducing agents (dithionite) or electrochemical reduction



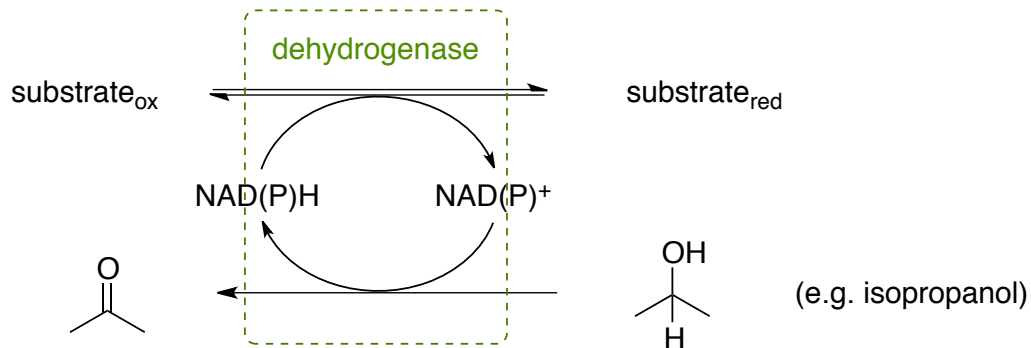
- + very cheap
- low turnover
- rapid deactivation of the proteins

# Issues related to redox cofactors

In order to use oxidoreductases in a non-fermentative fashion (i.e. w/ isolated enzymes), cofactor recycling is indispensable

## possibility II: cosubstrate-coupled process

- reduced cosubstrate that is also accepted by the enzyme pushes equilibrium



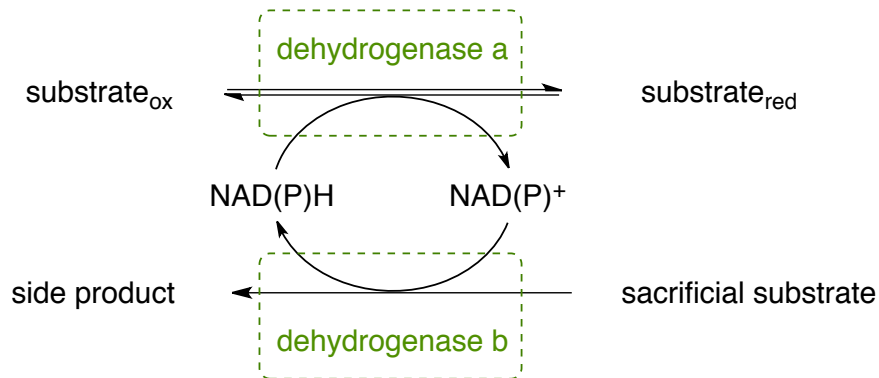
- + still pretty cheap
- + no interfering non-native processes
- enzymatic activity is distributed over two processes
- potential inhibition by high concentrations of cosubstrate/coproduct
- only applicable for dehydrogenases

# Issues related to redox cofactors

In order to use oxidoreductases in a non-fermentative fashion (i.e. w/ isolated enzymes), cofactor recycling is indispensable

## possibility III: enzyme-coupled process

- a second enzyme with a different reduced substrate is added



- + cheap reducing agents
- + minimal impairment of either enzyme
- + also well applicable with oxygenases instead of *dehydrogenase a*
- costs of additional enzymes

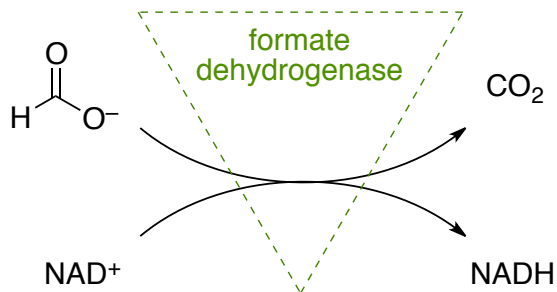
# Issues related to redox cofactors

In order to use oxidoreductases in a non-fermentative fashion (i.e. w/ isolated enzymes), cofactor recycling is indispensable

possibility III: enzyme-coupled process

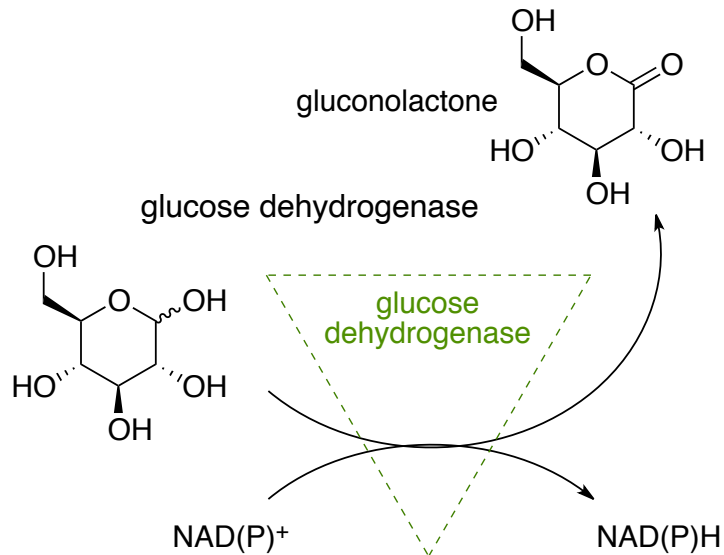
classical coenzyme systems

formate dehydrogenase



- +  $\text{CO}_2$  formation drives equilibrium
- low specific activity
- only active on  $\text{NAD}^+$ , not  $\text{NADP}^+$

glucose dehydrogenase



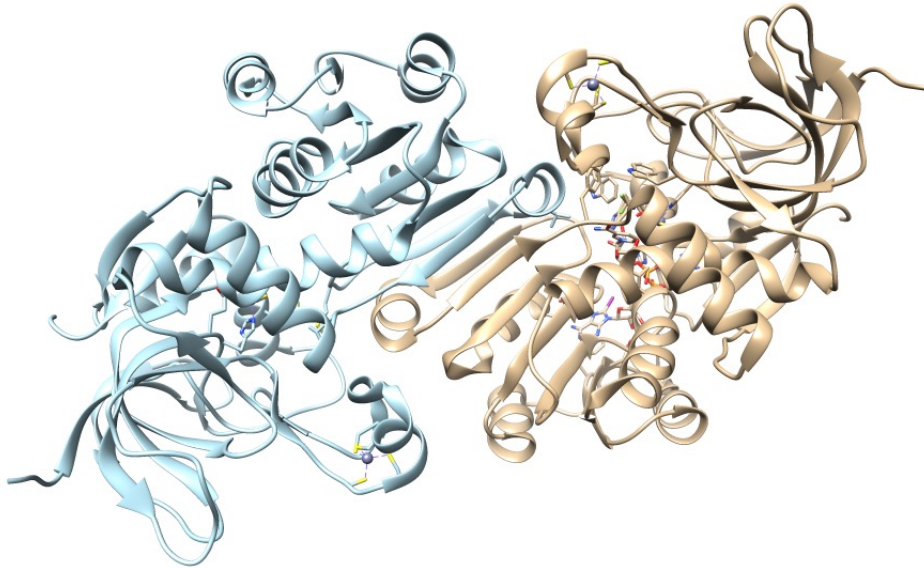
- + accepts both  $\text{NAD}^+$  and  $\text{NADP}^+$
- + hydrolysis of gluconolactone pushes equilibrium
- (gluconate as waste)



# Alcohol dehydrogenases

Yeast alcohol dehydrogenase (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*)

- evolutionarily linked to ancestral formaldehyde dehydrogenase
- homodimers, ca. 350 amino acids





# Alcohol dehydrogenases

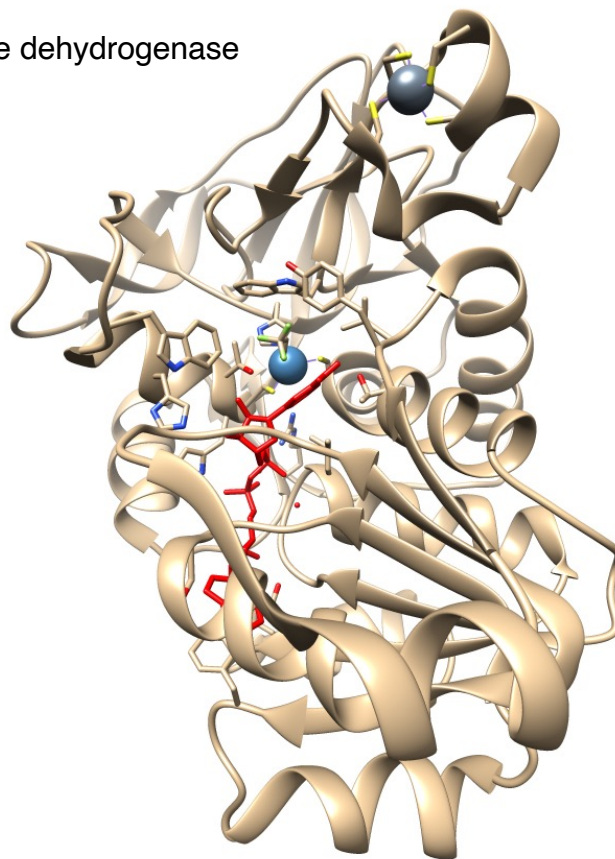
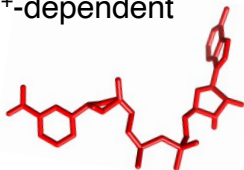
Yeast alcohol dehydrogenase (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*)

- evolutionarily linked to ancestral formaldehyde dehydrogenase
- homodimers, ca. 350 amino acids
- zinc-containing

(one structural  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  + one catalytic  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ )




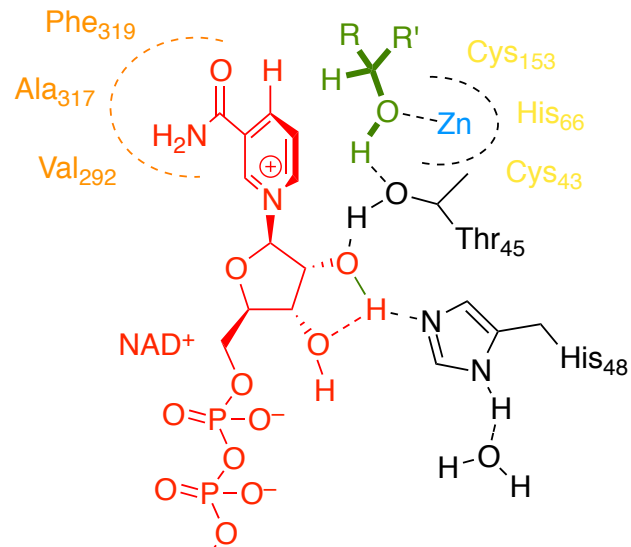
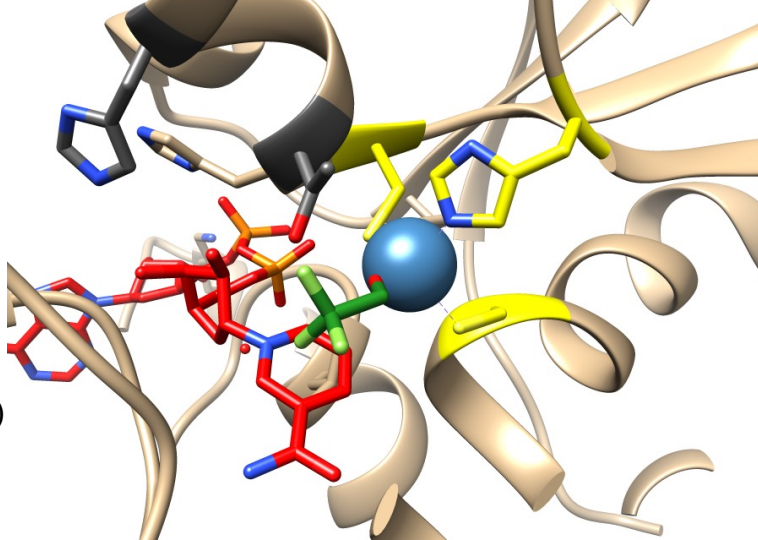
- $\text{NAD}^+$ -dependent



# Alcohol dehydrogenases

Yeast alcohol dehydrogenase (*S. cerevisiae*)

- evolutionarily linked to ancestral FaDH
- homodimers, ca. 350 amino acids
- zinc-containing   
(one structural  $Zn^{2+}$  + one catalytic  $Zn^{2+}$ )
- $NAD^+$ -dependent



zinc binding

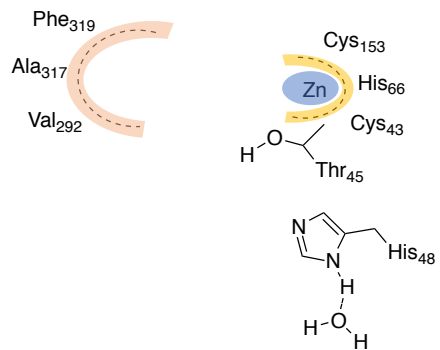
substrate binding

proton shuffle

nicotinamide binding

# Alcohol dehydrogenases

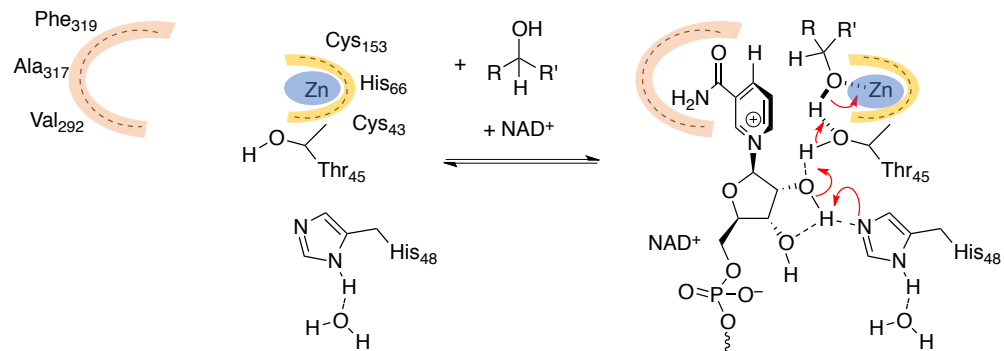
Mechanism



# Alcohol dehydrogenases

## Mechanism

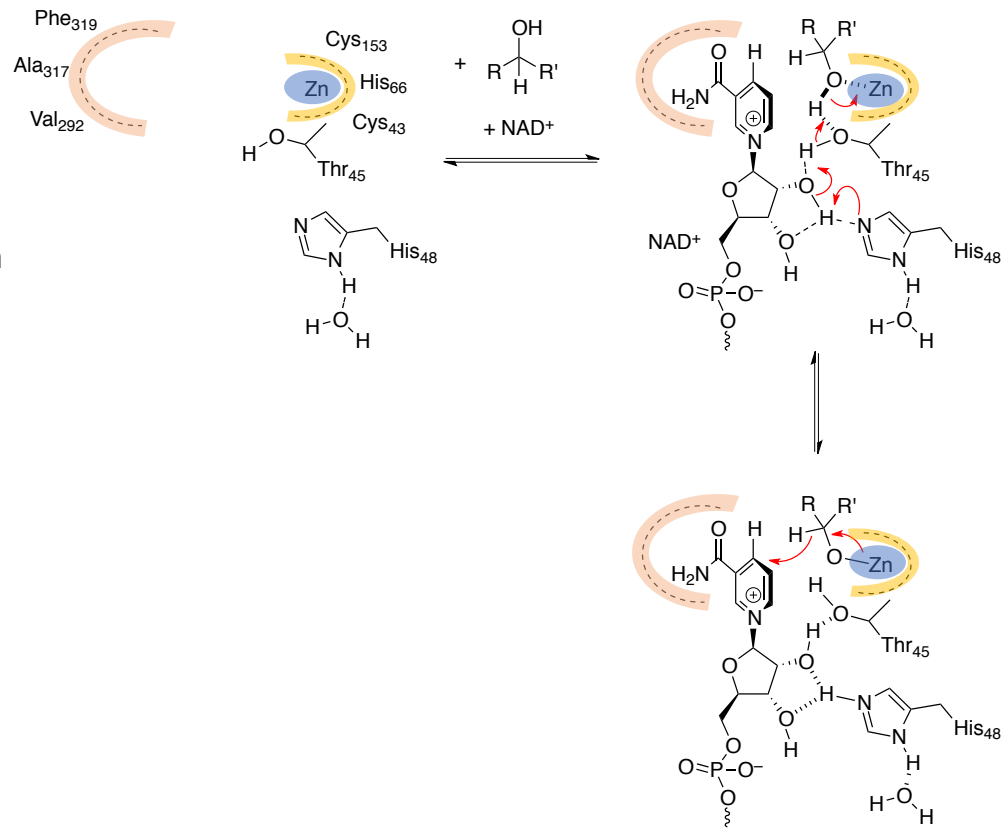
- 1 NAD<sup>+</sup> binding
- 2 alcohol binding



# Alcohol dehydrogenases

## Mechanism

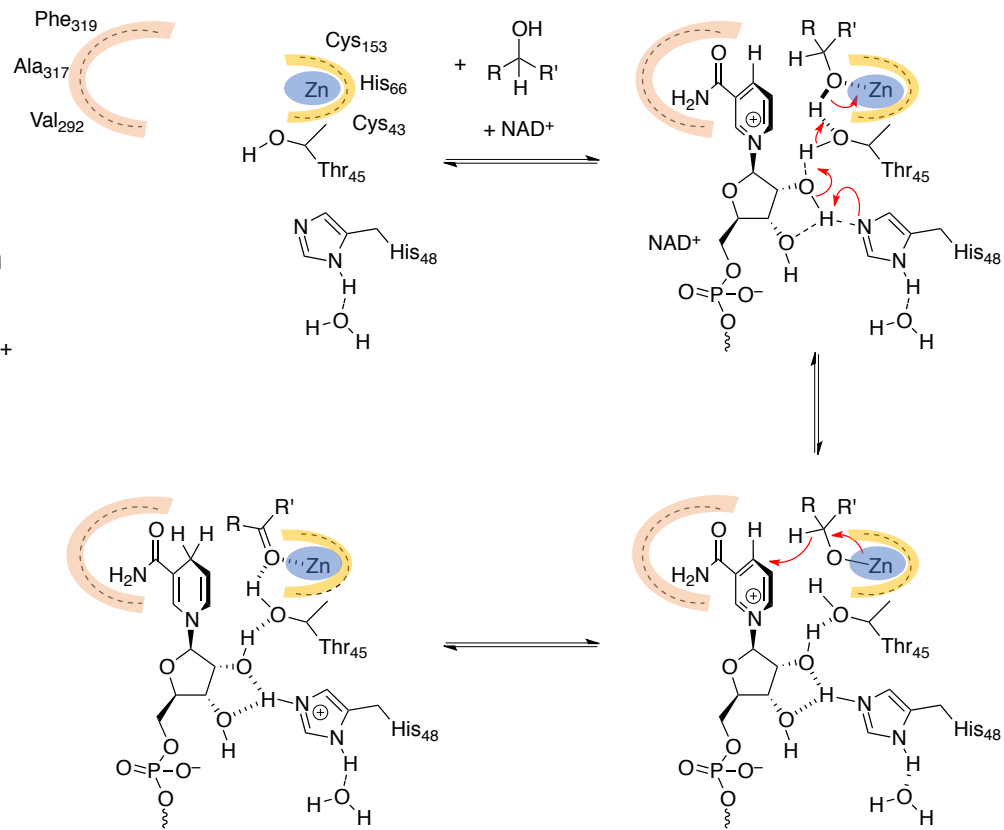
- 1 NAD<sup>+</sup> binding
- 2 alcohol binding
- 3 alcohol deprotonation



# Alcohol dehydrogenases

## Mechanism

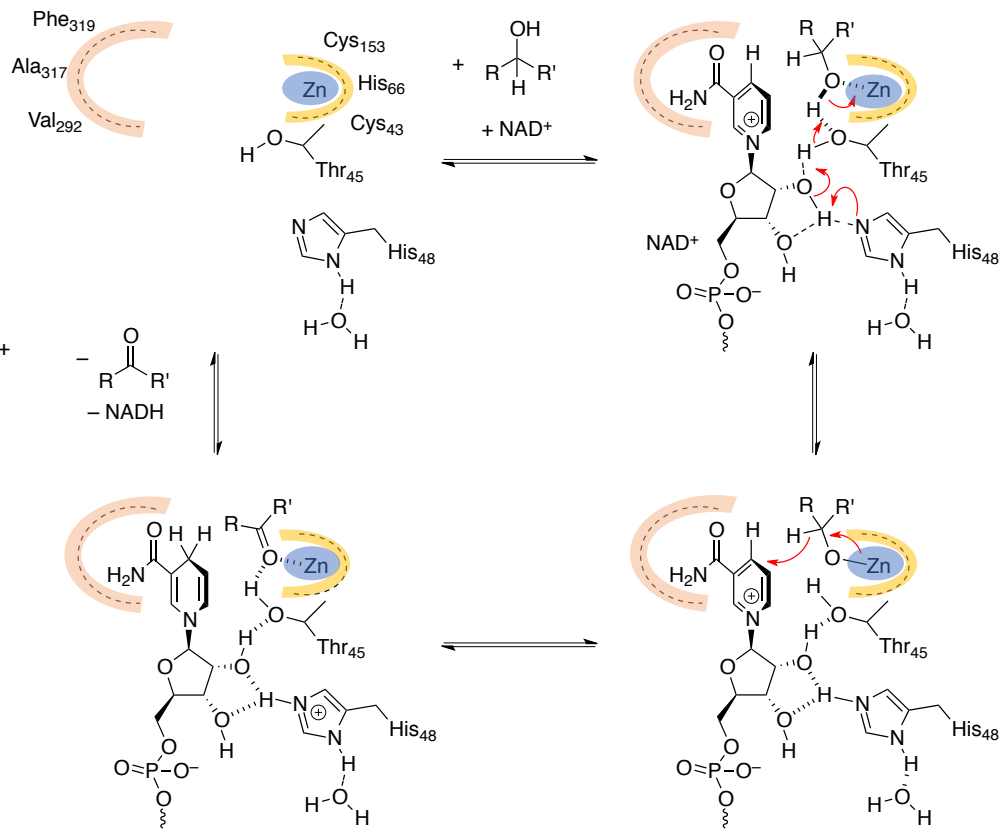
- 1 NAD<sup>+</sup> binding
- 2 alcohol binding
- 3 alcohol deprotonation
- 4 hydride transfer from alkoxide to NAD<sup>+</sup>



# Alcohol dehydrogenases

## Mechanism

- 1 NAD<sup>+</sup> binding
- 2 alcohol binding
- 3 alcohol deprotonation
- 4 hydride transfer from alkoxide to NAD<sup>+</sup>
- 5 release of ketone
- 6 release of NADH

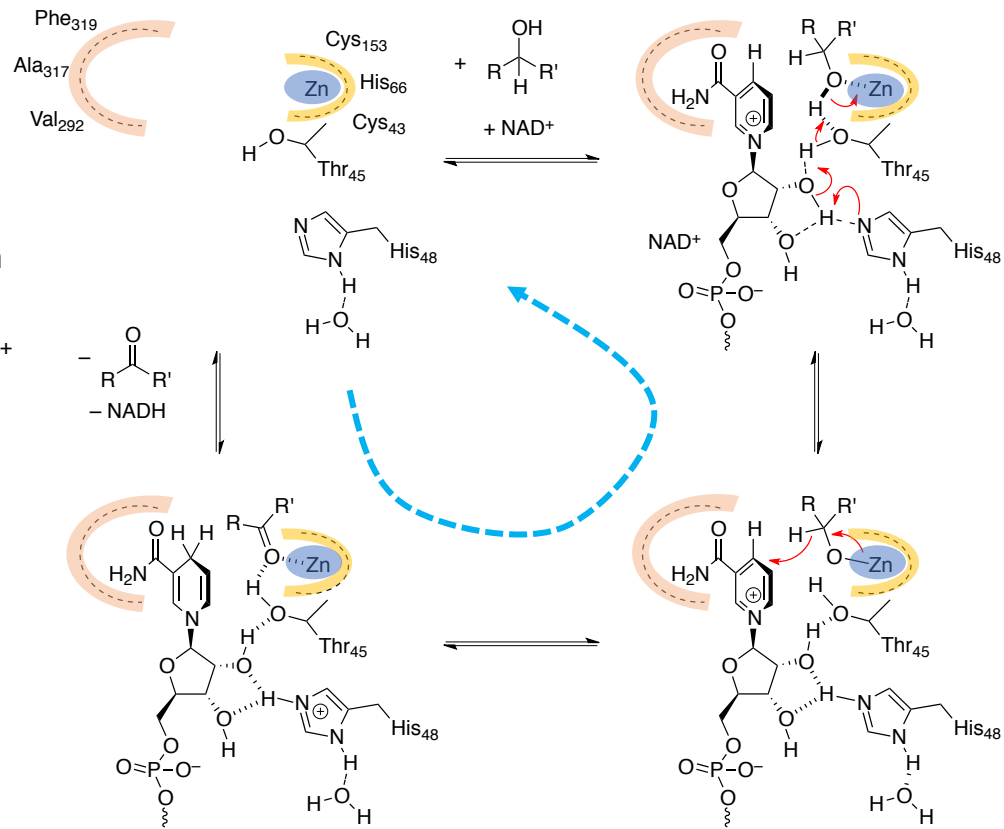


# Alcohol dehydrogenases

## Mechanism

- 1 NAD<sup>+</sup> binding
- 2 alcohol binding
- 3 alcohol deprotonation
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- 5 release of ketone
- 6 release of NADH

if run counterclockwise:  
ketone reduction

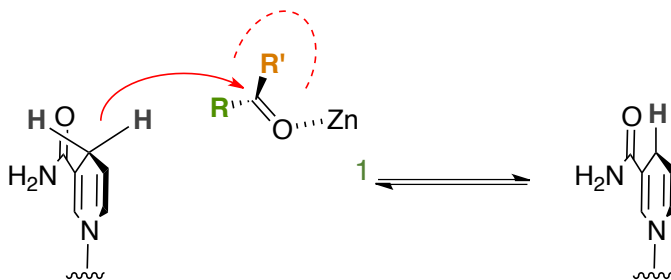




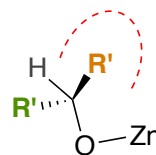
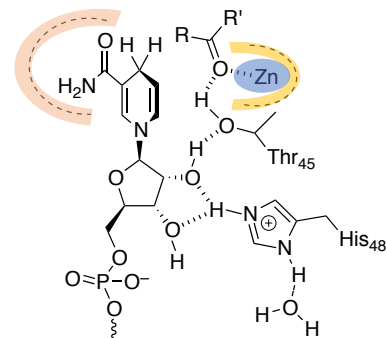
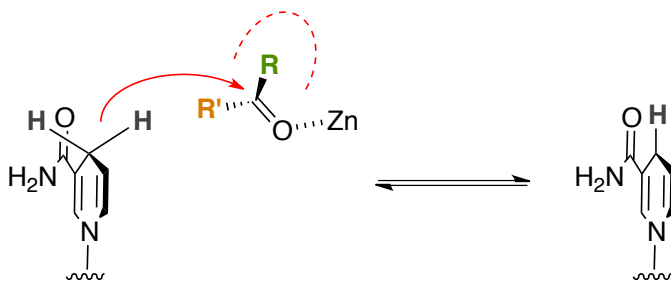
# Some words about stereoselectivity

Face selectivity during hydride transfer

substrate orientation controls to which face of the carbonyl the hydrogen is transferred to

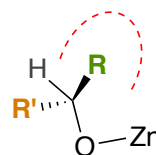


or



if R' < R in  
CIP priorities

hydrogen goes to carbonyl to  
*re* face forming the *S*-alcohol

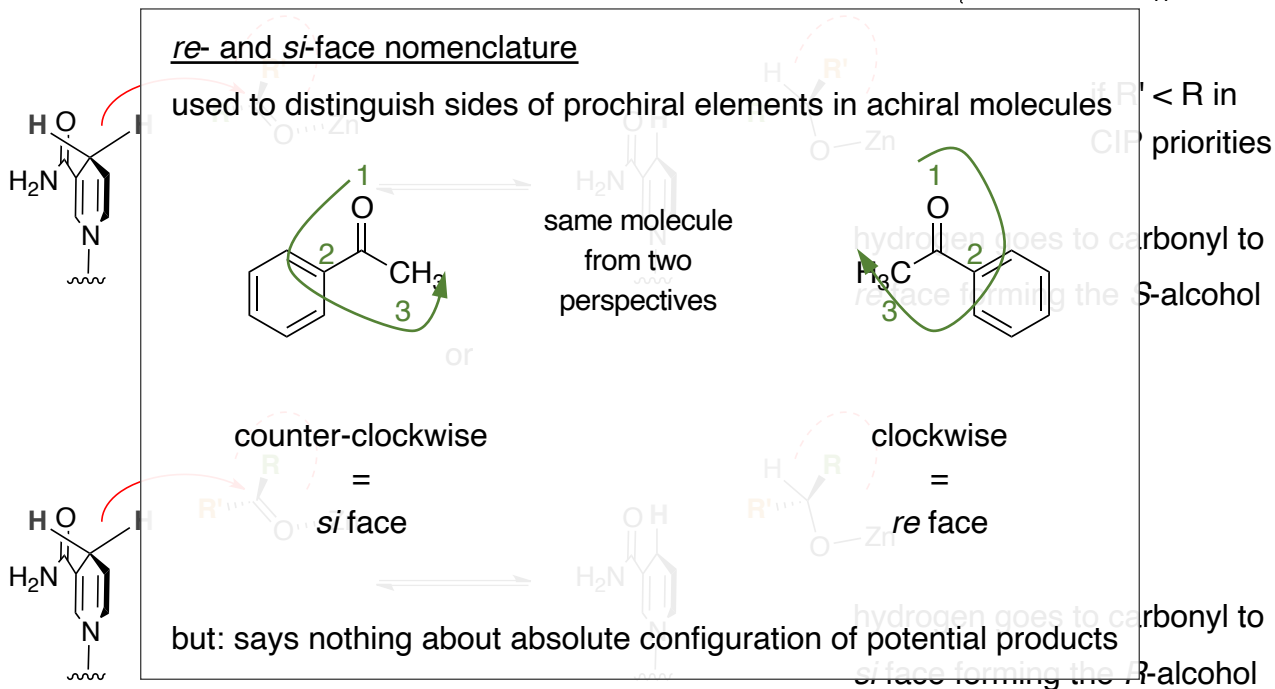
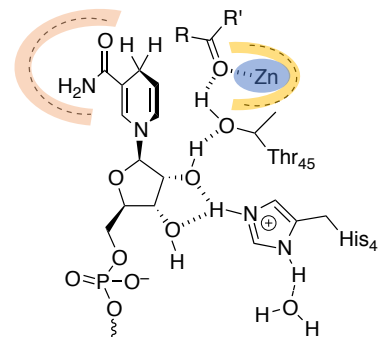


hydrogen goes to carbonyl to  
*si* face forming the *R*-alcohol

# Some words about stereoselectivity

Face selectivity during hydride transfer

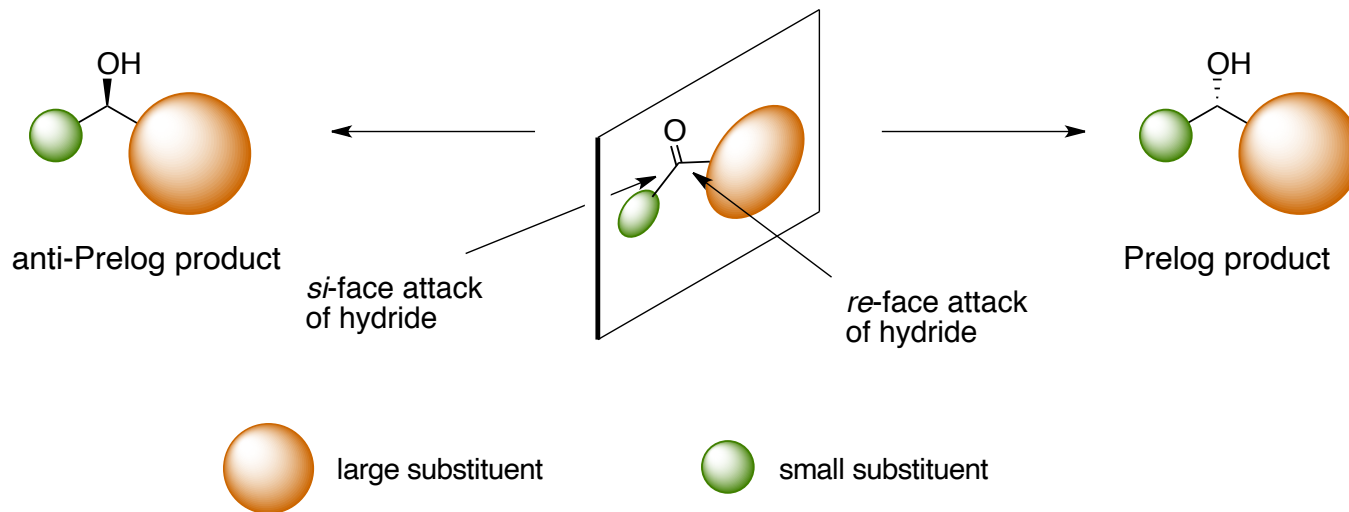
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# Some words about stereoselectivity

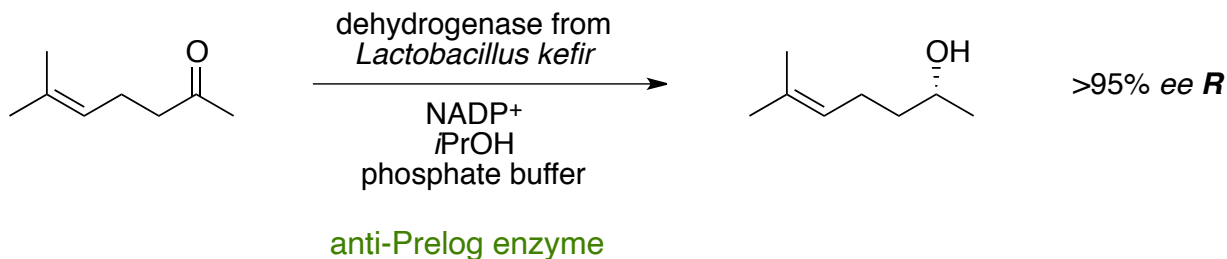
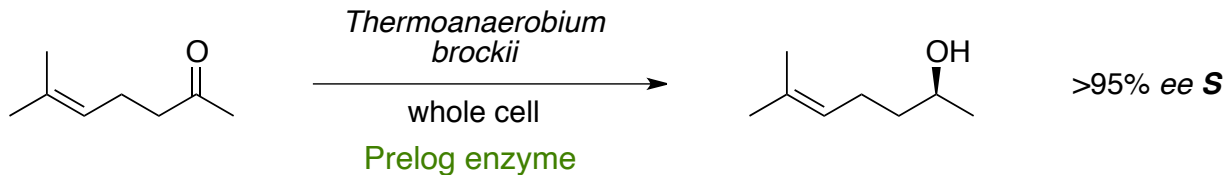
Prelog's rule to predict absolute configurations

= sterics dominate stereochemical outcome of ADH reductions and oxidations

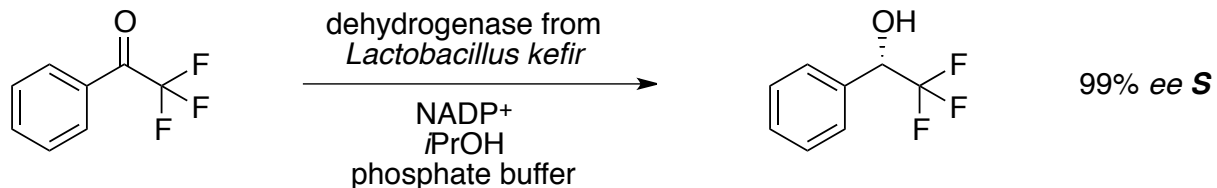


- there are both Prelog- and anti-Prelog-selective enzymes
- scope might differ much regarding the bulk of the accepted large substituent

# Asymmetric ketone reductions

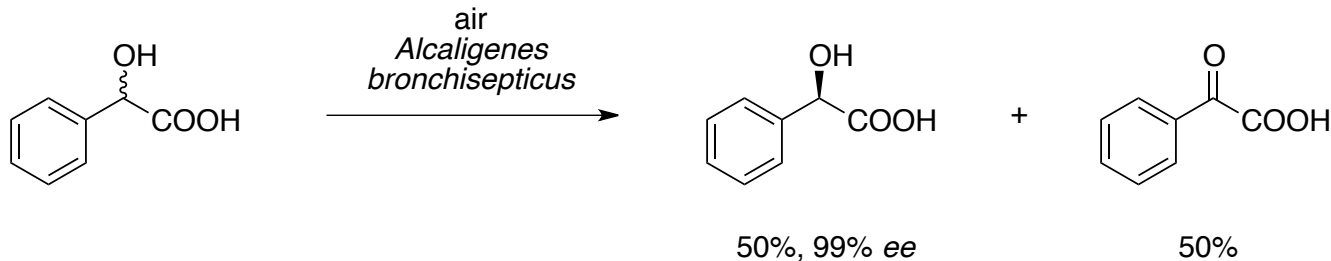


there is no R/S prediction in Prelog's rule!  
R or S defined by atomic number, not sterics



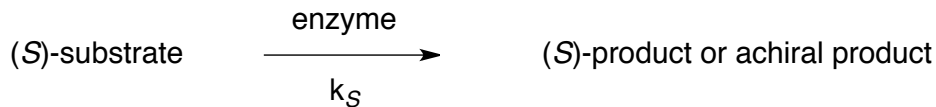
# Kinetic resolution & deracemization

enantioselective oxidation results in kinetic resolution



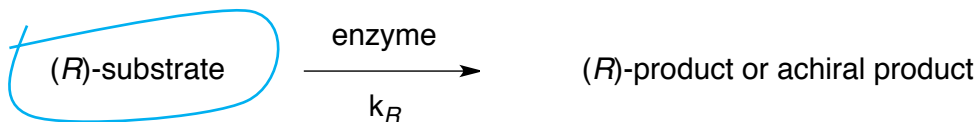
kinetic resolution =

stereoselective catalyst consumes one enantiomer faster than its mirror image



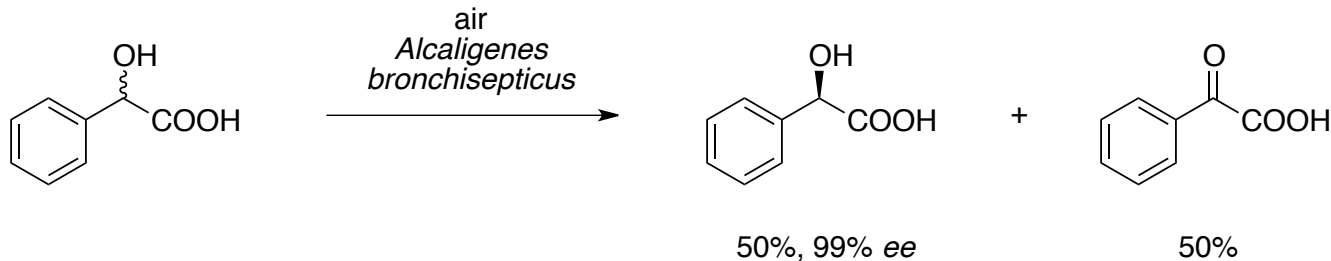
if  $k_S \gg k_R$

optically pure  
(R)-substrate  
can be  
reisolated



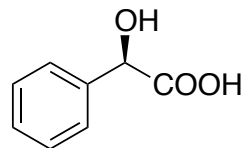
# Kinetic resolution & deracemization

enantioselective oxidation results in kinetic resolution



problem with kinetic resolutions: low yield

potential work-around: second complementary catalyst

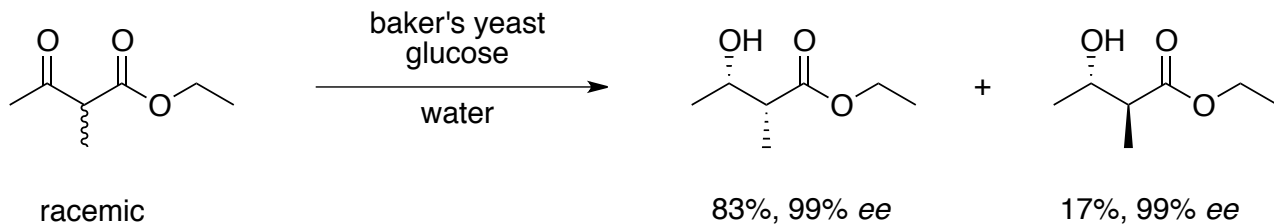


87%, 99% *ee*

ADH from  
*Streptococcus faecalis*  
IFO 12964  
+  
formate recycling system

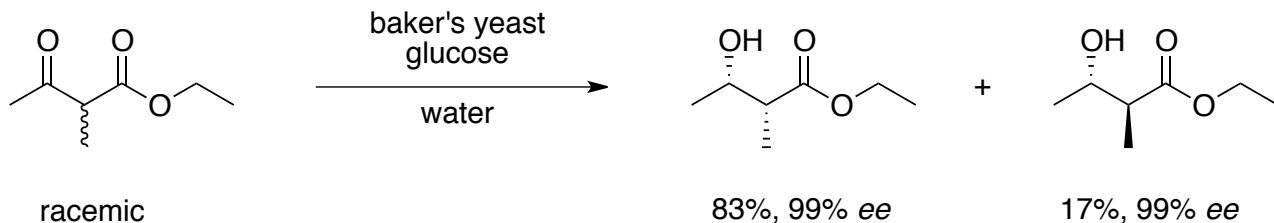
# Dynamic kinetic resolution

yeast reduction of racemic  $\beta$ -ketoesters yields enantioenriched products



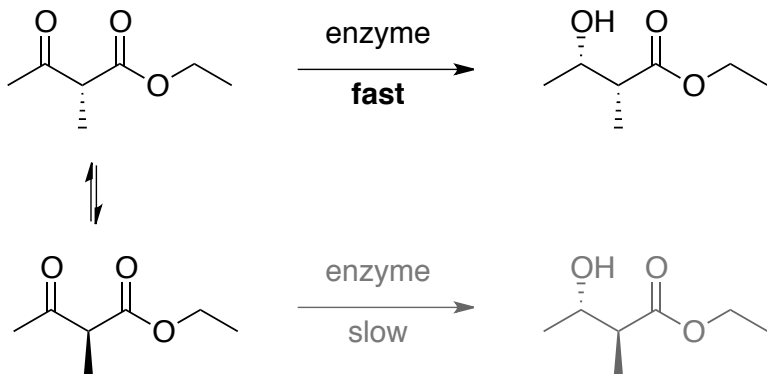
# Dynamic kinetic resolution

yeast reduction of racemic  $\beta$ -ketoesters yields enantioenriched products



explanation:

high  $\alpha$ -acidity/enolizability results in continuous equilibration between (+) and (-)-enantiomer

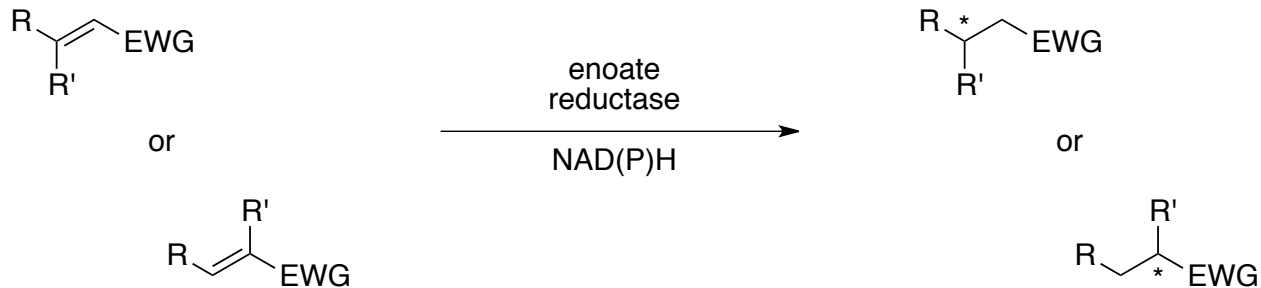






# Enoate reductases

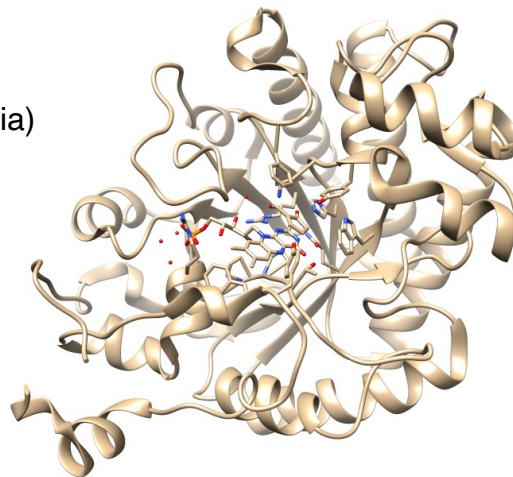
Replacement of carbonyl by polarized olefin as substrate



EWG = ester, ketone, aldehyde, nitro,...

"Old Yellow Enzymes" (found in various yeasts and bacteria)

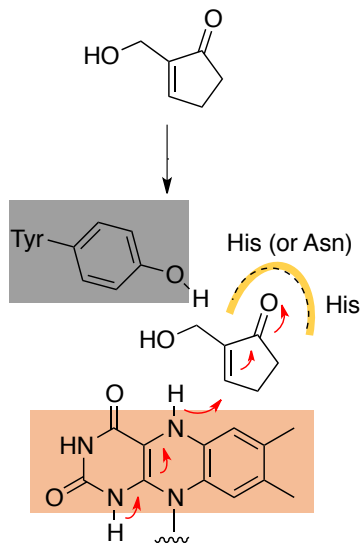
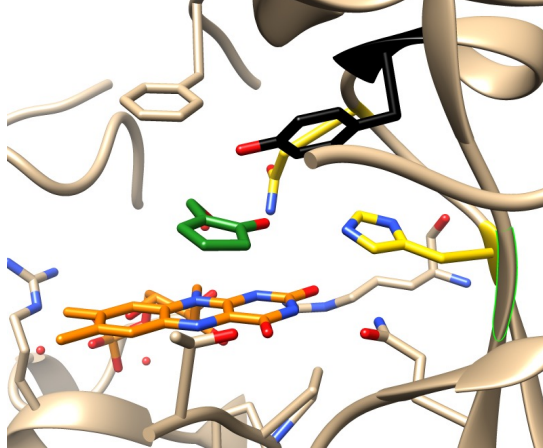
- physiological role not entirely clear
- flavoproteins (tightly bound FMN)
- no metal cofactor
- NAD(P)H-dependent



# Enoate reductases

Mechanism

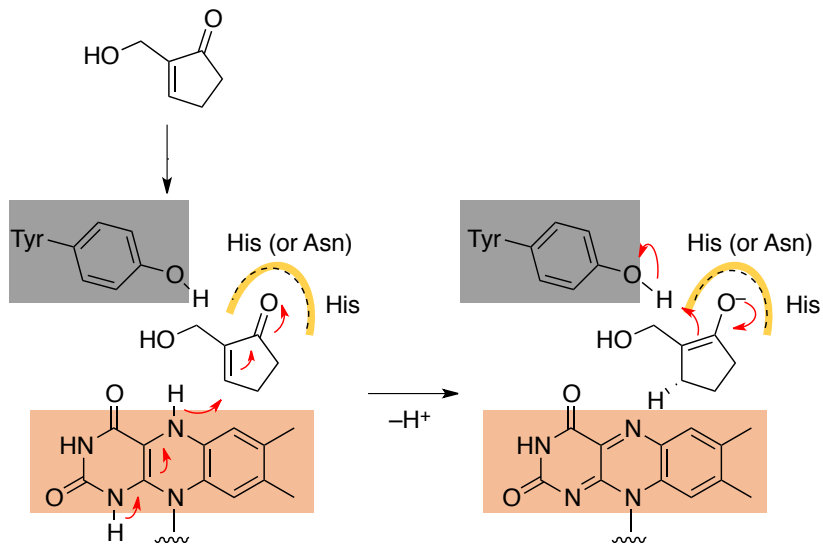
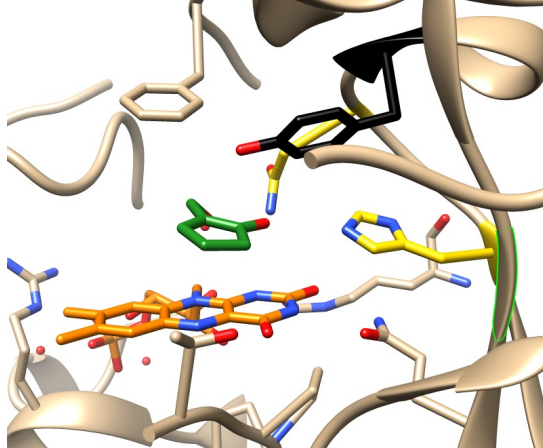
- 1 enone binding (H-bonding to His)



# Enoate reductases

Mechanism

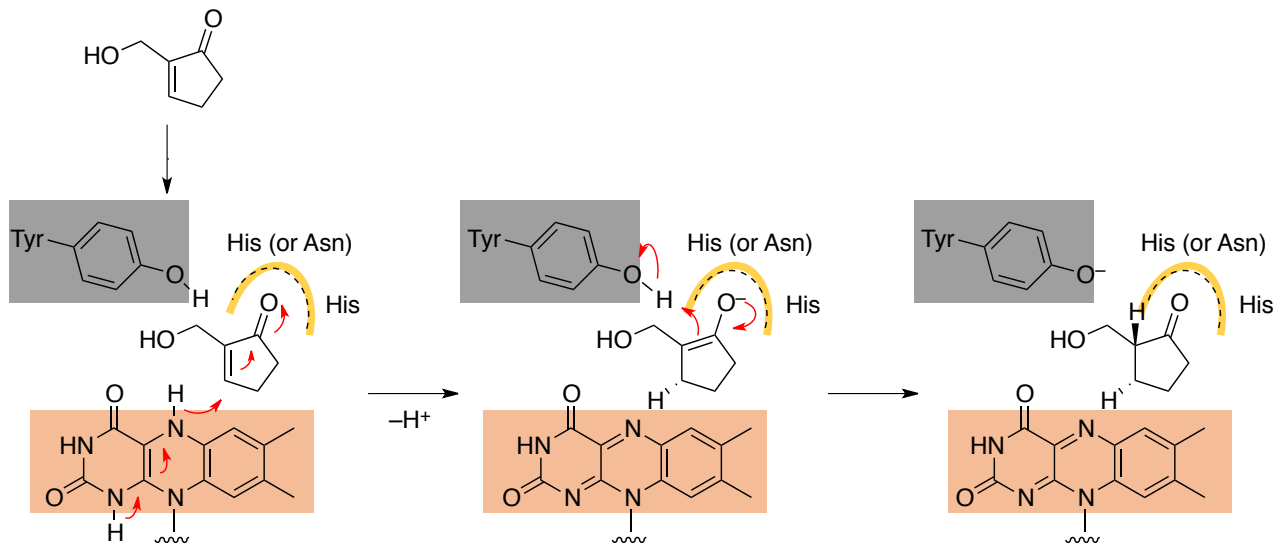
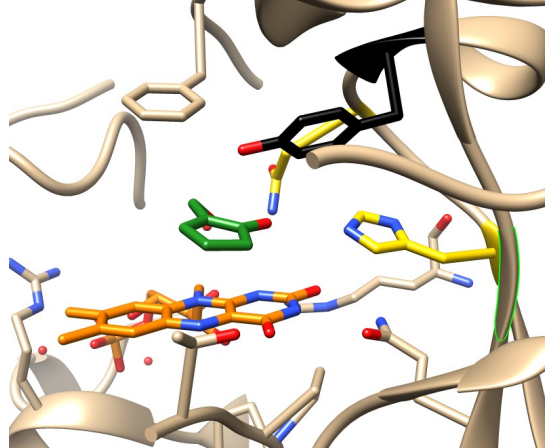
- 1 enone binding (H-bonding to His)
- 2 hydride transfer (from FMN<sub>H</sub>)



# Enoate reductases

## Mechanism

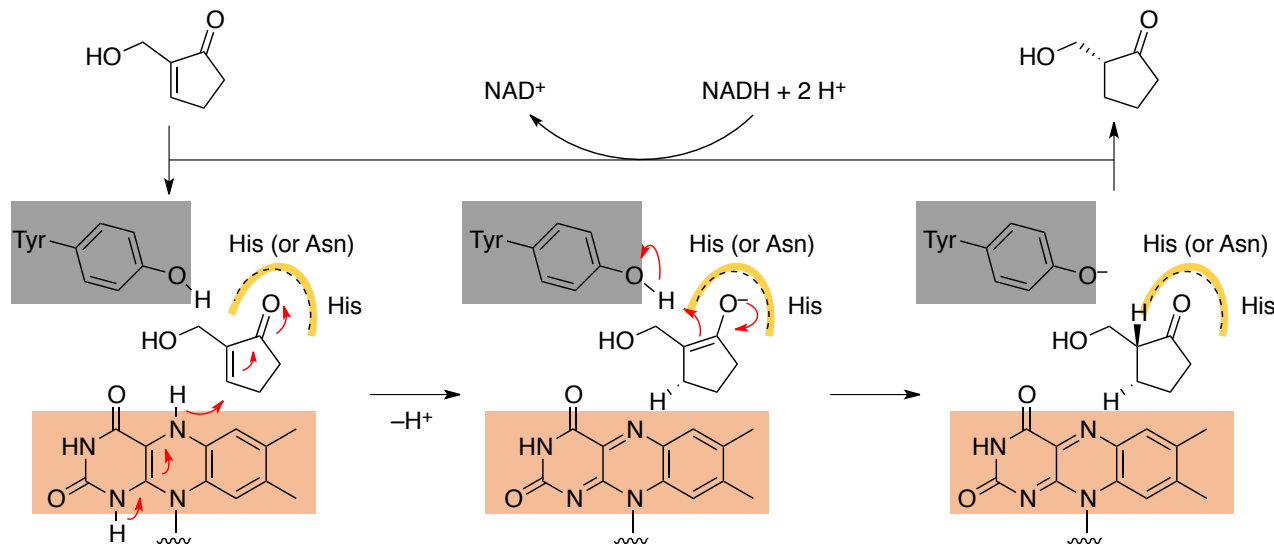
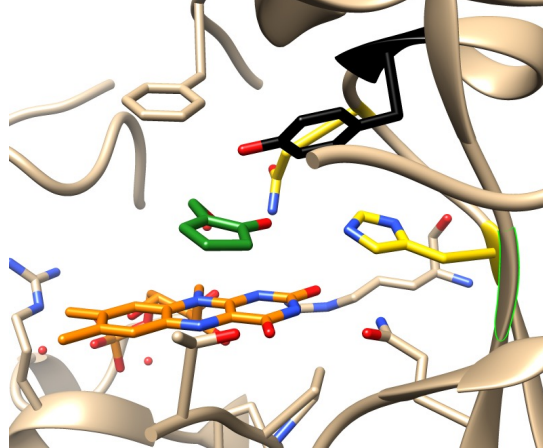
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- 3 enolate protonation (from Tyr)



# Enoate reductases

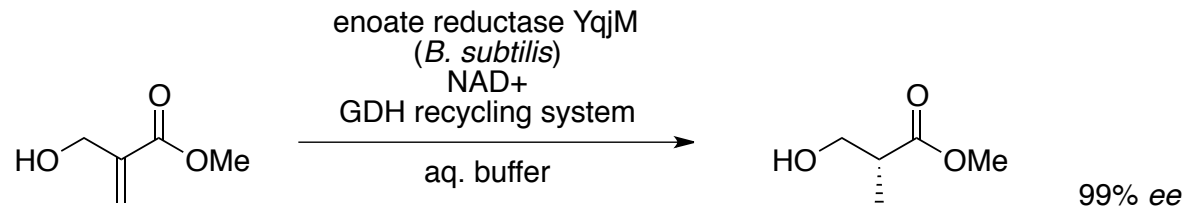
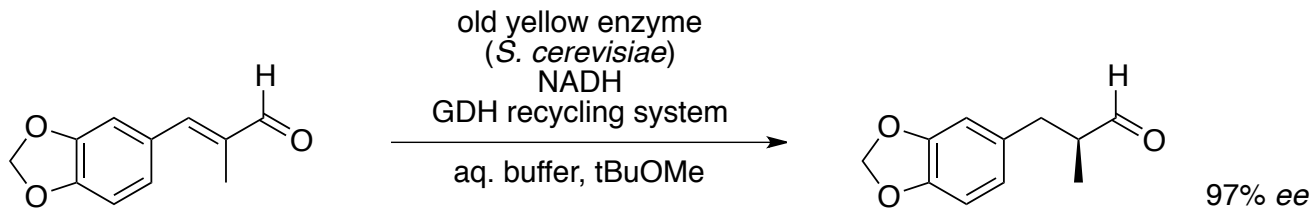
## Mechanism

- 1 enone binding (H-bonding to His)
- 2 hydride transfer (from FMNH<sub>2</sub>)
- 3 enolate protonation (from Tyr)
- 4 release of ketone
- 5 reduction of FMN to FMNH<sub>2</sub>



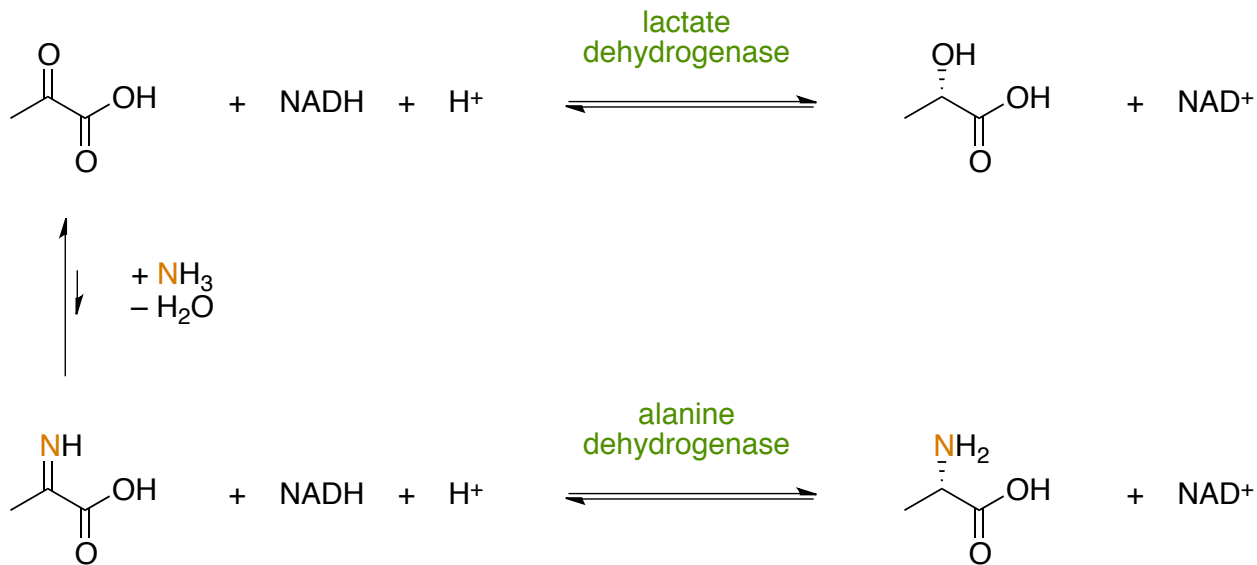
# Enoate reductases

## Applications



# Amine dehydrogenases

additional pre-equilibrium allows for reductive ammonia fixation

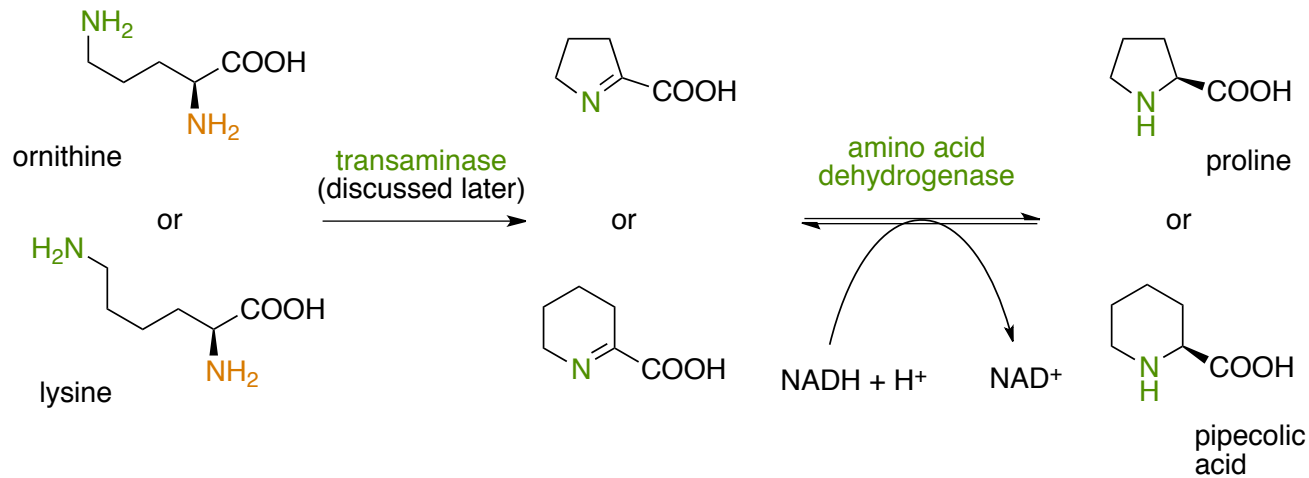


- native enzymes limited to amino acid dehydrogenases
- amino acid biosynthesis, source of ammonia
- low affinity (high  $K_M$ ) favours mostly deamination

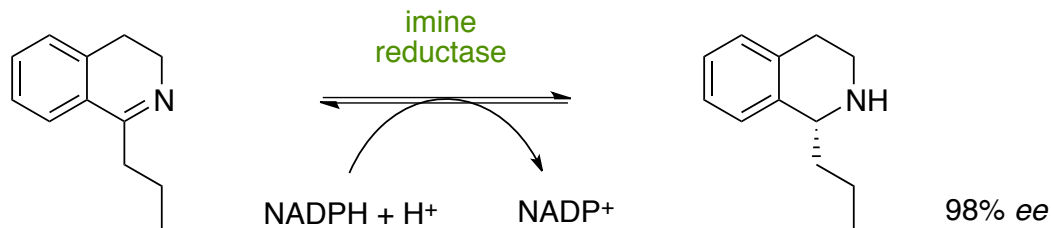


# Amine dehydrogenases

e.g. biosynthesis of cyclic amino acids



but: modern engineered "imine reductase" accept non-amino acid substrates



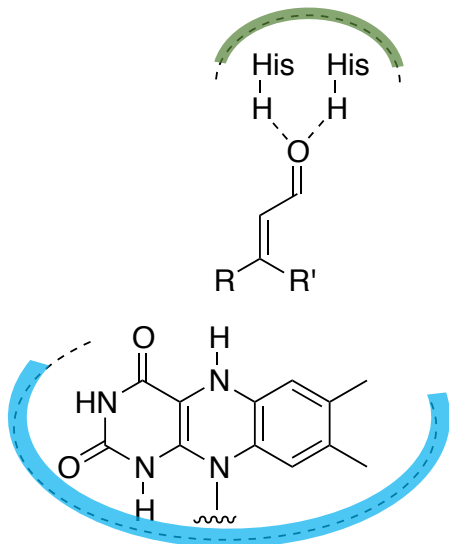
# Biomimetic chemistry inspired by reductases

conjugate reduction: organocatalytic enoate reductase mimics

enzymatic activation

= H-bonding to carbonyl

= LUMO activation

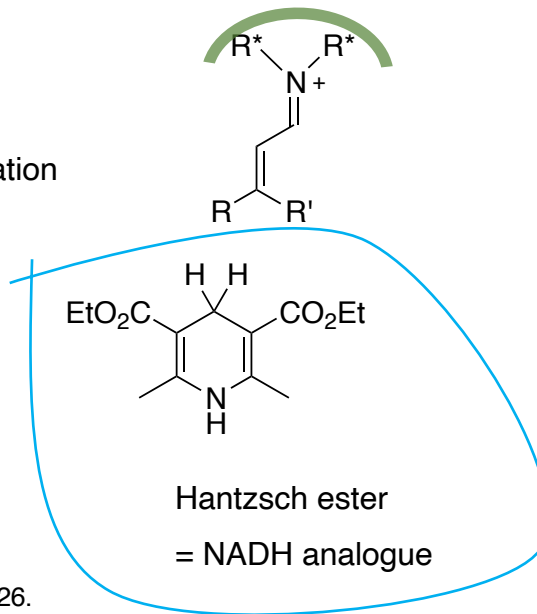


organocatalytic activation

= iminium formation with carbonyl

= LUMO activation

= chiral information

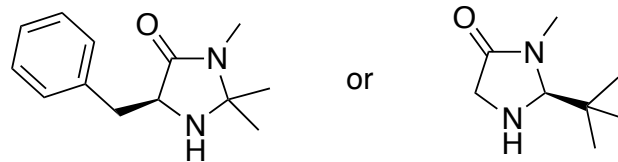
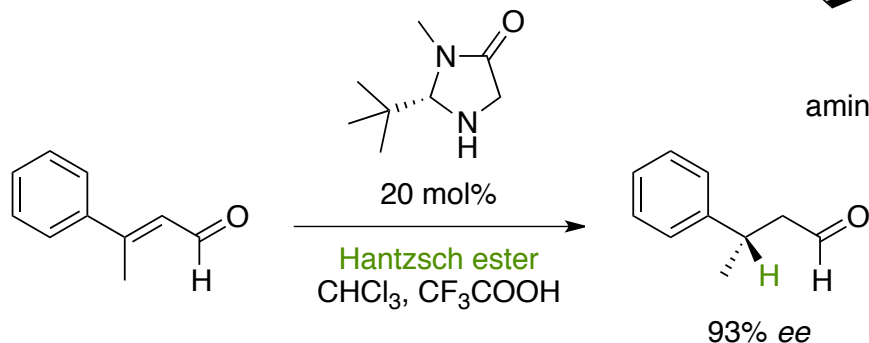


# Biomimetic chemistry inspired by reductases

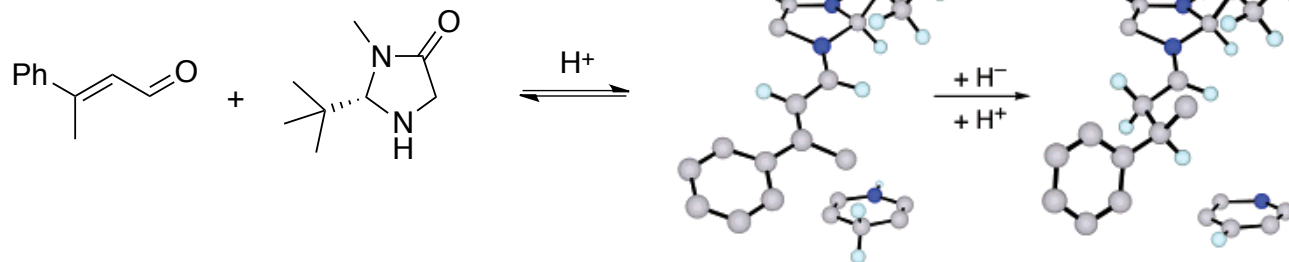
conjugate reduction: organocatalytic enoate reductase mimics

chiral secondary amine organocatalysts

(MacMillan)



amino acid based secondary amines

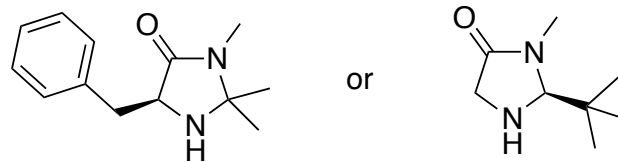
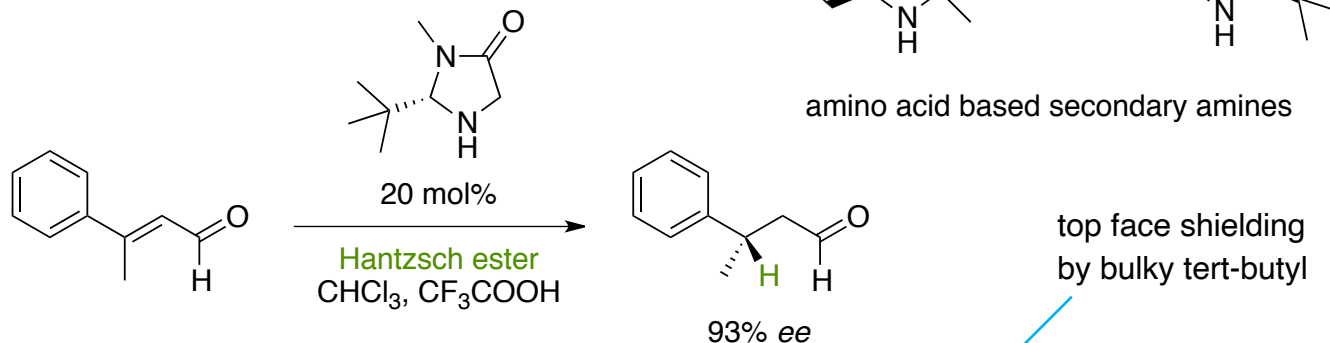


# Biomimetic chemistry inspired by reductases

conjugate reduction: organocatalytic enoate reductase mimics

chiral secondary amine organocatalysts

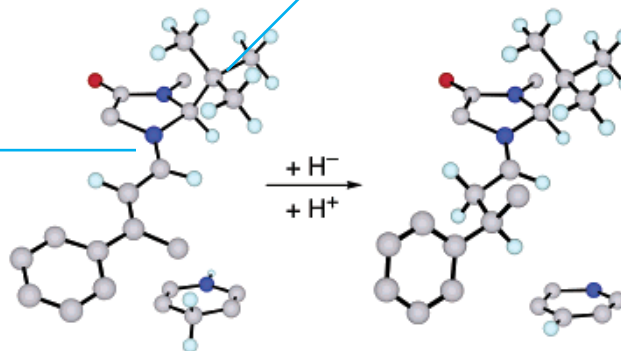
(MacMillan)



amino acid based secondary amines

top face shielding  
by bulky tert-butyl

LUMO activation via condensation



# SUMMARY

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- dehydrogenases and reductases are important synthetic tools
- generally require techniques for cofactor recycling
- exquisite catalysts for preparation of optically active alcohols, amines, carbonyl compounds...
  - ✓ asymmetric reductions
  - ✓ kinetic resolutions
  - ✓ dynamic kinetic resolutions