

CHEM-E4109

MODERN METHODS IN **BIOCATALYSIS**

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*chapter #6: Aldol chemistry*

16.3.2022

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

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

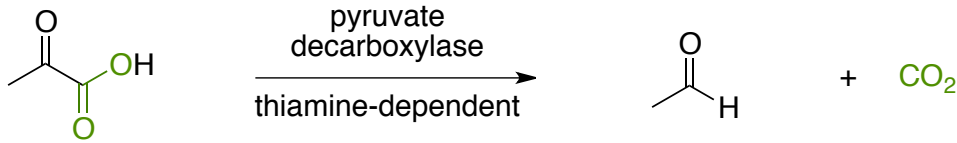
# Updated Schedule

- 1.3. Introduction & basic principles
  - 4.3. Oxidoreductases I (reduction catalysis)
  - 8.3. Oxidoreductases II (oxygenation catalysis)
  - 11.3. Transferases (transaminases)
  - 15.3. Lyases I (decarboxylases and transketolases)
  - 18.3. Lyases II (aldolases)
  - 22.3. Directed evolution (no live session, video only)
  - 25.3. Hydrolases (lipases, esterases, epoxide hydrolases)
  - 29.3. Muta- and semisynthesis
  - 1.4. Enzymes in non-natural reactions
- 
- 12./13.4. Seminar presentations

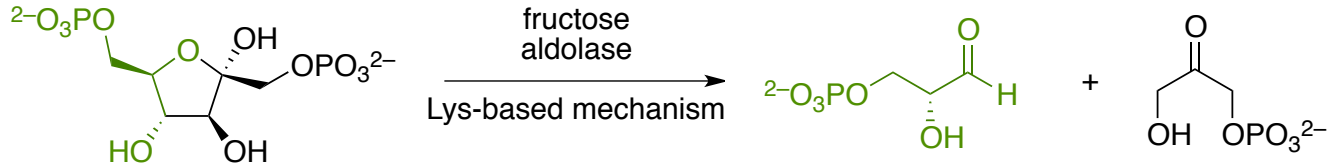
# Lyases - features

enzymes of class EC 4 catalyze the cleavage of chemical bonds (non-hydrolytic!)  
(...and of course, like always, some can do the reverse reaction)

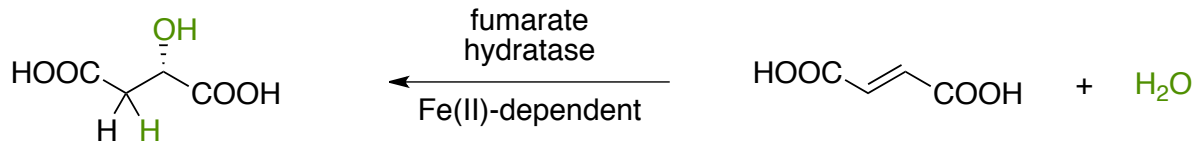
pyruvate decarboxylase



aldolase

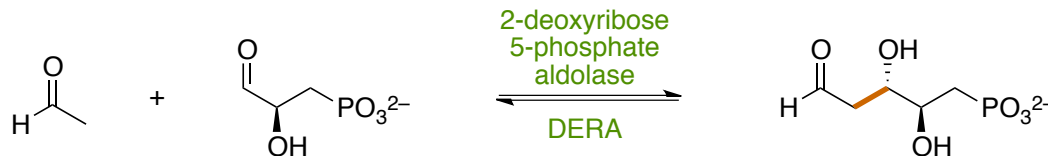
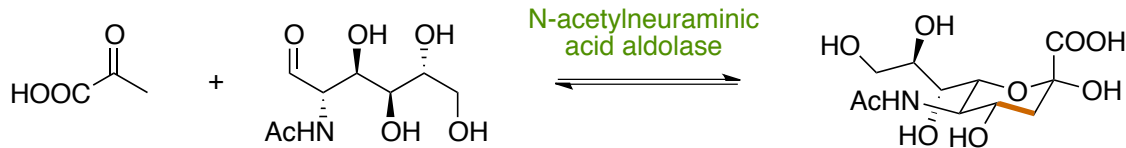
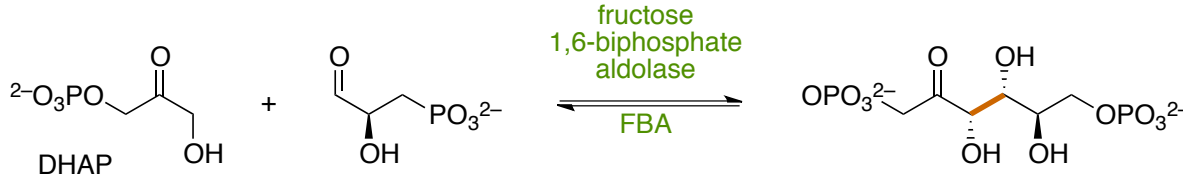


fumarate hydratase



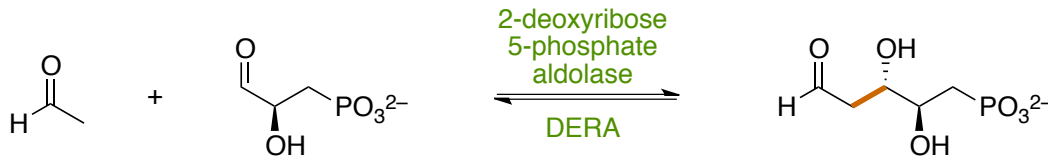
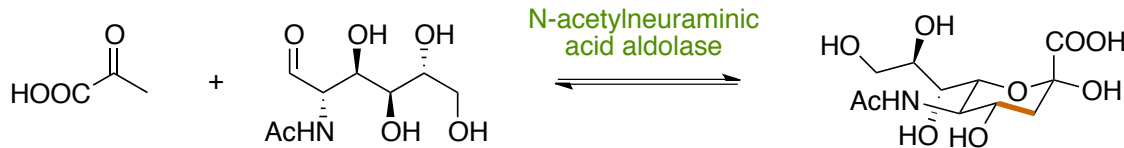
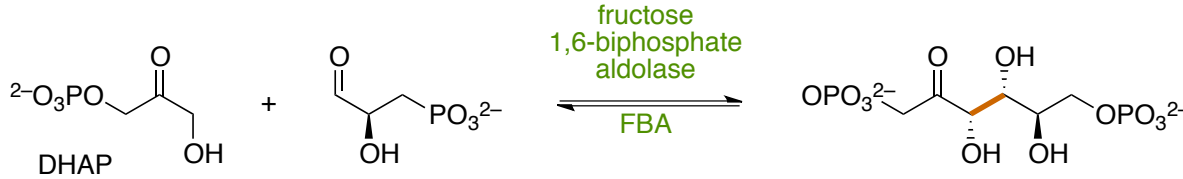
# Aldol-catalyzing enzymes

- mainly involved in biosynthesis and degradation of sugars and related biomolecules
- 2 major classes that differ in their basic activation mode
  - ✓ class I mechanism: enamine catalysis or
  - ✓ class II mechanism: enolate catalysis



# Aldol-catalyzing enzymes

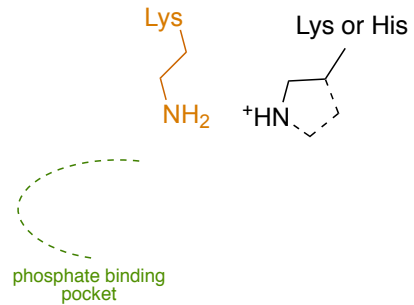
- mainly involved in biosynthesis and degradation of sugars and related biomolecules
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- current main drawback: narrow scope of accepted donors (nucleophiles)

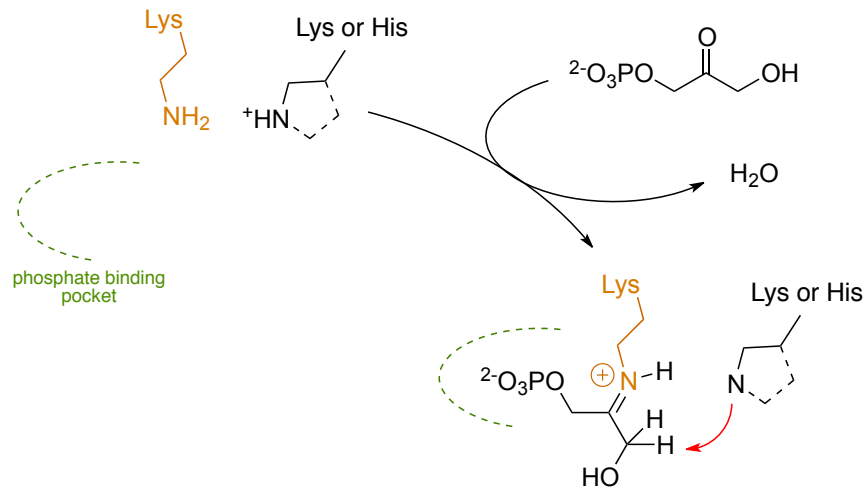
# General activation modes

class I aldolase: enamine catalysis



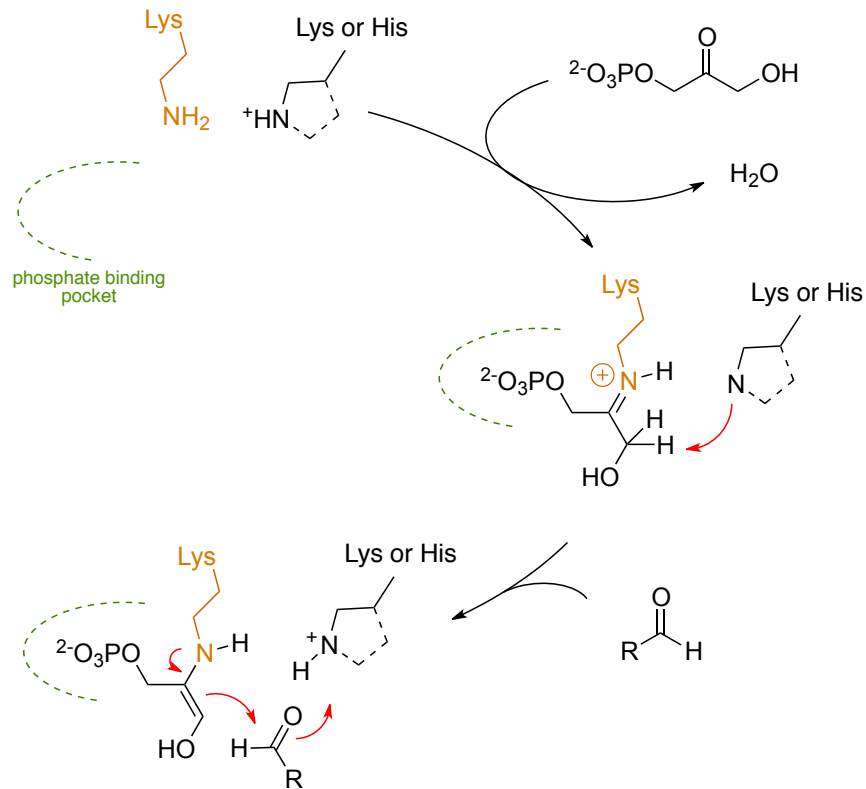
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# General activation modes

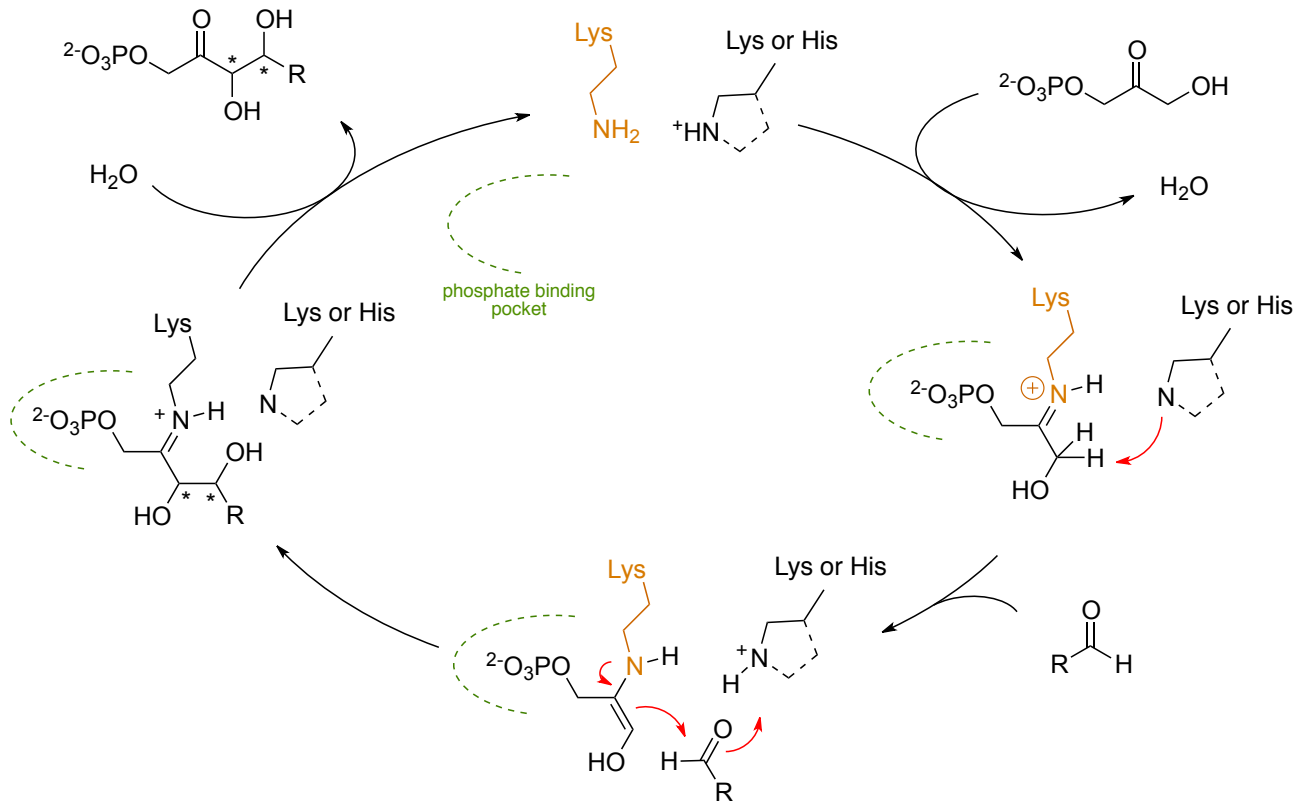
class I aldolase: enamine catalysis





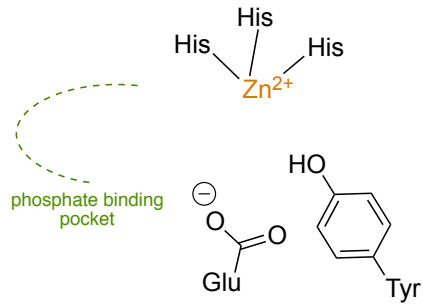
# General activation modes

class I aldolase: enamine catalysis



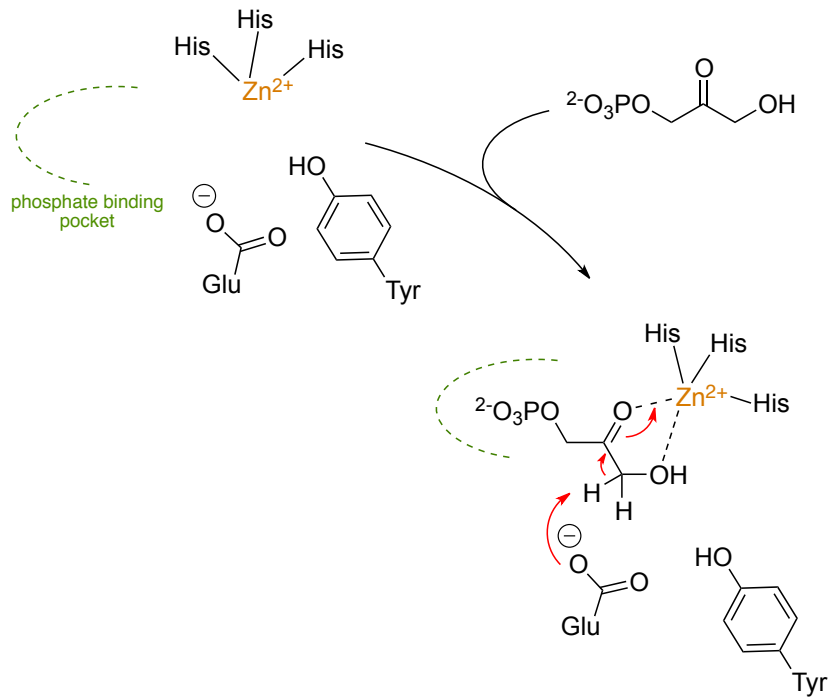
# General activation modes

class II aldolase: enolate catalysis



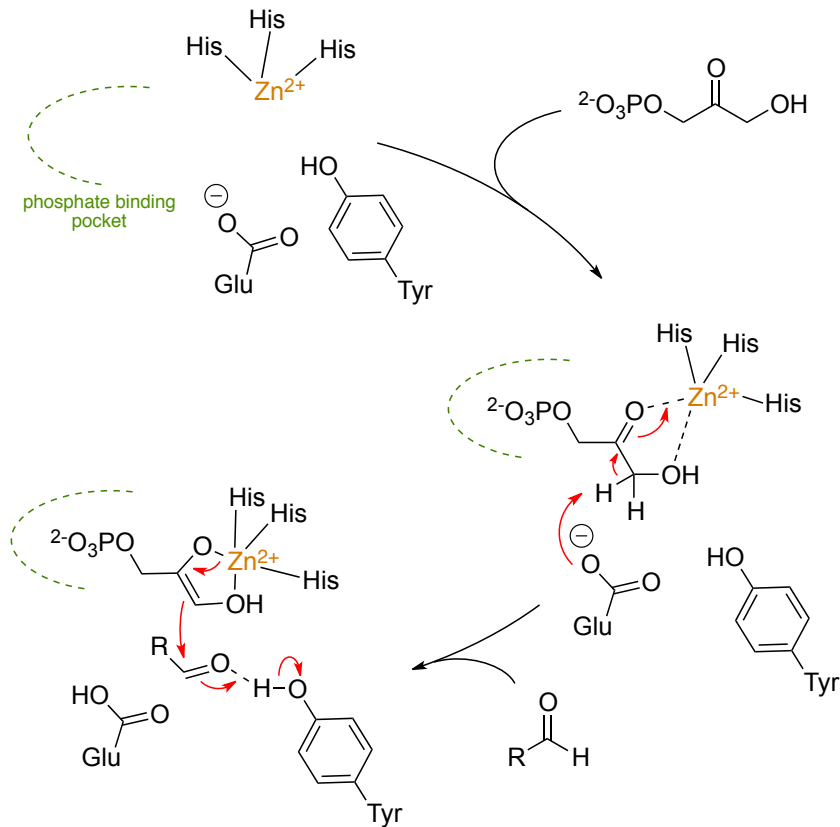
# General activation modes

class II aldolase: enolate catalysis



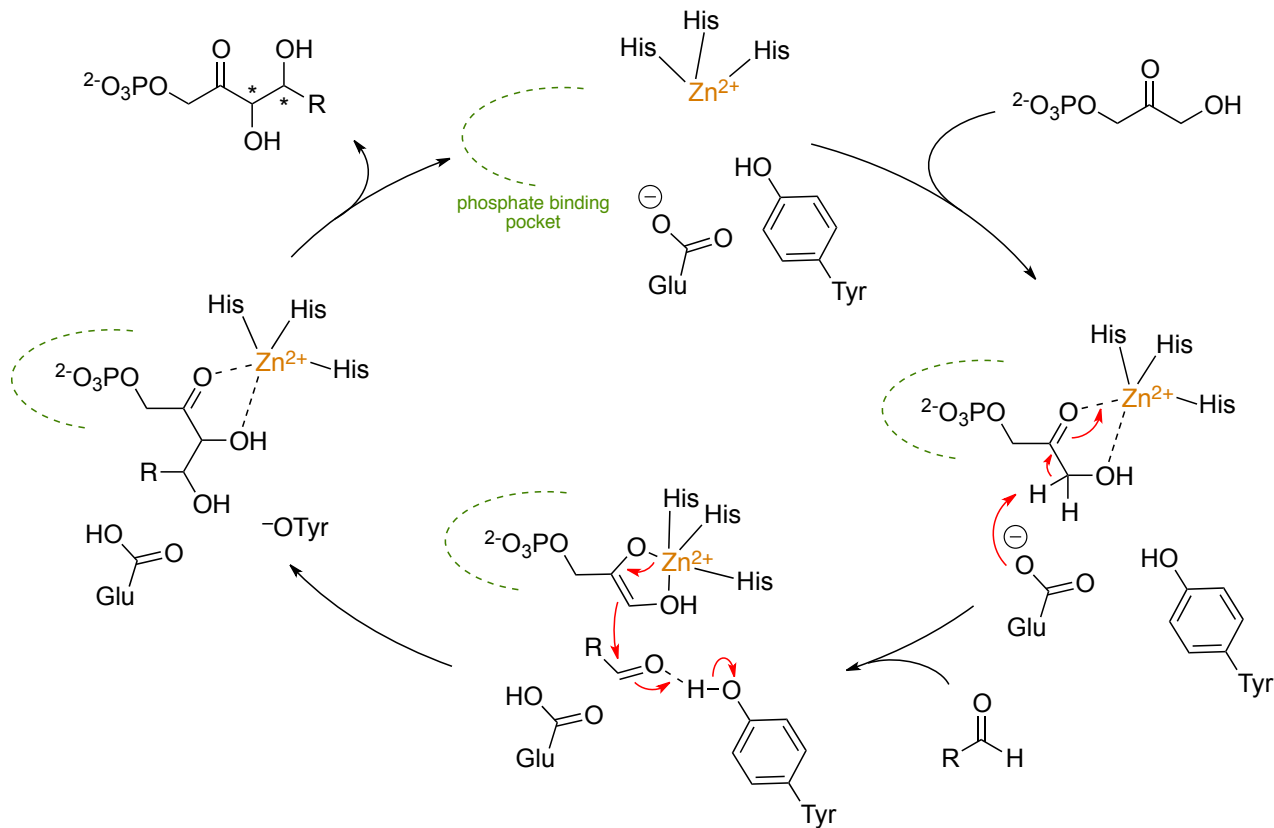
# General activation modes

class II aldolase: enolate catalysis



# General activation modes

class II aldolase: enolate catalysis



# 2-Deoxyribose-5-phosphate aldolase

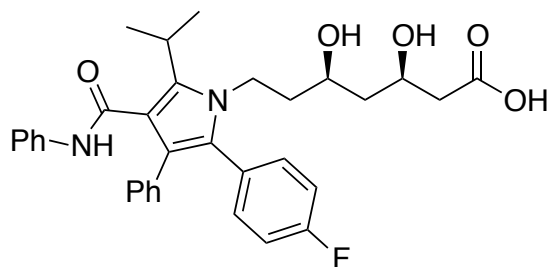
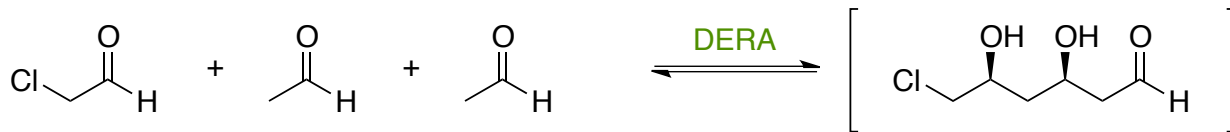
DERA (*Lactobacillus brevis*)

- homo dimer, 259 amino acids per subunit (other organisms exploit tetrameric DERAs)
- class I aldolase
- independent on cofactors or metal ions
- physiological role: catabolism of glycosides and deoxyribonucleotides
- catalyzes the reversible cross-aldol reaction between acetaldehyde and other acceptor aldehydes

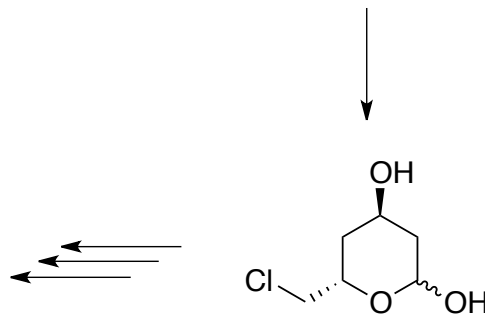


# Aldolases: synthetic applications

Synthesis of the statin core structure

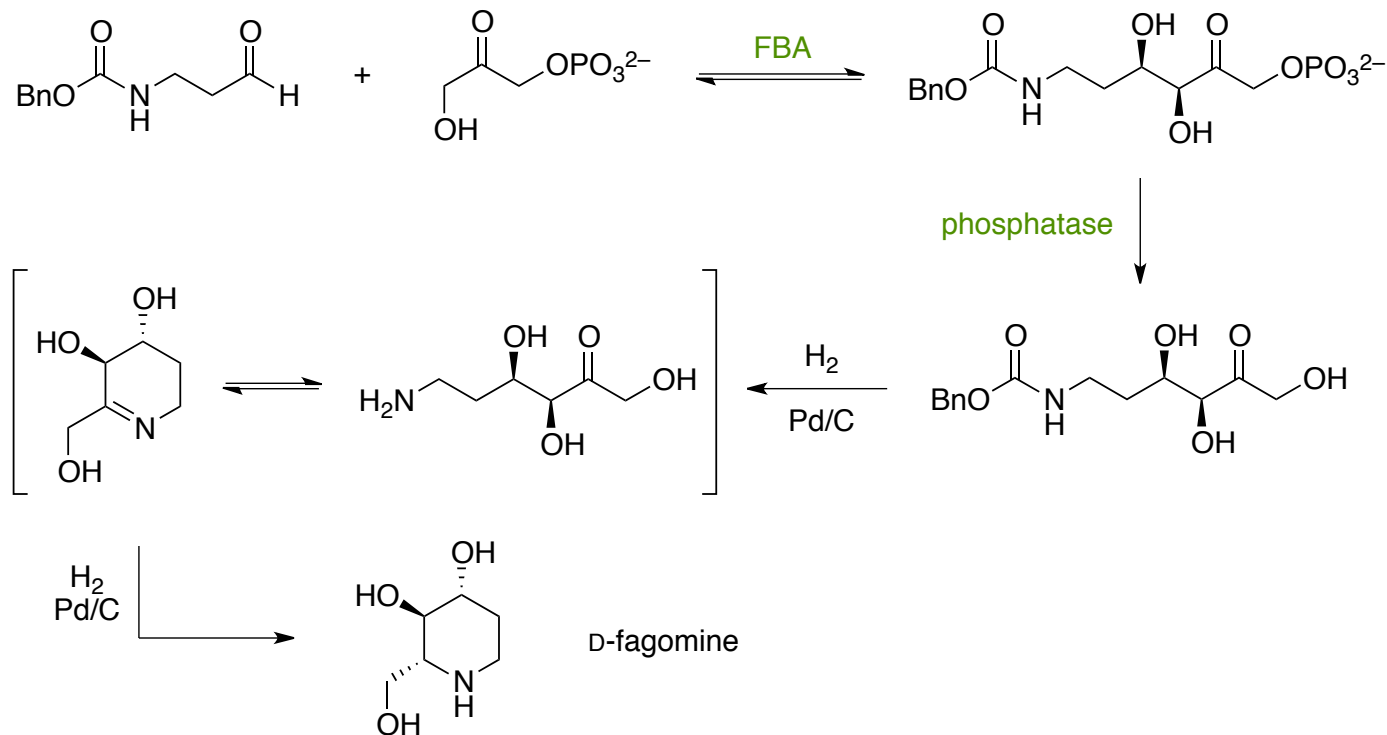


atorvastatin  
(Lipitor)



# Aldolases: synthetic applications

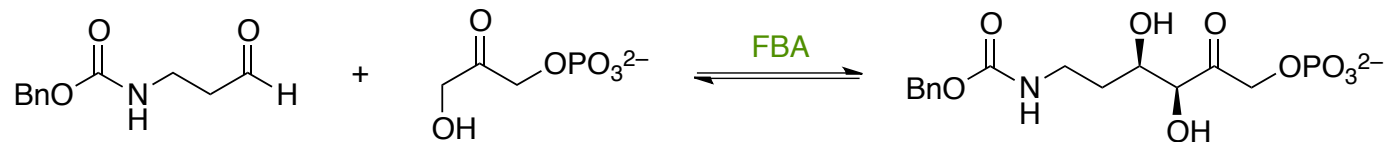
## Synthesis of azasugars





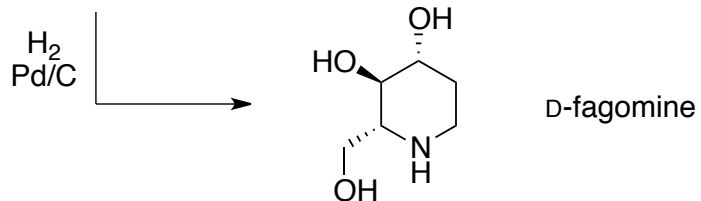
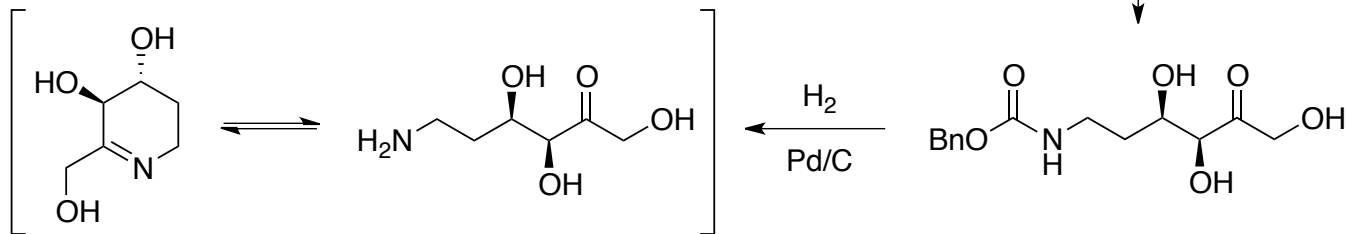
# Aldolases: synthetic applications

## Synthesis of azasugars



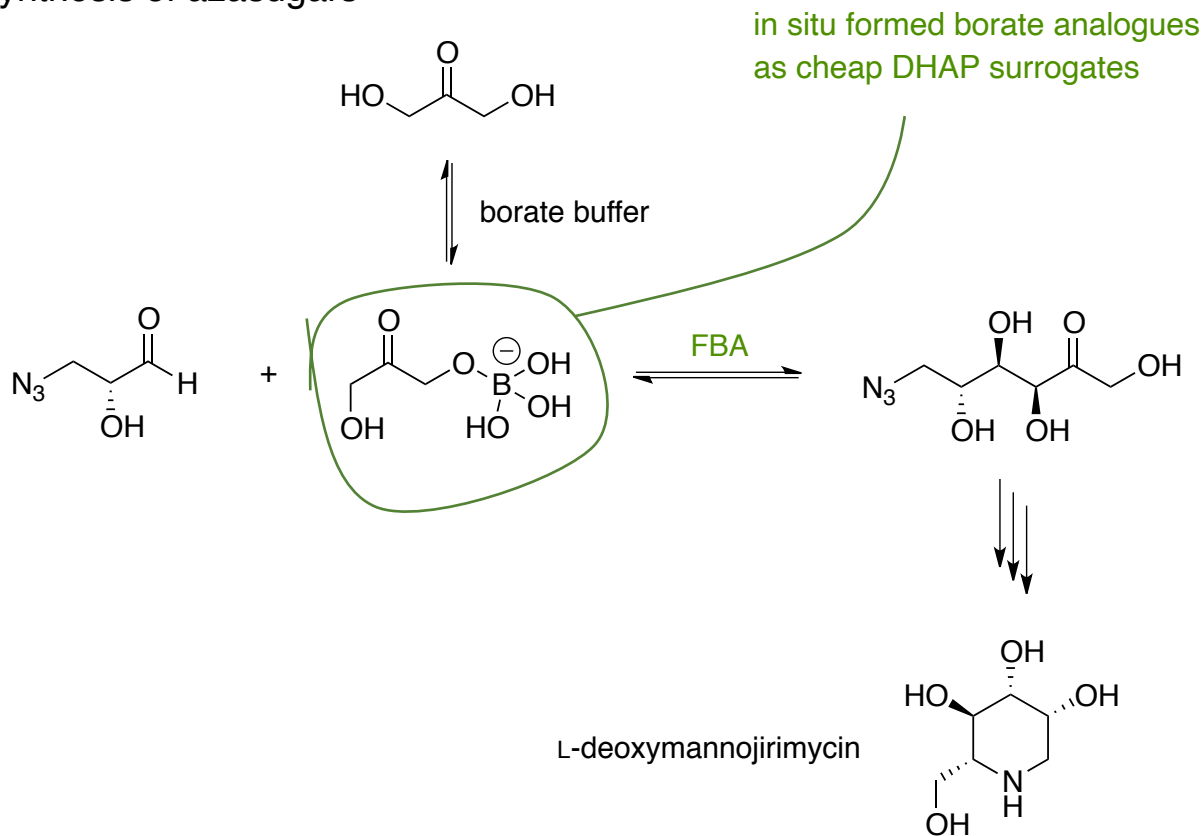
DHAP expensive/elaborate synthesis

phosphatase



# Aldolases: synthetic applications

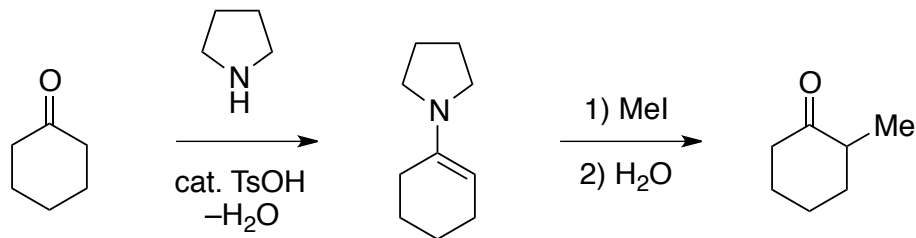
Synthesis of azasugars



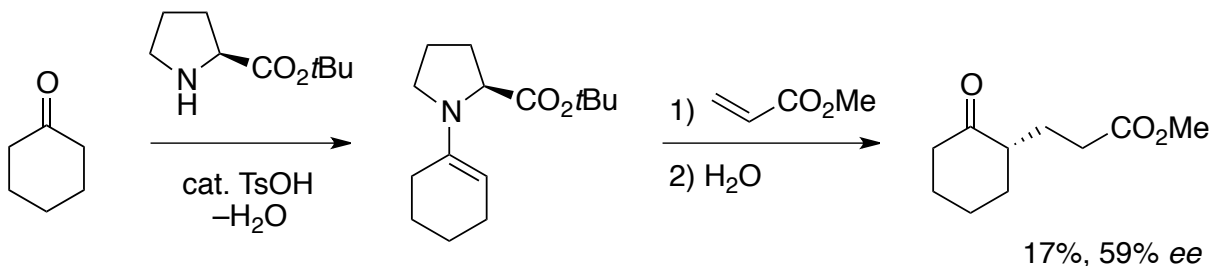
# Aldolase biomimetics

Enamine-based biomimetics as the mother of Organocatalysis

based on stoichiometric enamine chemistry



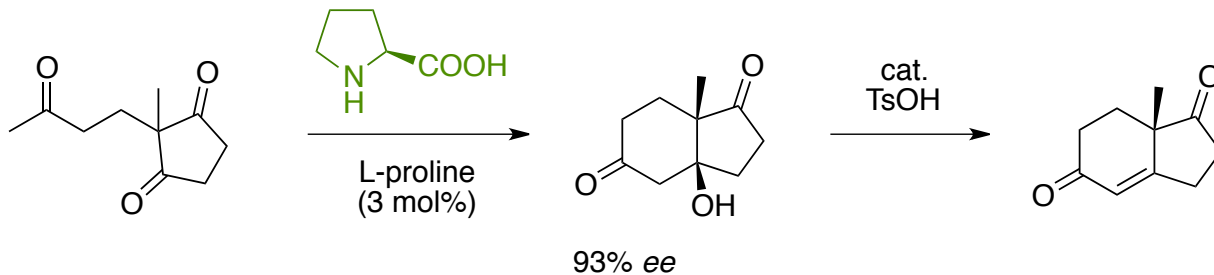
Yamada, 1969: asymmetric enamine reaction (not yet catalysis)



# Aldolase biomimetics

The Hajos-Parrish-Eder-Sauer-Wiechert reaction

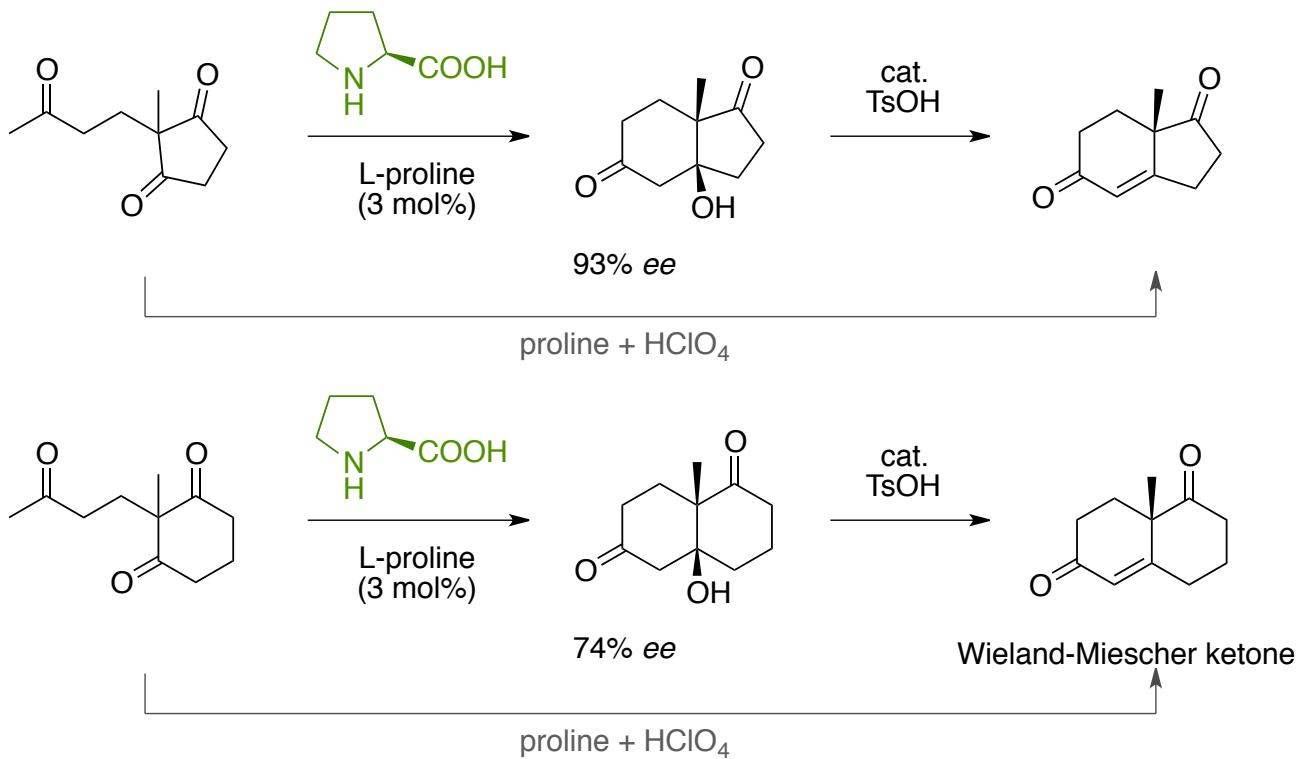
- first highly enantioselective organocatalytic reaction



# Aldolase biomimetics

The Hajos-Parrish-Eder-Sauer-Wiechert reaction

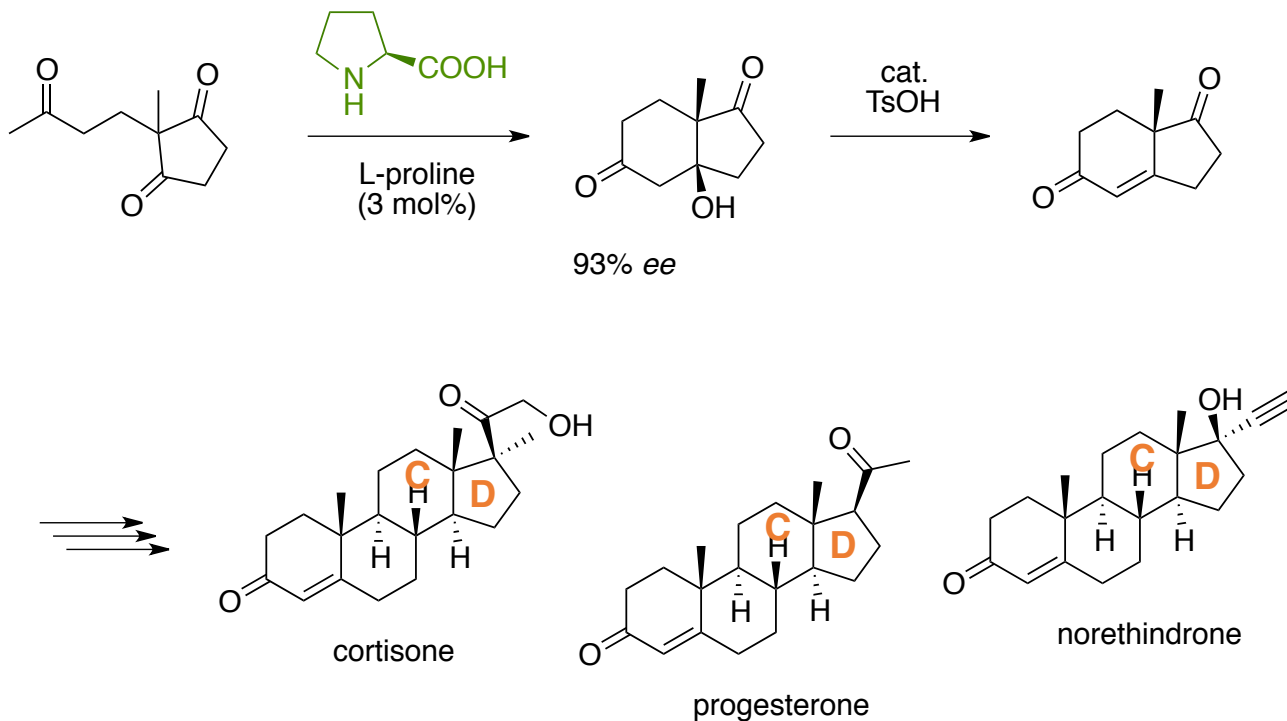
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# Aldolase biomimetics

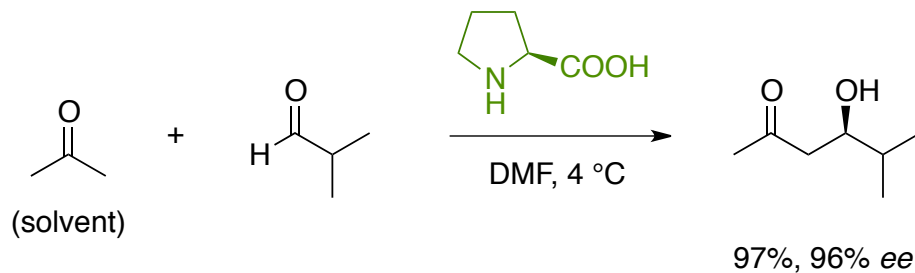
The Hajos-Parrish-Eder-Sauer-Wiechert reaction

- first highly enantioselective organocatalytic reaction



# General Aldol catalysis

high enantioselectivity (List 2000)

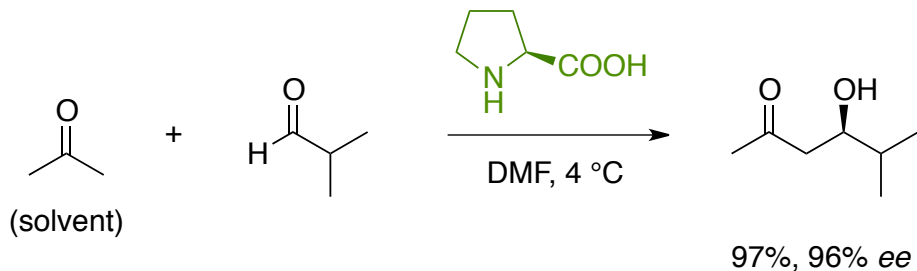


List, Lerner, Barbas, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 2395-2396.

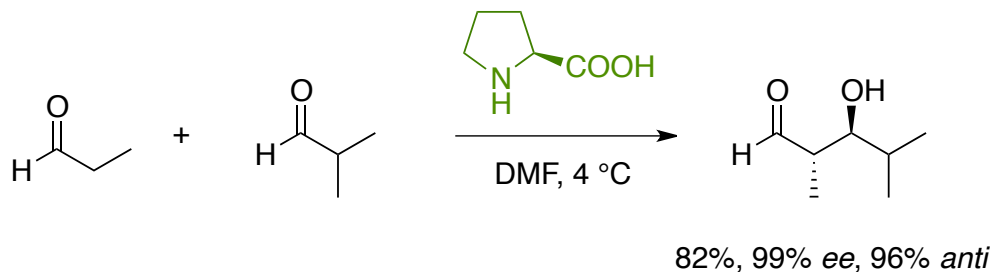
Northrup, MacMillan, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 6798-6799.

# General Aldol catalysis

high enantioselectivity (List 2000)



with  $\alpha$ -substituted donors: high anti-diastereoselectivity (MacMillan 2002)



List, Lerner, Barbas, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 2395-2396.

Northrup, MacMillan, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 6798-6799.



# Nobel Prize 2021 in Chemistry

“for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis”



Benjamin List

Max-Planck-Institut Mülheim, Germany



David W. C. MacMillan

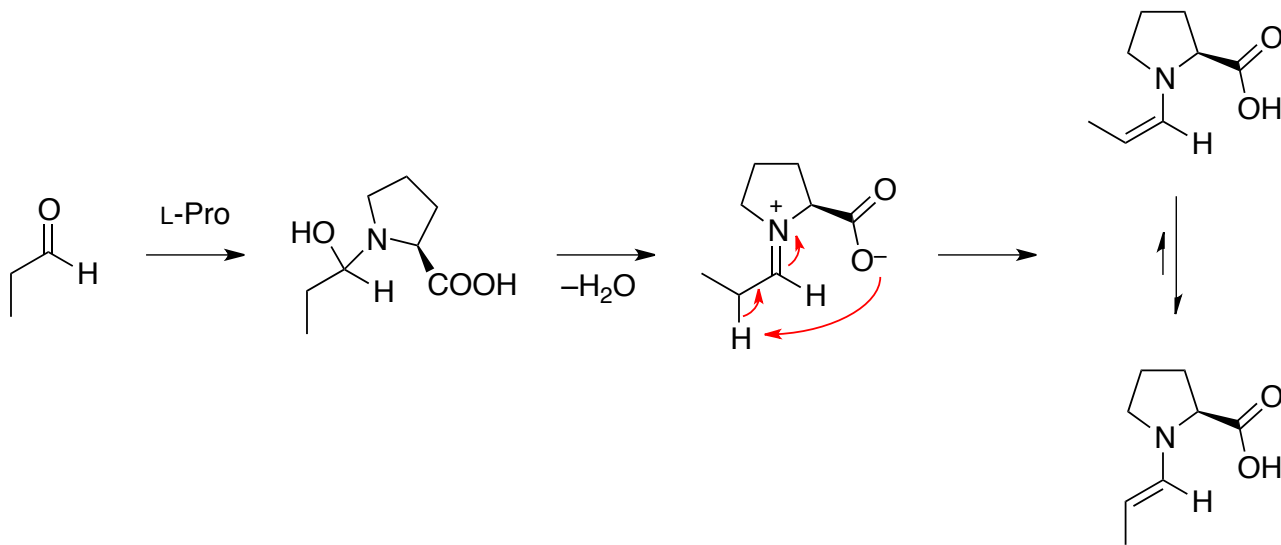
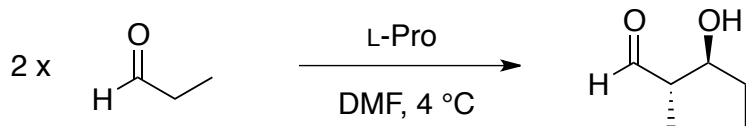
Princeton, USA





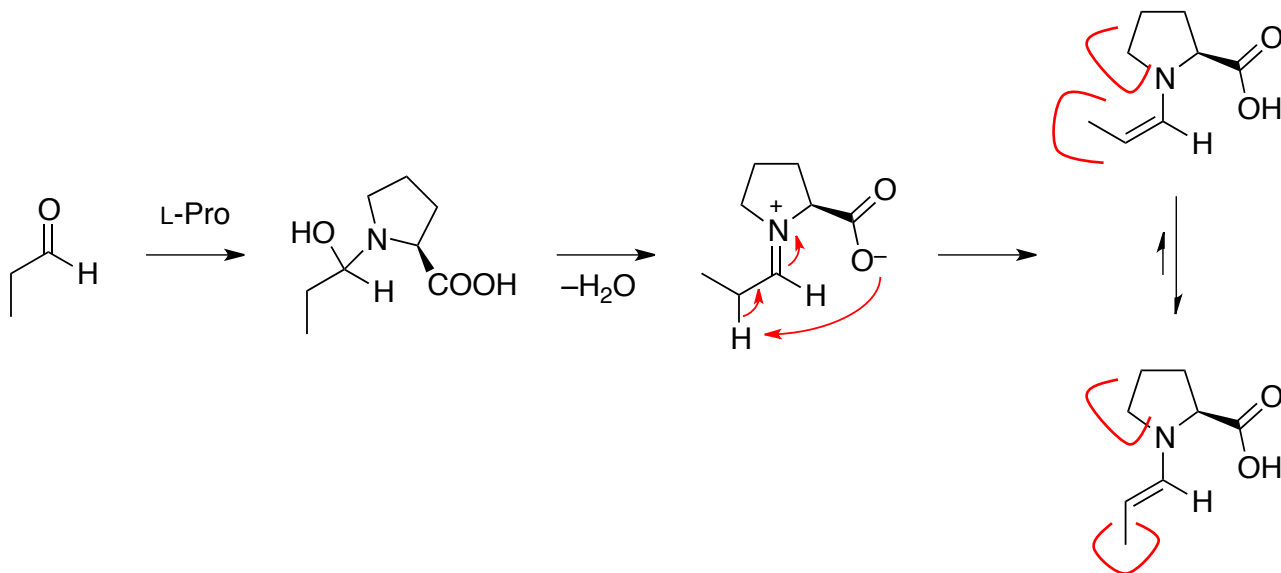
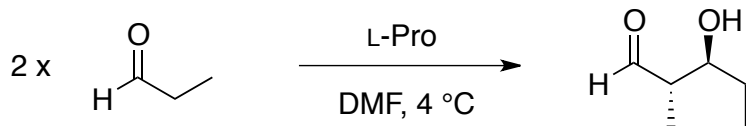
# General Aldol catalysis

origin of stereoselectivity (simplified Houk-List model)



# General Aldol catalysis

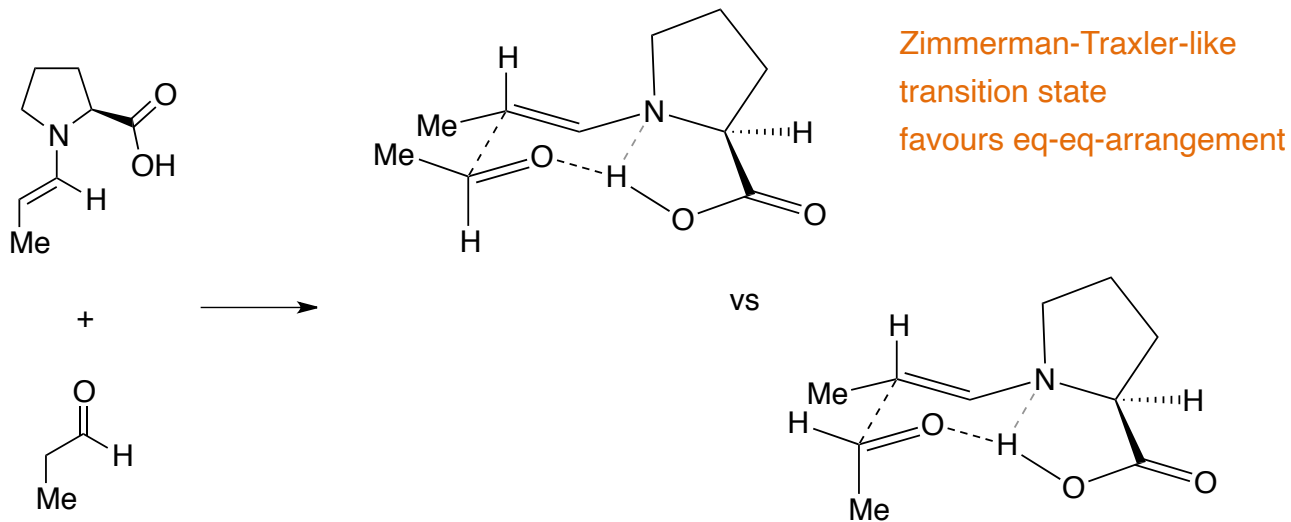
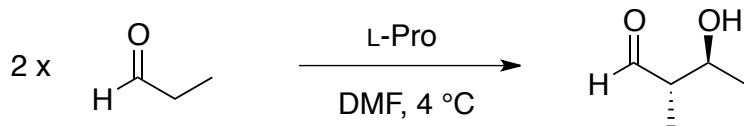
origin of stereoselectivity (simplified Houk-List model)



donor activation favours  
anti-E-enamine

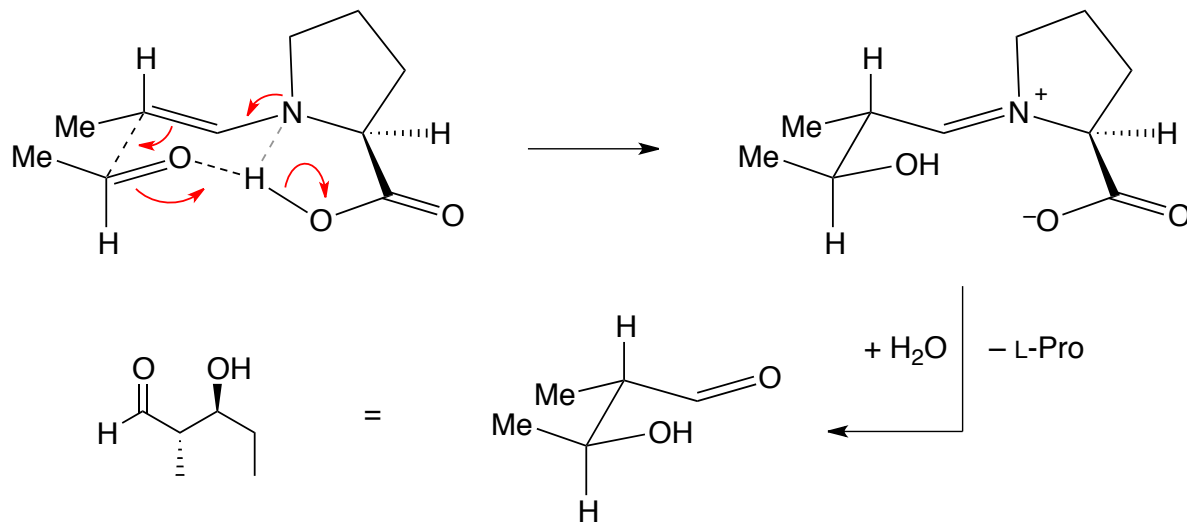
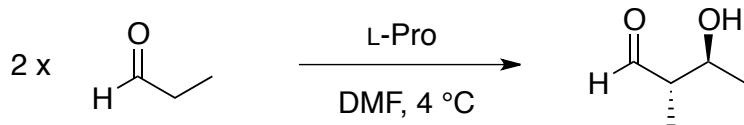
# General Aldol catalysis

origin of stereoselectivity (simplified Houk-List model)



# General Aldol catalysis

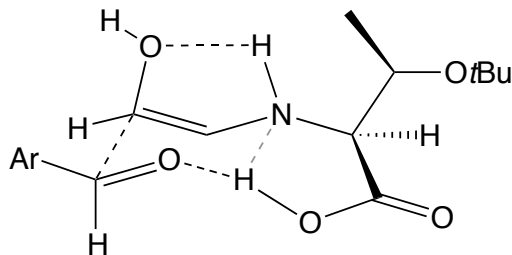
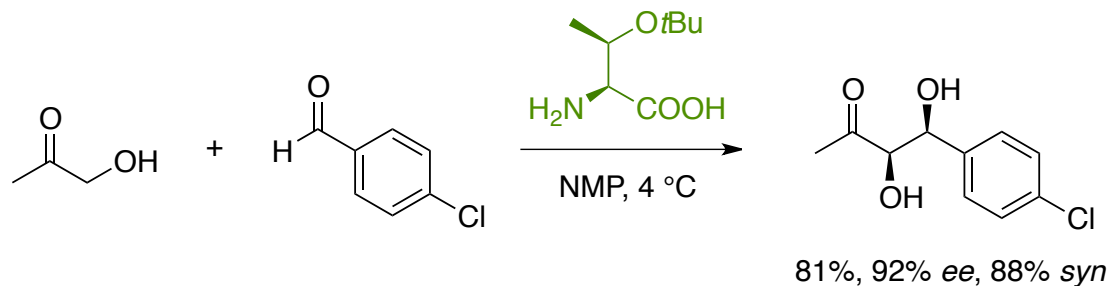
origin of stereoselectivity (simplified Houk-List model)



# Aldolase biomimetics

syn-selective aldol reactions

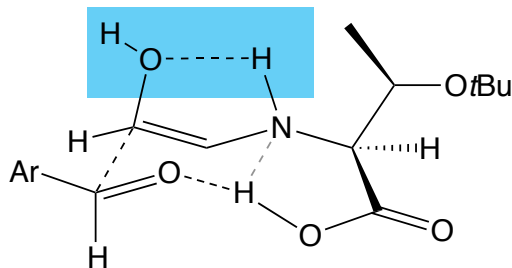
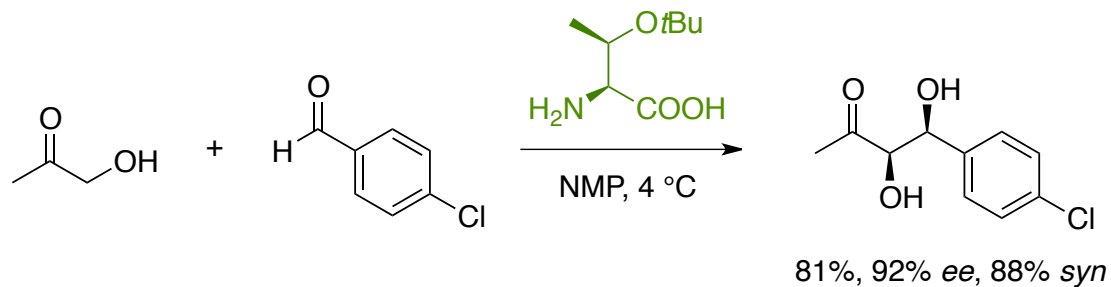
by stabilization of anti-Z-enamine



# Aldolase biomimetics

syn-selective aldol reactions

by stabilization of anti-Z-enamine

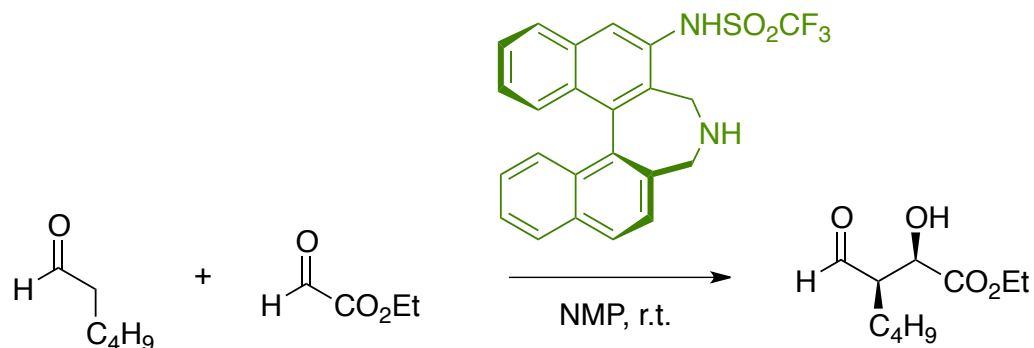




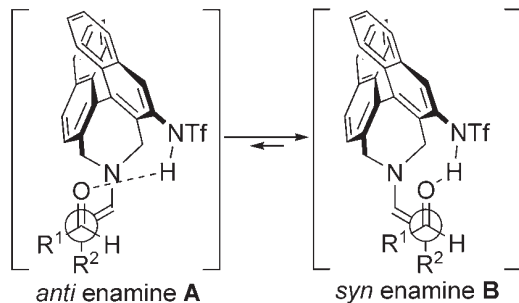
# Aldolase biomimetics

syn-selective aldol reactions

by destabilization of Zimmerman-Traxler arrangement



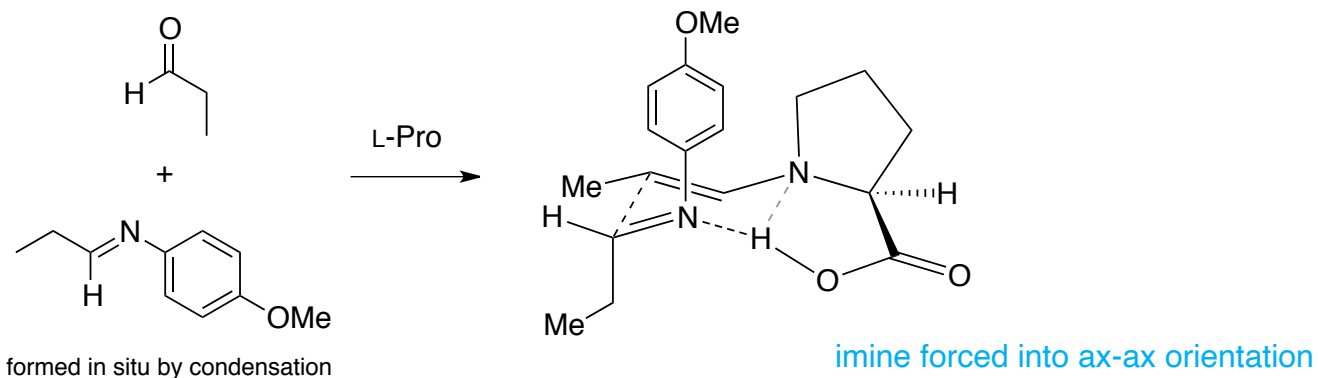
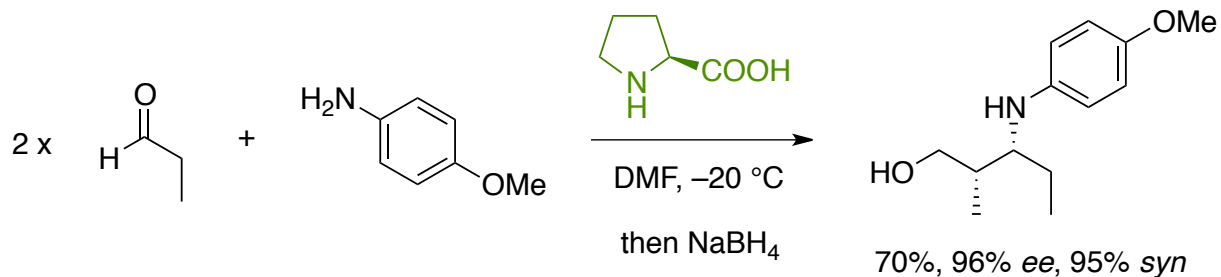
99%, 95% ee, 72% syn



# Aldolase biomimetics

replacement of acceptor = other  $\alpha$ -functionalizations of aldehydes and ketones

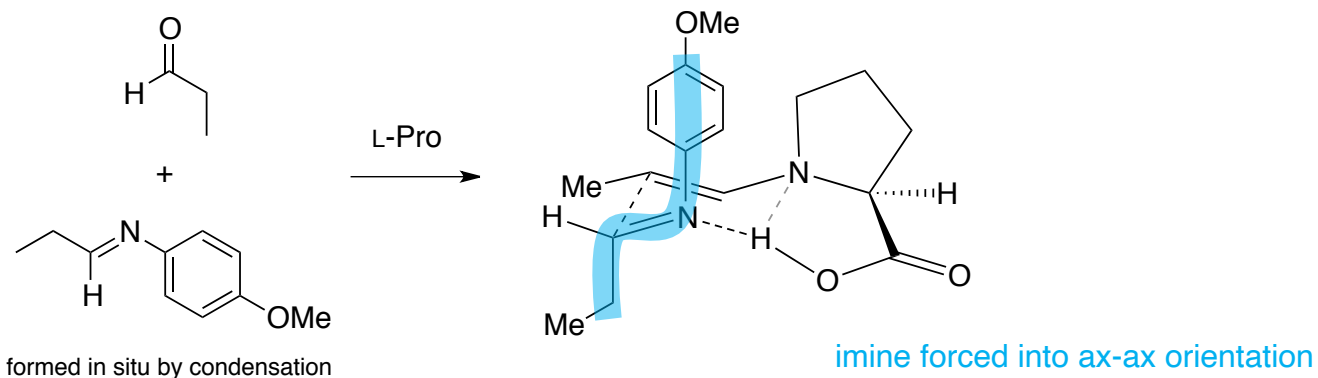
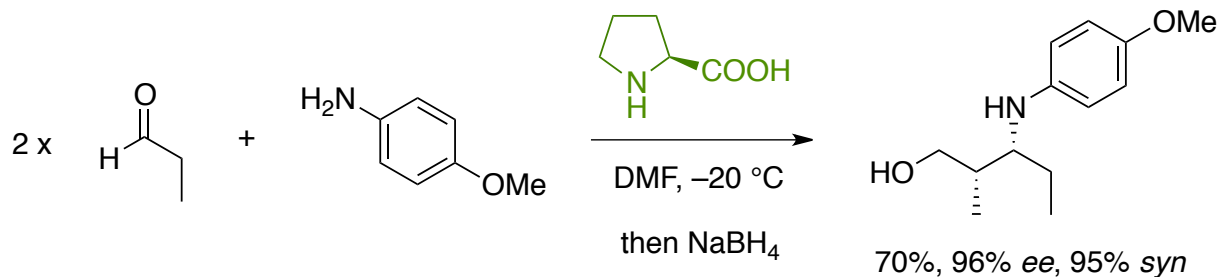
Imine acceptors = Mannich reaction



# Aldolase biomimetics

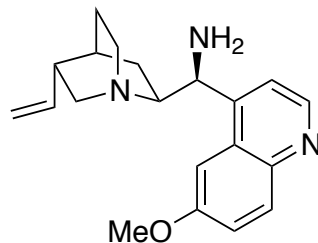
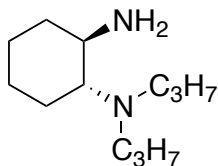
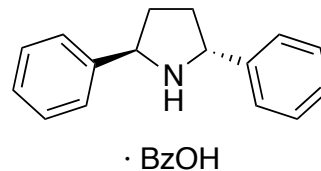
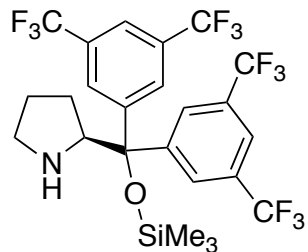
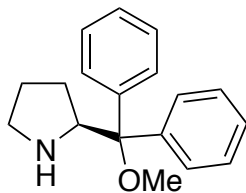
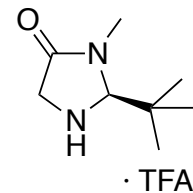
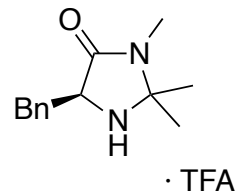
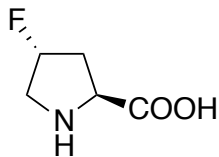
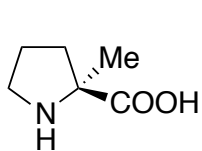
replacement of acceptor = other  $\alpha$ -functionalizations of aldehydes and ketones

Imine acceptors = Mannich reaction



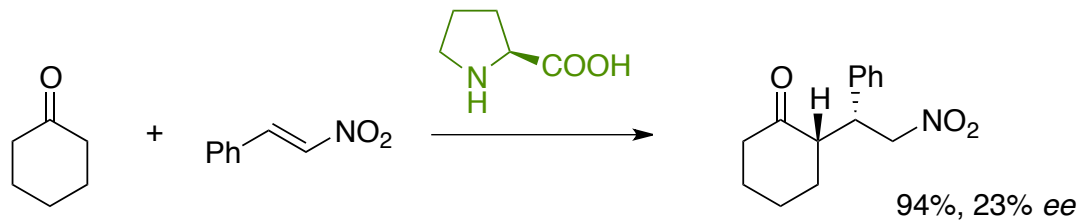
# Modern enamine catalysis

proline as template for the development of next generation organocatalysts



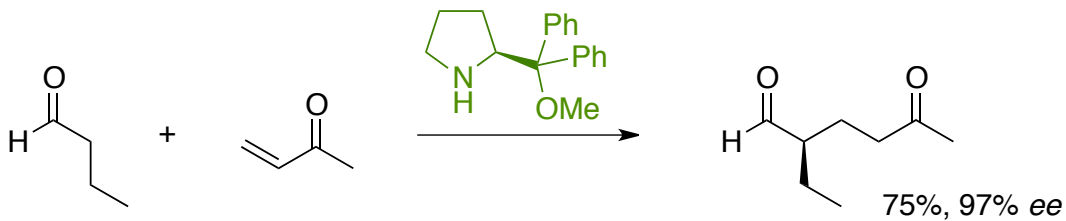
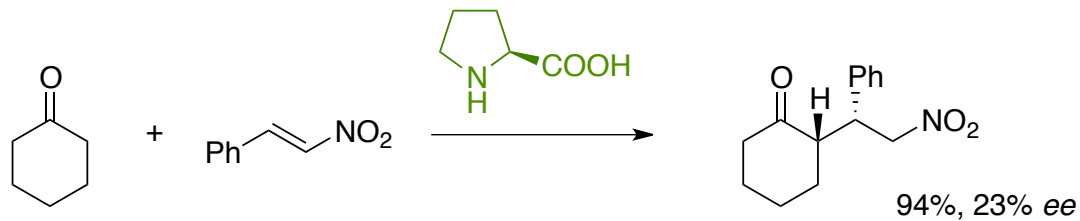
# Modern enamine catalysis

alpha-functionalization of aldehydes and ketones



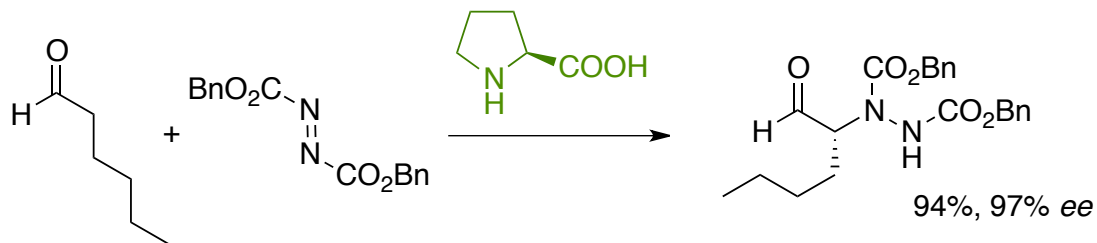
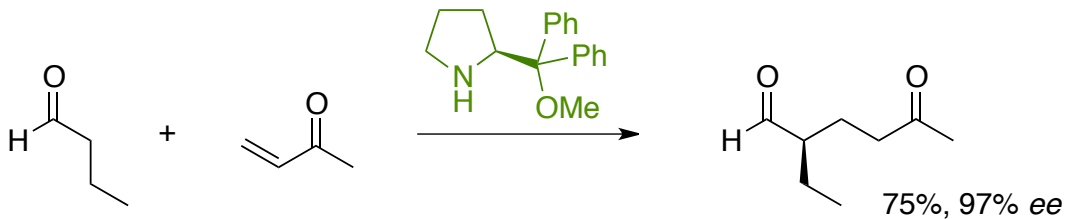
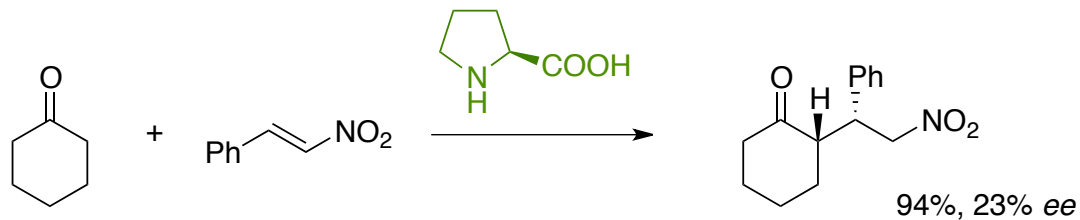
# Modern enamine catalysis

alpha-functionalization of aldehydes and ketones



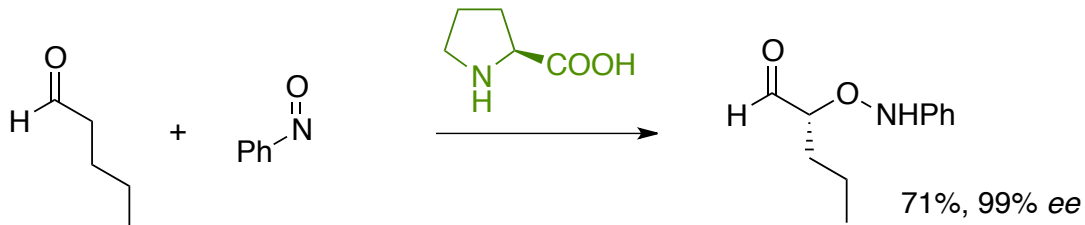
# Modern enamine catalysis

alpha-functionalization of aldehydes and ketones



# Modern enamine catalysis

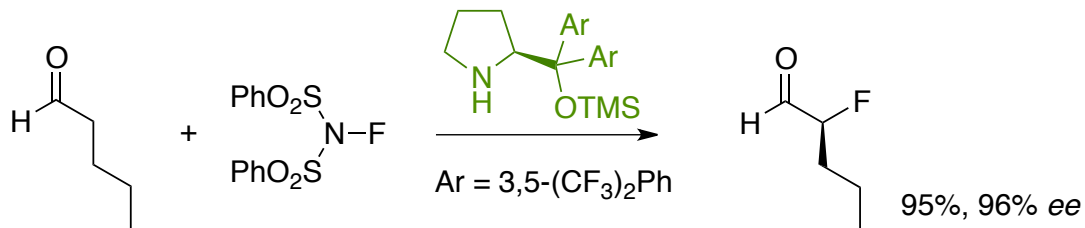
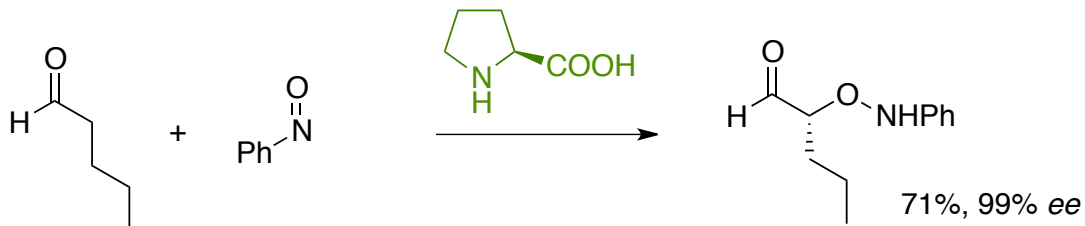
alpha-functionalization of aldehydes and ketones





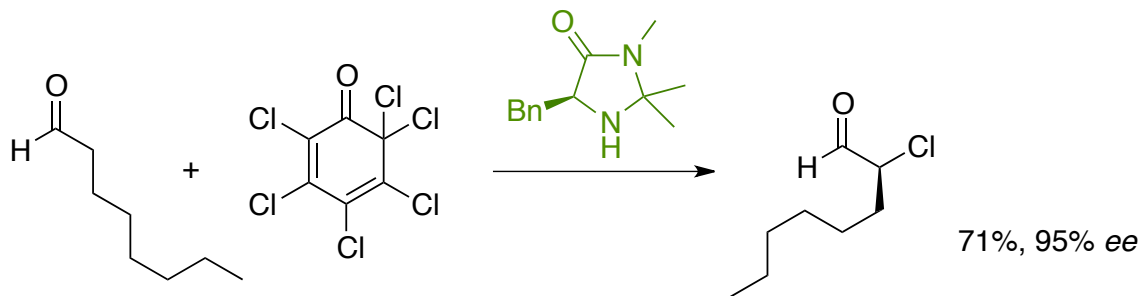
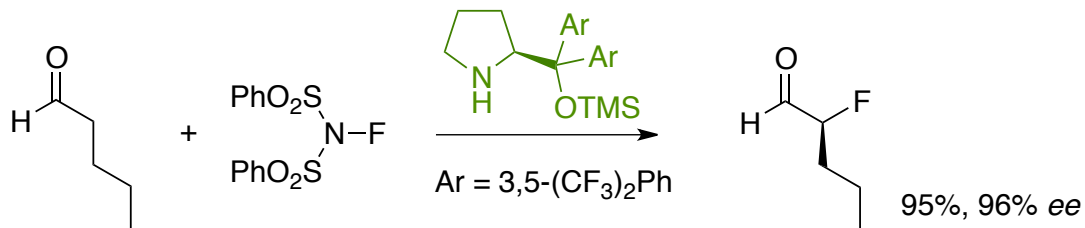
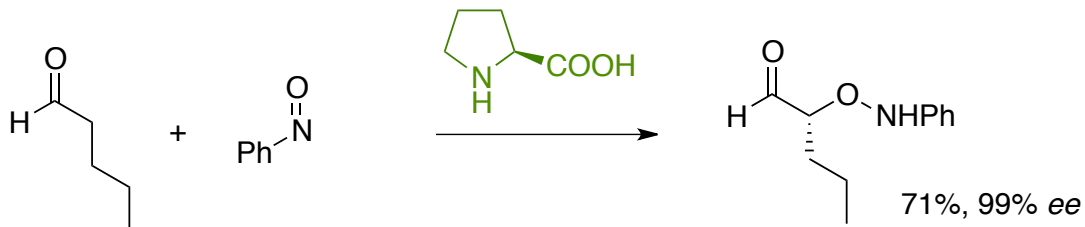
# Modern enamine catalysis

alpha-functionalization of aldehydes and ketones



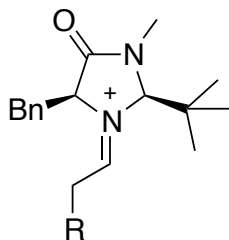
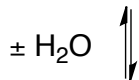
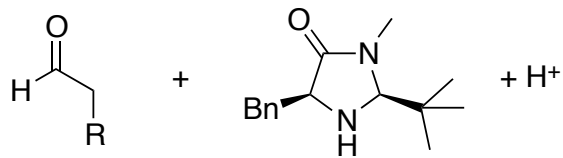
# Modern enamine catalysis

alpha-functionalization of aldehydes and ketones



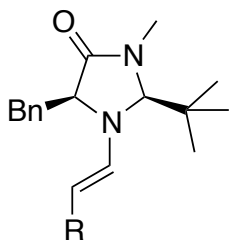
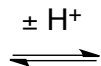
# Modern enamine catalysis

enamine activation in radical chemistry



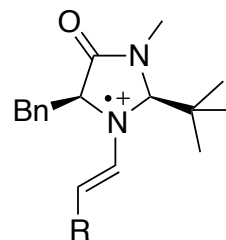
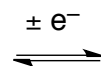
iminium cation

LUMO  
activation



enamine

HOMO  
activation

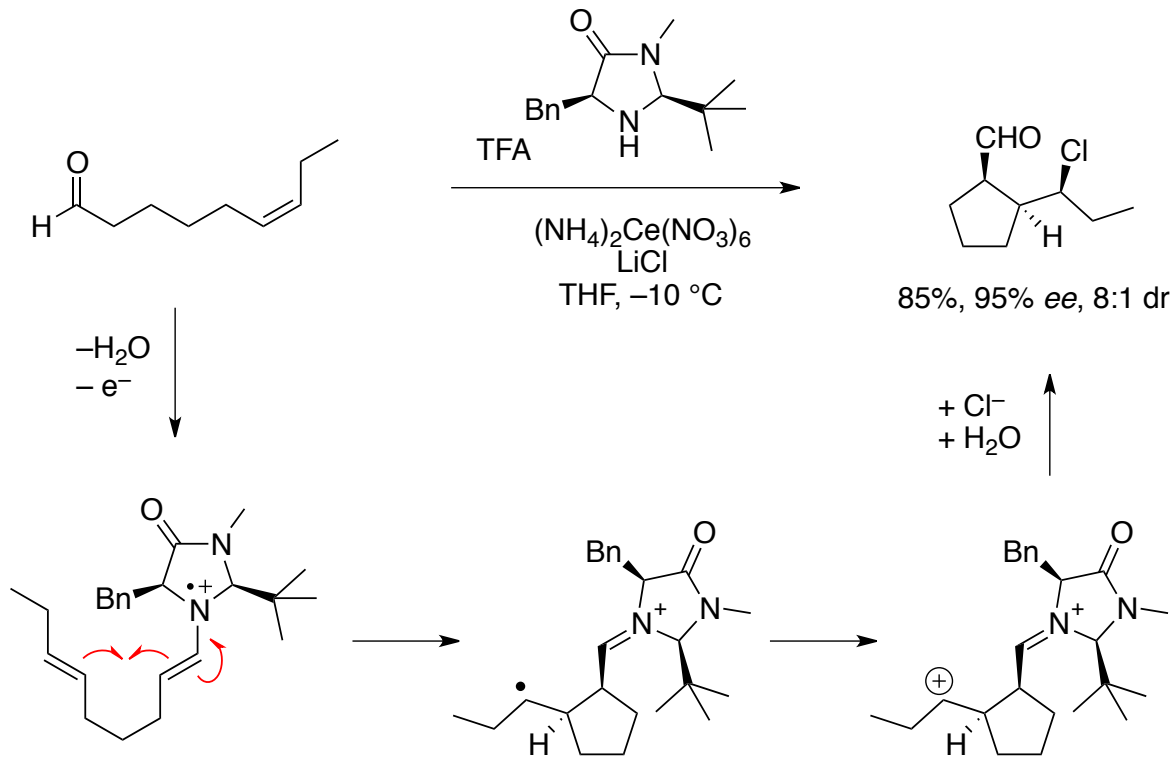


radical cation

SOMO  
activation

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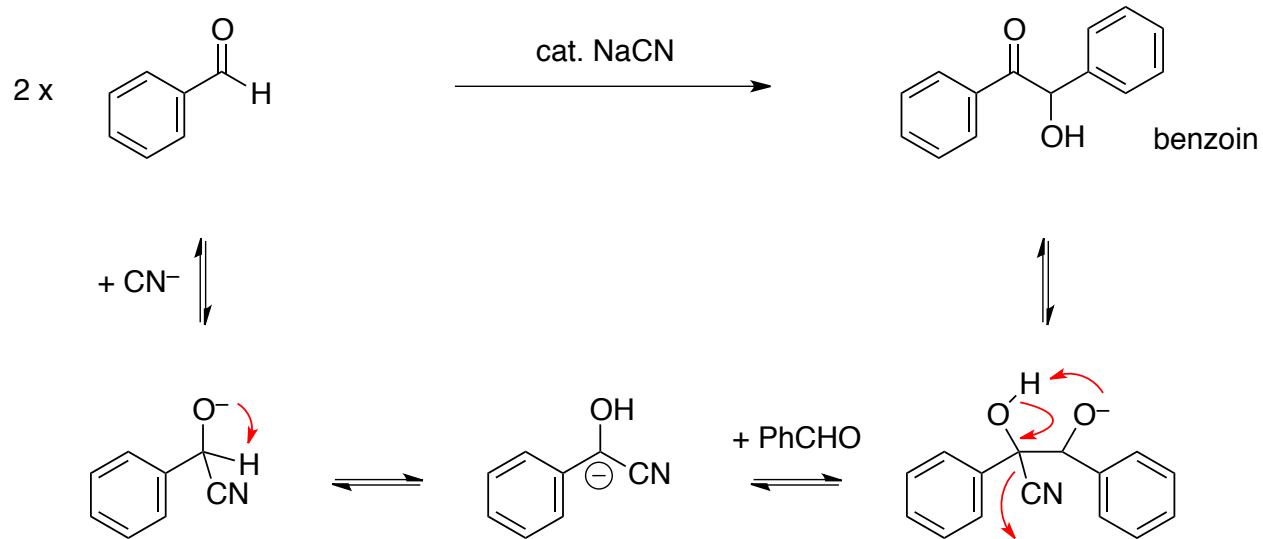
enamine activation in radical chemistry



# Remember the acyloin reaction?

Acyloin reaction

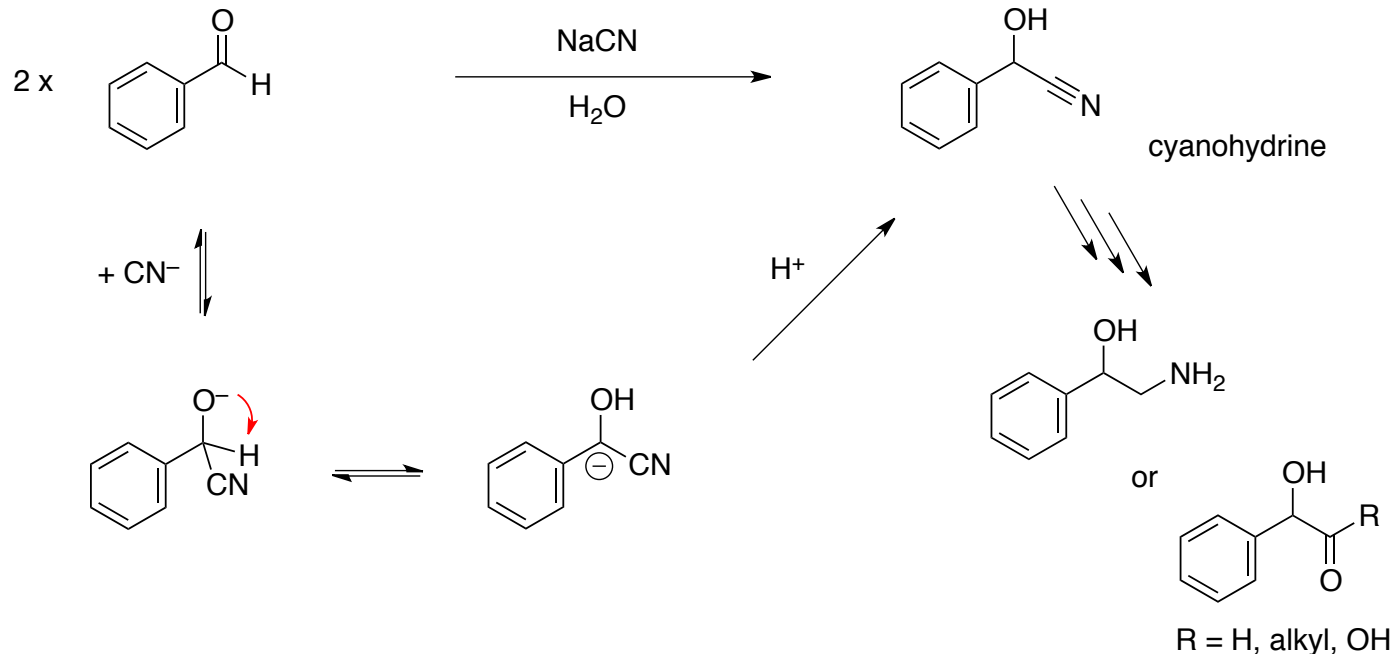
- PDCs also catalyze C-C-coupling between  $\alpha$ -ketoacids and aldehydes
- biochemical equivalent to the Benzoin reaction



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Acyloin reaction

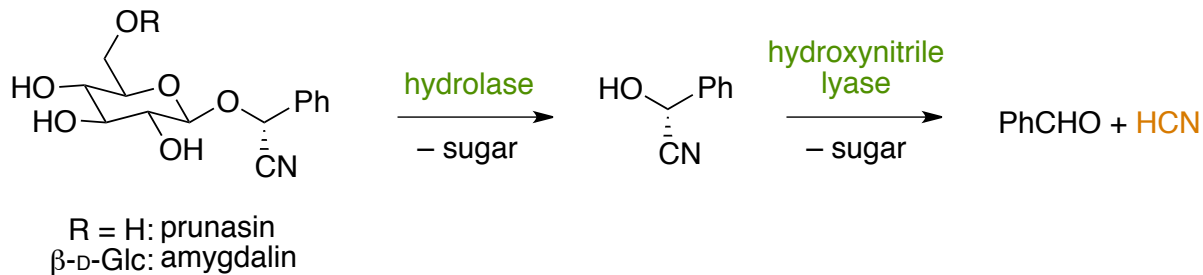
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- biochemical equivalent to the Benzoin reaction



- formal addition of HCN yields cyanohydrines
- analogous to Stetter amino acid synthesis

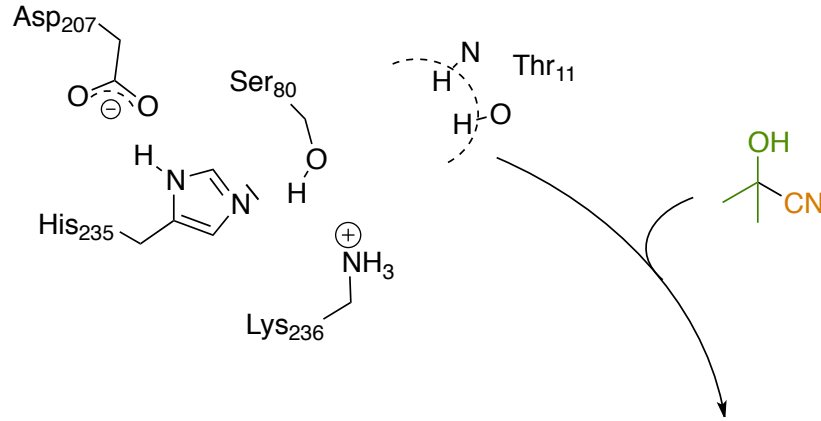
# Cyanohydrine-converting enzymes

- hydroxynitrile lyases (EC 4.2.1.x) mainly found in higher plants
- main role: defence mechanisms based on cyanogenesis
- 2 major classes that differ in their dependence on FAD
  - ✓ FAD not acting as redox mediator in these enzymes



- cheap sources for HNLs: almonds, cherry, manioc, rubber tree

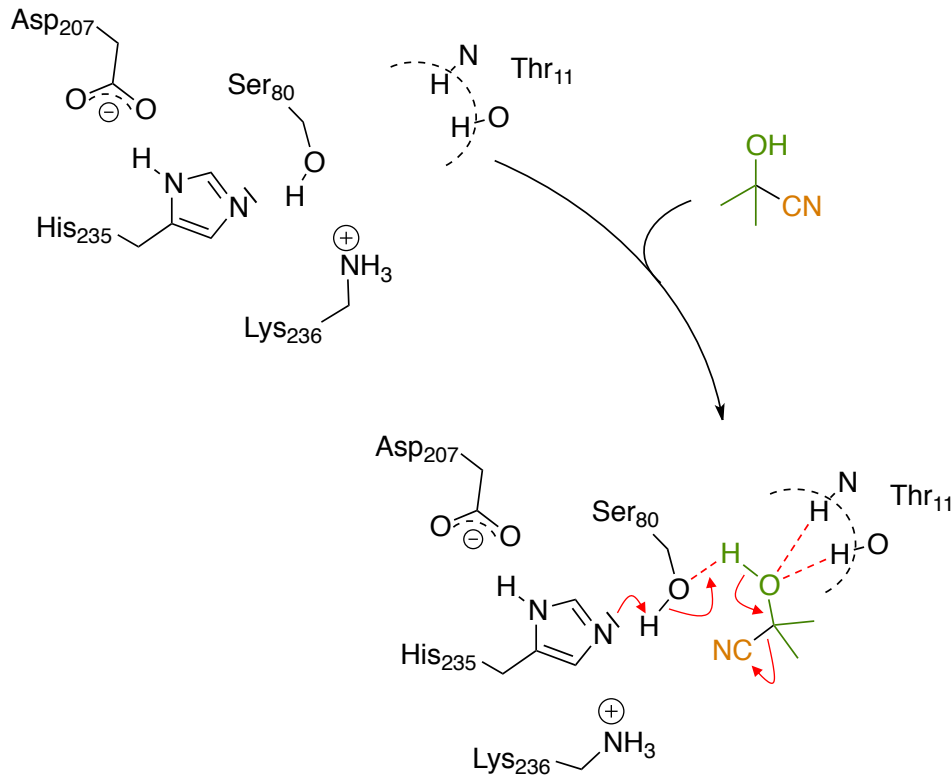
# Serine-Histidine-Aspartate: Catalytic triade



mechanism in e.g.  
manioc and *Hevea* sp.

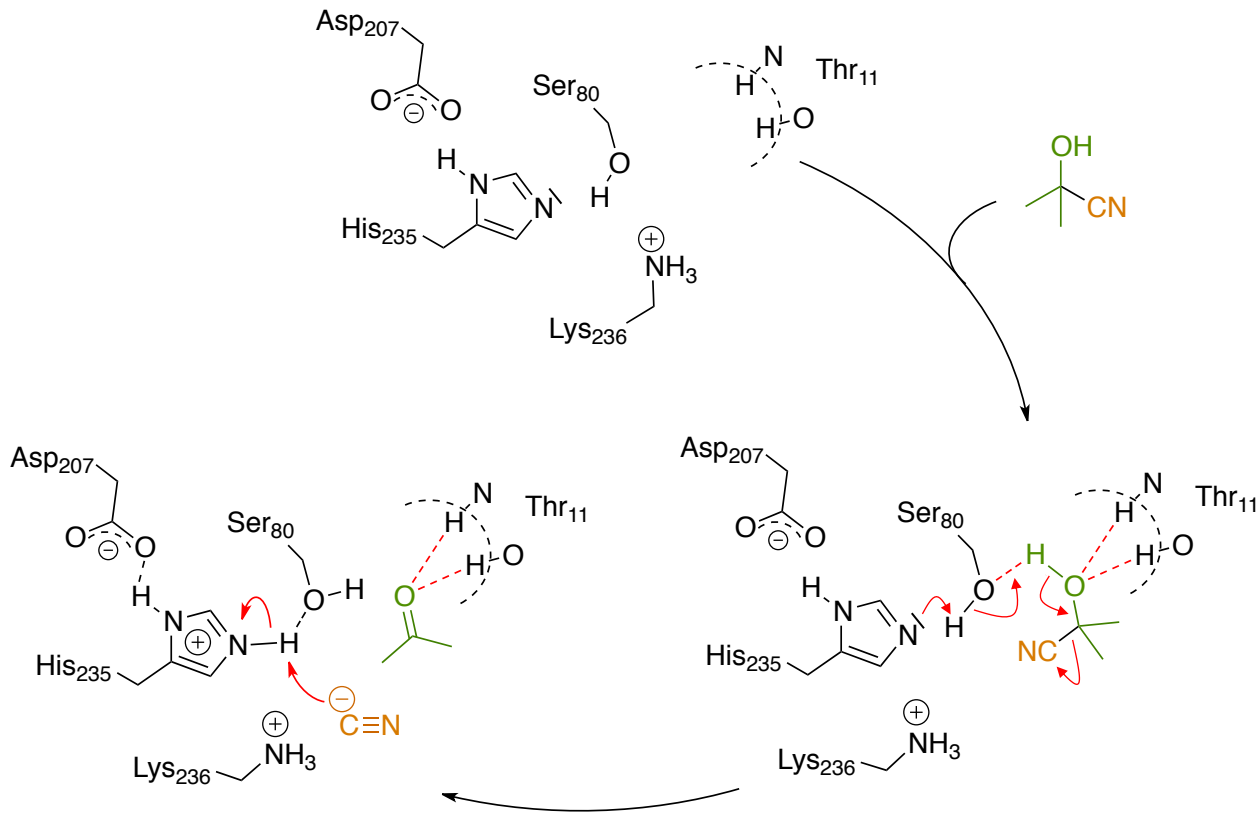


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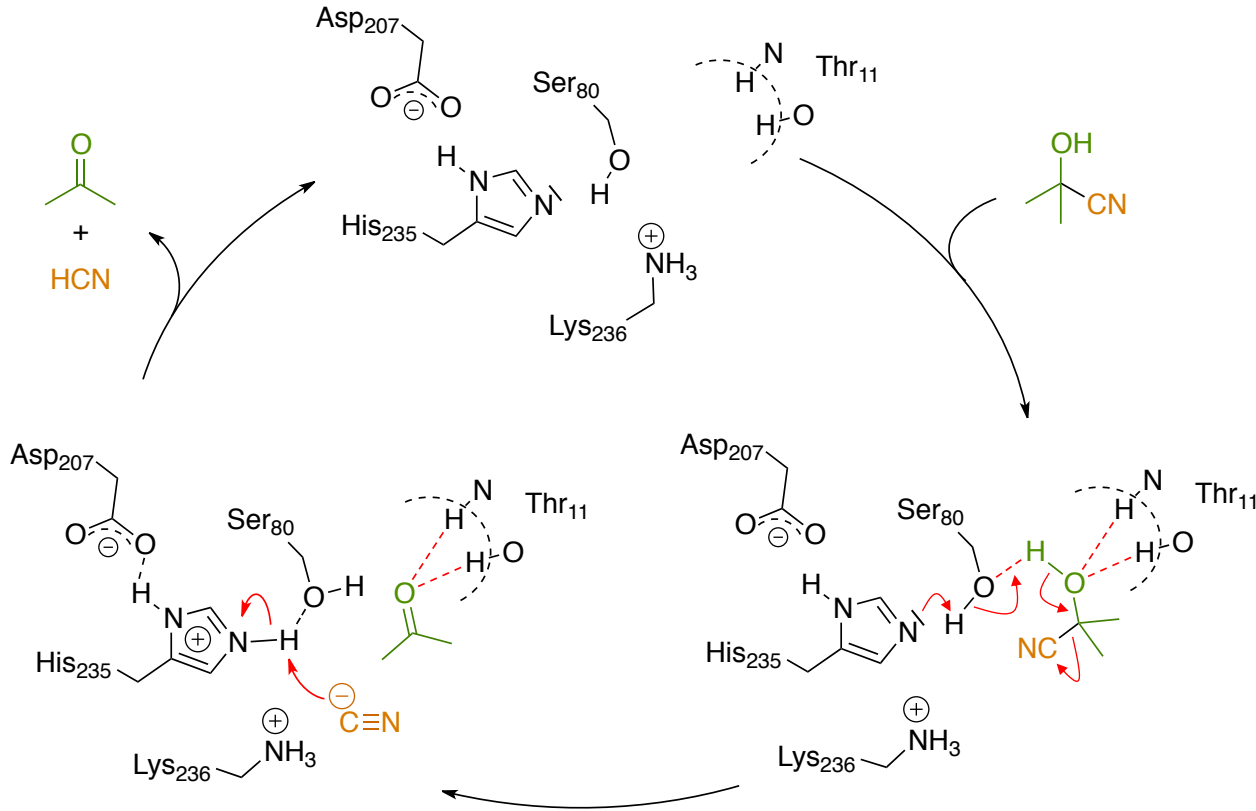
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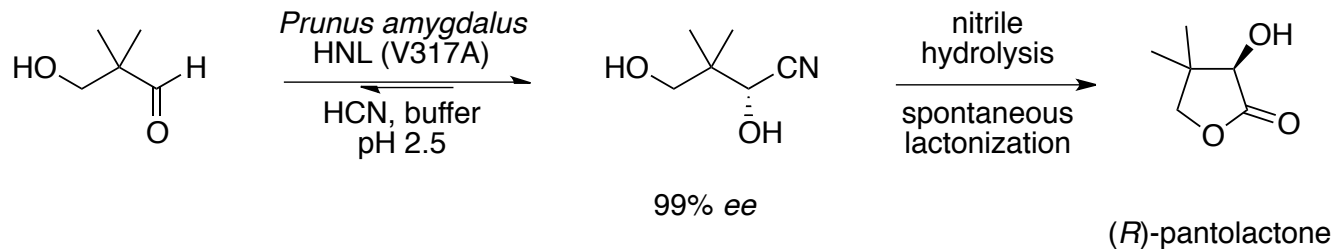
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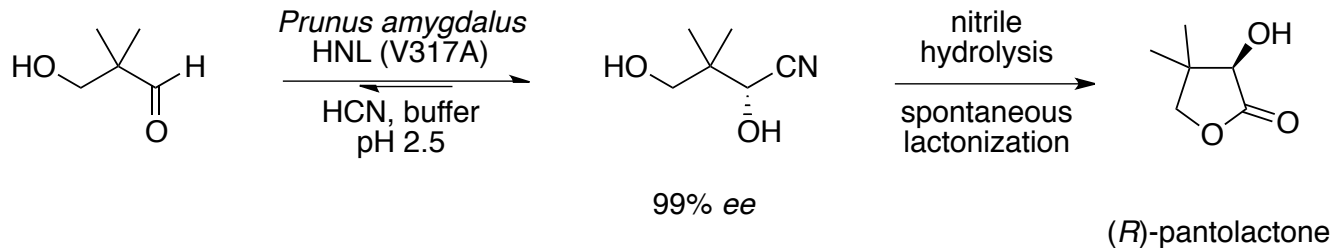
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# Synthetic applications: addition of HCN to aldehydes

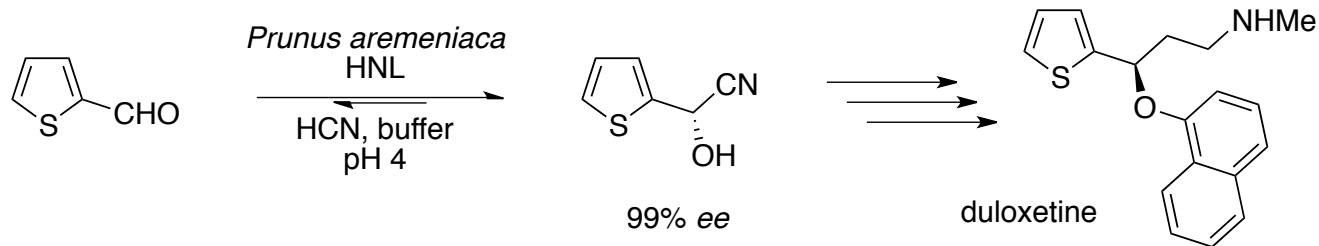


calcium pantothenate: important  
animal feed additive

# Synthetic applications: addition of HCN to aldehydes



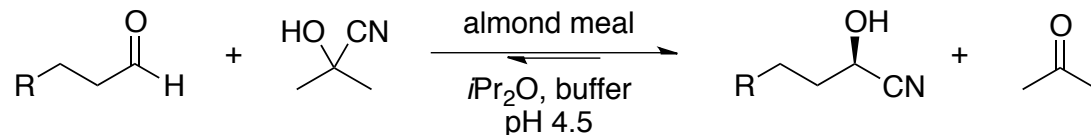
calcium pantothenate: important animal feed additive



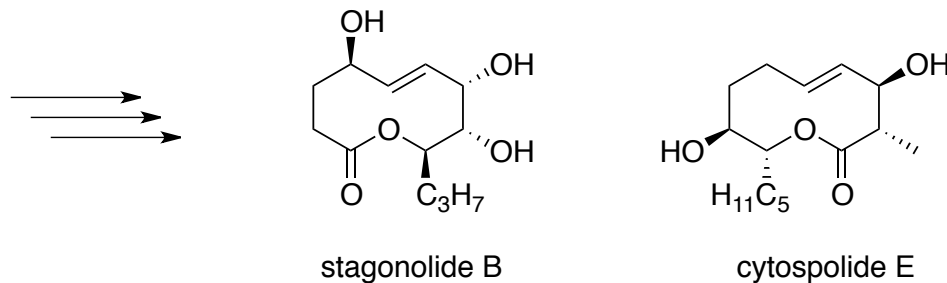
sold as *Cymbalta*  
selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor  
(antidepressant)

# Synthetic applications: HCN-free hydrocyanations?

acetone cyanohydrine as masked HCN



also here: reversibility is the key



stagonolide B

cytospolide E