



Stereoelectronic effects on stability and reactivity of organic molecules: from control of molecular conformations to faster cycloadditions and cyclizations

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*Зимняя конференция молодых ученых по органической химии,
January 20, 2015, Krasnovidovo*



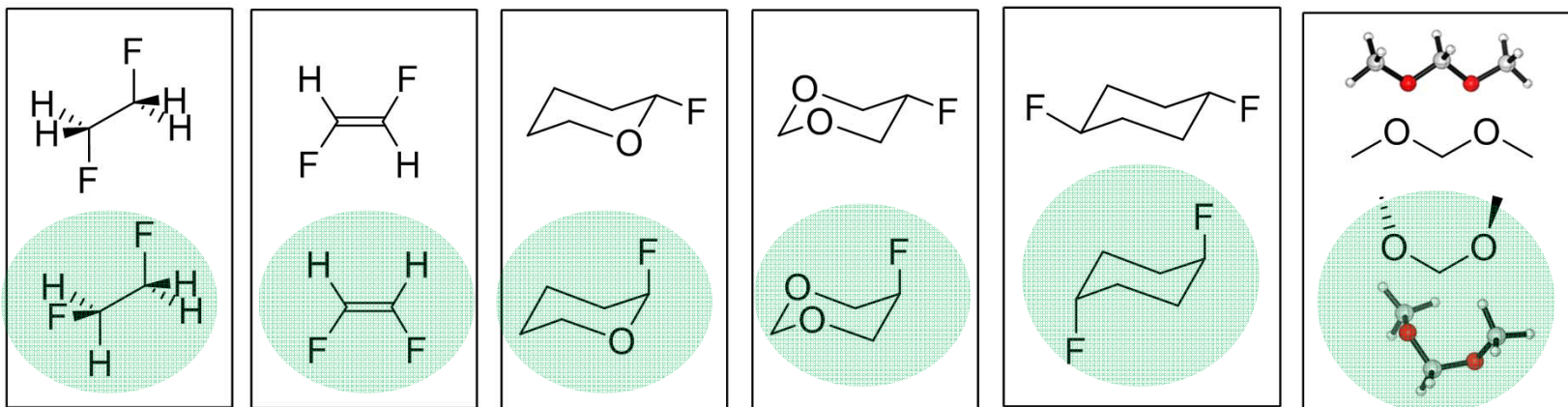
Importance of delocalization



Introduction

What is the most stable structure/geometry in the following pairs?

Take a second and make your guess:



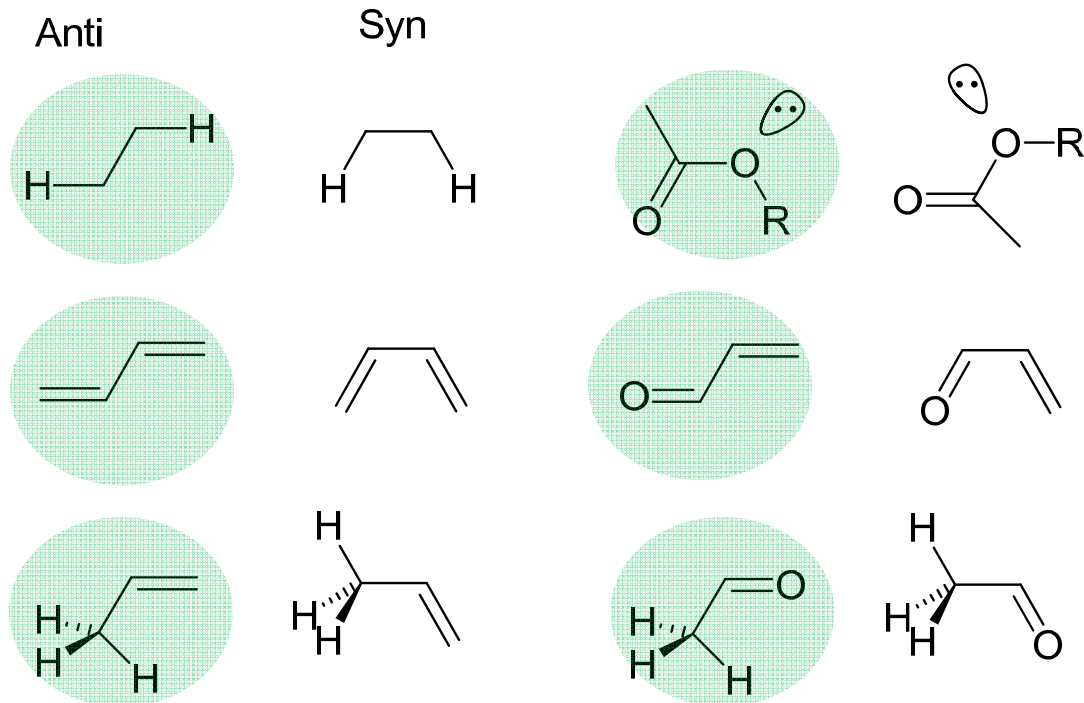
Is there a common theme?

Am I going mad?

From Alabugin, "Stereochemical effects"

There is a common underlying effect

It can be expanded to many common functional groups. See if you can spot it



Good News: There are preferred geometries for interactions between molecules, or between parts of a molecule.

These “rules of engagement” are called *stereoelectronic effects*.

From Alabugin, “Stereoelectronic effects”

Stereoelectronic effects



Definition: *Stereoelectronic effects – interactions of electronic orbitals in three dimensions.*

The typical stereoelectronic effect involves an electronic interaction which stabilizes a particular conformation or transition state and is fully expressed only when the correct geometry is achieved.

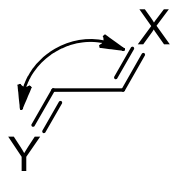
Caveat:

“stereoelectronic” is not the same as “steric + electronic”!
Stereoelectronic effects are **always** stabilizing and reflect increased delocalization at favorable conformations.

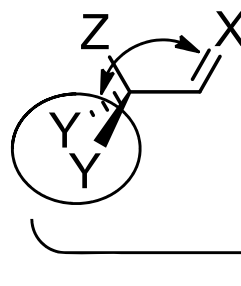
Types of interactions

Types of orbitals

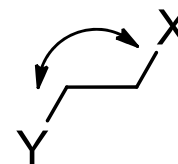
Conjugation



Hyperconjugation

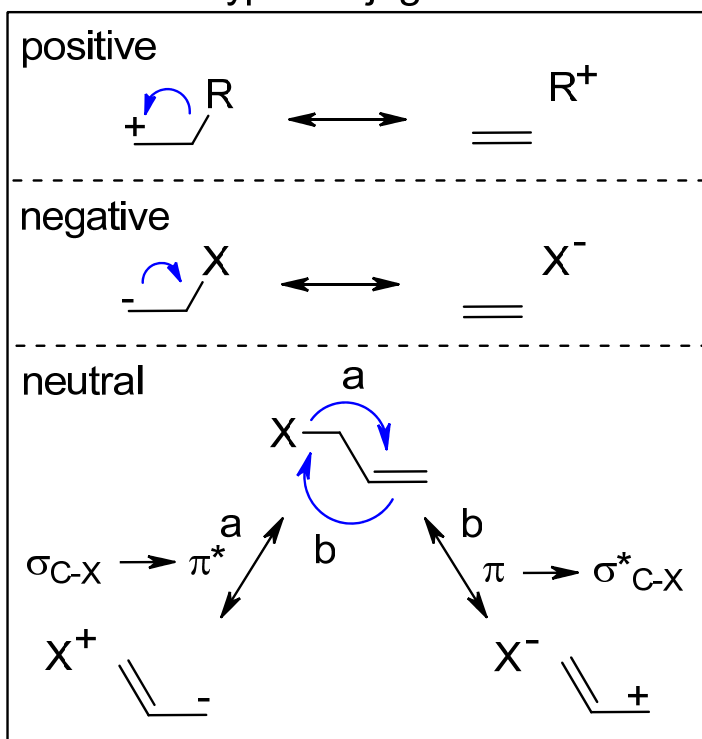


σ -Conjugation

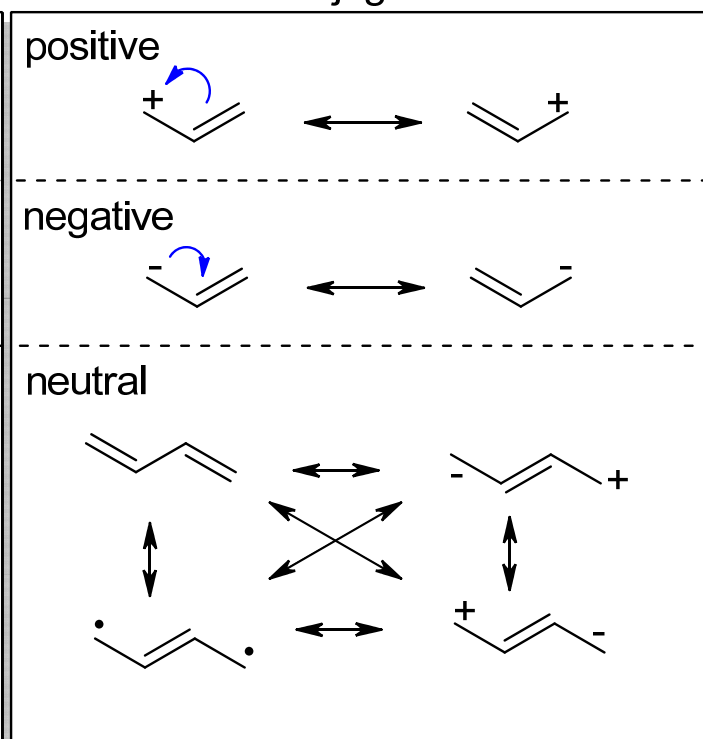


Directionality of electron transfer

Hyperconjugation



Conjugation



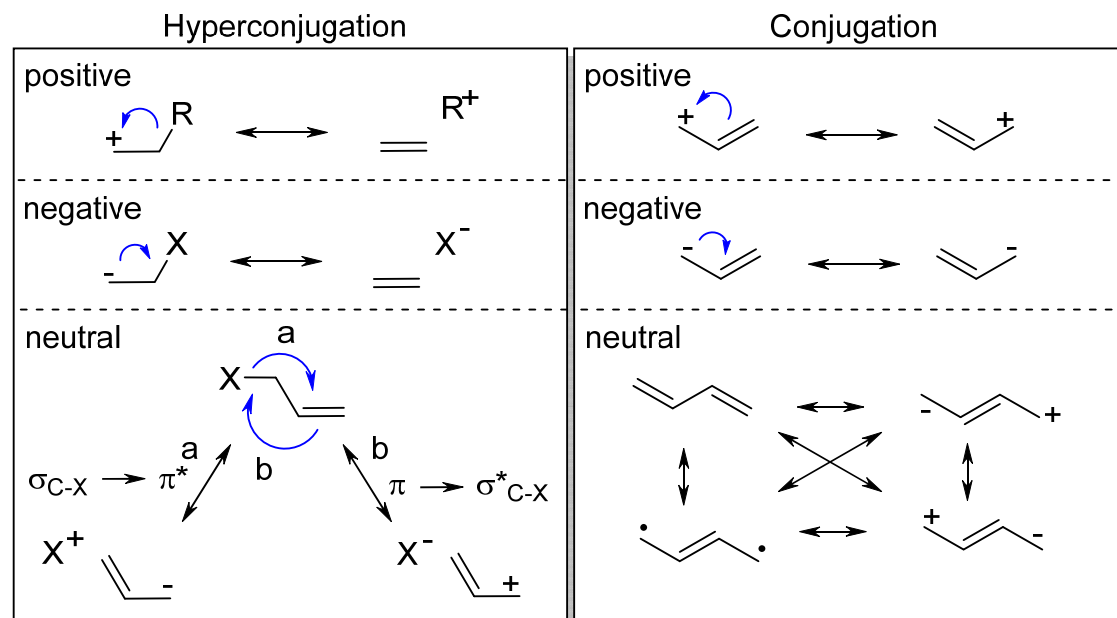
Types of resonance: negative, positive and neutral conjugation and hyperconjugation

Donation of electron density from filled σ -orbitals into π^* -orbitals or p-type cationic centers is referred to as **positive** hyperconjugation.

The interactions between filled π or p-orbitals and adjacent antibonding σ^* -orbitals are called **negative** hyperconjugation.

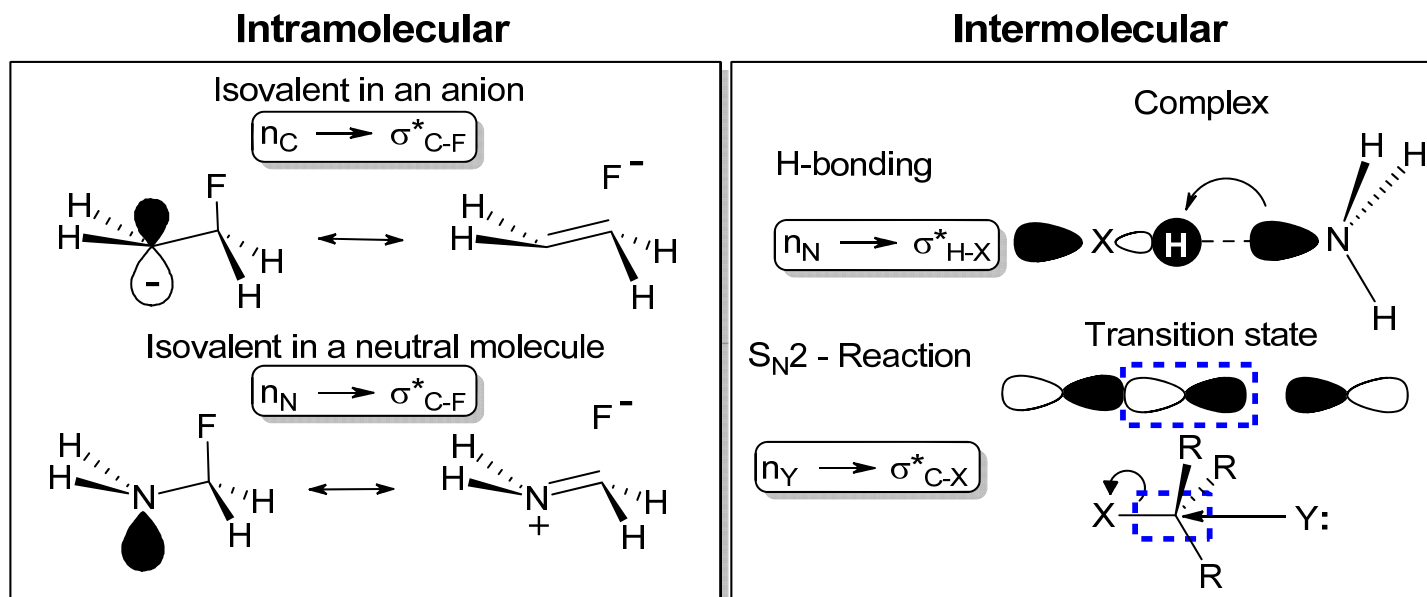
Both **negative** and **positive** hyperconjugation are two-electron stabilizing interactions which build π -bonding between the nominally singly-bonded atoms.

In the absence of dominating unidirectional interactions, hyperconjugation is classified as **neutral** hyperconjugation. This is the most common conjugative pattern. It blends together the negative and positive hyperconjugation



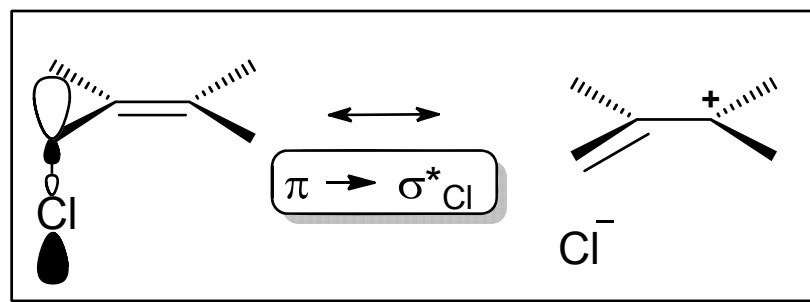
Analogous classification can be used for conjugative interactions between π -bonds and p-orbitals

Hyperconjugation can be Intra- and Intermolecular



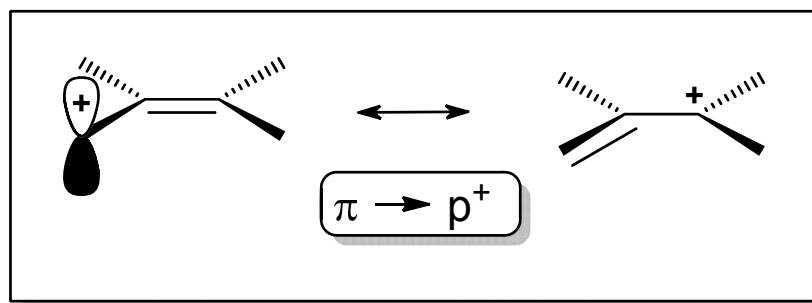
Intra- and intermolecular negative (hyper)conjugation

Where do we draw the line between these effects?



Hyperconjugation

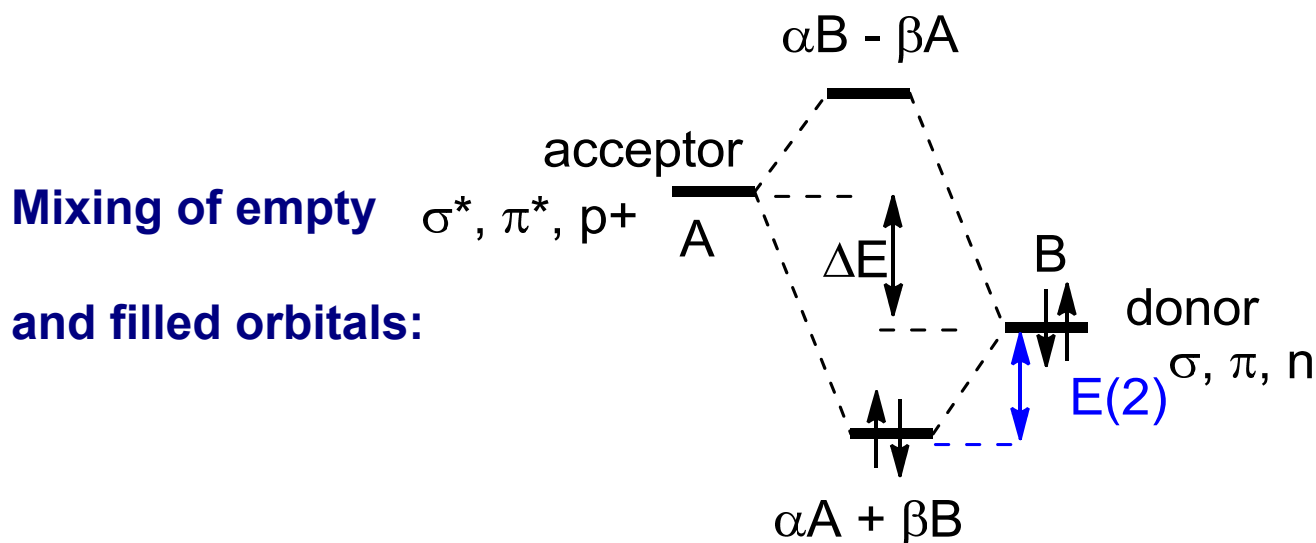
$-\text{Cl}^-$ ↓ ionize



Conjugation

The separation between conjugation and hyperconjugation is based on an arbitrary treatment of σ - and π -orbitals on a different basis. Because the separation is artificial, the lines between effects are often blurred. The separation is especially tricky in the transition states.

Why interactions are stabilizing?



$$E(2) = -n_{\sigma} \frac{\langle \sigma / F / \sigma^* \rangle^2}{\varepsilon_{\sigma^*} - \varepsilon_{\sigma}} = -n_{\sigma} \frac{F_{i,j}^2}{\Delta E}$$

F_{ij} is the resonance integral for orbitals i and j ,
 ε_{σ} and ε_{σ^*} are the energies of the σ and σ^*
 orbitals, and n_{σ} is the population of the donor

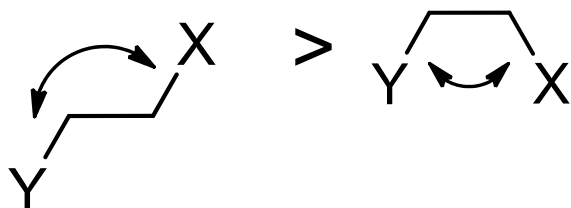
Orbital interaction energies can be calculated using Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis (F. Weinhold and coworkers): <http://nbo6.chem.wisc.edu/>

How to increase stabilization?

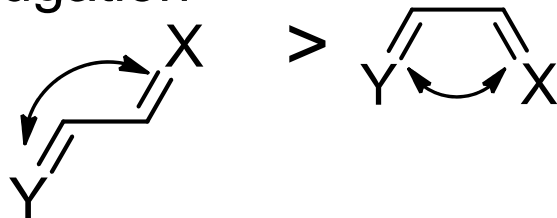
Orbital Overlap and Antiperiplanarity



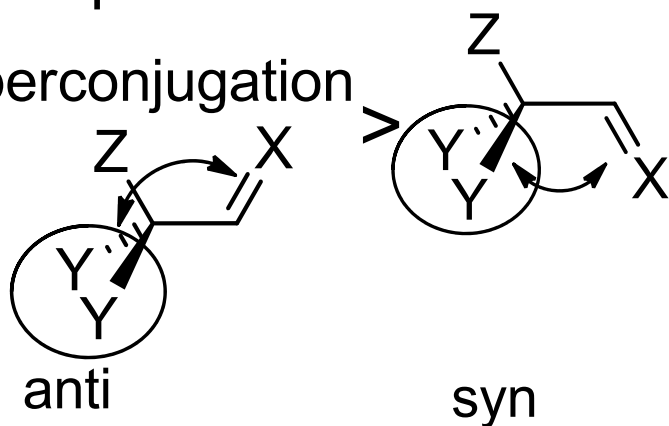
σ -Conjugation



Conjugation



Hyperconjugation

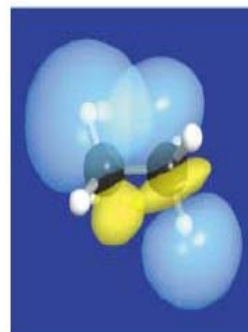


Favorable symmetry for anti-periplanar interactions increases stabilizing orbital overlap:

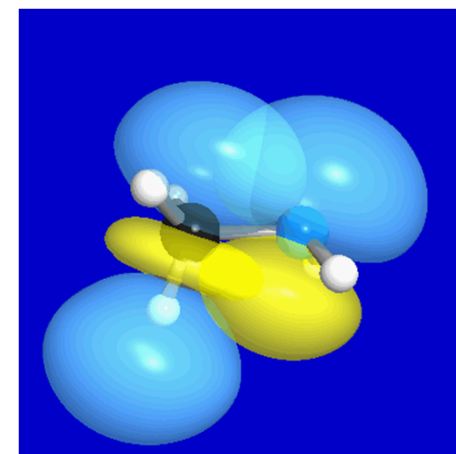
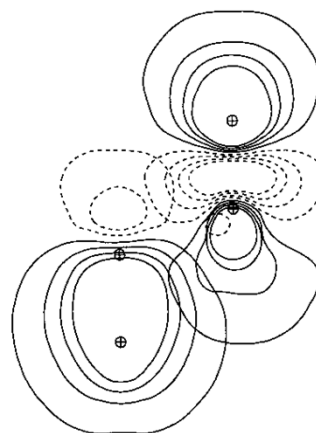
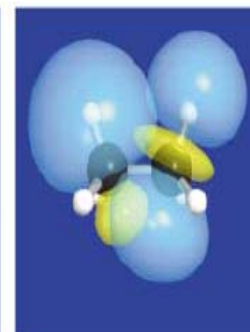
$$E(2) = -n_{\sigma} \frac{\langle \sigma/F/\sigma^* \rangle^2}{\varepsilon_{\sigma^*} - \varepsilon_{\sigma}} = -n_{\sigma} \frac{F_{i,j}^2}{\Delta E}$$

F_{ij} (the resonance integral for orbitals i and j), is proportional to the orbital overlap

anti



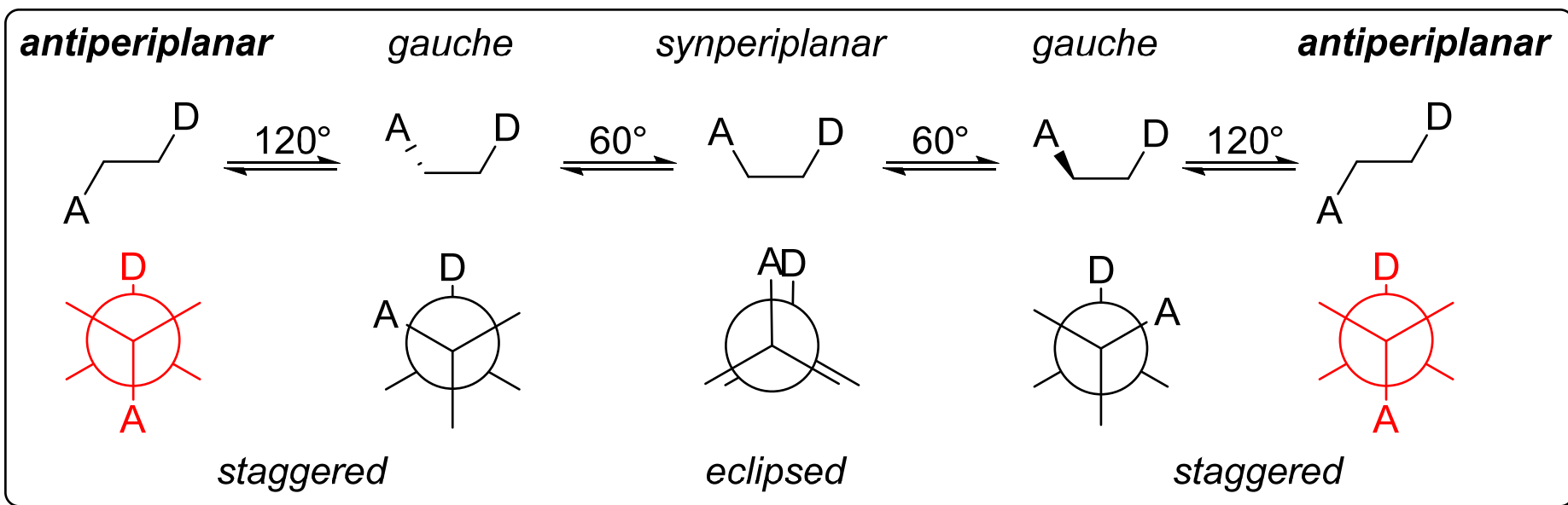
syn



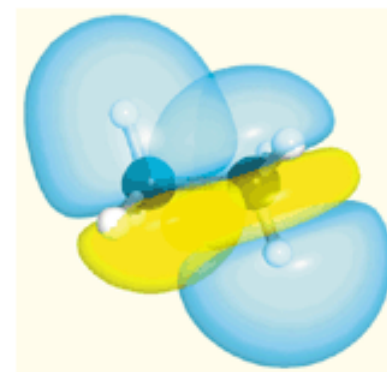
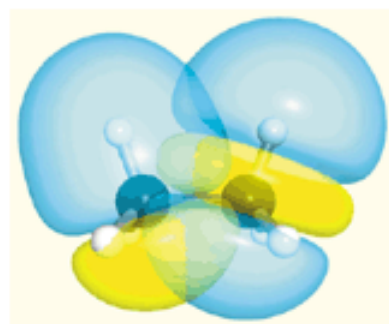
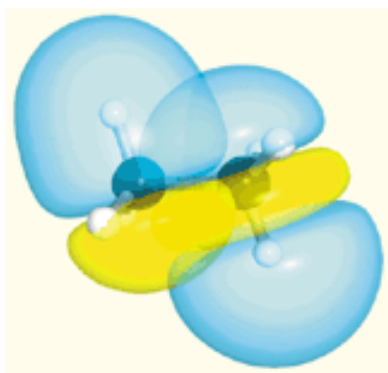
<http://nbo6.chem.wisc.edu/>

“The main stereoelectronic rule”

“There is a stereoelectronic preference for conformations in which the best donor lone pair or bond is **antiperiplanar** to the best acceptor bond”



*H's not shown



From Alabugin, “Stereoelectronic effects”

How to increase stabilization?

Additional factors controlling overlap

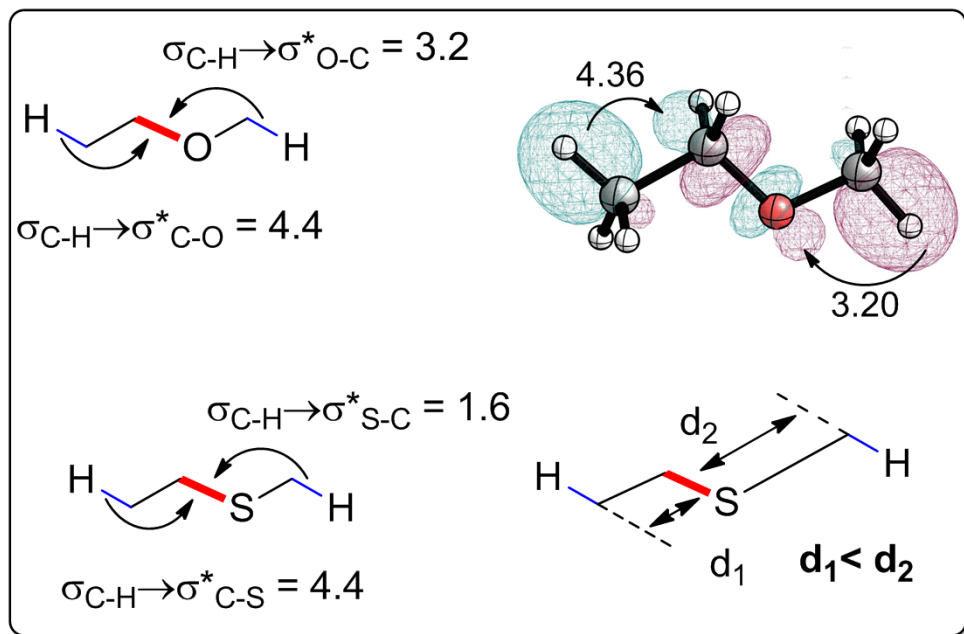
Directionality of interactions:

a) Effect of bond polarization

$$E(2) = -n_{\sigma} \frac{\langle \sigma/F/\sigma^* \rangle^2}{\varepsilon_{\sigma^*} - \varepsilon_{\sigma}} = -n_{\sigma} \frac{F_{i,j}^2}{\Delta E}$$

b) Effect of longer or shorter bonds

F_{ij} is the resonance integral for orbitals i and j , is proportional to the orbital overlap



Energies are in kcal/mol

$\sigma^*_{\text{O-C}}$ is a much weaker acceptor than $\sigma^*_{\text{C-O}}$

$\sigma^*_{\text{S-C}}$ is a MUCH weaker acceptor than $\sigma^*_{\text{C-S}}$

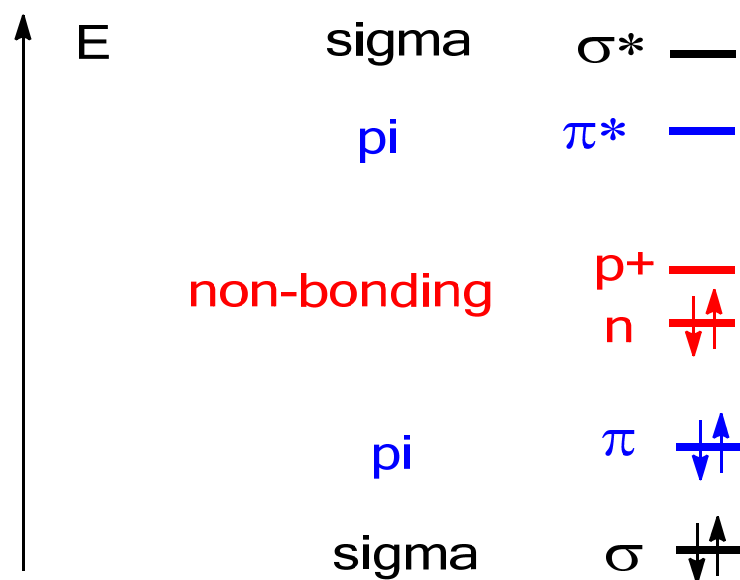
Alabugin, *J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, 3910

How to increase stabilization?



Decrease energy gap

$$E(2) = -n_{\sigma} \frac{\langle \sigma/F/\sigma^* \rangle^2}{\varepsilon_{\sigma^*} - \varepsilon_{\sigma}} = -n_{\sigma} \frac{F_{i,j}^2}{\Delta E}$$



Basis for the HOMO-LUMO approximation in FMO theory (what would happen, by the way, if ΔE is 0?)

Lone pairs are best donors, empty p-orbitals are best acceptors

Explains unexpected trend in acceptor ability of C-Hal bonds: $\sigma^*_{\text{C-F}} < \text{C-Br} < \text{C-I}$

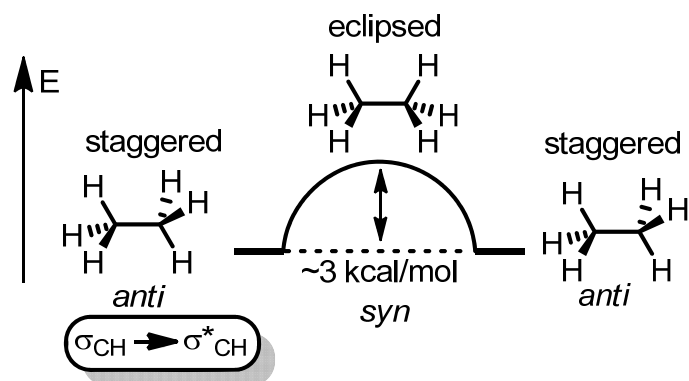
Donor ability: carbanion $\gg n_{\text{N}} > n_{\text{O}} > \sigma_{\text{C-C}}, \sigma_{\text{C-H}} > \sigma_{\text{C-X}}$

Acceptor ability: carbocation $\gg \pi^*_{\text{C=O}} > \sigma^*_{\text{C-Hal}} > \sigma^*_{\text{C-O}} > \sigma^*_{\text{C-N}} > \sigma_{\text{C-C}}, \sigma_{\text{C-H}}$

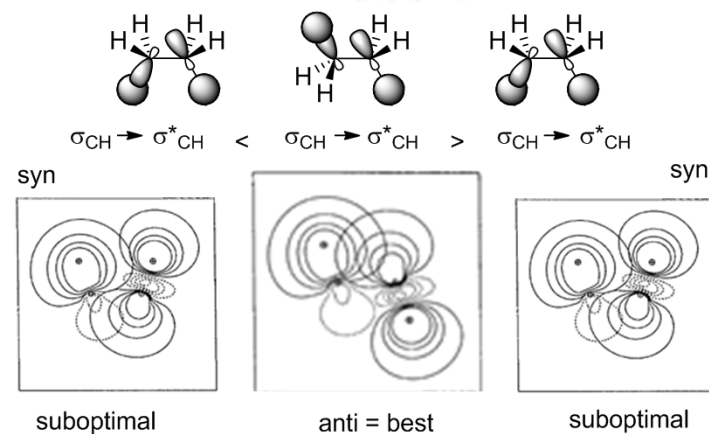
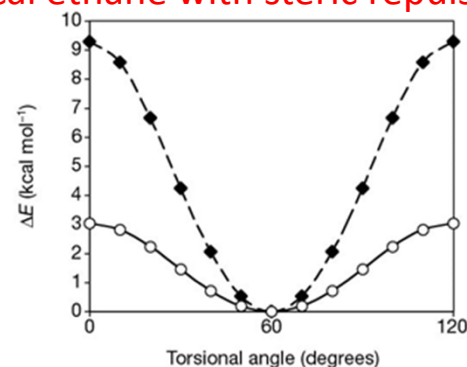
See : Alabugin, Zeidan, JACS, 2002 and Alabugin, Manoharan, JOC, 2004 for more details

Examples of neutral hyperconjugation:

1. Ethane

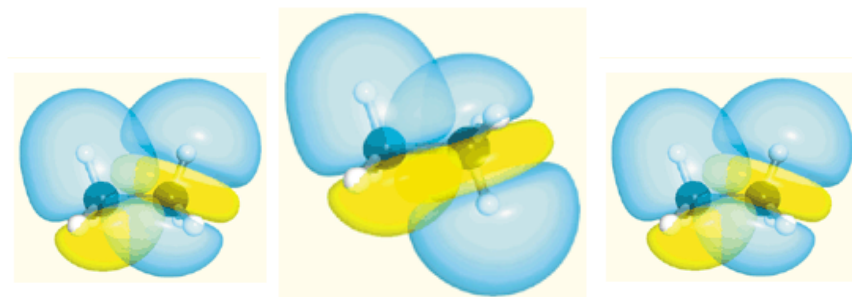
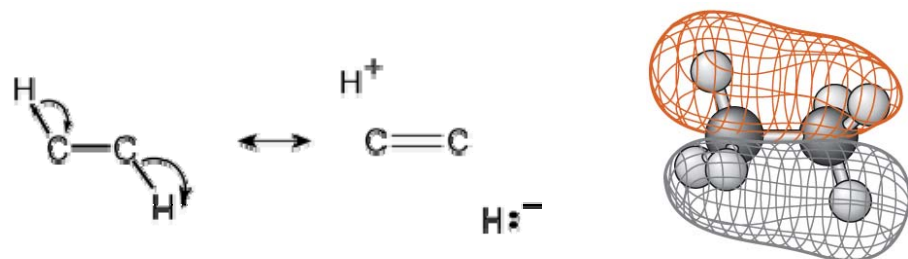


Torsional angle dependencies of energy of real ethane (solid line) and a hypothetical ethane with steric repulsion absent (dashed line):

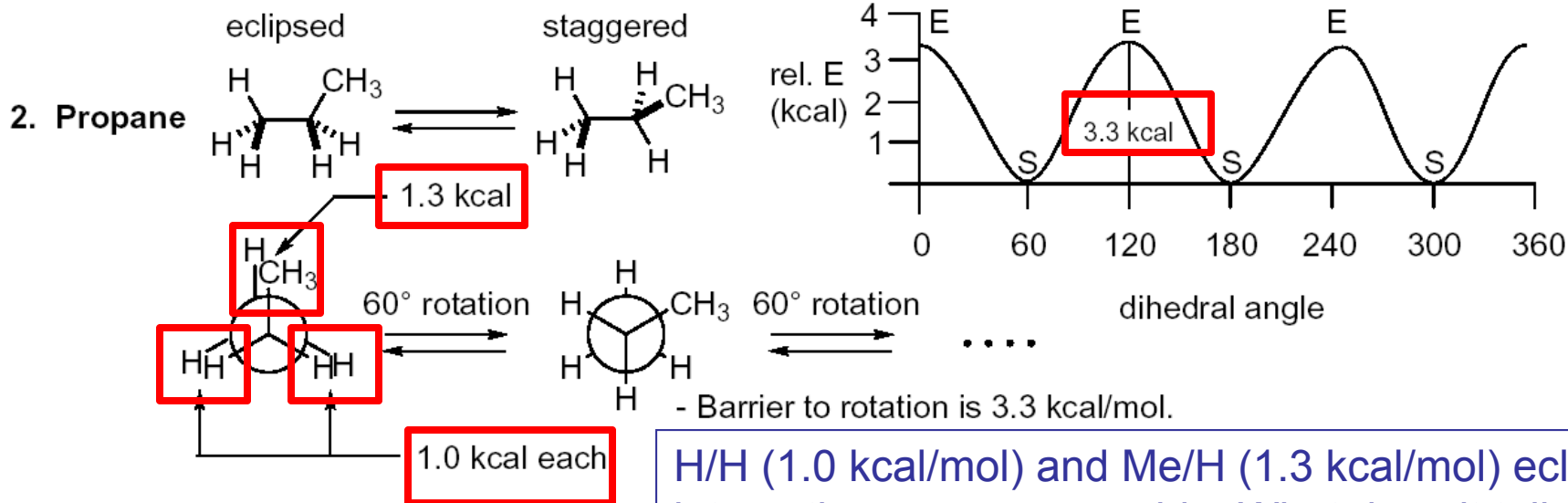
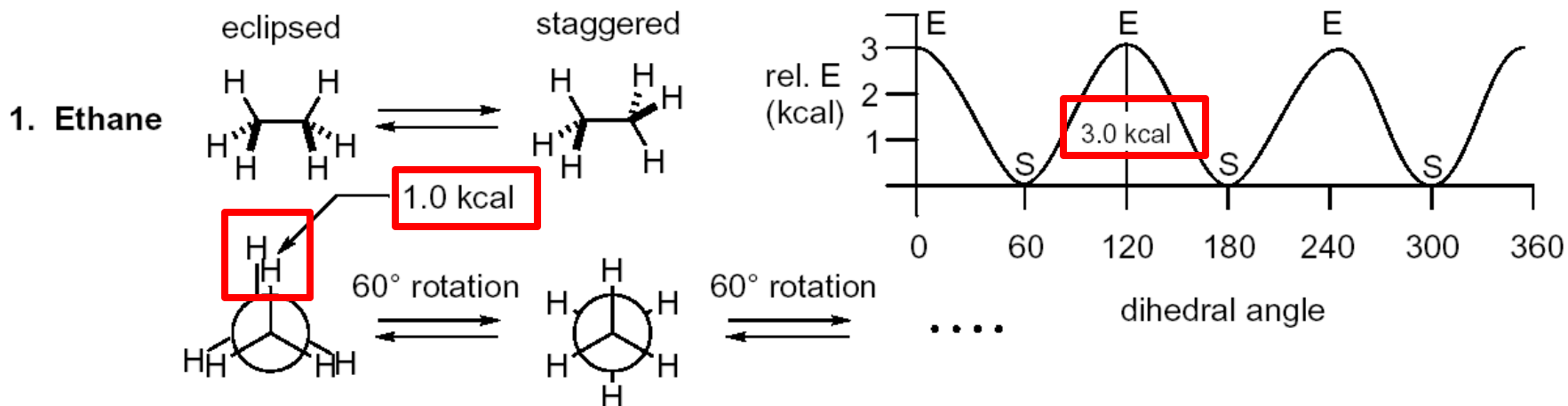


'Removal of vicinal hyperconjugation interactions yields the eclipsed structure as the preferred conformation, whereas Pauli exchange (steric) and electrostatic (Coulombic) repulsions, have no influence on the preference for a staggered conformation.'

Pophristic, V.; Goodman, L. (2001) Hyperconjugation not steric repulsion leads to the staggered structure of ethane. *Nature*, 411, 565

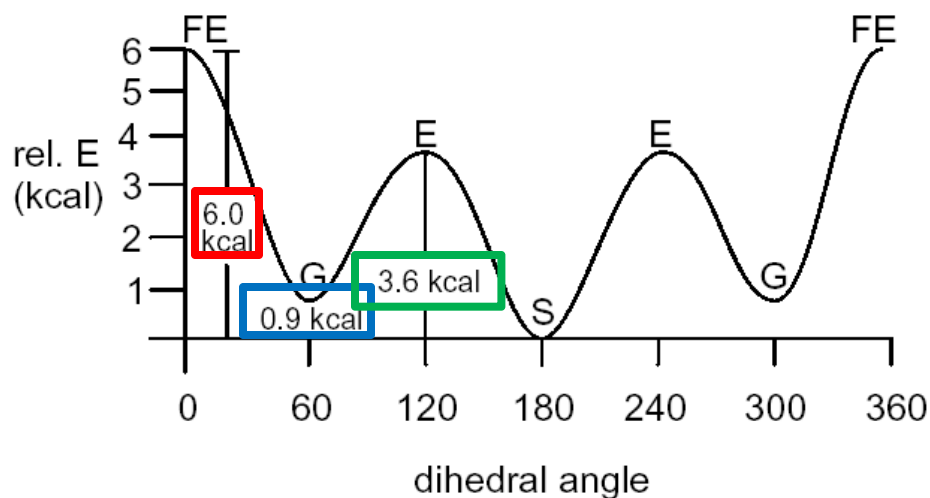
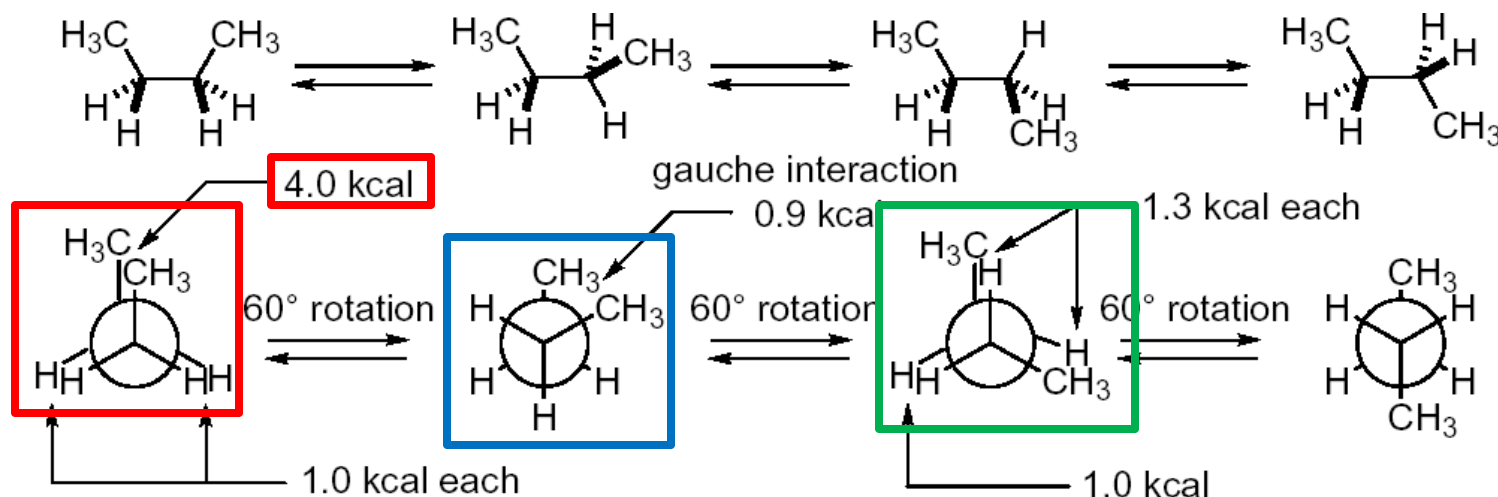


From ethane to propane: how much steric repulsion do we introduce?



H/H (1.0 kcal/mol) and Me/H (1.3 kcal/mol) eclipsing interactions are comparable. What does it tell us about the importance of steric interactions?

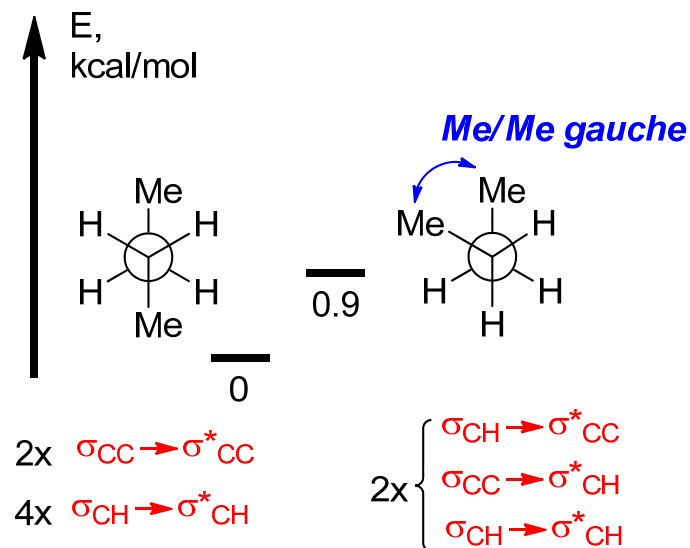
Conformations of simple alkanes revisited. Butane



- Note: the gauche butane interaction and its magnitude (0.9 kcal) are very important and we will discuss it frequently.

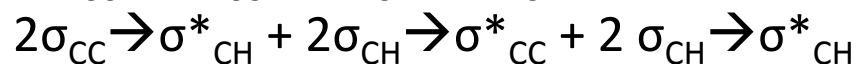
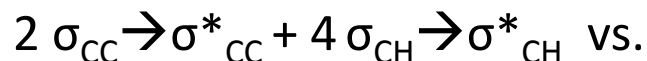
Examples of neutral hyperconjugation :

2. Butane

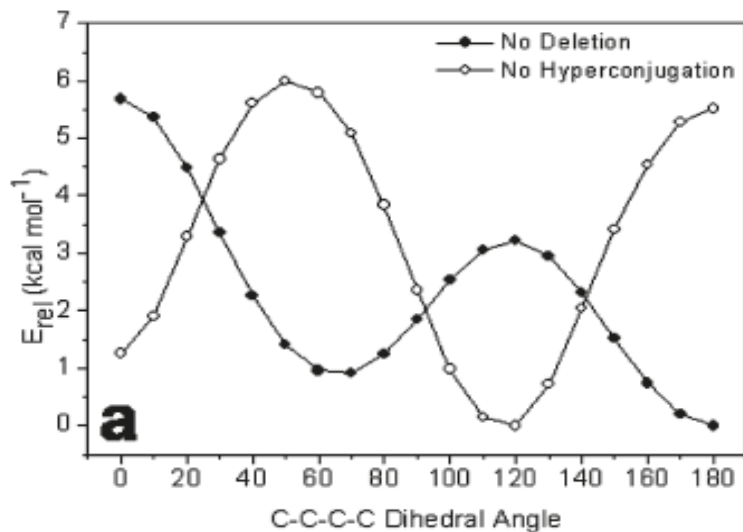


Where does the 0.9 kcal/mol penalty for the gauche conformation come from?

The anti and the gauche geometries have two different patterns of neutral hyperconjugation:



Different mix of hyperconjugative interactions



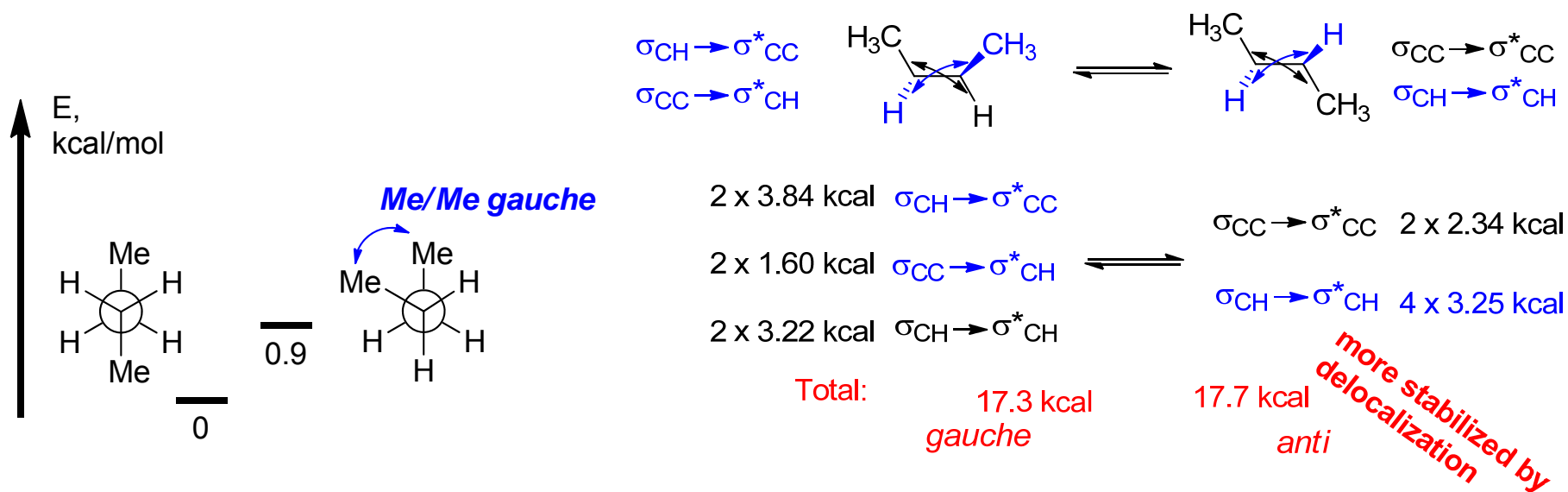
Hyperconjugation has significant effect at the conformational profile.

Can we dissect the individual effects?

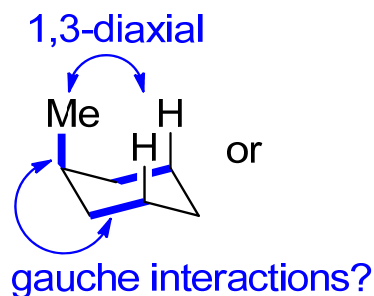
Cormanich and Freitas. A Theoretical View on the Conformer Stabilization of Butane. *JOC*, **2009**, 74, 8384

Examples of neutral hyperconjugation :

2. Butane – comparing the main effects



The subtle differences between vicinal antiperiplanar interactions can account for ~45% of the difference between the two staggered conformations of butane. Other effects contribute as well.



How about 1.8 kcal for the equatorial/axial flip in methylcyclohexane?

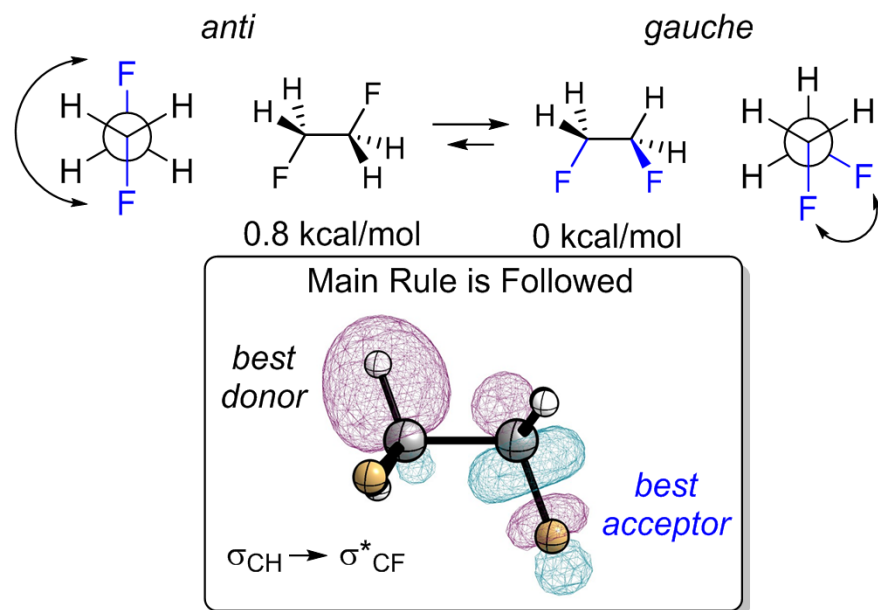
Sterics or stereoelectronics?

From Alabugin, "Stereoelectronic effects"

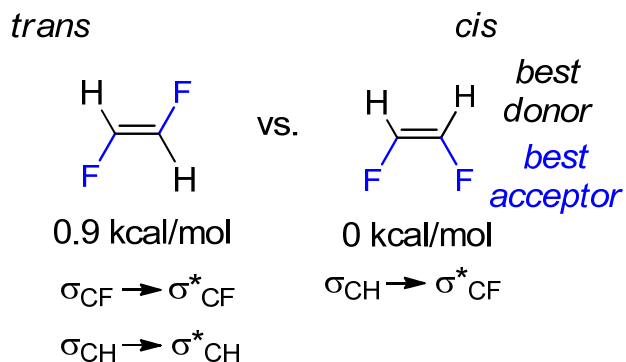
Examples of neutral hyperconjugation

Add polar bonds = “Gauche effect” and “cis-effect”

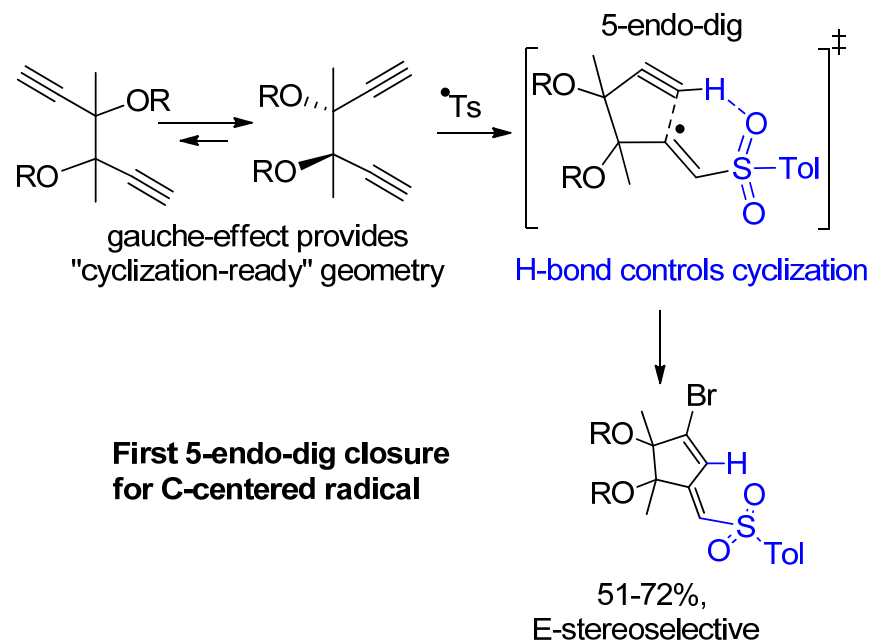
Gauche Effect



Cis Effect



Can be used to control conformations

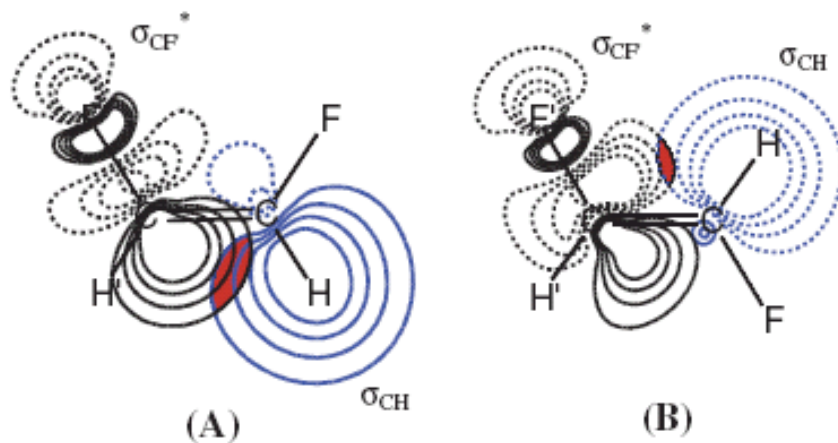


Alabugin et al. (2008) *JACS*, 130, 10984

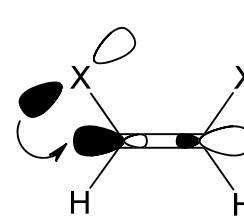
Note the similarities between the two “effects”!

Cis-effect: analysis of orbital interactions

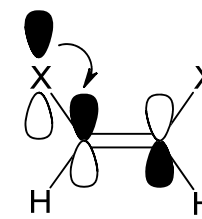
The simplest explanation:



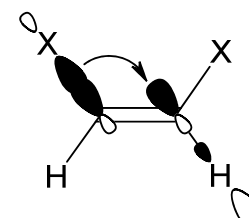
Additional effects analyzed with NBO:



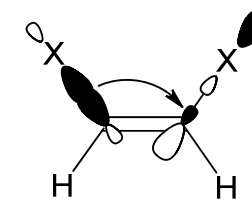
σ -LP effect



π -LP effect



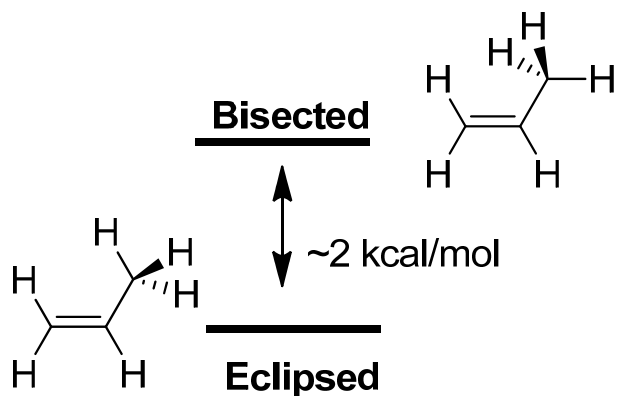
AP effect



SP effect

Examples of neutral hyperconjugation

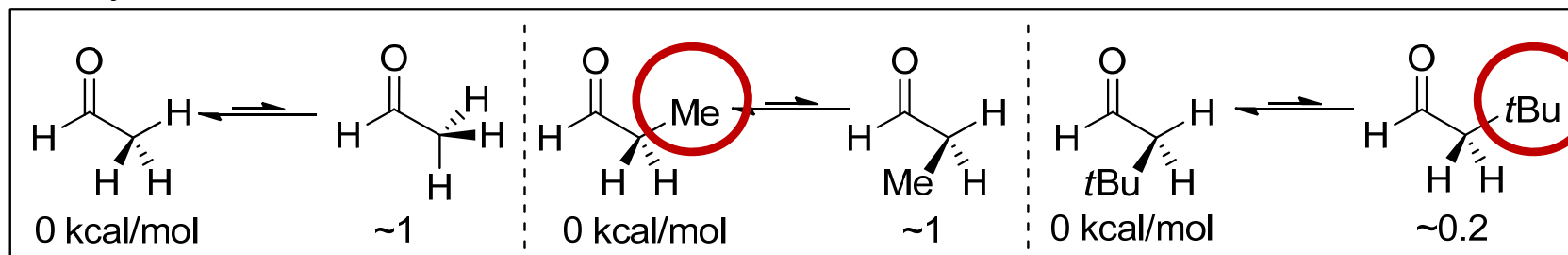
4. Alkenes, aldehydes, ketones



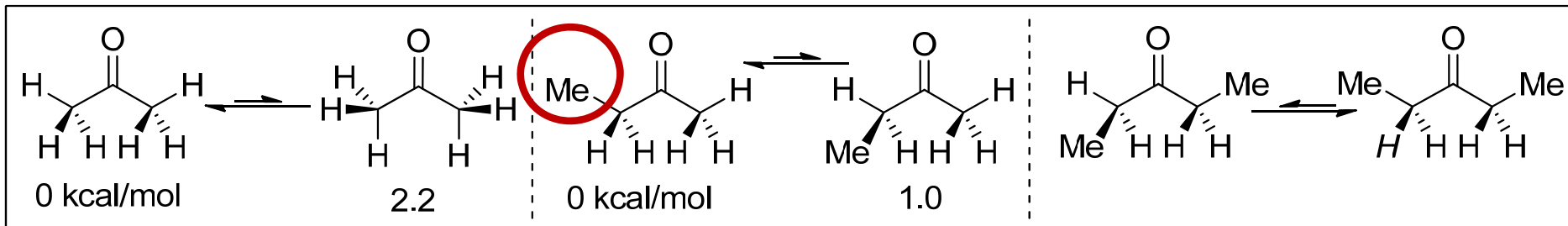
Conformation with one of C-H bonds "eclipsing" alkene σ -C-C bond is preferred

Similar preferences are observed for other π -systems

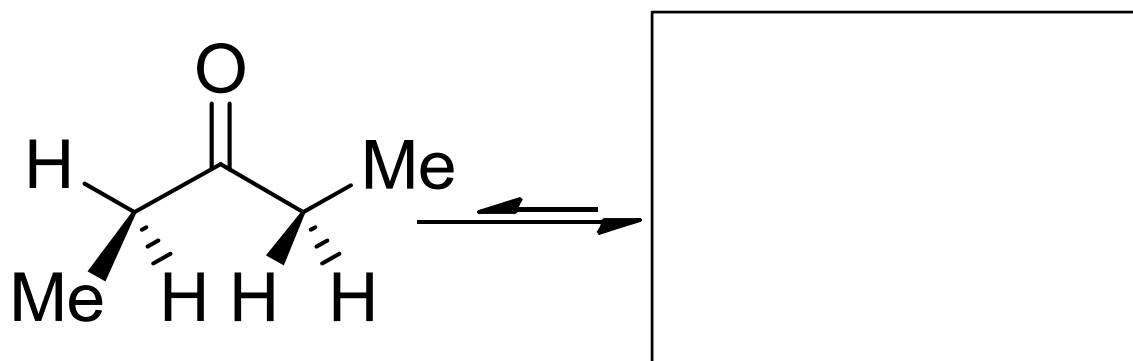
Aldehydes



Ketones



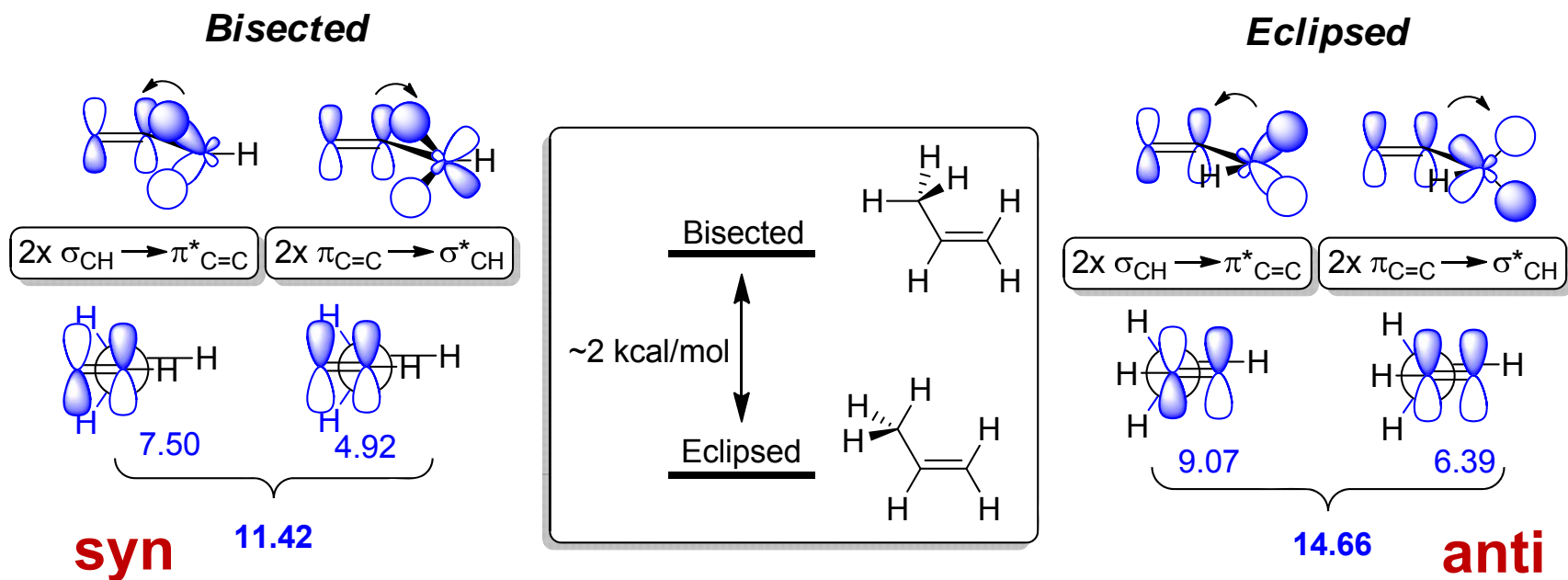
Test yourself: what is the most stable conformation of 3-pentanone?



Doubly eclipsed

Preference for the two C-H bonds to be anti and ~coplanar to the carbonyl π^*

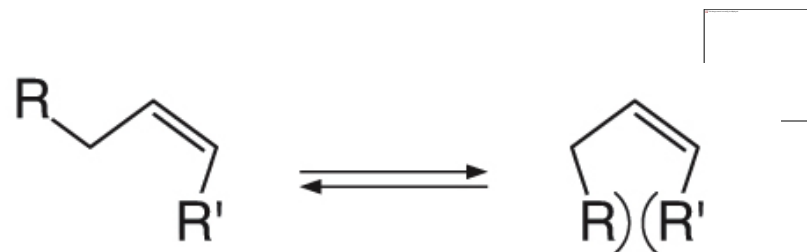
Stereoelectronic basis for the increased stability of the eclipsed conformation in propene



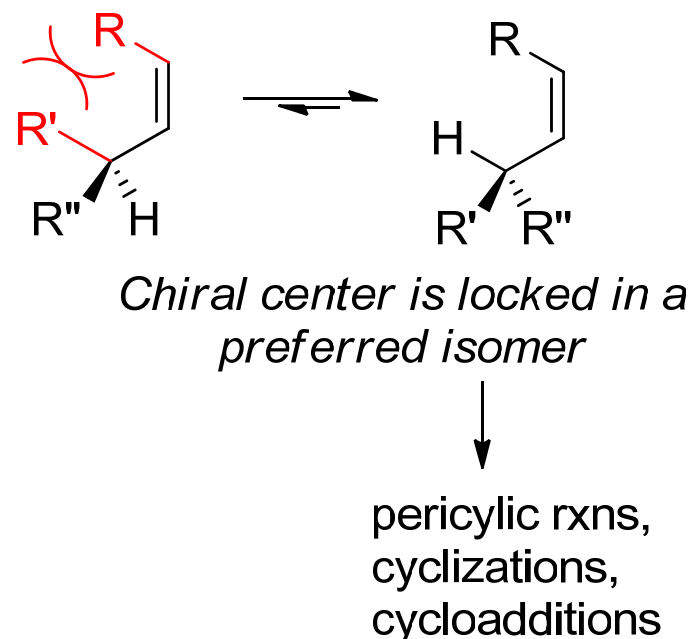
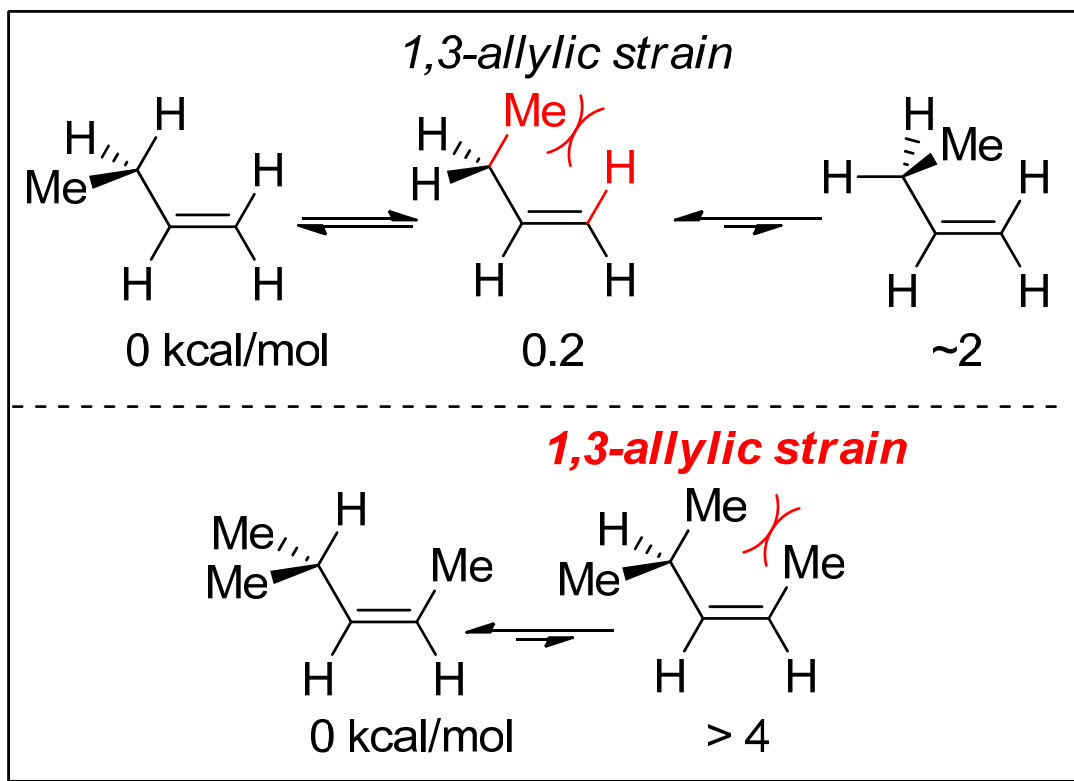
B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) NBO energies for the selected hyperconjugative interactions are shown in blue

From Alabugin, "Stereoelectronic effects"

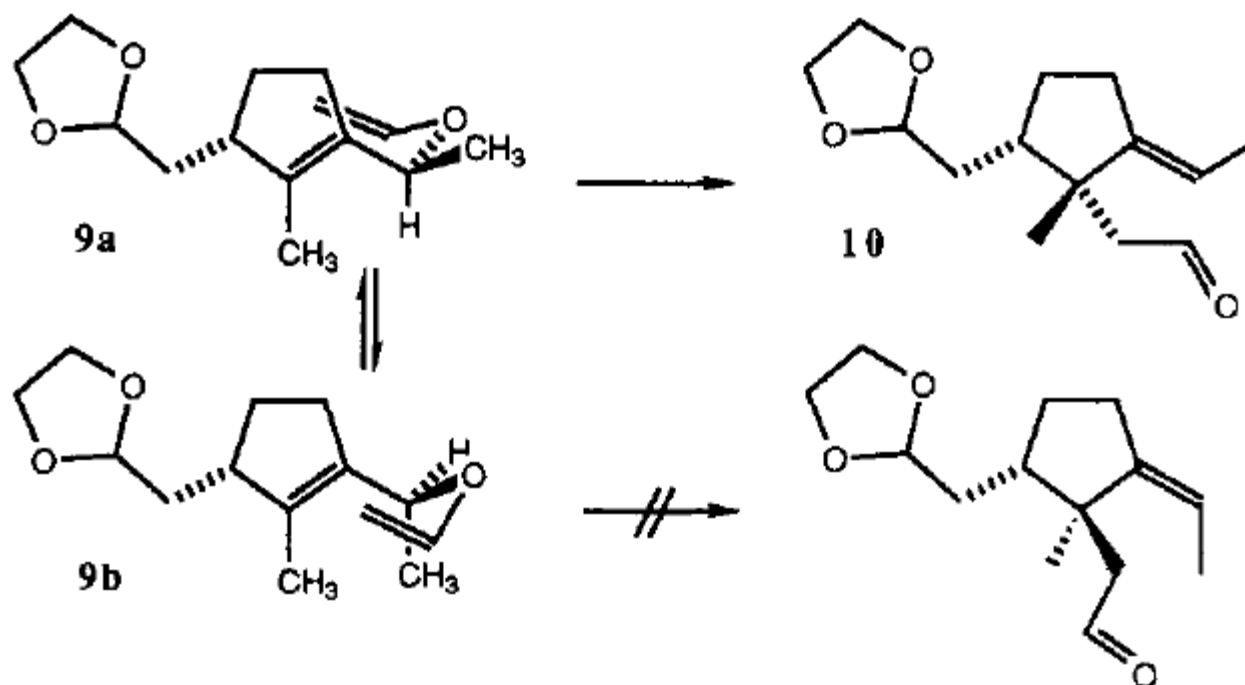
1,3-Allylic Strain



In more substituted systems, where several eclipsed conformations are possible, the preference develops for the hydrogen to eclipse the alkene σ_{C-C} bond.



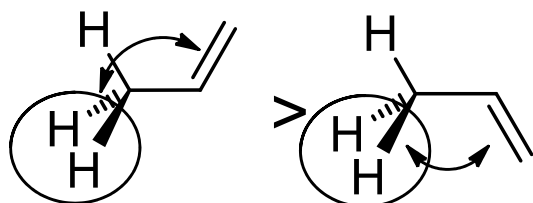
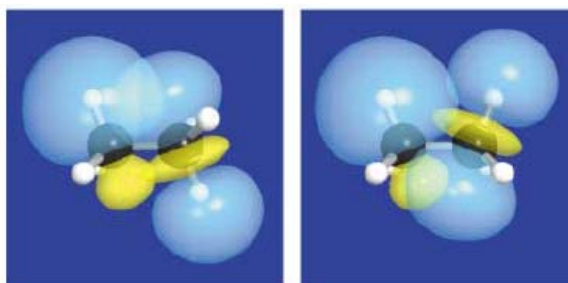
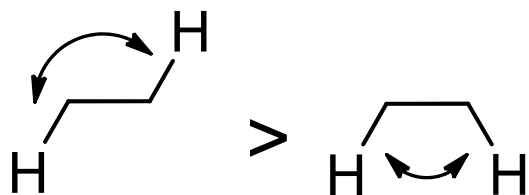
Allylic 1,3-strain in asymmetric synthesis



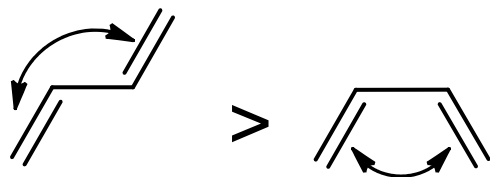
The formation of desired product **10** required an approach of the vinyl ether group at the sterically more hindered *a*-side. "Surprisingly", this is the only path which has been observed. Why?

Hoffman, R. "Allylic 1,3-strain as a controlling factor in stereoselective transformations". *Chem. Rev.* **1989**, 89: 1841–1860.

Vicinal conjugation and hyperconjugation display the same stereoelectronic preference for antiperiplanarity

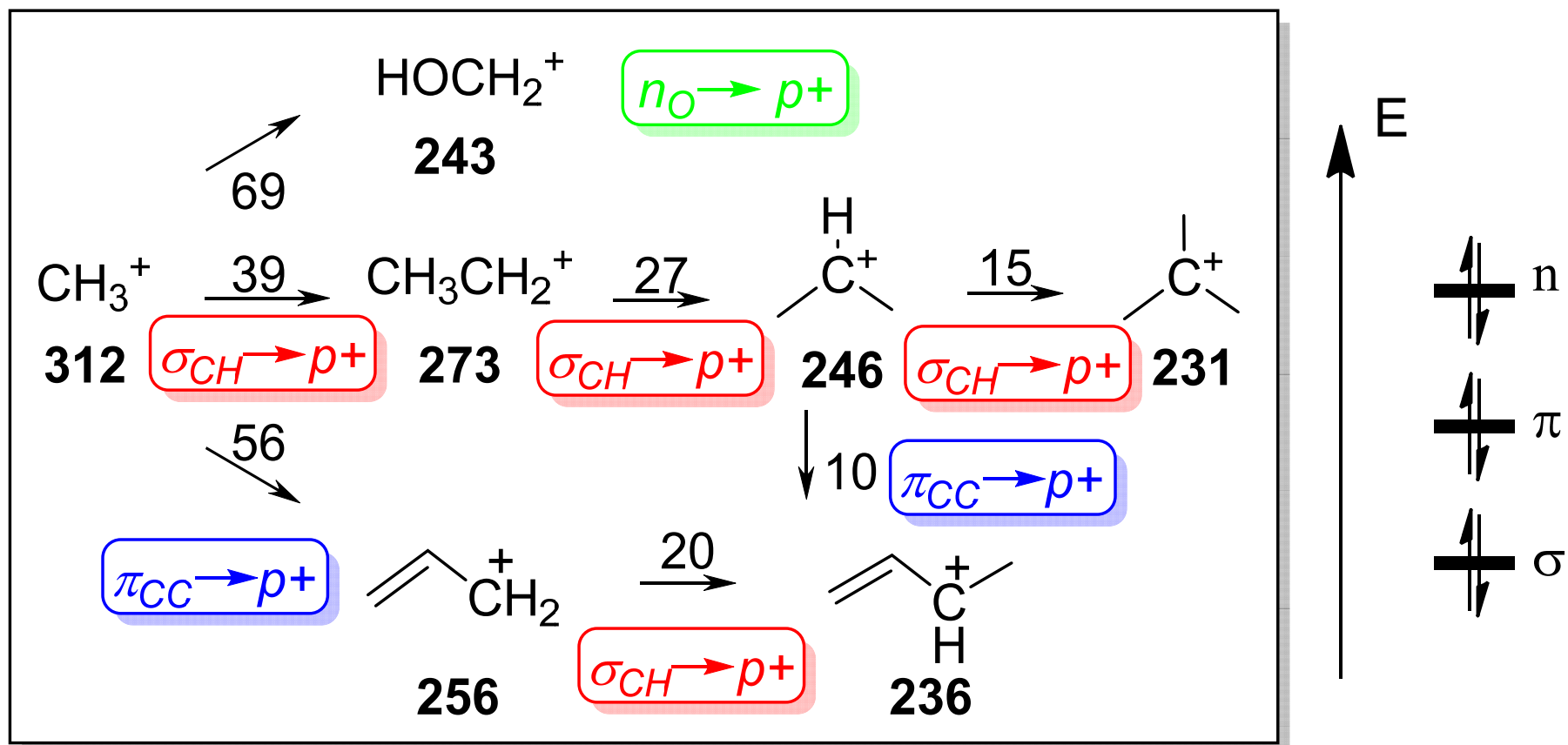


Conjugation and hyperconjugation are conceptually analogous. The same rules apply to these two phenomena.



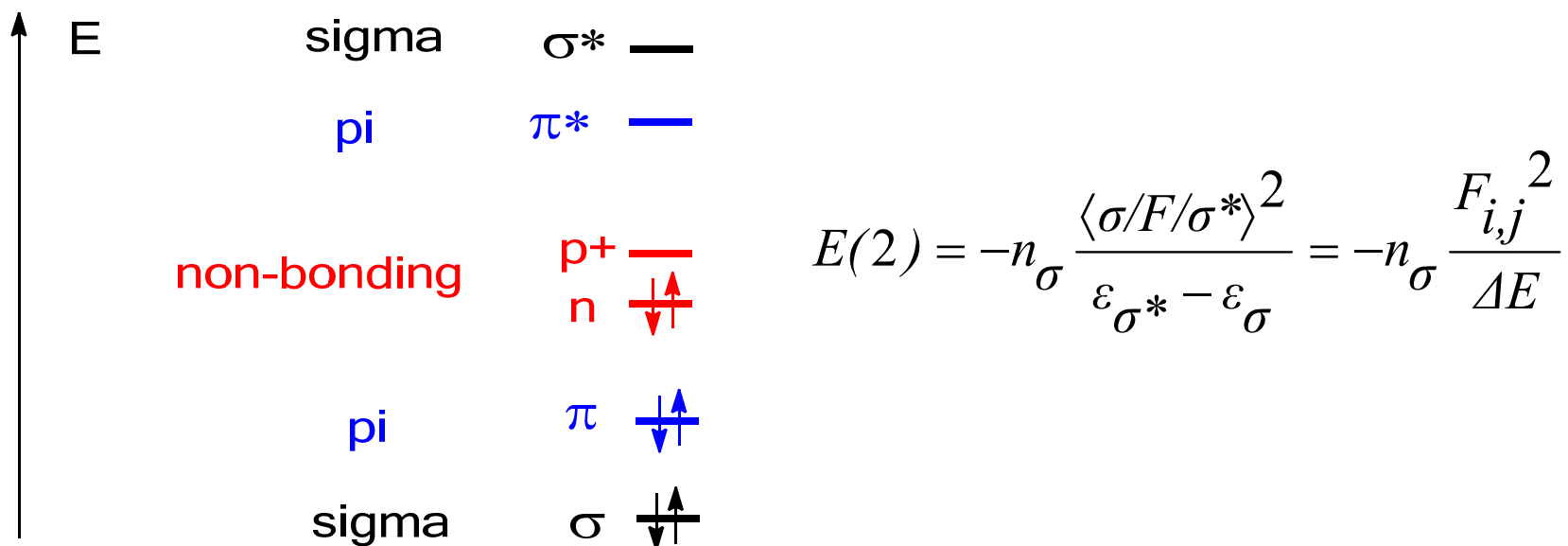
There is no need to be “hyper” about hyperconjugation.

Hyperconjugation: a poor cousin of conjugation?



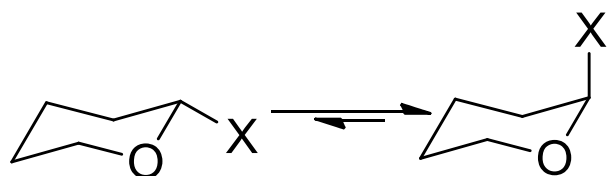
Absolute (data below the structures) and relative (data near the arrows) gas phase hydride ion affinities for selected carbocations. All energies are in kcal/mol. **Note that hyperconjugative energies for positive hyperconjugation in cations are much larger than they were in neutral hydrocarbons**

Let's move to stronger donors: Negative hyperconjugation



Presence of high energy non-bonding donor orbitals (lone pairs) has large consequences for stability and reactivity of molecules with heteroatoms

Negative hyperconjugation: Anomeric effect



M06-2X/6-311G++(d,p)

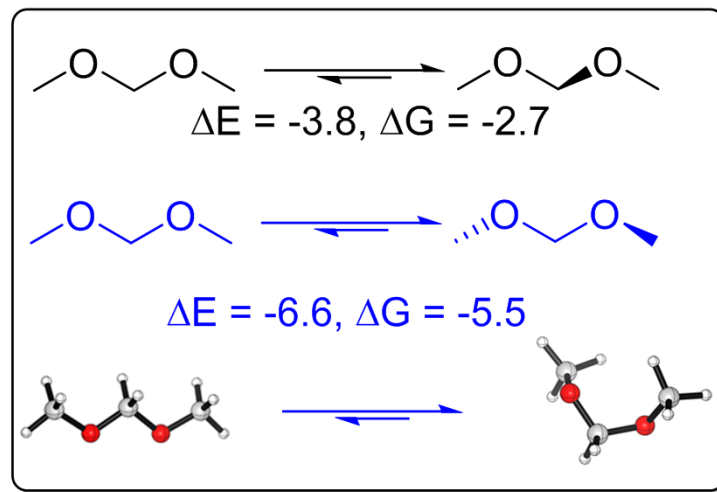
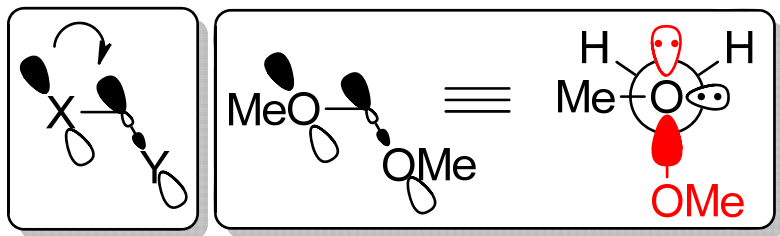
X	ΔE	ΔG
Cl	-3.9	-3.5
F	-3.0	-2.7
OMe	-3.9	-3.6

(in kcal/mol)

Acceptors at the
anomeric carbon
prefer axial position

Generalized anomeric effect:
applies to acyclic compounds

Conformational control via $n_X \rightarrow \sigma^*_{CY}$

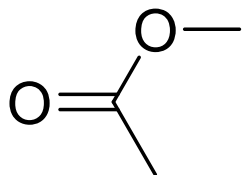


Can we apply anomeric effect to something new?

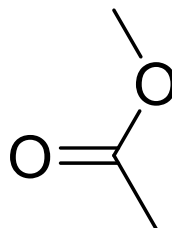
Alabugin, "Stereochemical effects", gas phase M06-2X/6-311G++(d,p) values

Negative hyperconjugation: Conformations of esters

Which one is more stable?



E-conformer

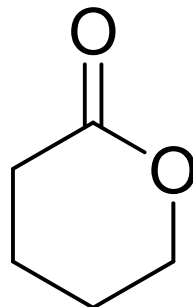


Z-conformer

The strongest effect is $n_O \rightarrow \pi^*_{CO}$ but it does not change between the conformers.

We need to look at the 2nd best pair of donor and acceptor

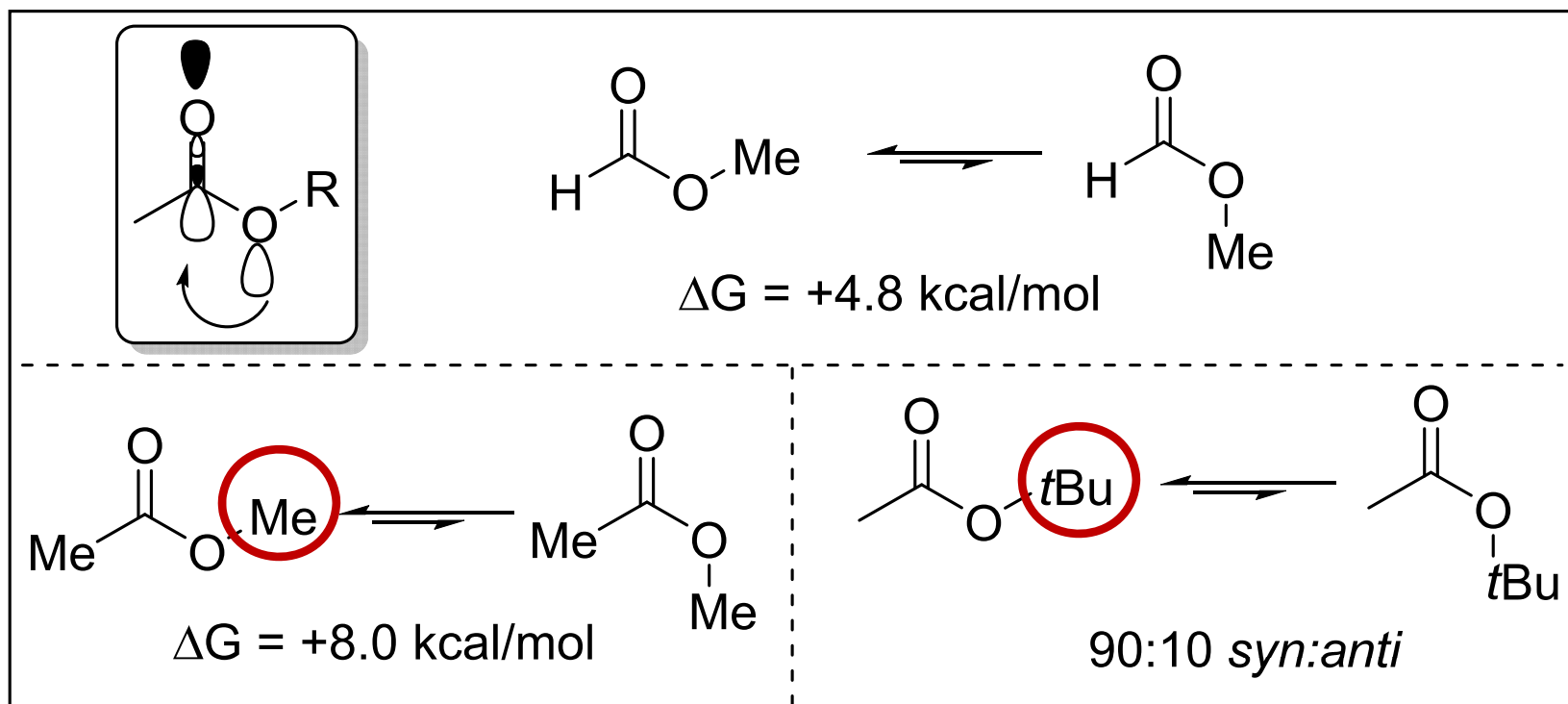
Hint: lactones are more reactive than simple acyclic esters



Methyl, ethyl and isopropyl formate are ~ 99 % “trans”:
Tetrahedron Letters, 1982, 1757–1760

Conformations of esters

The second strongest effect is $n_o \rightarrow \sigma^*CO$



Story #1

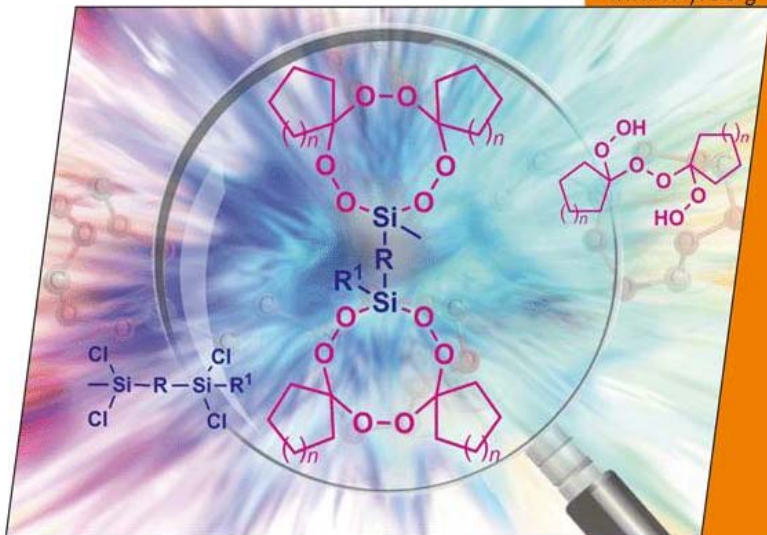


**EurJOC**
European Journal of
Organic Chemistry

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Cover Picture

Alexander O. Terent'ev et al.
Synthesis of Nine-Membered Bicyclic Silyl Peroxides

Microreview

Jacky C.-H. Yim and Laurel L. Schafer
Alkyne Hydroamination Catalysts

A sister journal of Asian Journal of Organic Chemistry
EJOCFR (31) 6807-7050 (2014) • ISSN 1434-193X • No. 31/2014

A Journal of



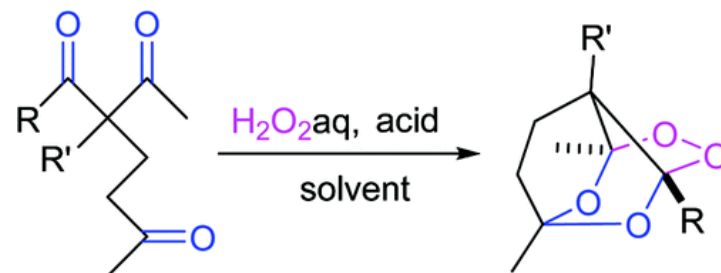
ChemPubSoc
Europe

Supported by

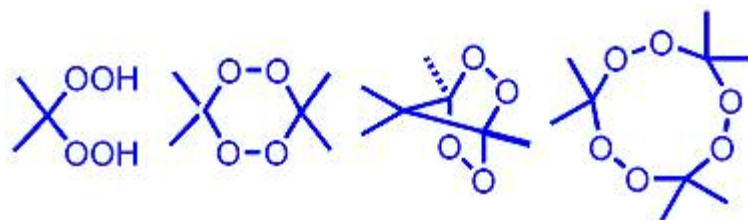


WILEY-VCH

Stable peroxides



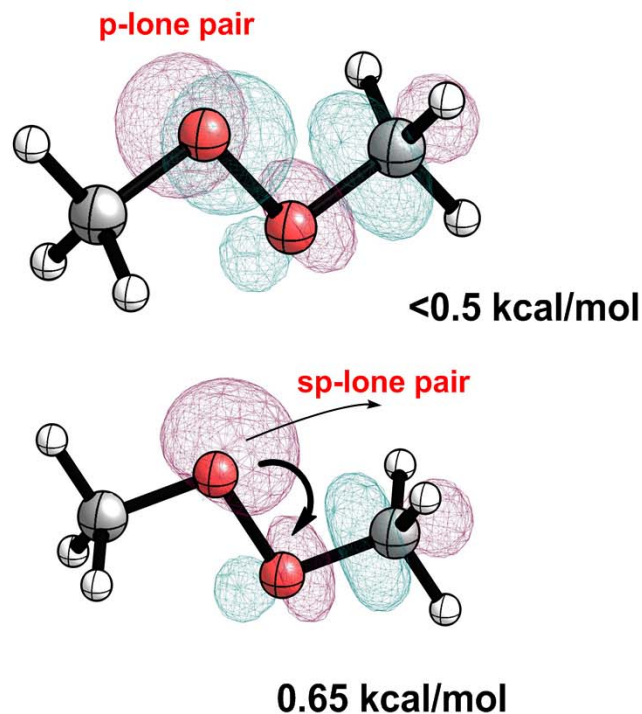
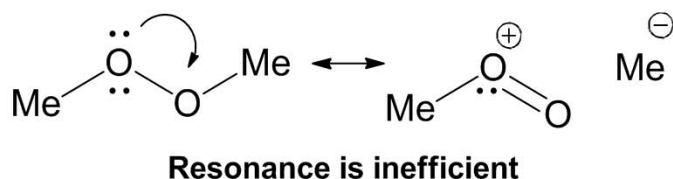
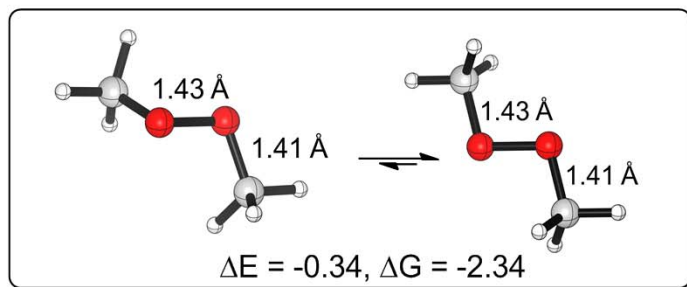
15 Examples; Yield 39-90%



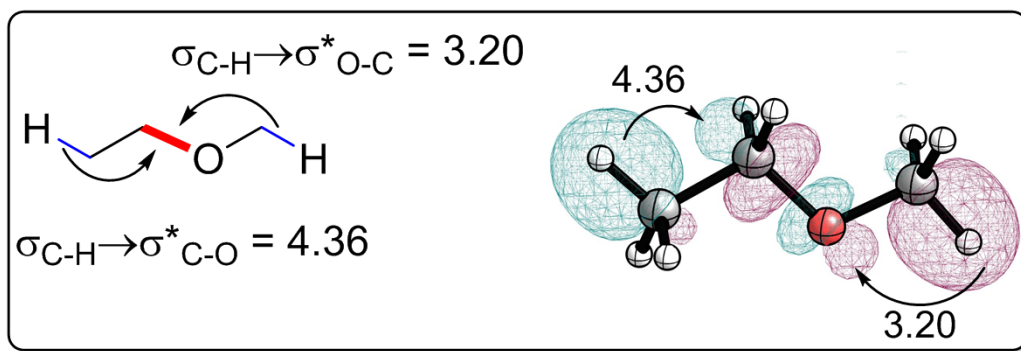
Antitumor, Antiparasitic, Antimicrobial



Can anomeric effect stabilize peroxides?

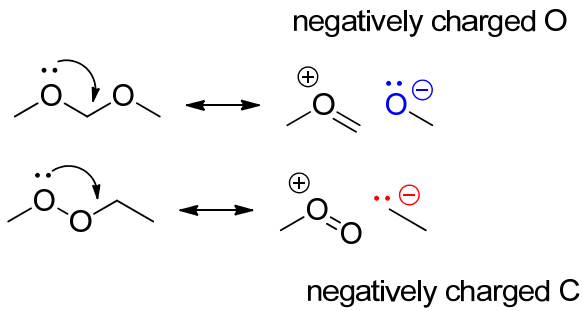


Anti-conformation is more stable and $n \rightarrow \sigma^*(\text{O}-\text{C})$ interaction are small: anomeric interactions are not important

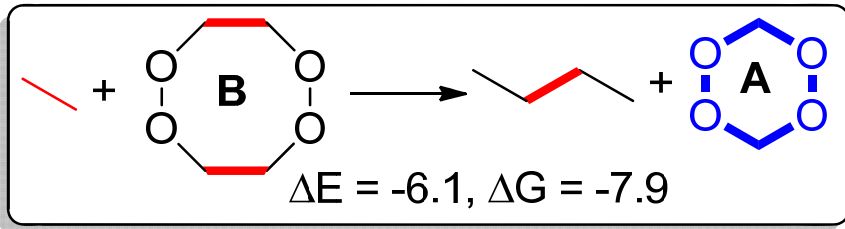


$\sigma^*_{\text{O-C}}$ is a much weaker acceptor than $\sigma^*_{\text{C-O}}$

Alabugin, *J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, 3910

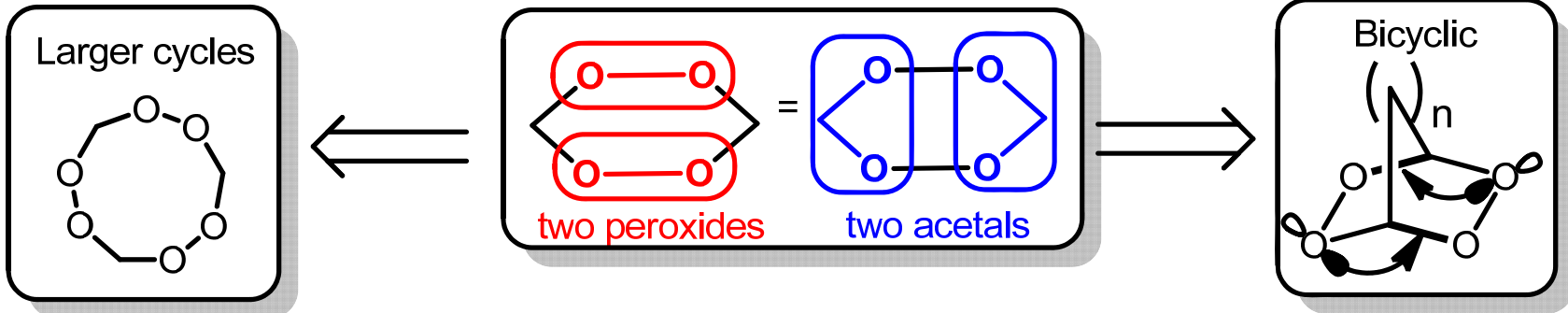


How to activate anomeric effect? Go from mono- to bis-peroxides



How to stabilize peroxides?
Bring two peroxides closer and
convert them into acetals!

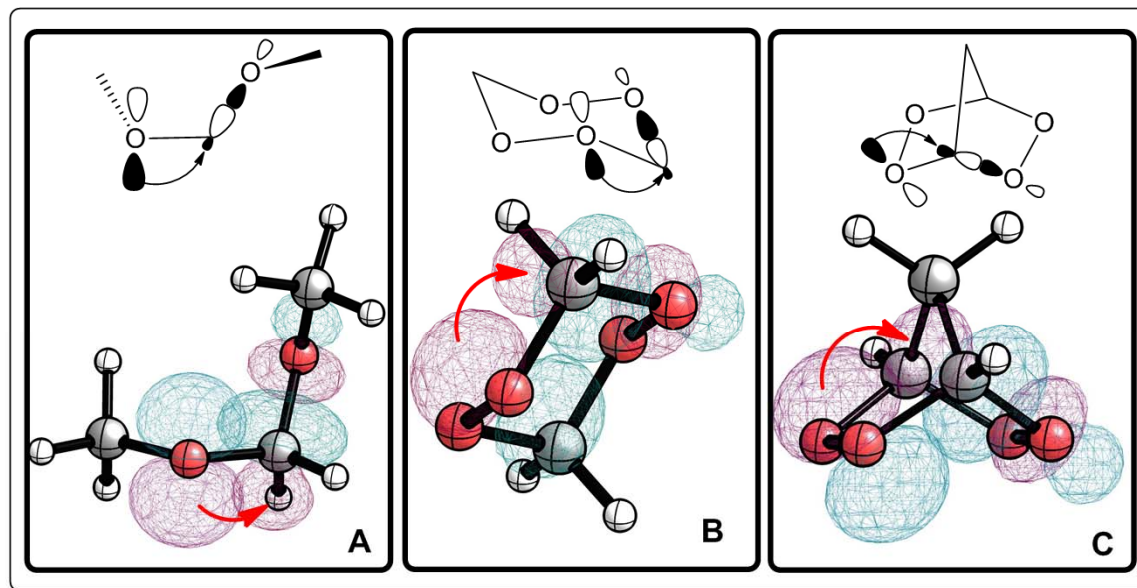
Two peroxides can stabilize each other when they are separated by a one-atom bridge



Bis-peroxides masquerade as bis-acetals: strong anomeric interactions



How to stabilize
peroxides?
Activate
anomeric
interactions



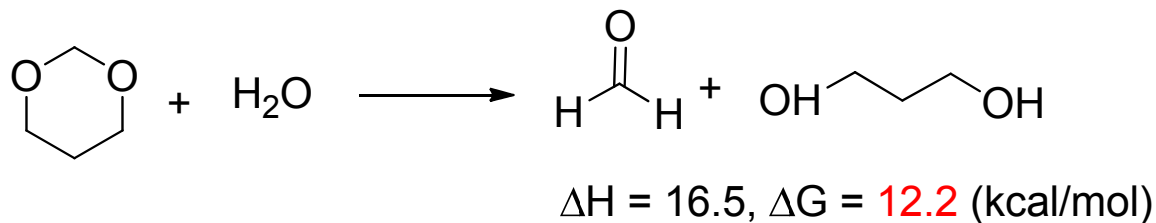
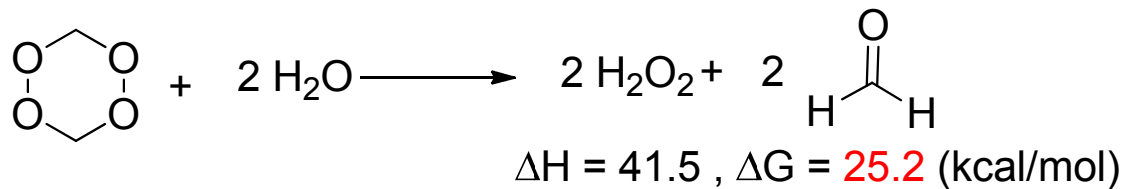
Stabilization
energies:

14.1

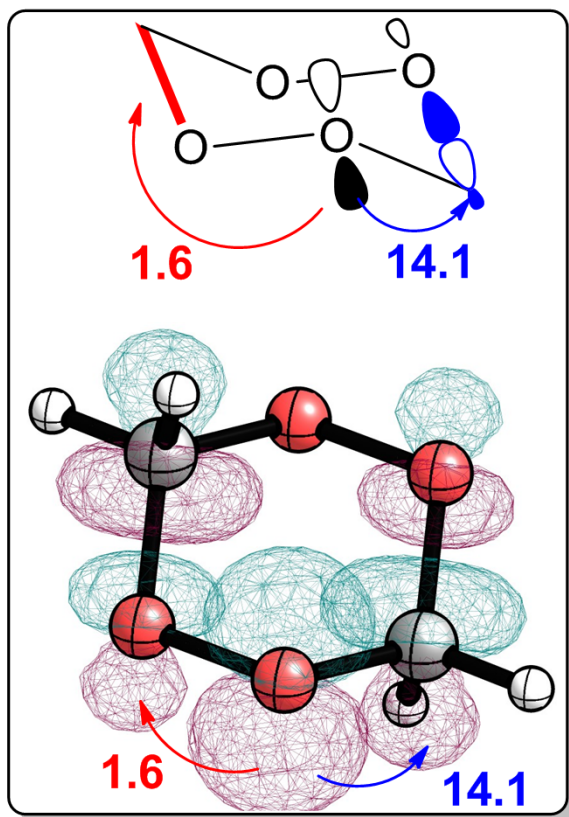
14.7

16.4 (kcal/mol)

Increase
stability to
hydrolysis



Let's compare acceptor ability of σ^*_{O-C} and σ^*_{O-C} orbitals again



Much stronger $n_O \rightarrow \sigma^*$ CO interactions: greater hyperconjugative stabilization explains why 2nd peroxide in the same molecule can increase stability

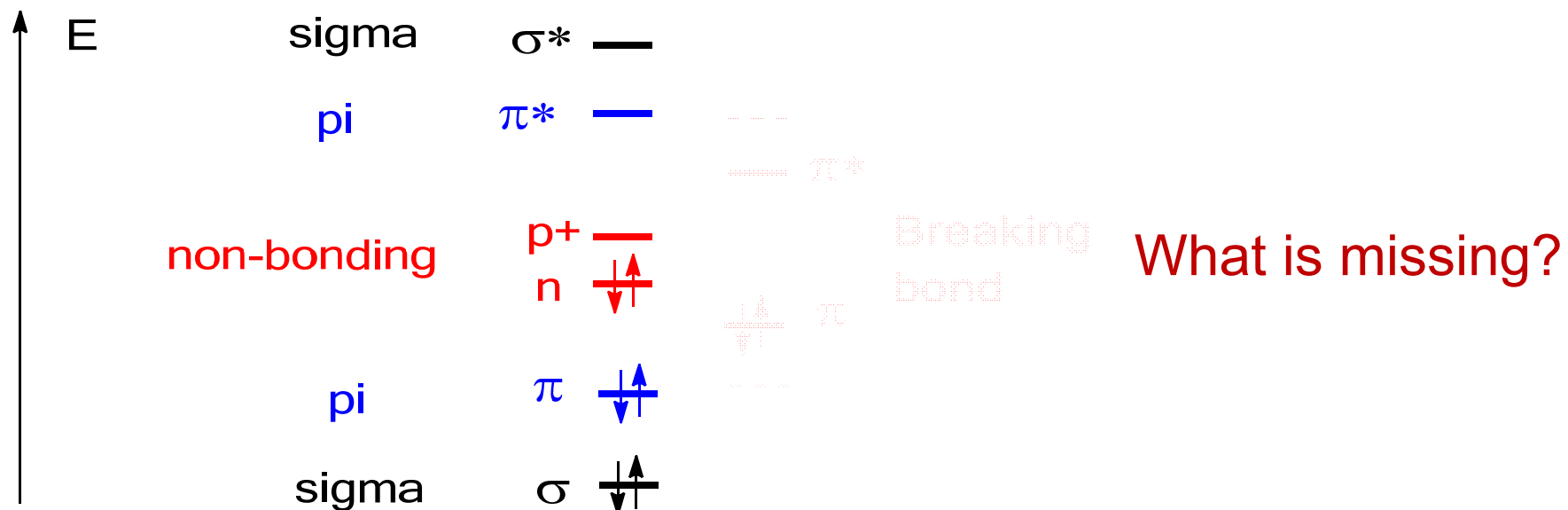
Story #2



Hyperconjugation in “click” transition states

What makes a strong donor?

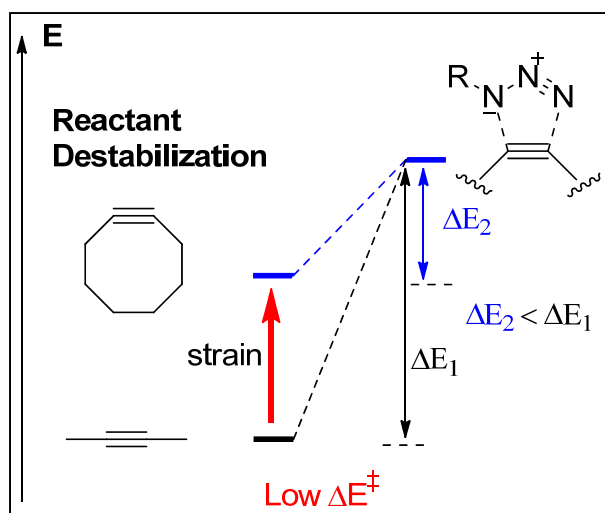
Hierarchy of orbitals:



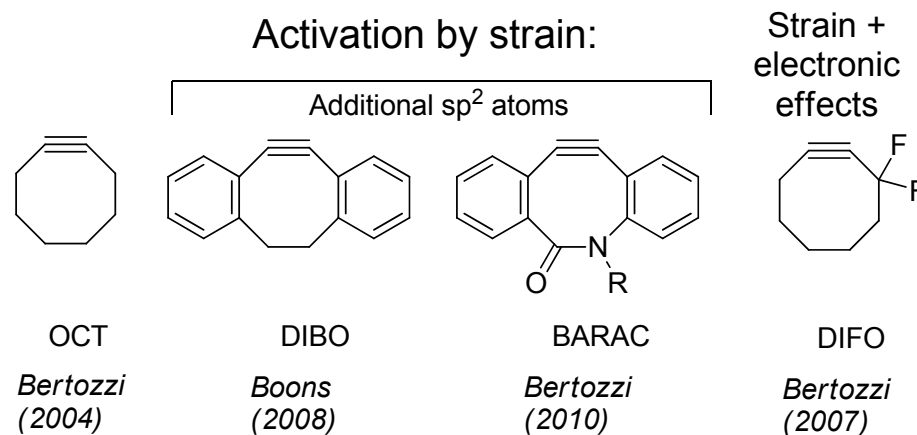
Breaking (or stretched) bonds are strong donors and strong acceptors

New alkynes for Cu-free click chemistry, or molecular matchmaking

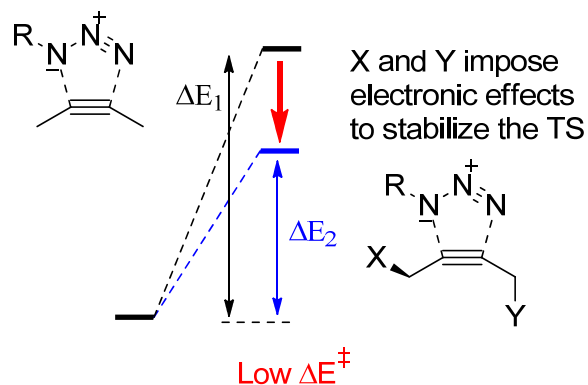
- How to achieve alkyne/azide union without the help of copper?



Starting higher on the energy slope



Transition State Stabilization



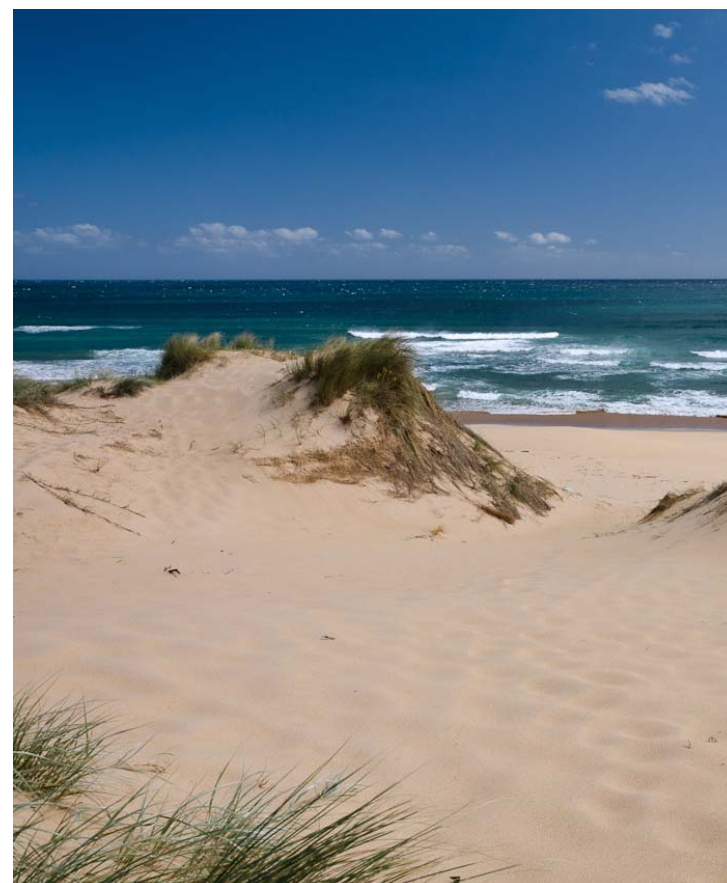
Can we offer an alternative and identify electronic effects for selective **Transition State stabilization**?

Two Ways Over the "Mountain"

E

Start Higher

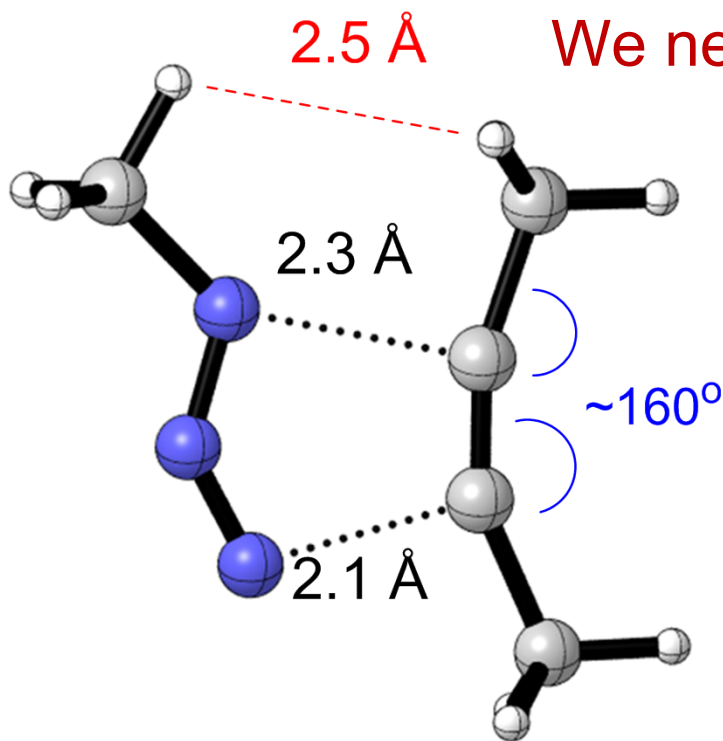
Make the Mountain Smaller



B. Gold, N. Shevchenko, N. Bonus, G. B. Dudley, I. V. Alabugin, *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, 77, 75.

How to stabilize cycloaddition transition states?

Let's look at the sources of "molecular discomfort" in the parent TS:



We need to avoid close steric contacts

...and alleviate the cost of alkyne bending

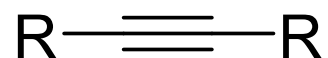
How can we make alkynes more flexible?

Yoga is not an option!

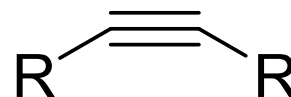


Bent Alkyne: Functional Group at the brink of collapse

Linear Alkyne

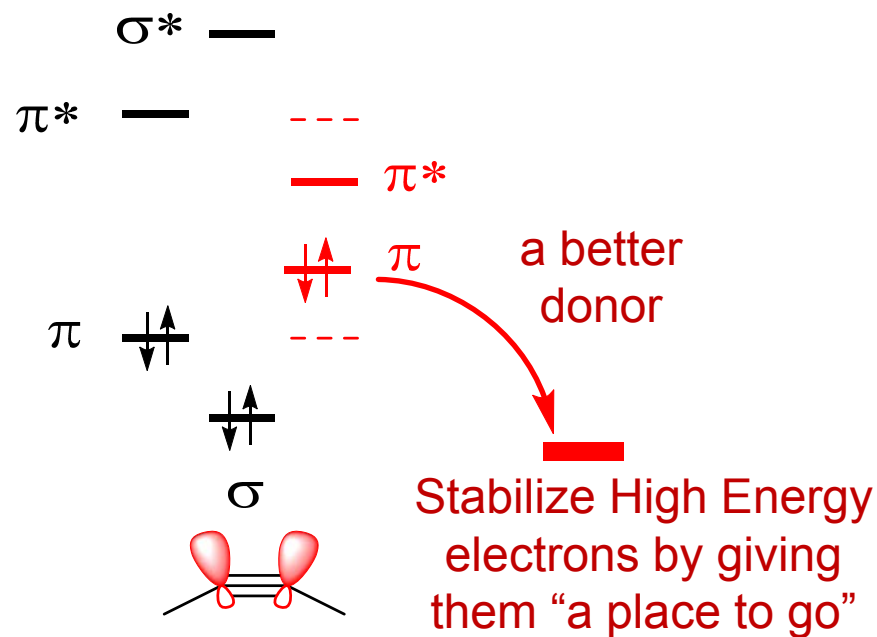
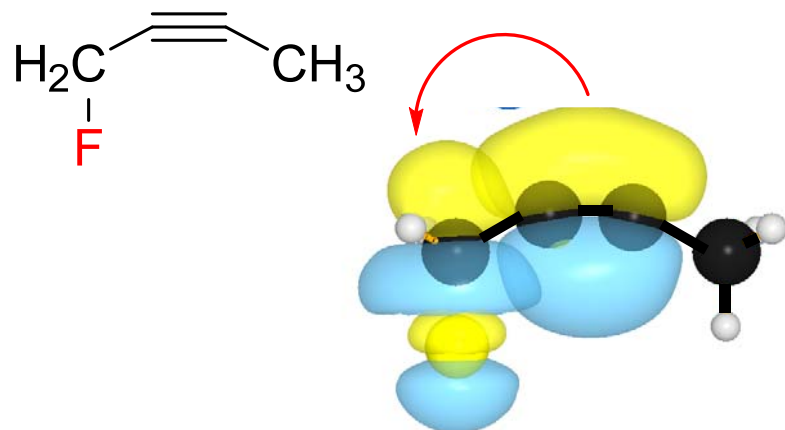


Bent Alkyne

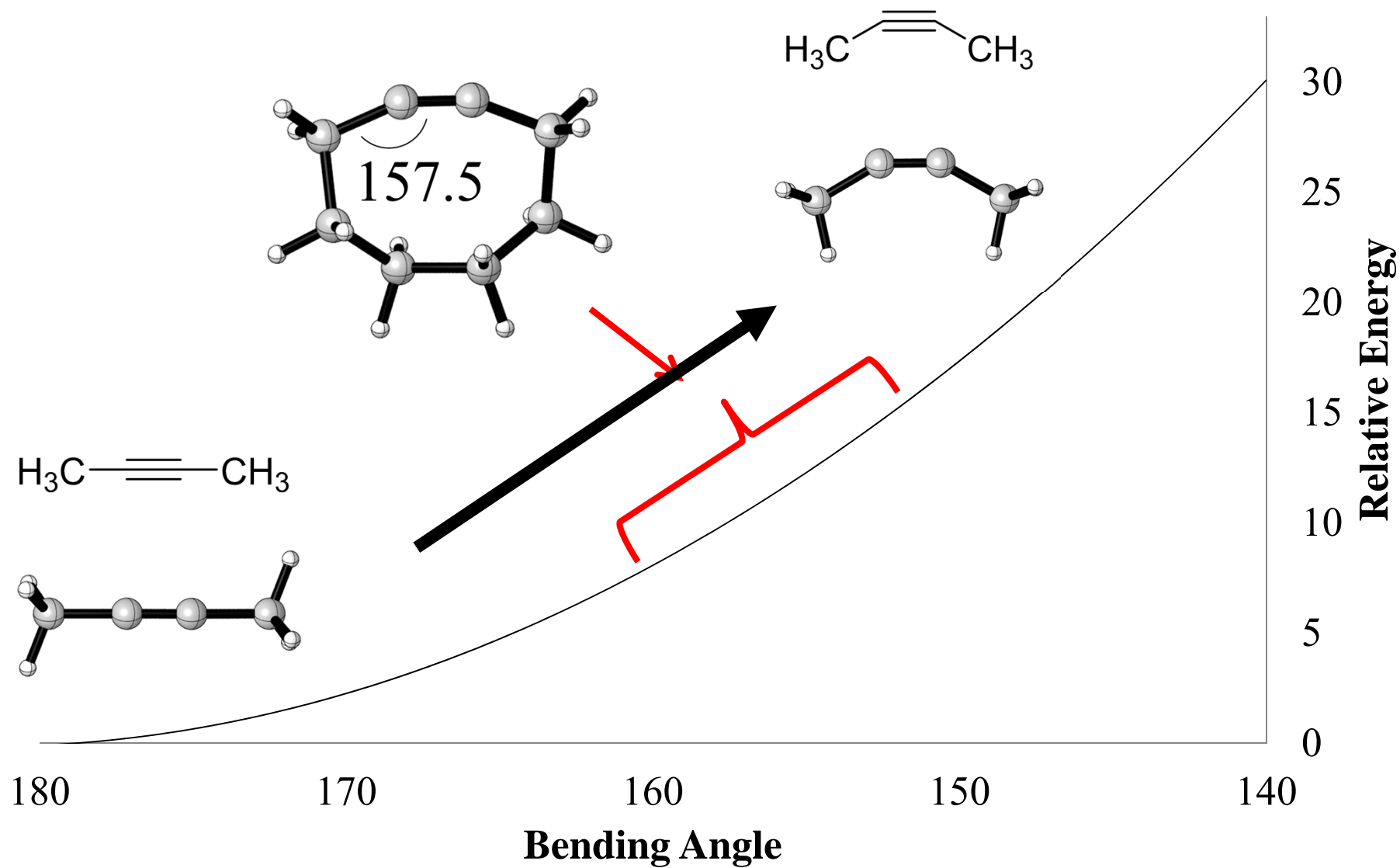


Let's describe the two systems from the
molecular orbital point of view

Provide the good donor
with a good acceptor

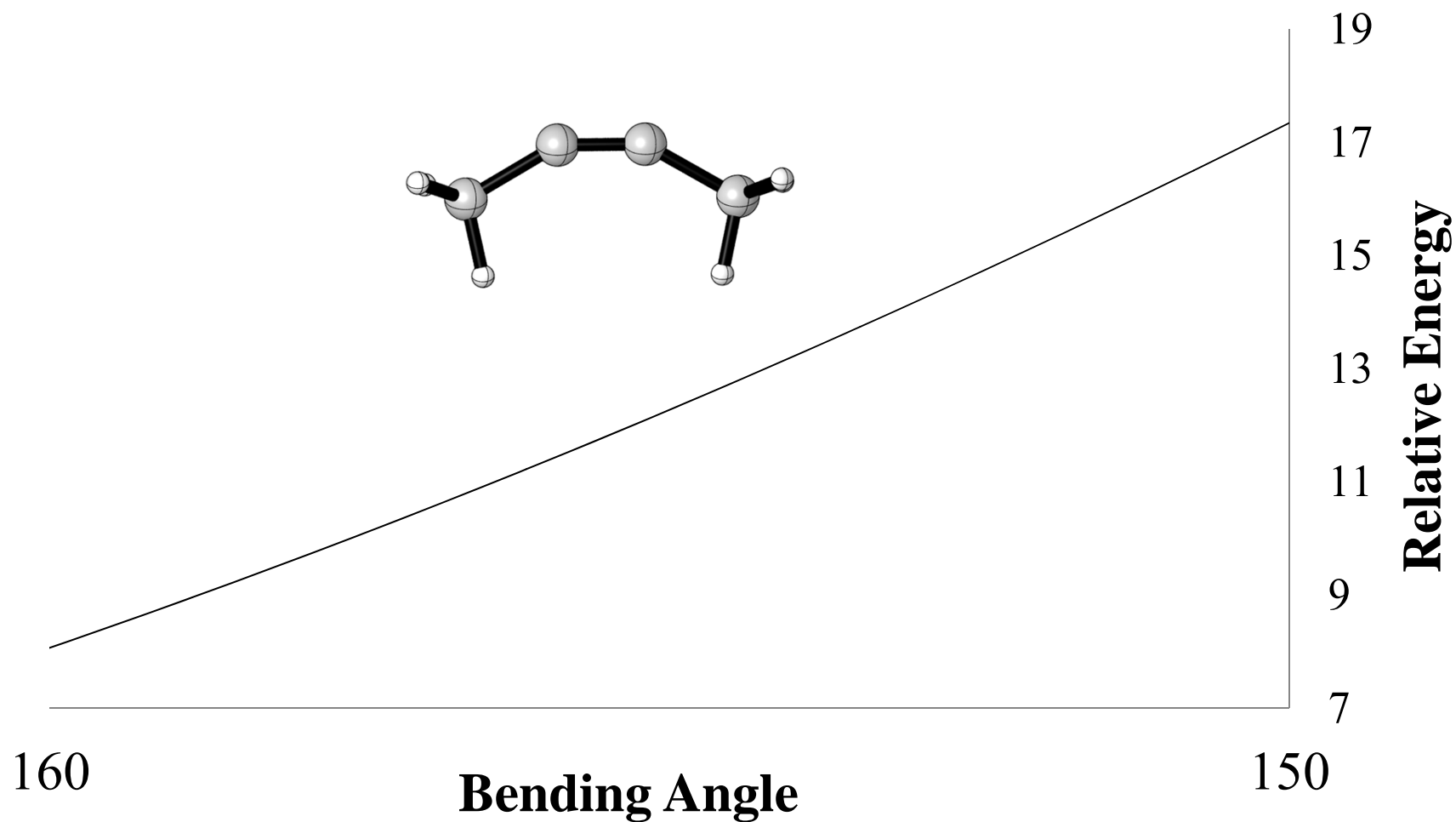


Assistance to Bending

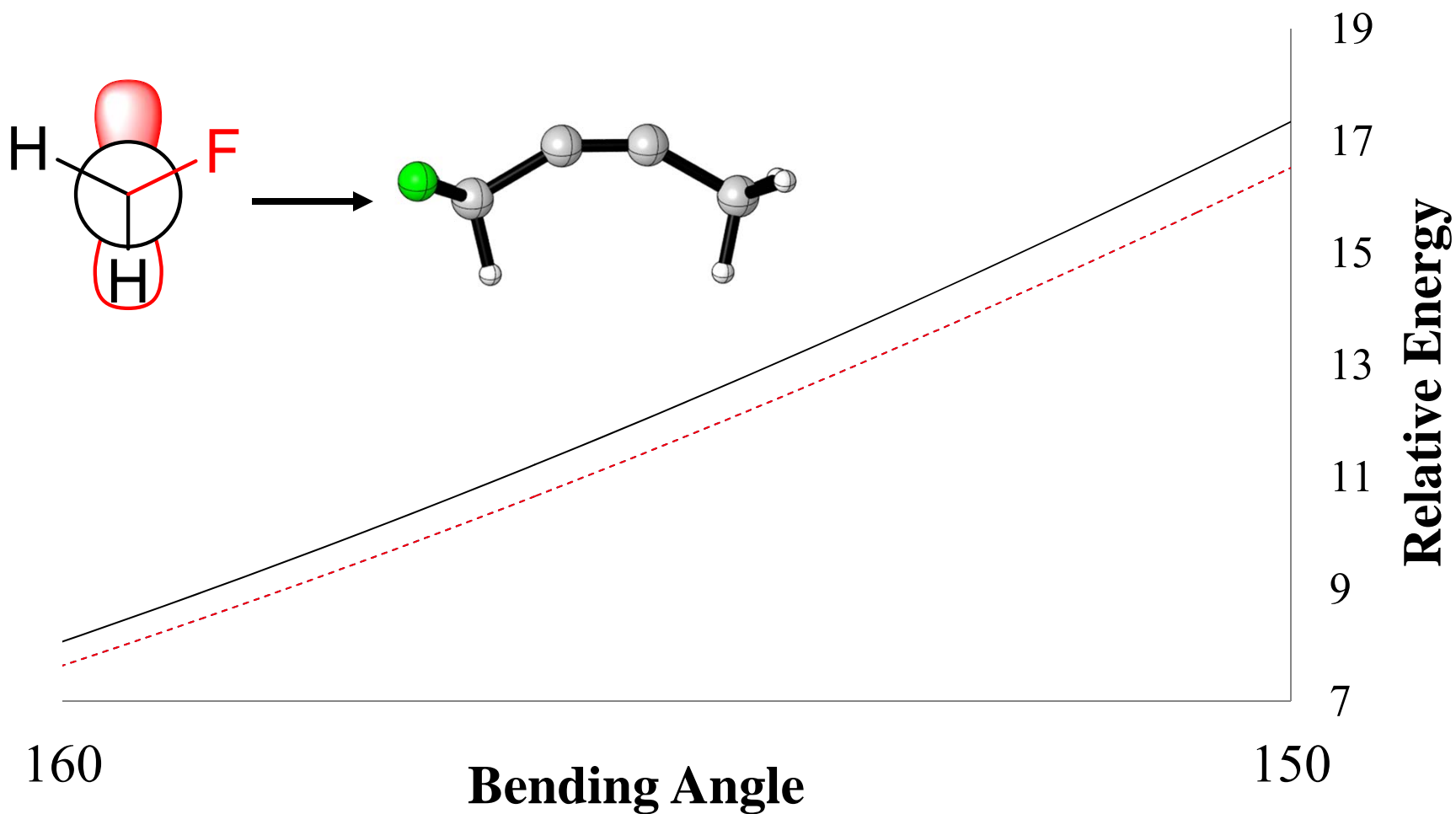




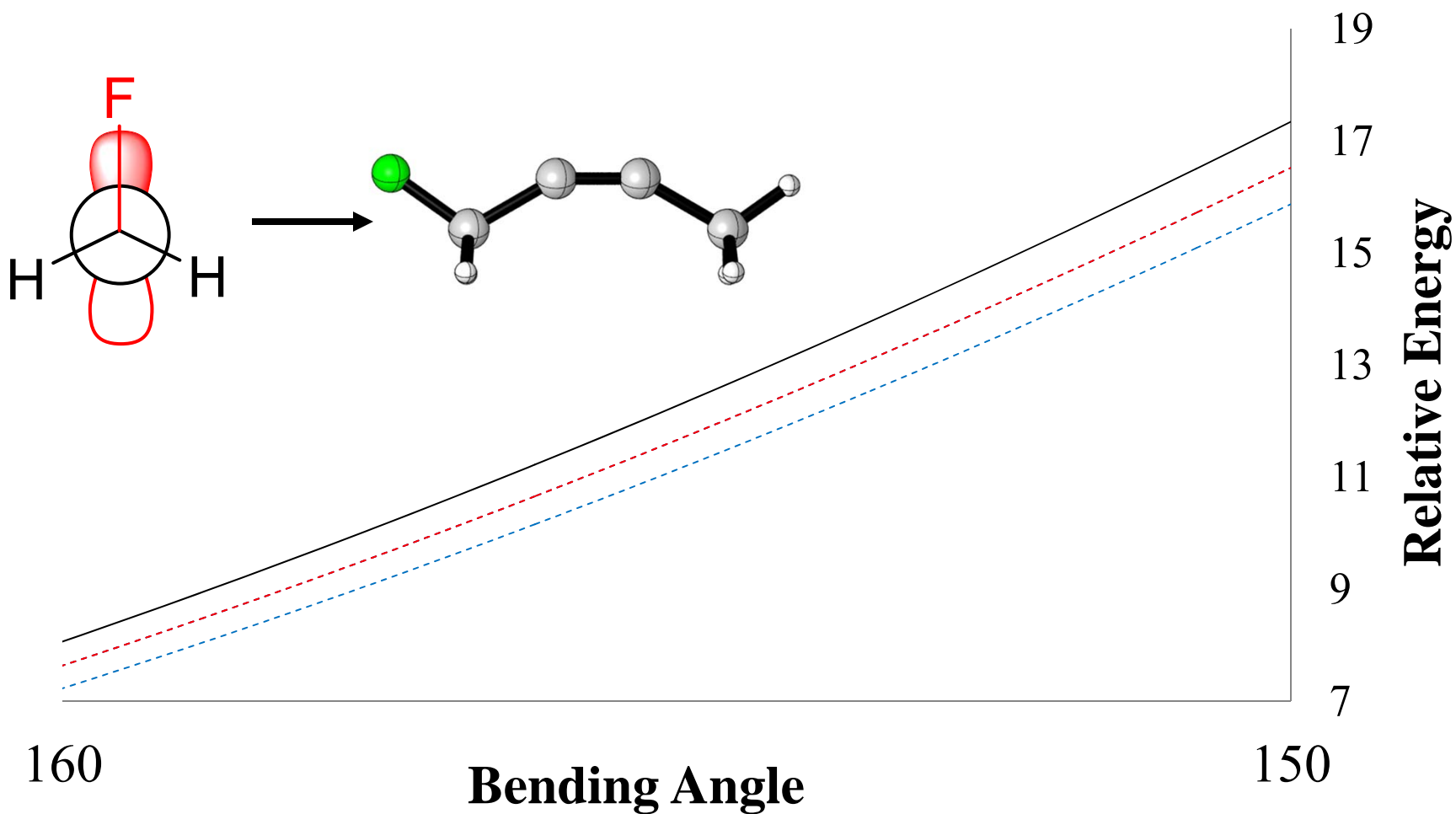
Assistance to Bending



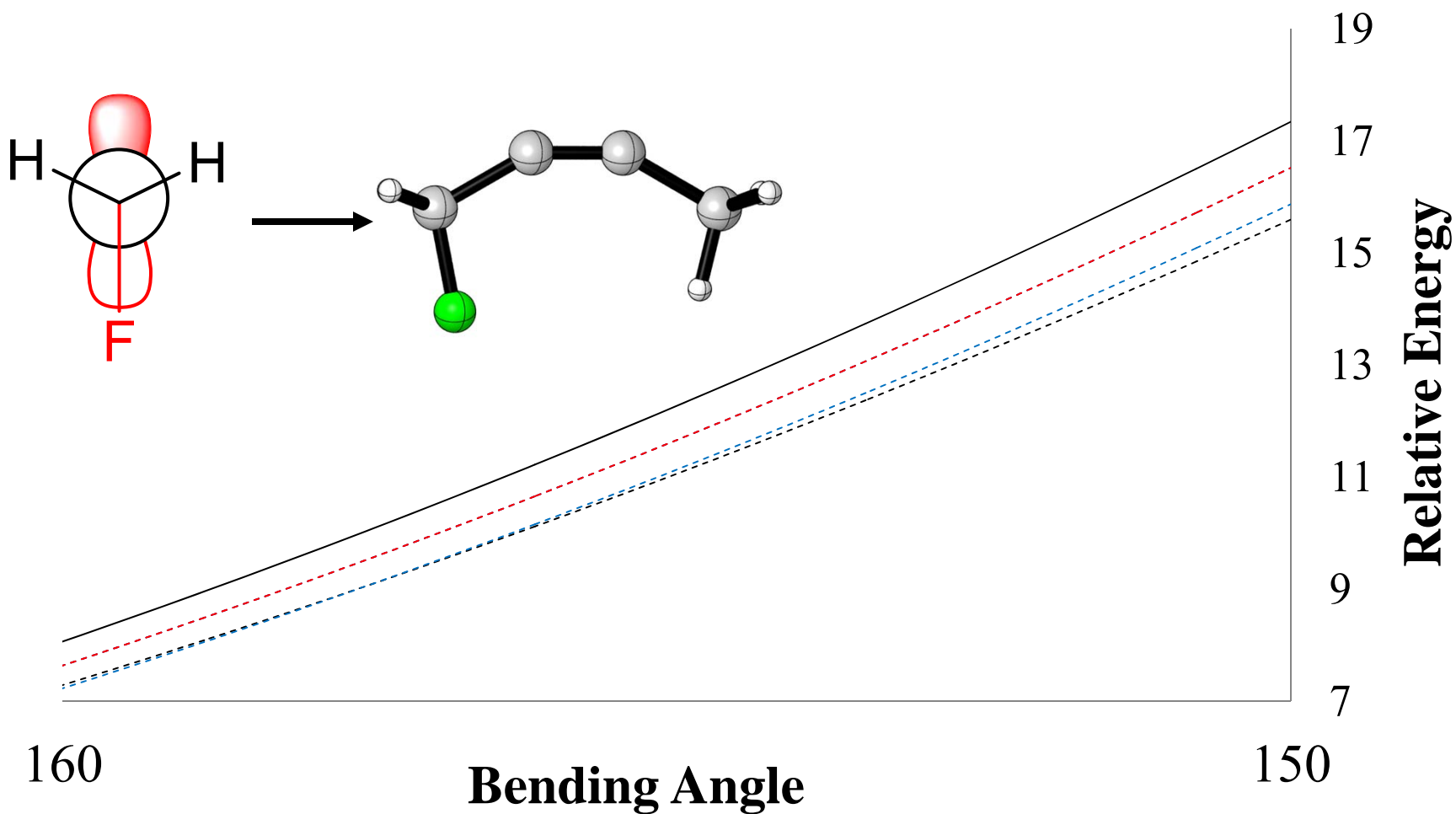
Assistance to Bending



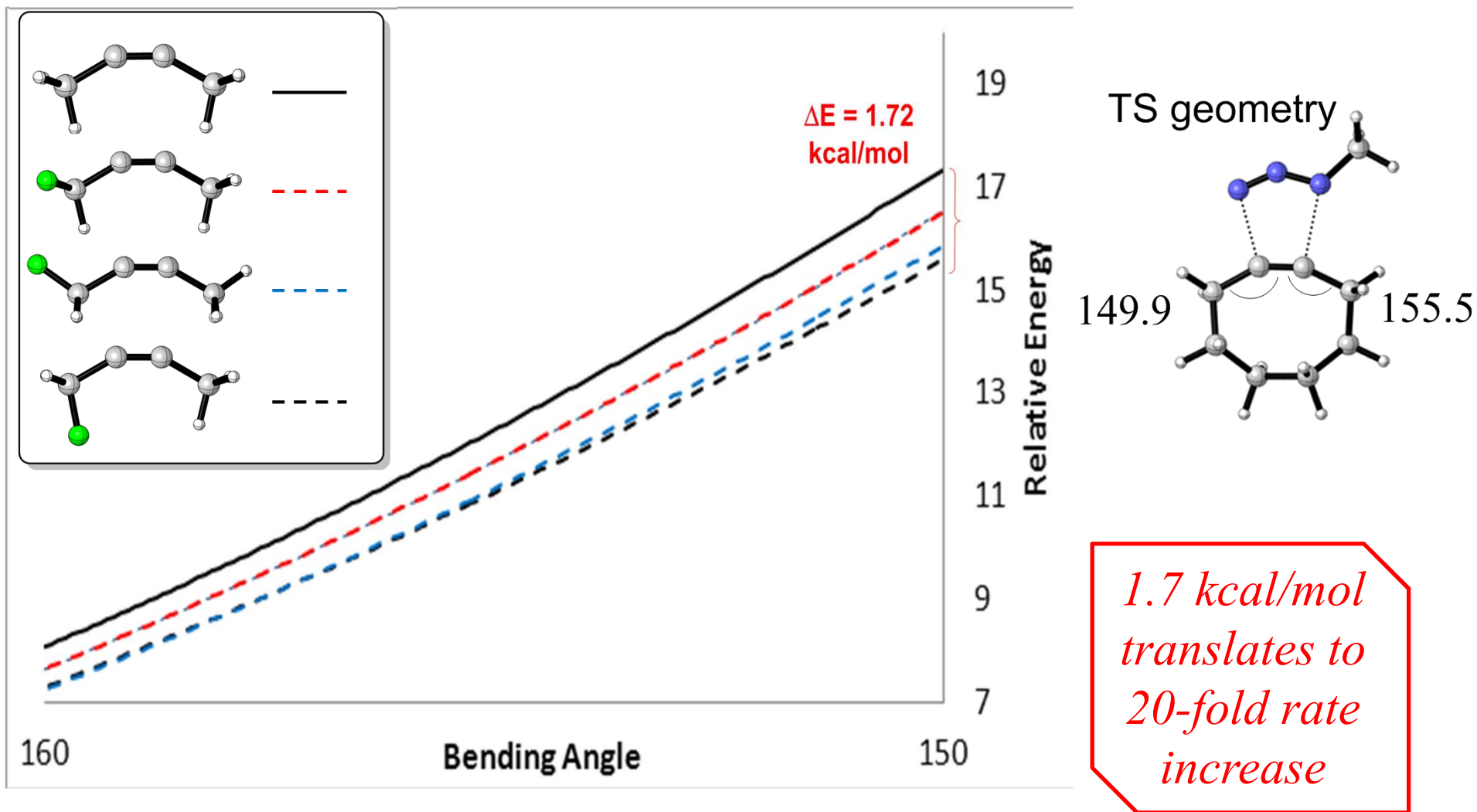
Assistance to Bending



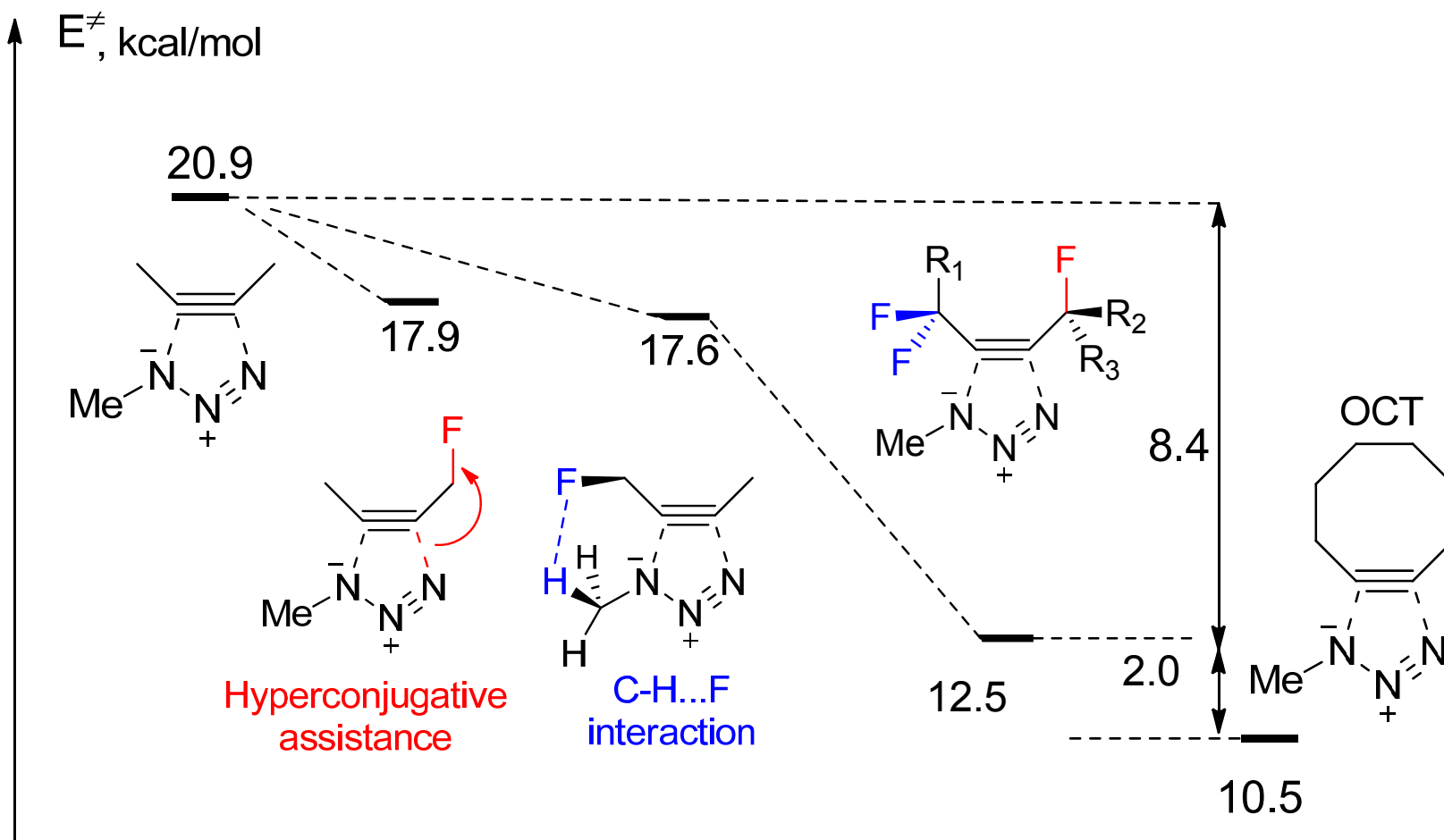
Assistance to Bending



An Easier Climb: Stereoelectronic Assistance to Alkyne Bending



Helping two molecules to connect: combining electronic effects for TS stabilization

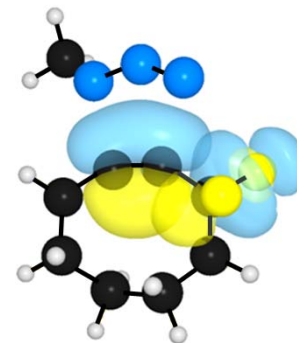
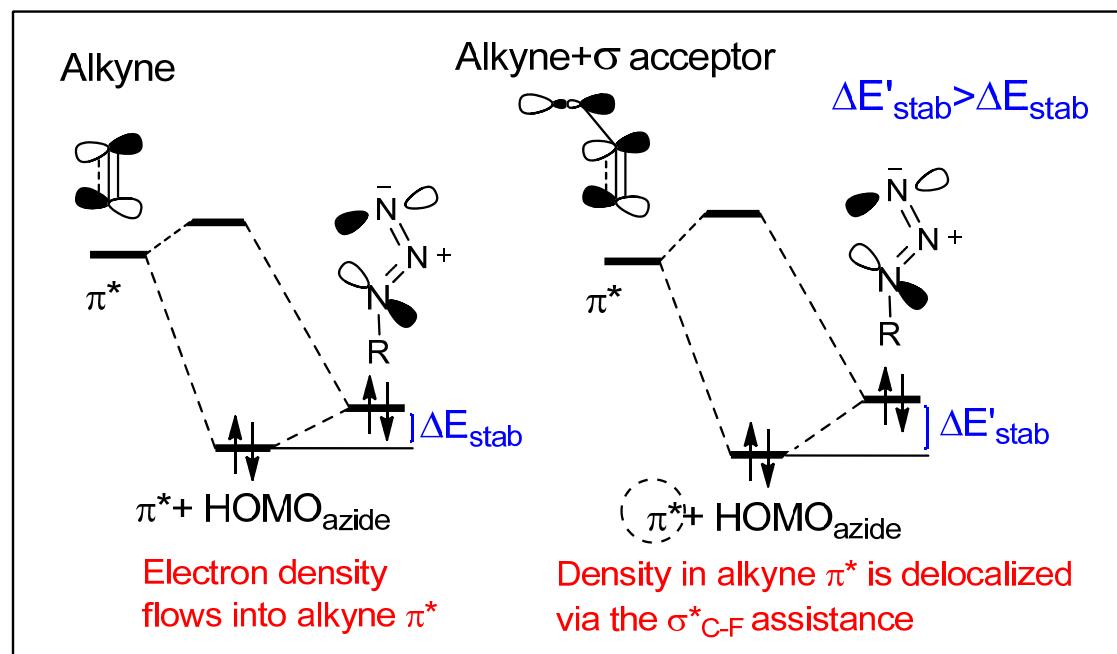


Blend activating effects removes 80% of difference between butyne and cyclooctyne

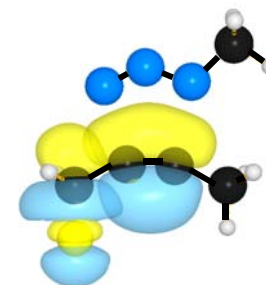
Gold, Schevchenko, Bonus, Dudley, Alabugin, *JOC*, **2012**, 77, 75.

Electronic basis for selective TS stabilization:

2. Assistance to bond formation:



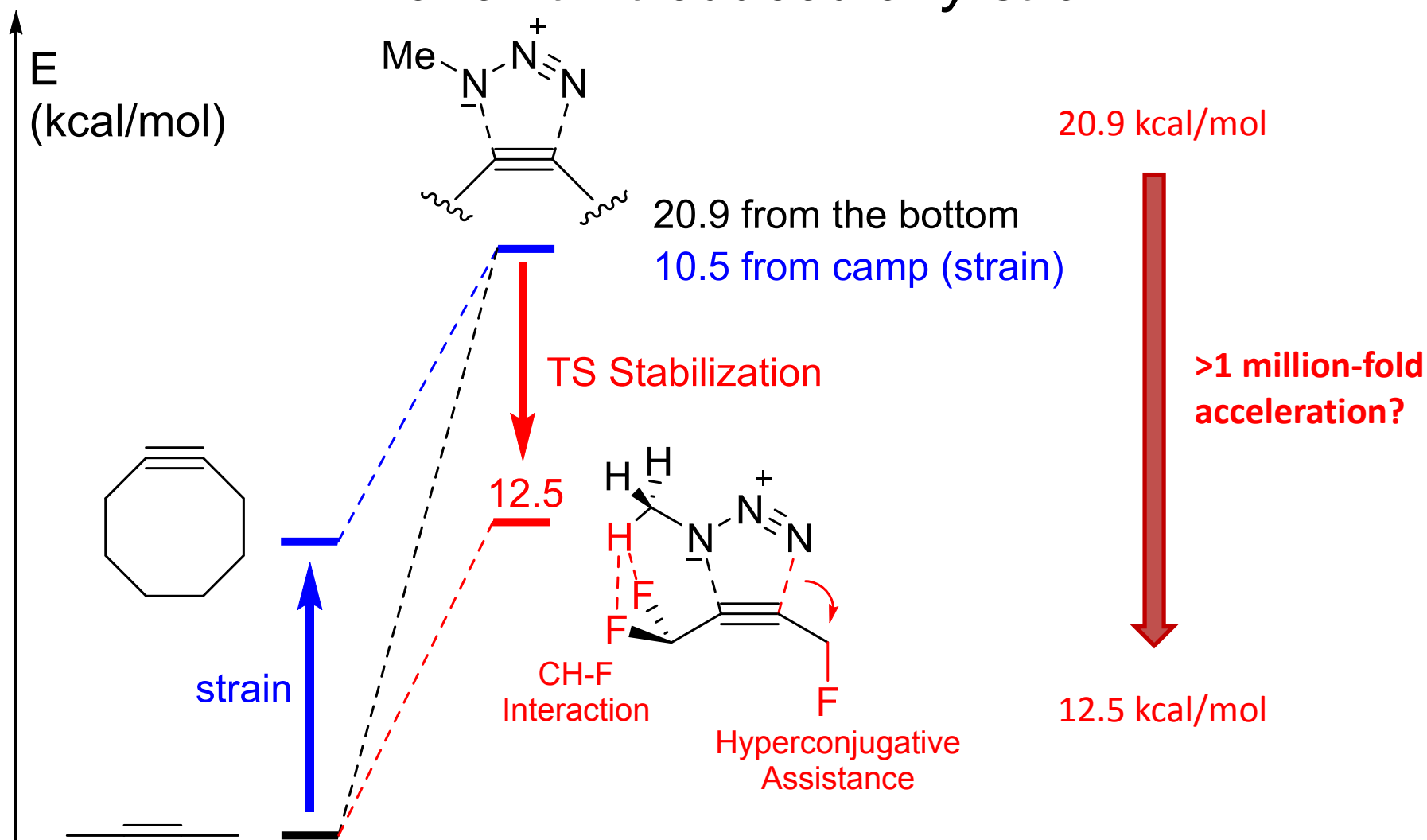
Overlap in DIFO is suboptimal.



Antiperiplanar arrangement is better

The increase in the alkyne π^* population due to the C...N bond forming interaction augments the effect of propargylic acceptor on alkyne bending

Our climb is only ~20% harder than from camp and we haven't introduced any strain

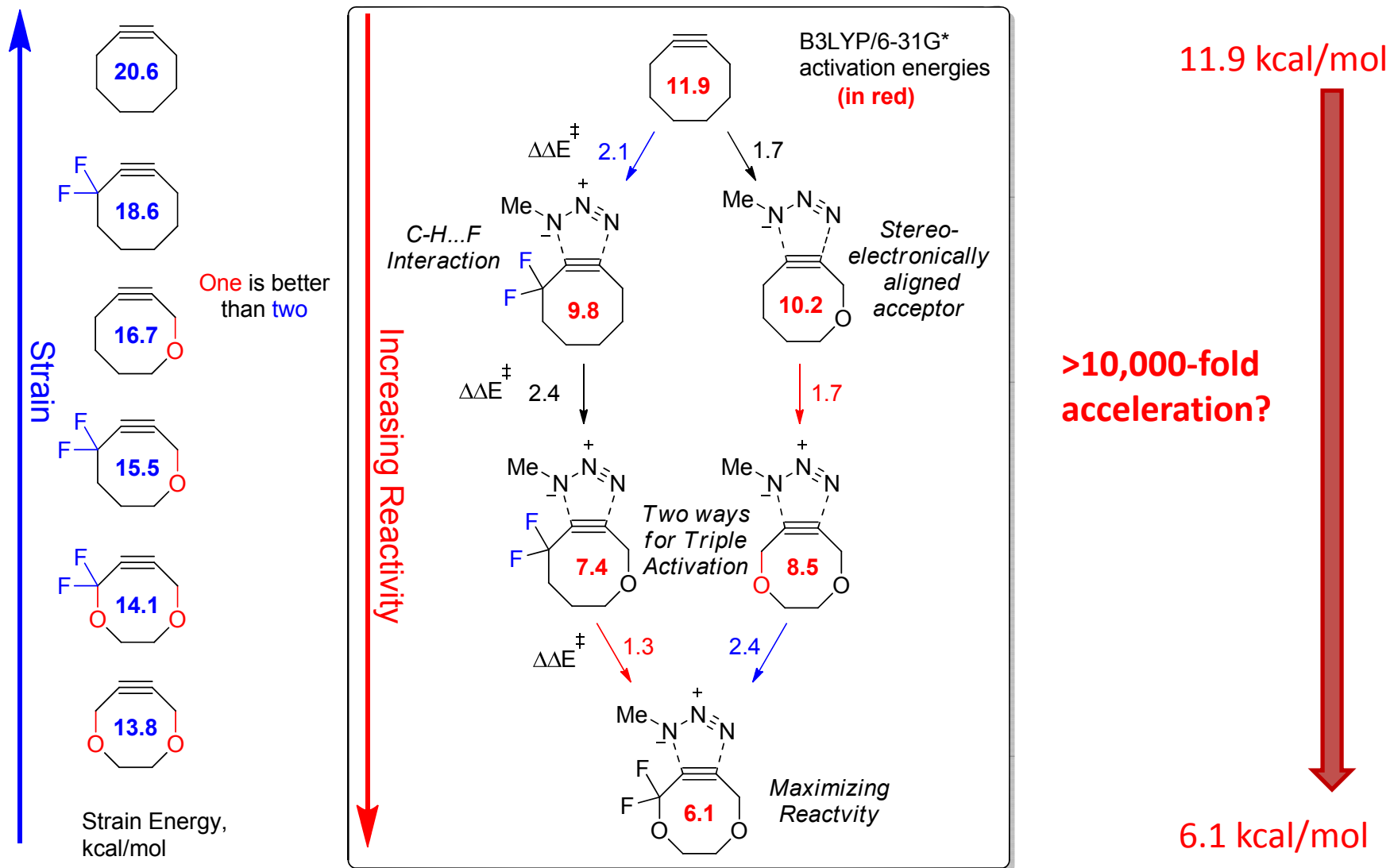


Can we design alkynes that surpass cyclooctyne in stability **and** reactivity?

Click reagents with tunable reactivity: combining strain with endocyclic acceptors

Endocyclic acceptors relieve strain...

...without sacrificing reactivity

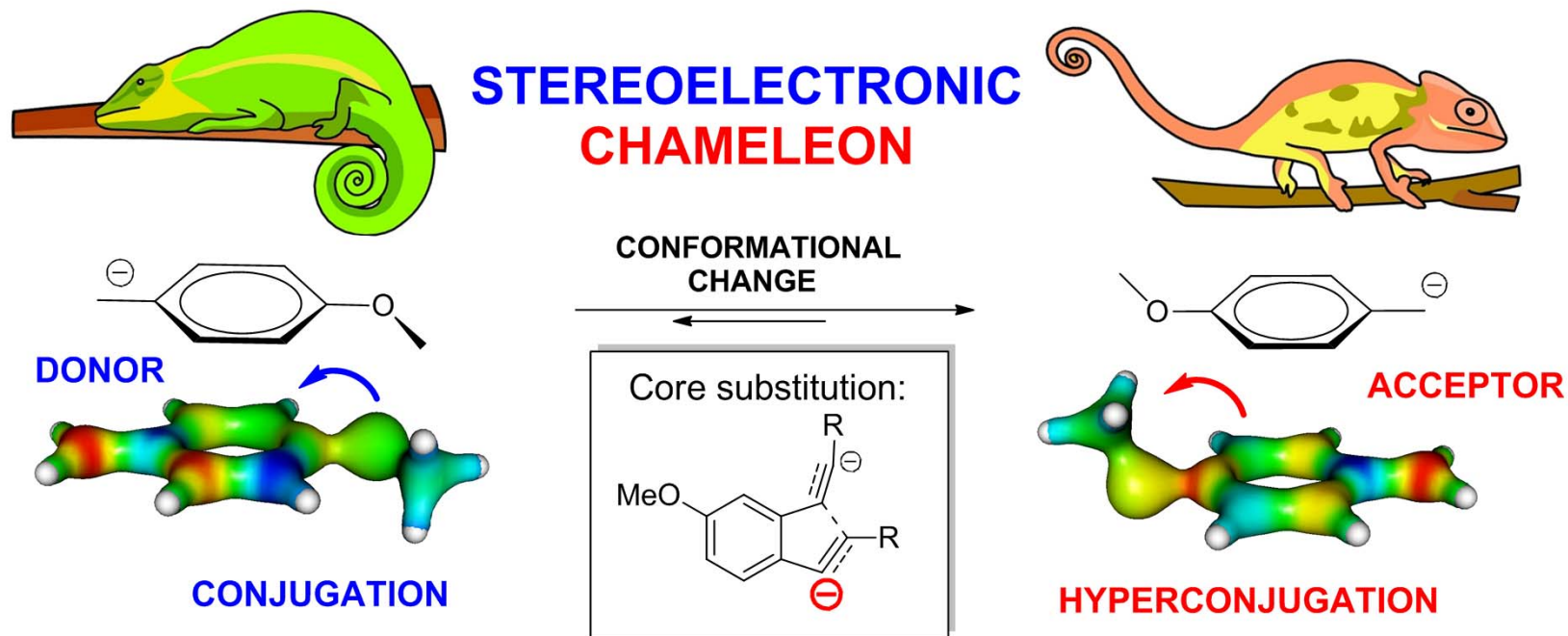


B3LYP/6-31G(d), CPCM (H₂O)

J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2013**, *135*, 1558.

Story #3

MeO-group as a stereoelectronic chameleon,
or how to take advantage of σ^*_{O-C} acceptor ability to
open communication between orthogonal orbitals



Story #3

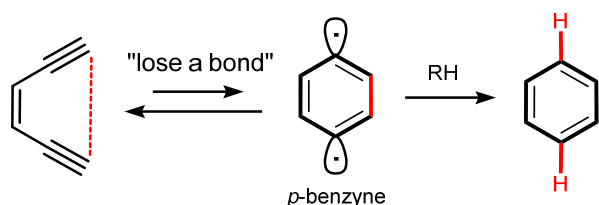
Hyperconjugation in the absence of overlap: any hope?

“... enediynes are **the most potent family of anticancer agents discovered ...**”

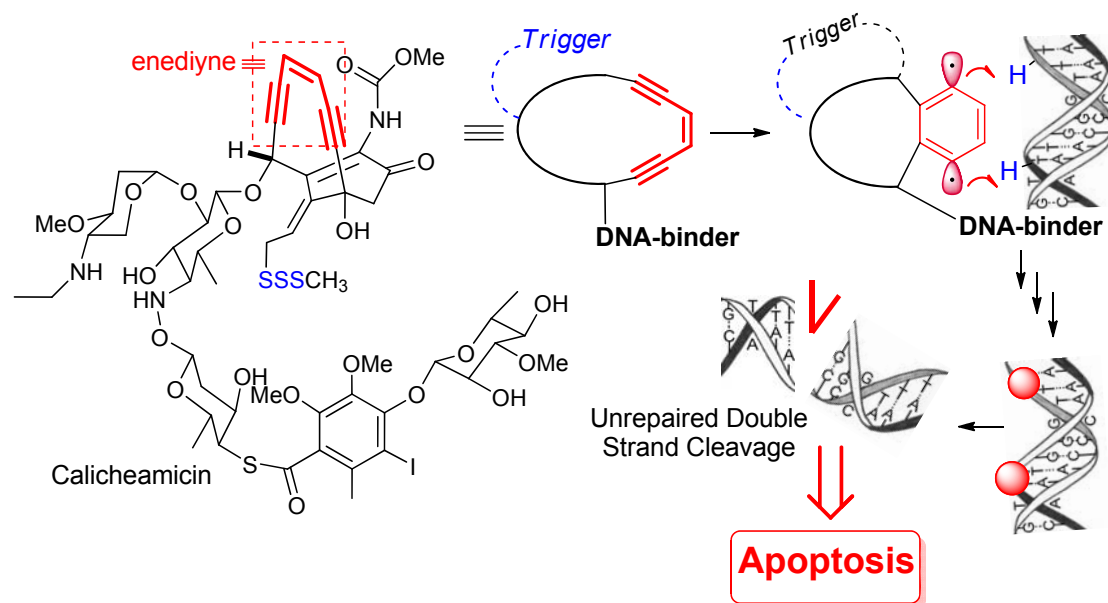
Galm et. al. Chem. Rev. 2005

This chemistry allows double-stranded DNA cleavage only if **both** H-abstractions work **perfectly** and target the two opposite strands **precisely**

Bergman cyclization



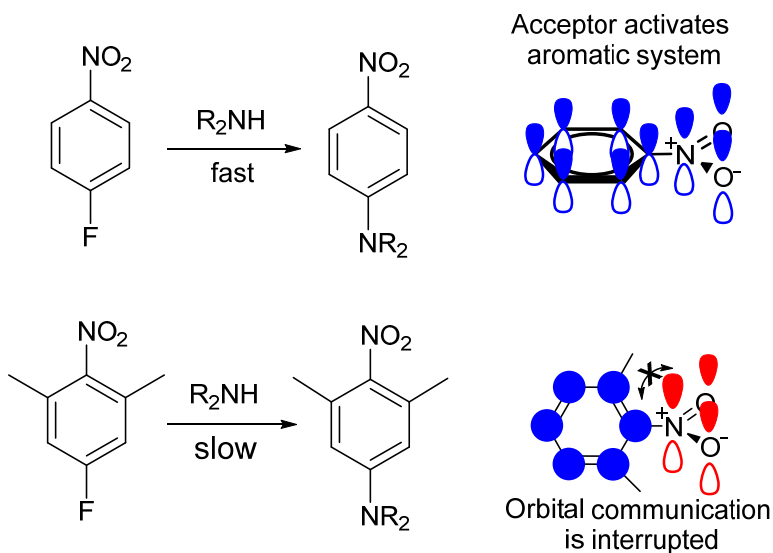
Bergman, R.G. *Acc. Chem. Res.* 1973, 25



How to control Bergman cyclization?

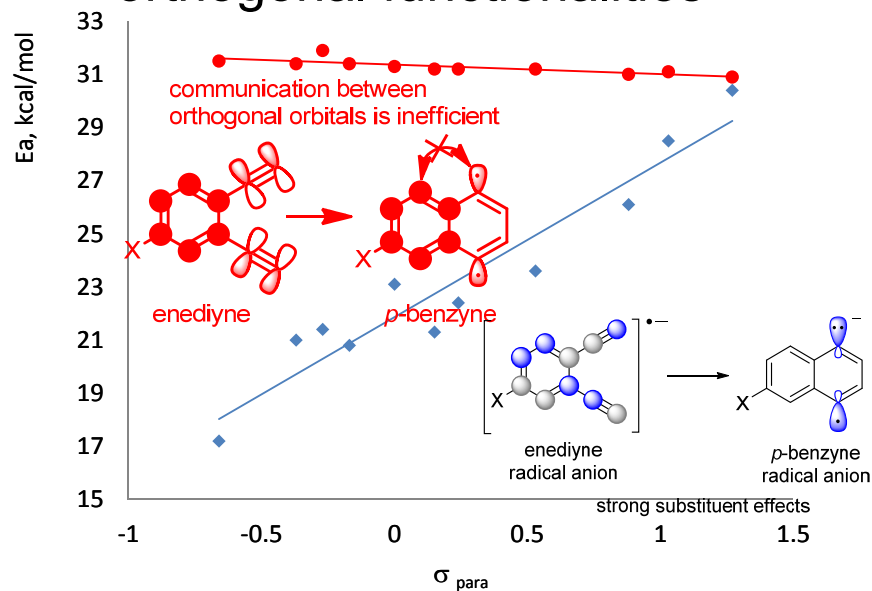
Substituent control of Bergman cyclization: what options do we have?

Conjugation: sensitive to orbital overlap



Steric inhibition of resonance

No communication between
orthogonal functionalities

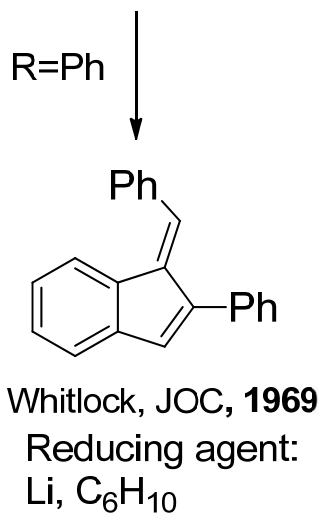
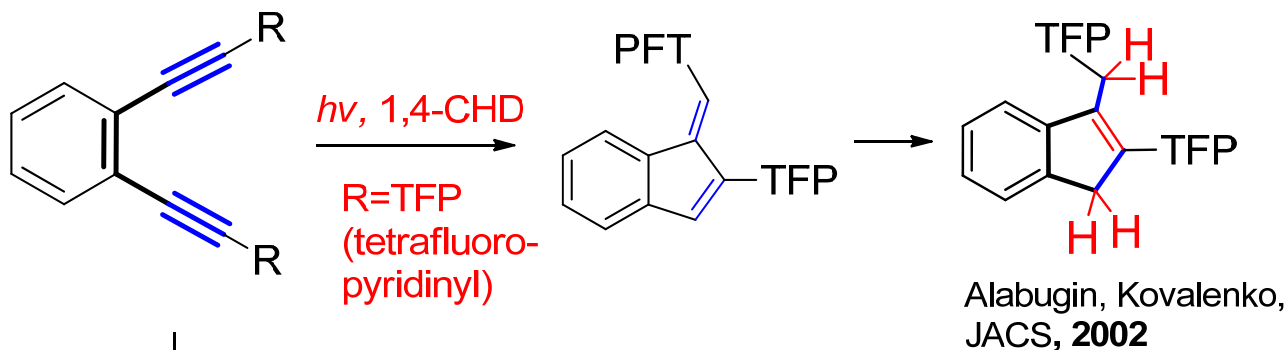


Substituent effects can be
activated by electron injection

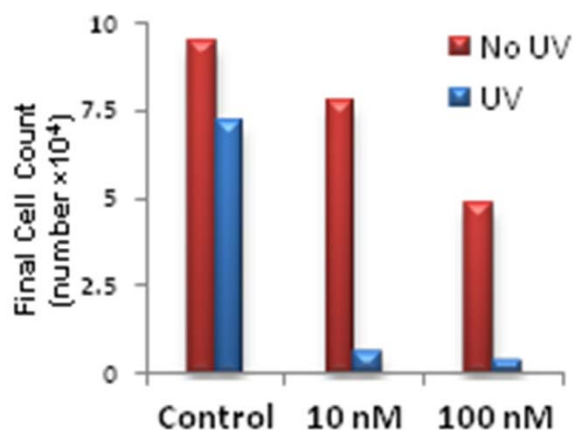
Alabugin, Manoharan, *JACS*, **2003**, 4495

Mohamed, Peterson, Alabugin, *Chem. Rev.*, **2013**, 7089

C1-C5 cyclization – a way to increase DNA cleaving ability of enediynes



Four “H-abstractions” increase efficiency of localized DNA damage

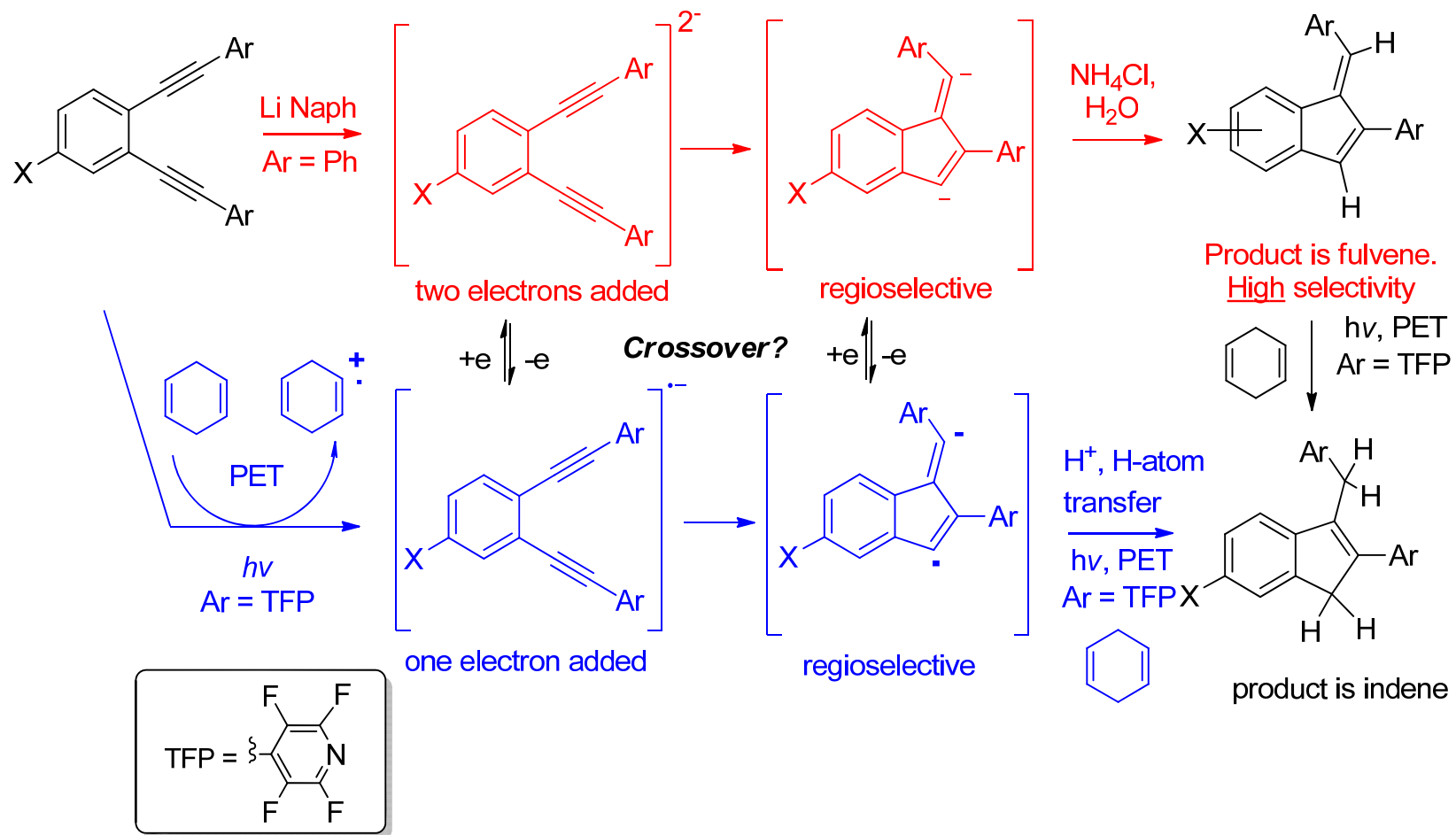


Pronounced phototoxicity against multidrug resistant cancer cells

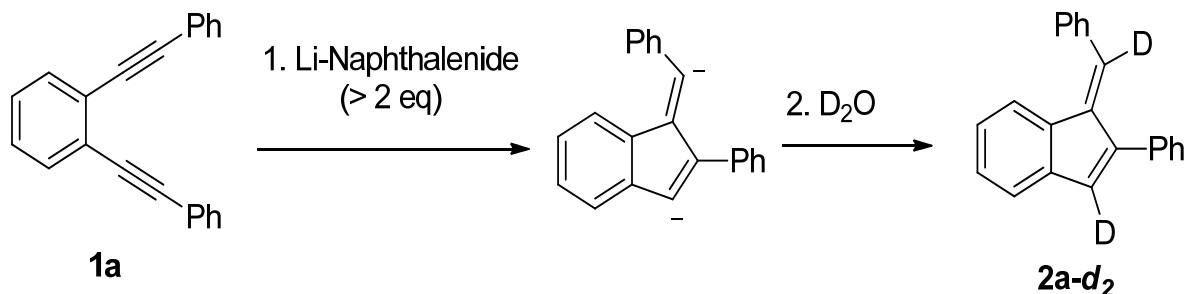
Further details: *ACIE* 2006, 3666. *PNAS*, 2007, 13016.
 Reviews: Applications: *OBC*, 2012, 3974. Fundamentals: *Chem. Rev.*, 2013, 7089.

Up to 70% of ds DNA cleavage (calicheamicin: ~25 % of ds cleavage)

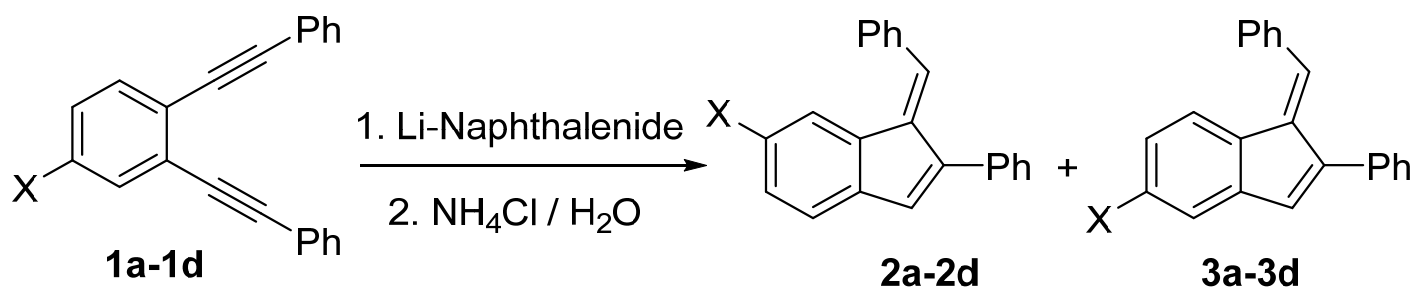
Two reductive paths from enediynes to fulvenes



Enediyne cyclizations induced by Li naphthalenide



The intermediacy of a dianion is consistent with the need for two equivalents of the reducing agent

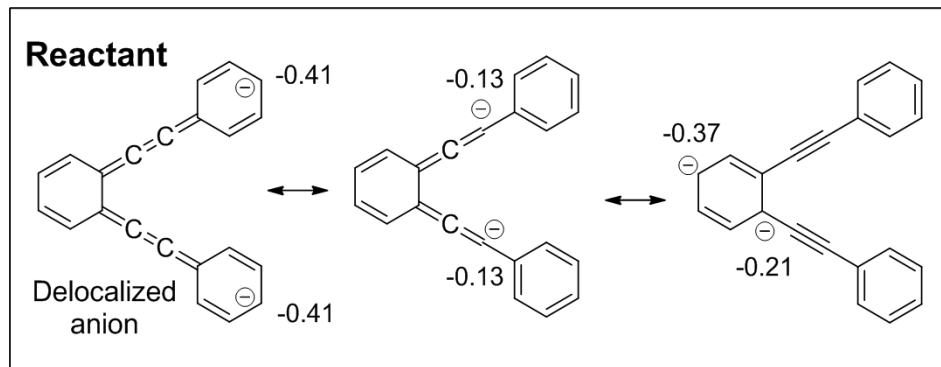


Cyclizations of enediynes with a remote substituent at the benzene core **are regioselective**

	X =	2 : 3	Yield
1a	H	NA	66%
1b	Me	2.2 : 1	74%
1c	F	8.1 : 1	71%
1d	MeO	>19 : 1	38%

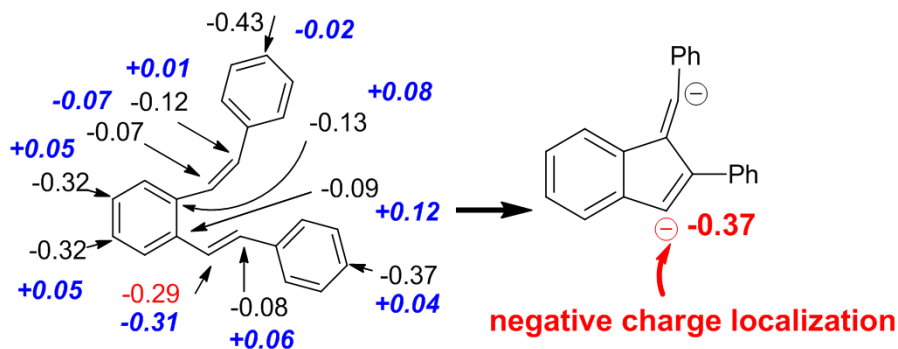
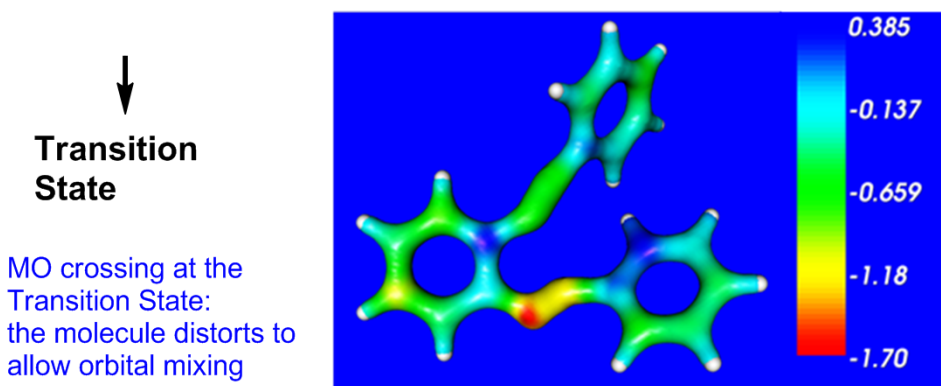
What controls reactivity?

The evolution of electron density distribution along the reaction path

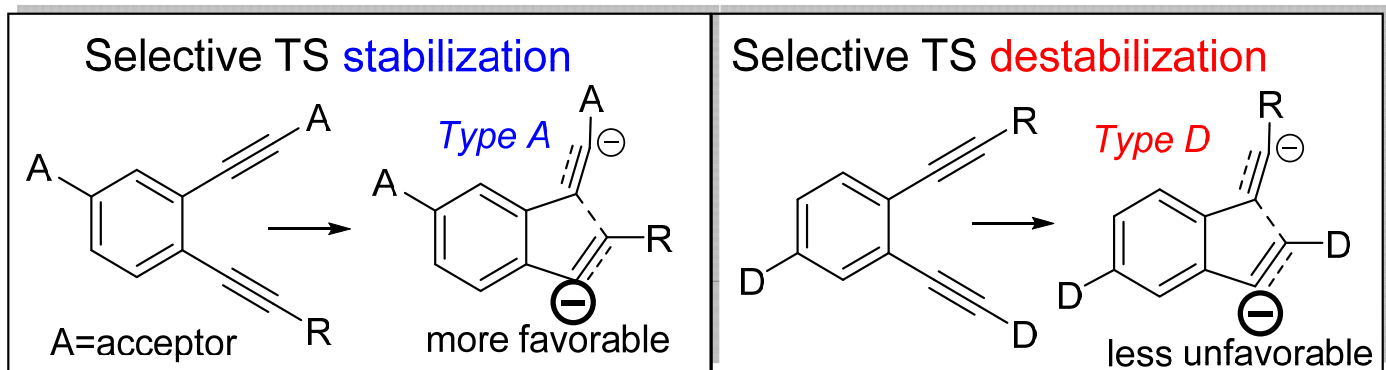


Selected NBO charges (black) and changes in charge in TS relative to the reactant (blue).

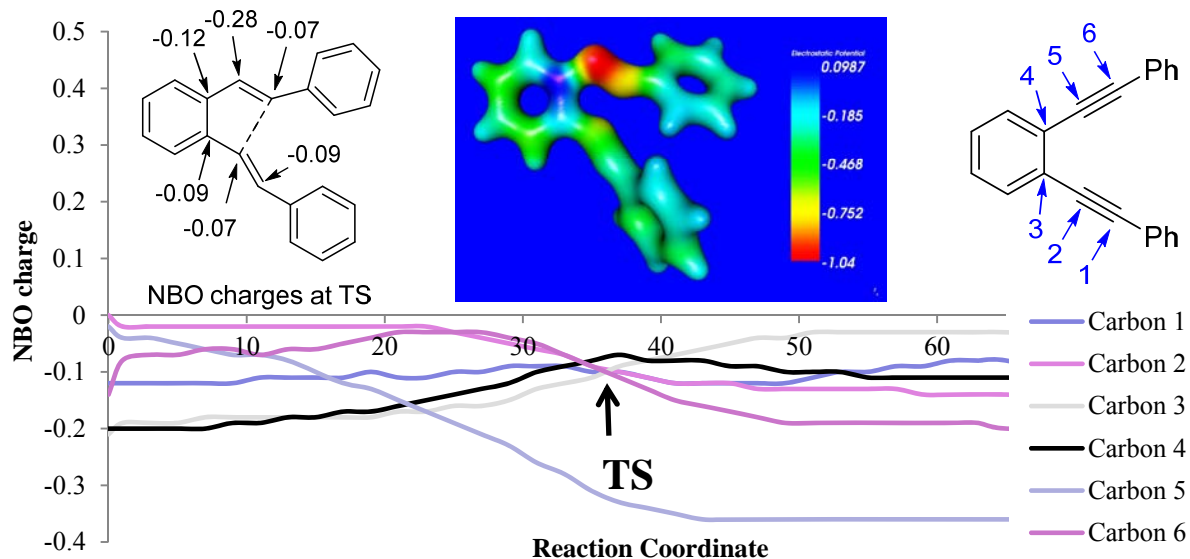
Negative and positive values indicate an increase and a decrease in electron density, respectively



Where to put substituents?

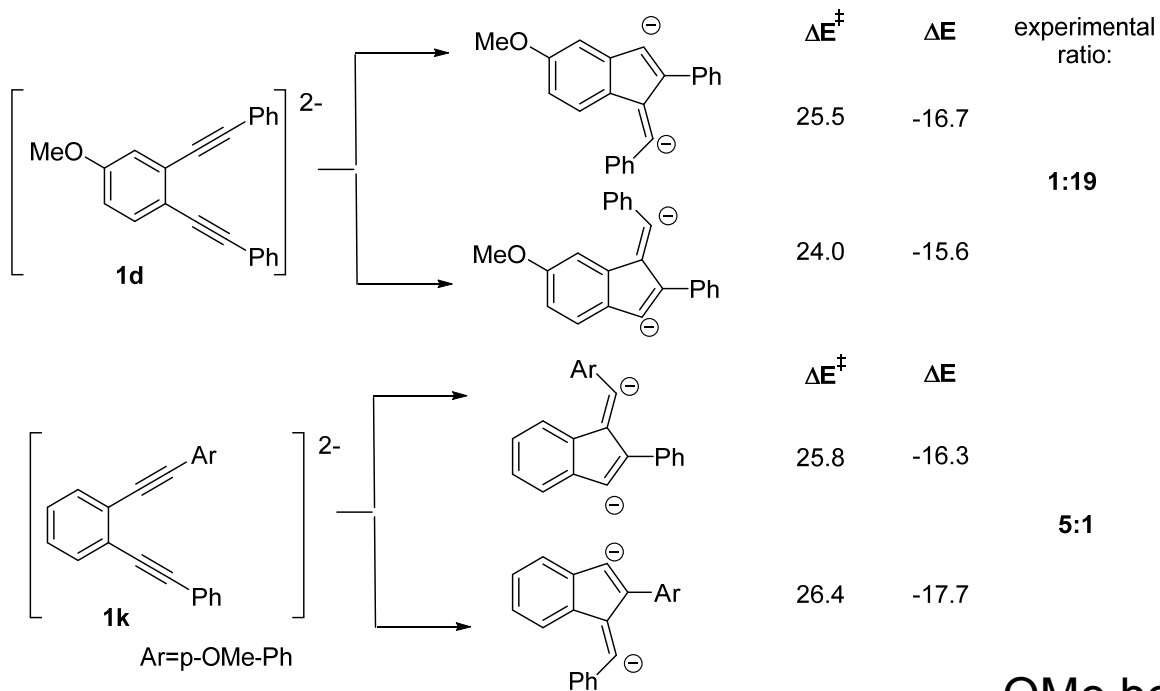


Expected substituent effects associated with the evolution of electron density distribution along the reaction path



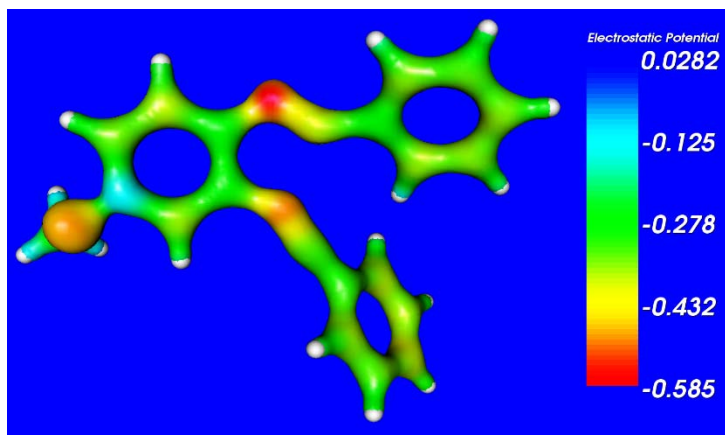
We should place acceptor A para to the developing endocyclic anion in order to provide stabilization in the (non-planar!) TS

MeO: a para-directing anion-stabilizing **acceptor** group?

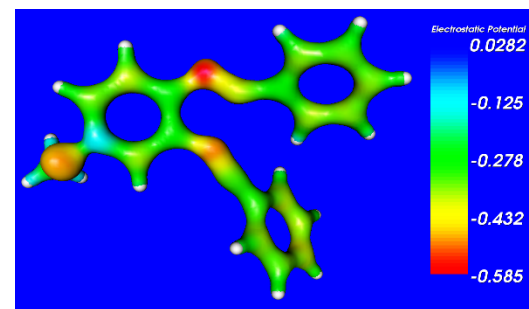
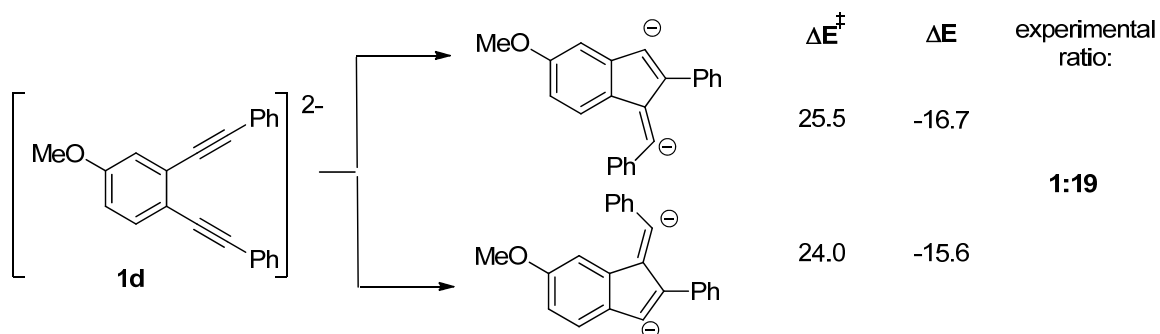


OMe behaves as an acceptor!

Let's examine the preferred TS

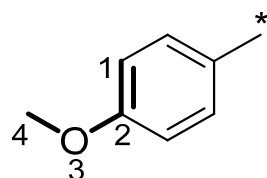
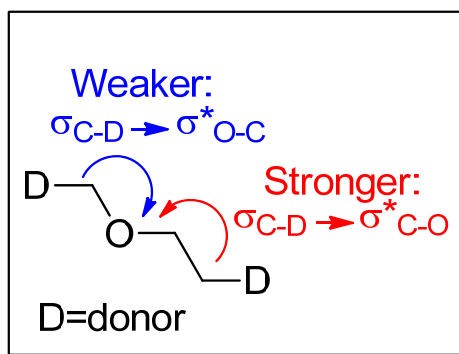
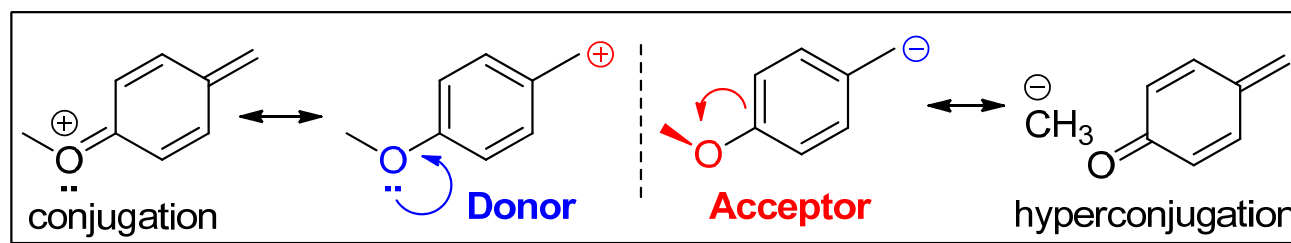


MeO-group as a stereoelectronic chameleon



OMe also rotated!

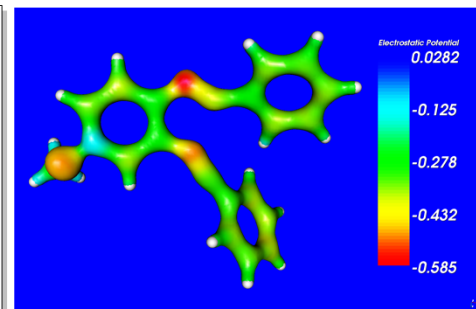
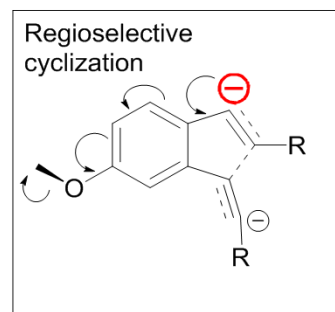
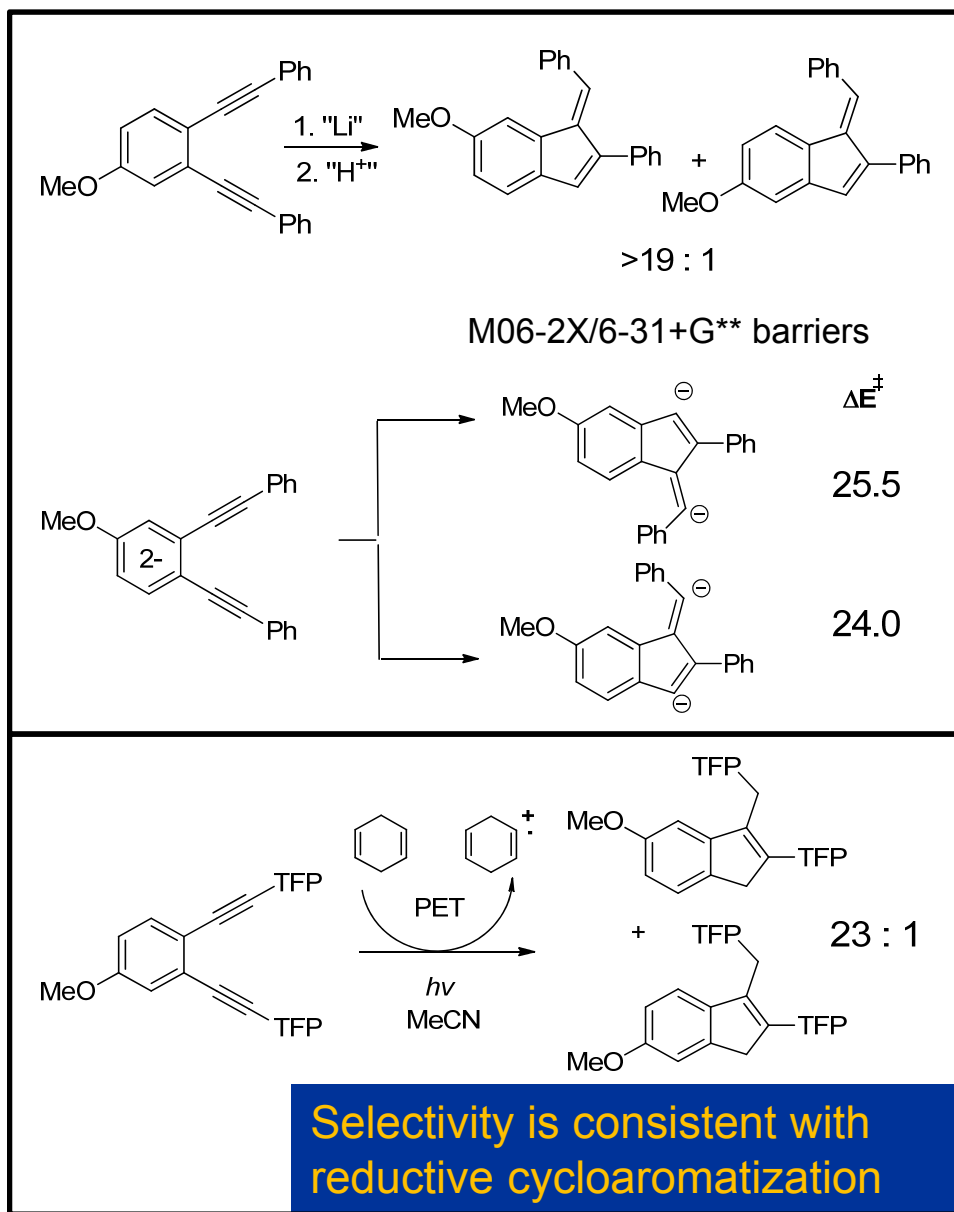
The two faces of the OMe group:



$\Psi(C1,C2,O3,C4)$	M06-2X/6-31+G**, kcal/mol		
	Cation	Radical	Anion
0°	0	0	1.6
	12.7	3.2	0

Even the O-C bond can behave as an acceptor when paired with a strong donor

Substituent effects as a probe of diverging mechanistic paths

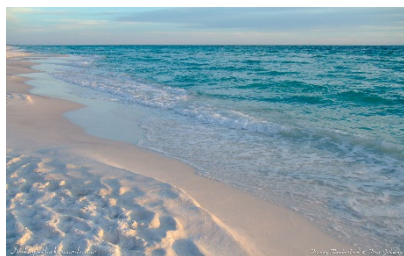
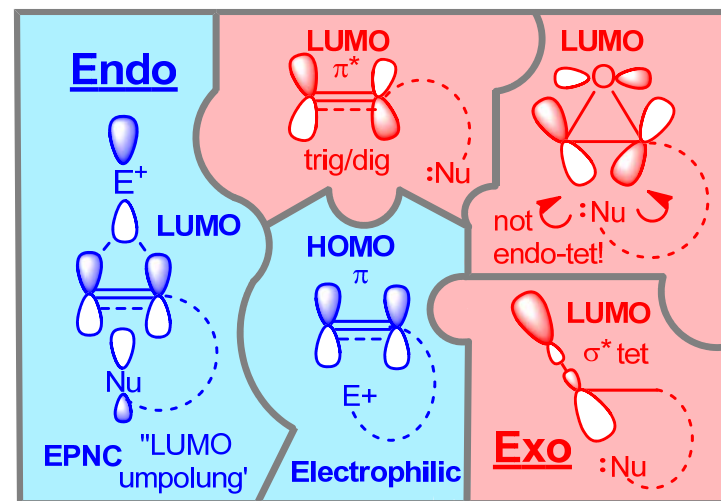


Paul Peterson (practicing his chameleon skills)

Org. Lett. **2013**, 15, 2238

Baldwin rules

and stereoelectronic factors involved in the formation of cyclic structures



Igor Alabugin,
Florida State University



Predictions in chemistry

How many do you know?

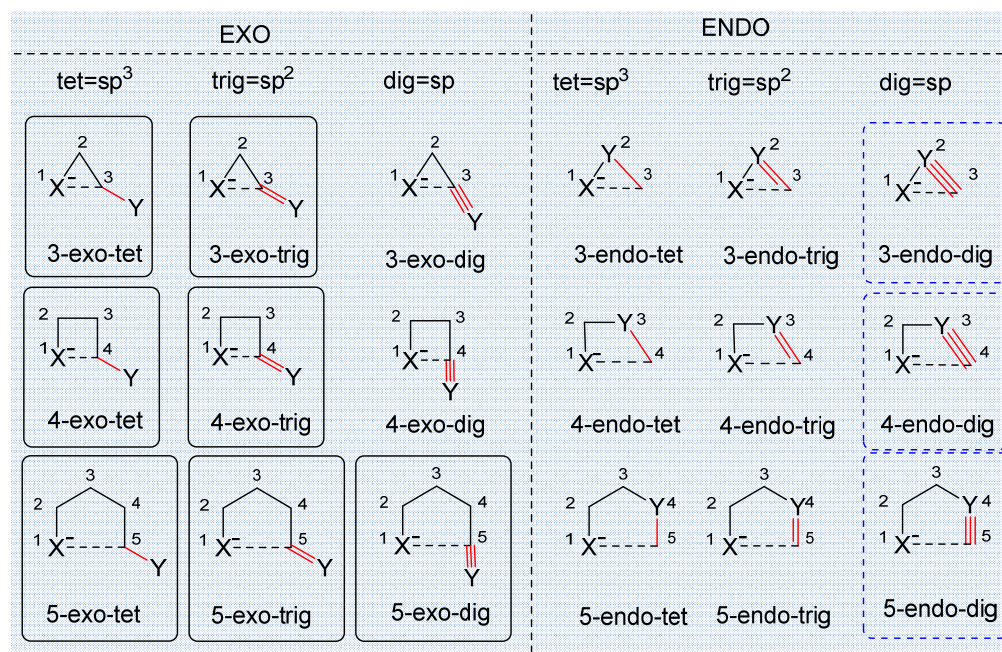
prediction for Ekaboron:

atomic weight 44.0, specific gravity 3.00

R_2O	RO	R_2O_3	RO_2	R_2O_5
Li = 7 0.53	Be = 9.4 1.85	B = 11 2.37	C = 12 1.83	N = 14 gas
Na = 23 0.97	Mg = 24 1.74	Al = 27.3 2.70	Si = 28 2.33	P = 31 1.82
K = 39 0.86	Ca = 40 1.55	Sc = 45 2.99	Ti = 48 4.55	V = 51 6.11
Cu = 63 8.96	Zn = 65 7.13	Ekaaluminum	Ekasilicon	As = 75 5.73
Rb = 85 1.53	Sr = 87 2.54	?Yt = 88 4.46	Zr = 90 6.51	Nb = 94 6.10



Started with lots of data,
Put them into a table,
Made predictions



?



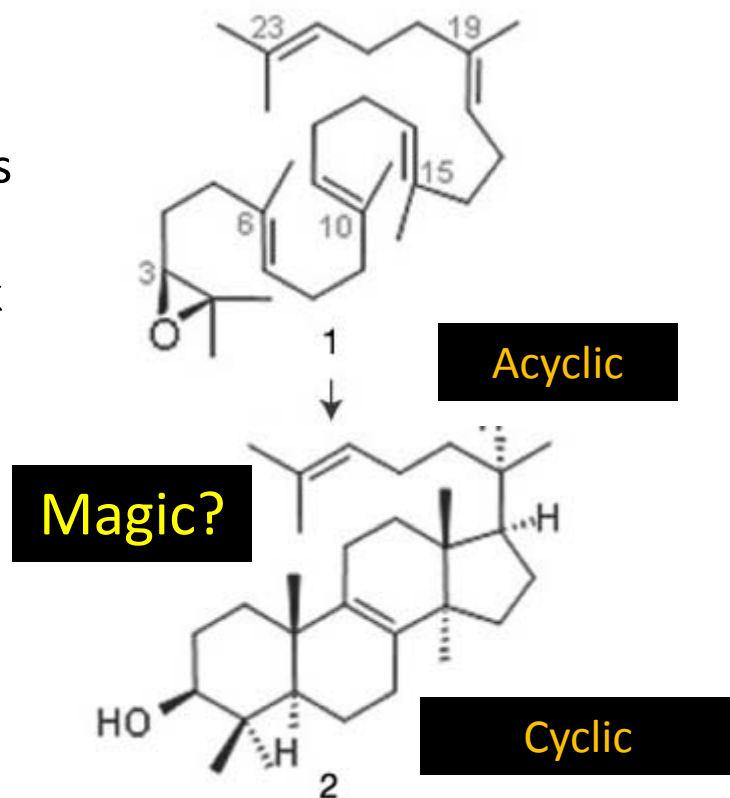
Cycles in chemistry

They are everywhere!

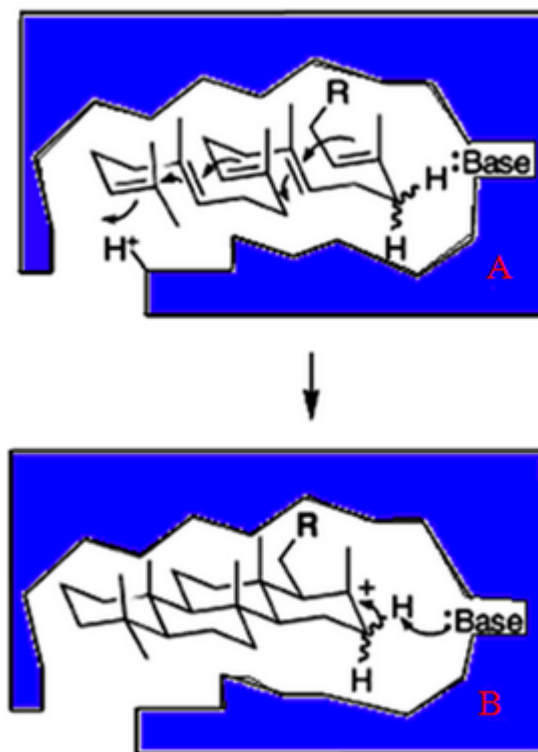
~90% of molecules found in nature possess a carbo- or heterocyclic unit:

R. S. Bon and H. Waldmann, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 2010, **43**, 1103

Nature makes formation of cycles to look easy

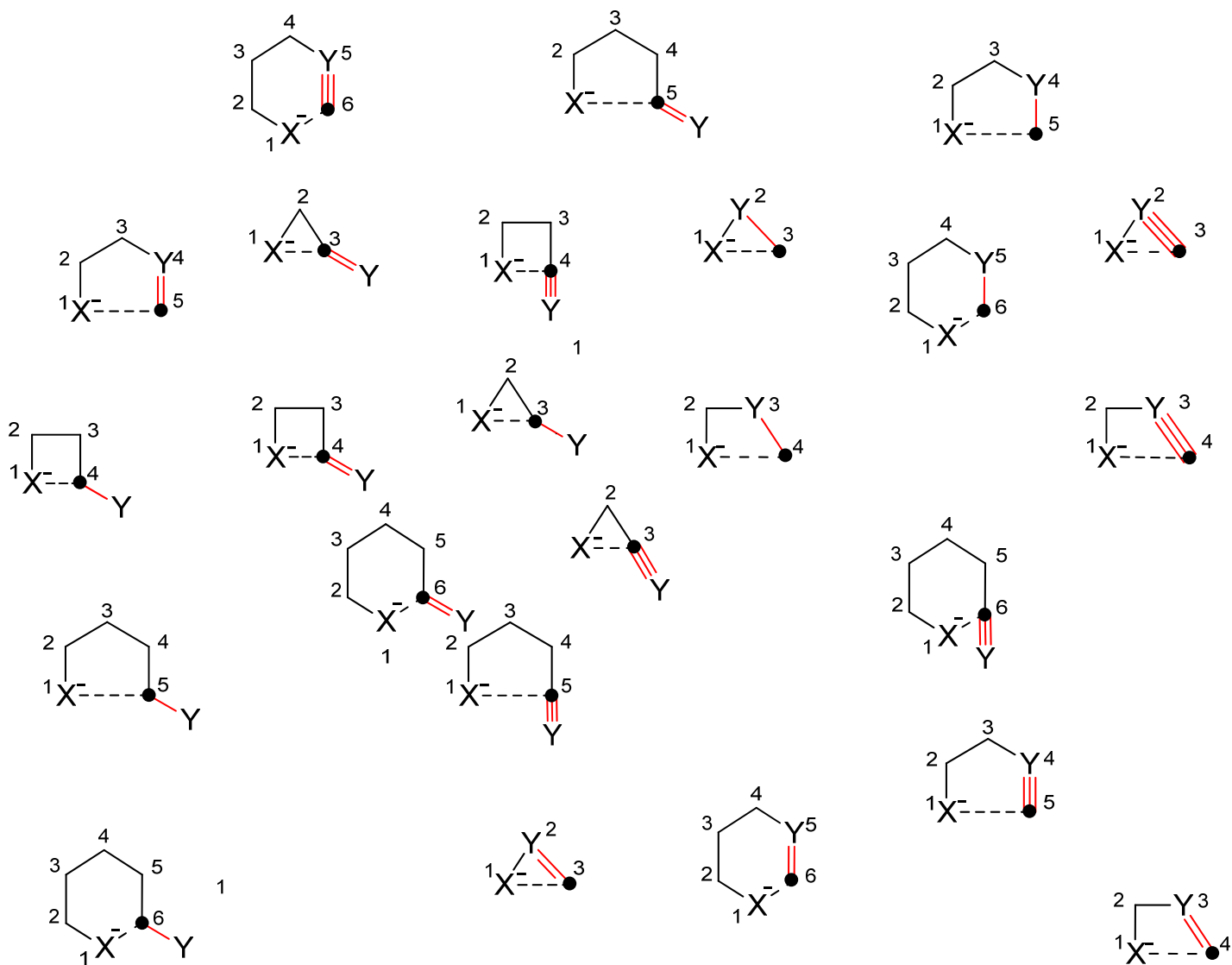


Special enzymes:
"cyclases"



Thoma, R. et al. *Nature* 432, 118-122

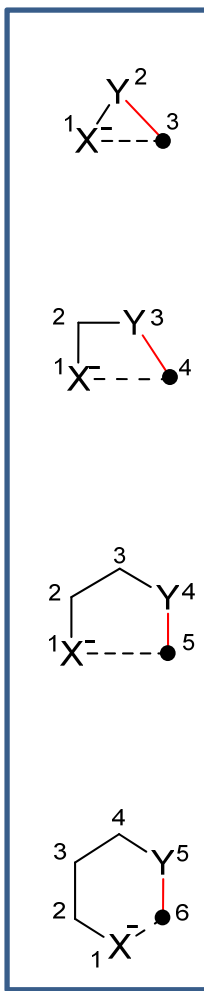
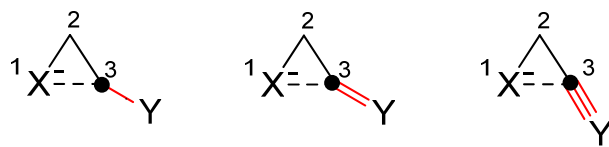
The dizzying variety of cyclization patterns



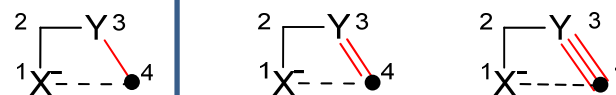
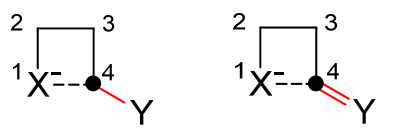
A glimpse of order in cyclization patterns

Will not give
a cycle

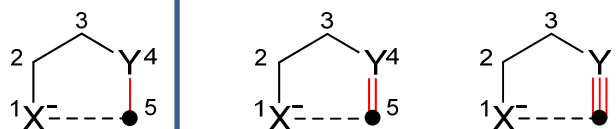
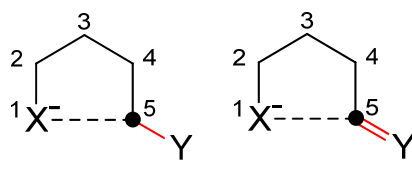
5+1 ways to
make a 3-
membered
cycle



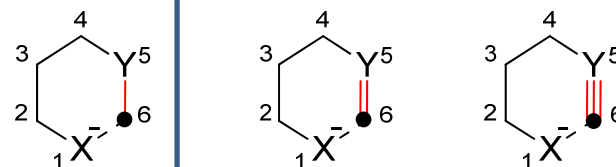
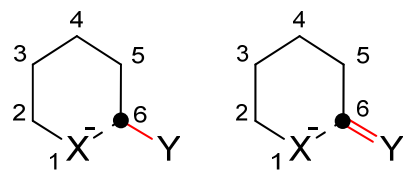
5+1 ways to
make a 4-
membered
cycle



5+1 ways to
make a
pentagon

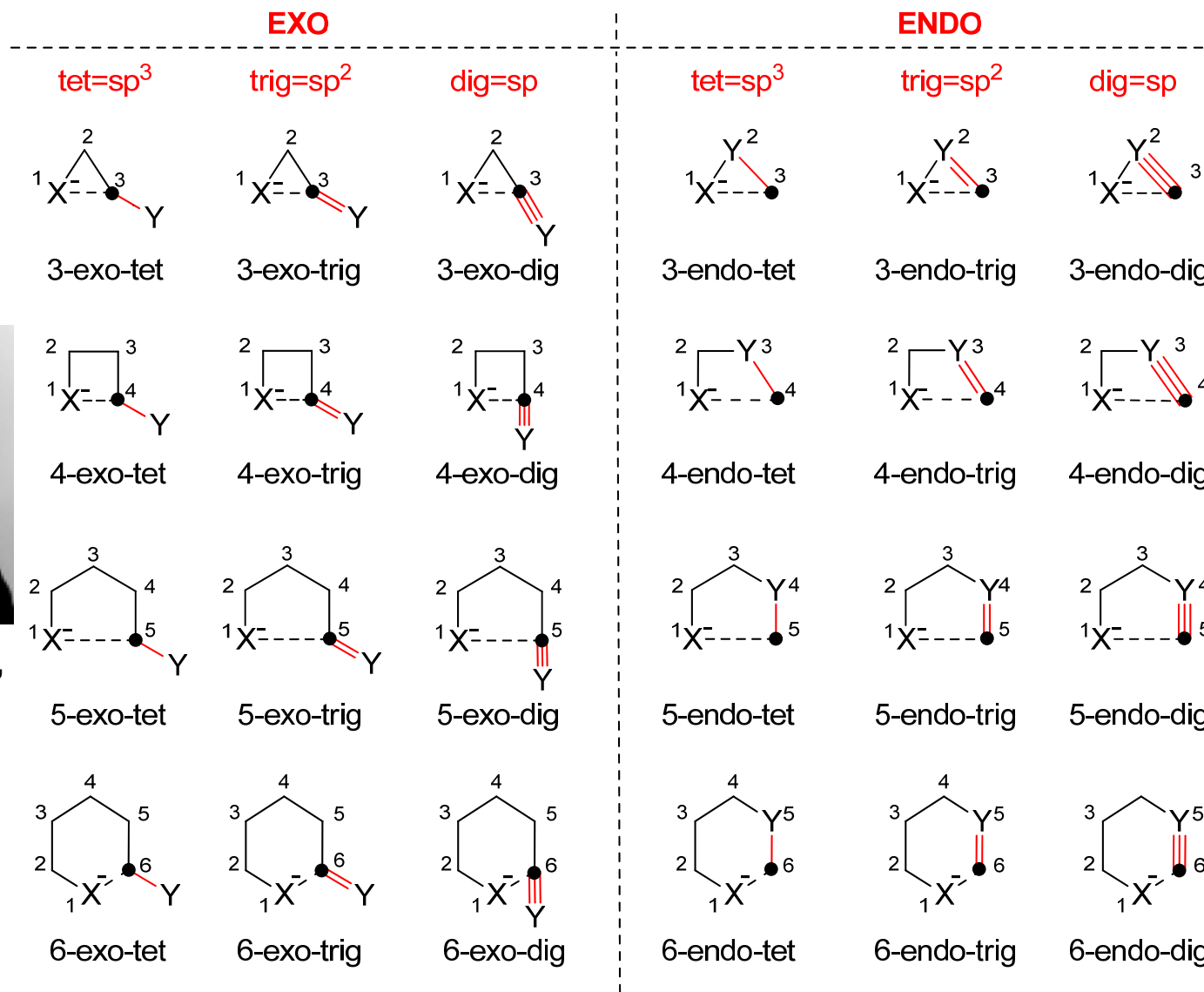


5+1 ways to
make a
hexagon



Order out of chaos

Way to classify cyclizations

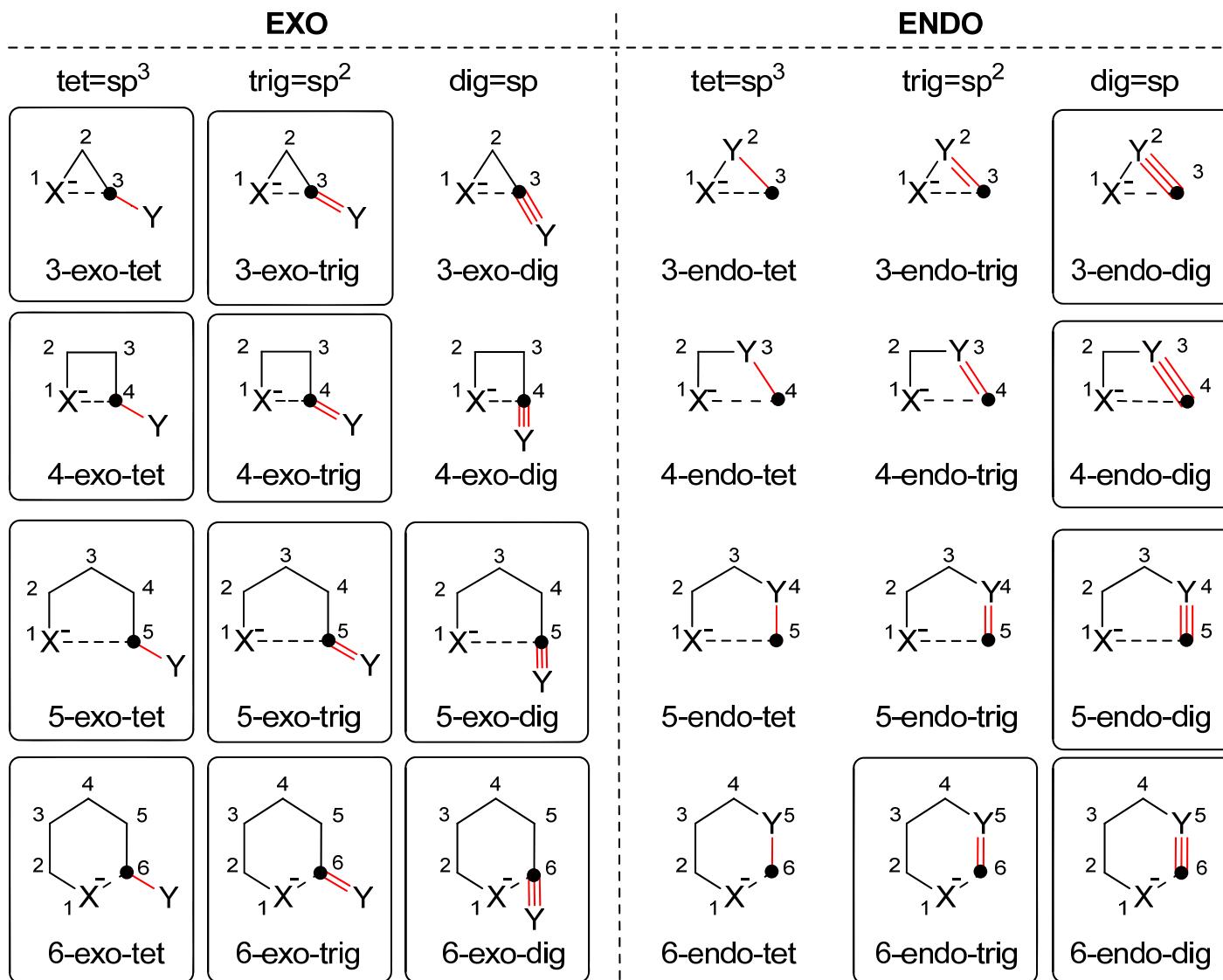


Jack Baldwin,
MIT, Oxford

Taking one step further: Baldwin rules

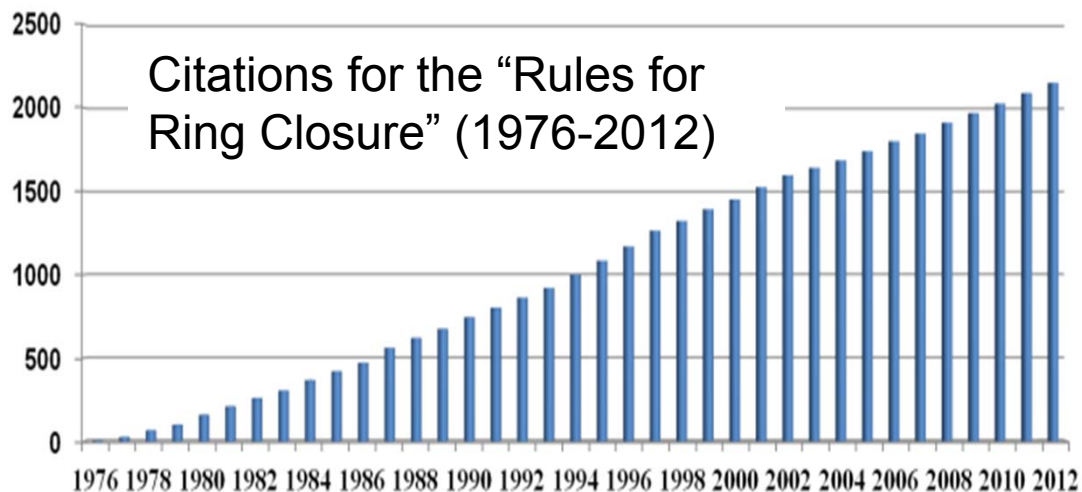
Predictions of Favorable and Unfavorable Reactions

Favorable reactions are boxed





The impact of the Baldwin rules



J. Baldwin, *Chem. Commun.*, **1976**, 734

One of the most successful sets of stereoelectronic guidelines in history (the most cited paper for the first 40 years of *Chem. Comm.*)

In 2005 ChemComm celebrates 40 years of successful publication. We have taken a look back through the decades to uncover the top 40 most cited articles published in ChemComm since its inception in 1965, with some fascinating results.

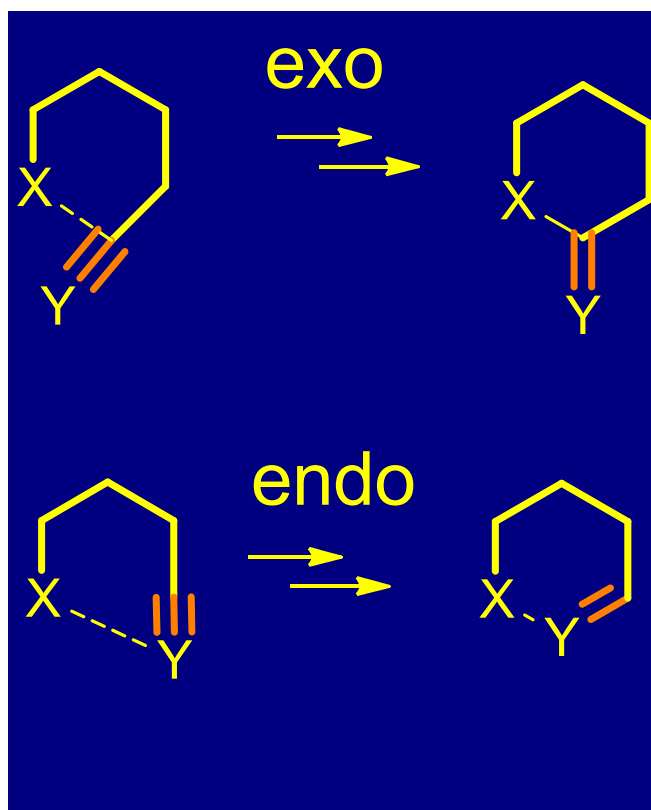
Topping the chart with more than 1500 cites is Jack Baldwin's 1976 paper "Rules for ring closure". Baldwin scores a second hit at number 18 with his follow-on communication "5-Endo-trigonal reactions: a disfavoured ring closure".



Understanding the rules:

Terminology and Nomenclature

Two way for making a cycle



Exo: the breaking bond is outside of the forming cycle

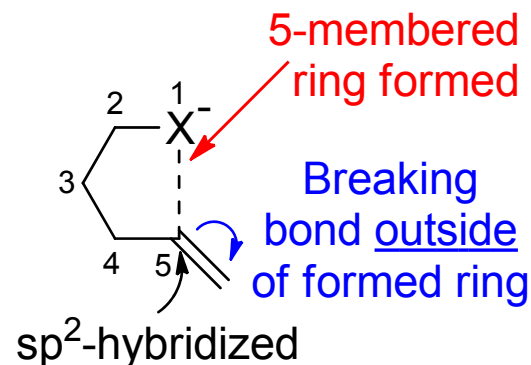
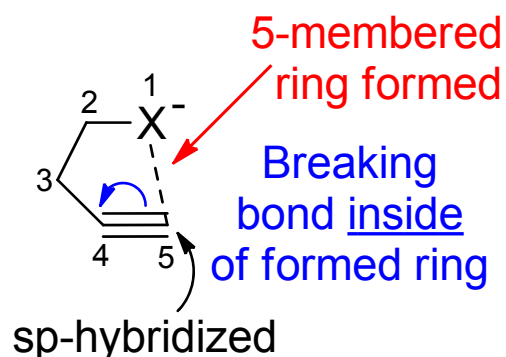
Endo: The breaking bond is inside of the forming cycle

Rules are different for exo- and endo-cyclizations

Are there any other important parameters?

Baldwin's Nomenclature for Ring Formation

- Three factors:
 - Size of the ring being formed
 - Location of the breaking bond (*endo*, *exo*)
 - Hybridization of the breaking bond (sp^3 =tet, sp^2 =trig, sp =dig)



Baldwin, J. E. *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.* **1976**, 734.

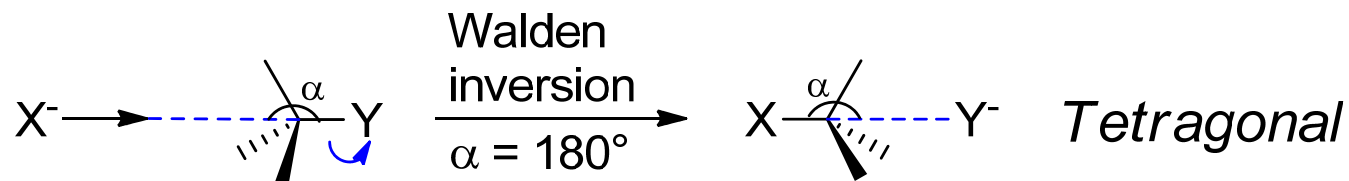
Basis for the rules

The central hypothesis:

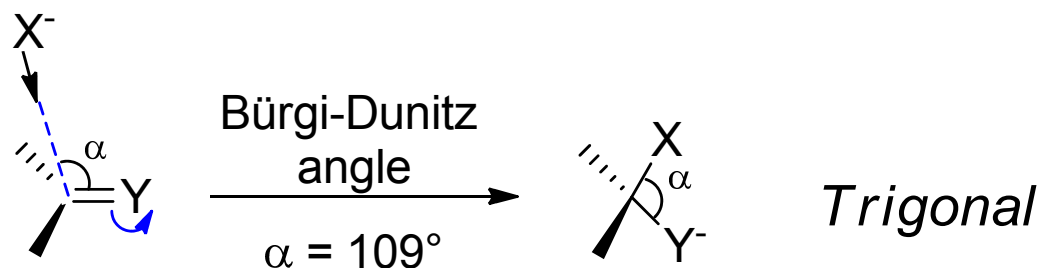
Favored reactions will be those in which length and nature of linking chain enables terminal atoms to achieve required trajectory to form final ring bond

Disfavored reactions would require severe bond angle and distances distortion, so the desired RC will be difficult (if available, alternative pathways will dominate)

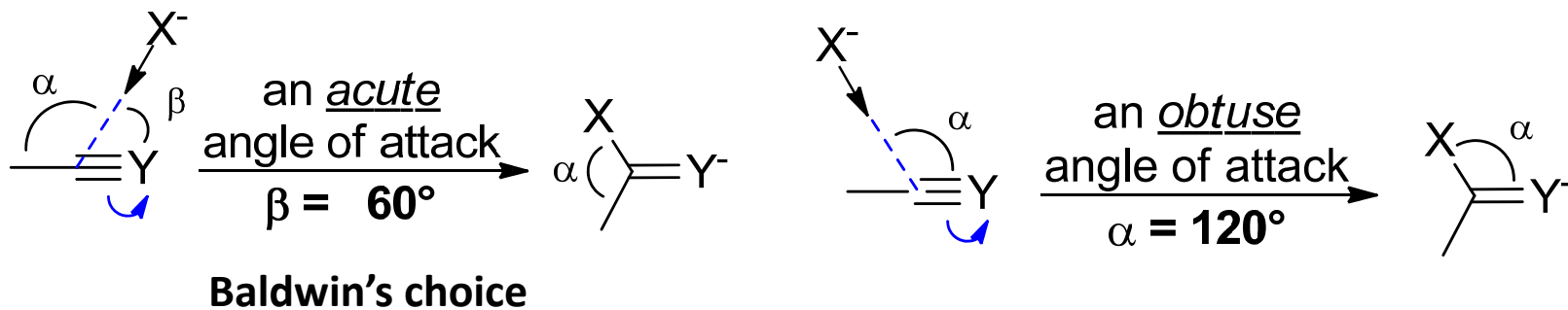
Reaction trajectories, or how to make and break bonds



Jack Dunitz, ETH,
Dec. 1, 2014



Choose one of the two alternatives for alkynes:

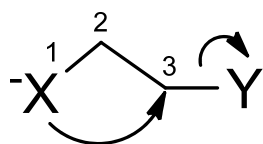
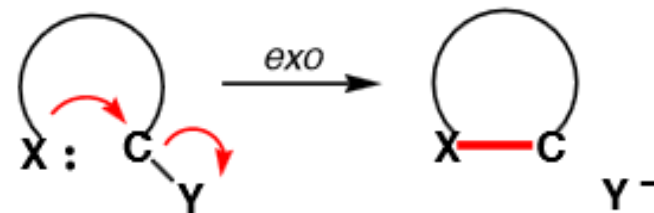


Baldwin, J. E. *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.* **1976**, 734.

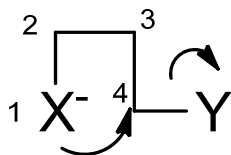
Let's see where these trajectories will take us

Breaking a single bond: "tetrahedral systems"

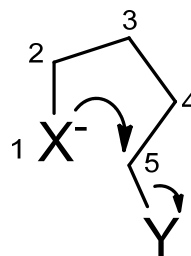
all exo-tet cyclizations are **avored**



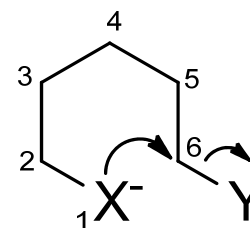
3-exo-Tet



4-exo-Tet

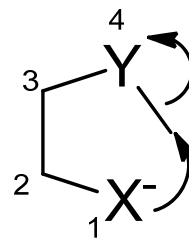


5-exo-Tet

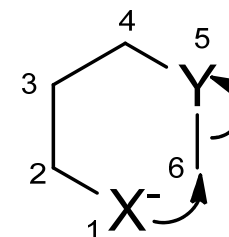


6-exo-Tet

all endo-tet cyclizations are **unavored** for n less than 7



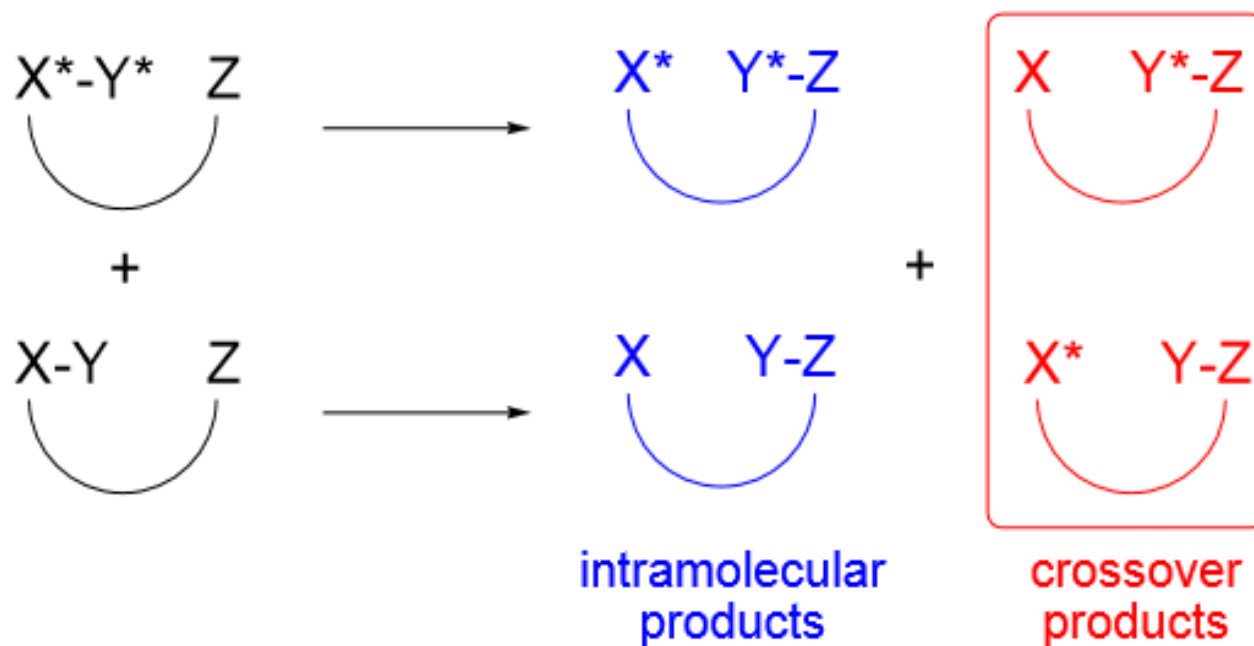
5-endo-Tet



6-endo-Tet

Tet cyclizations: examples

Endo-cyclic restriction test: How large should be the cycle for the endo-tet TS to become possible?



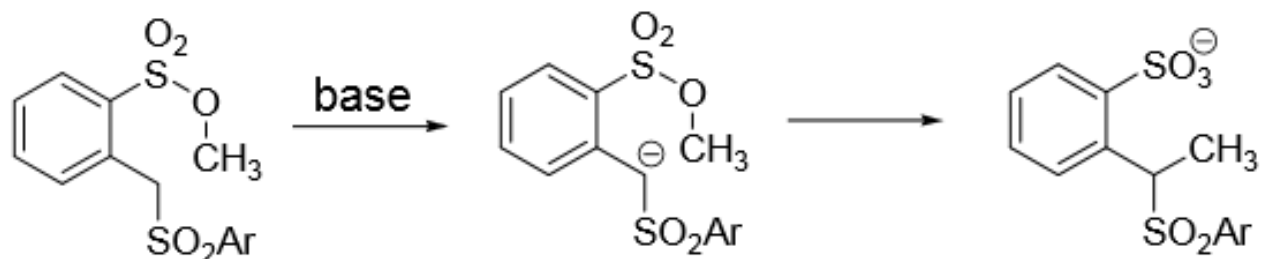
Beak, *Acc Chem Res*, **1992**, 25, 215

From Evans, CHM206, Harvard

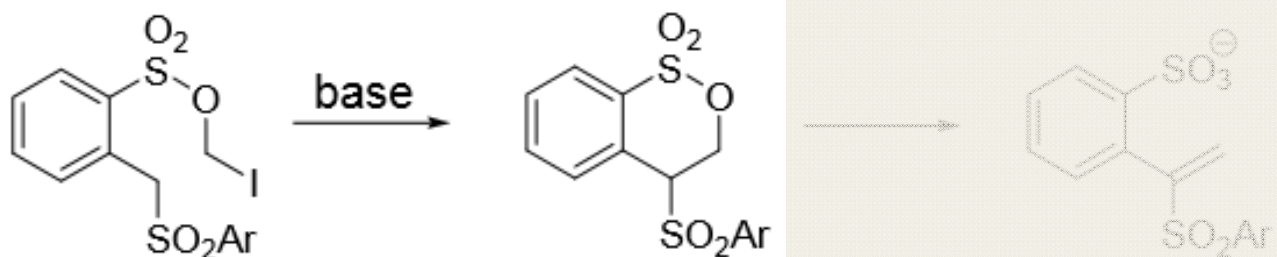
<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic776365.files/lecture%206.pdf>

Endo-cyclic restriction test, continued

How large should be the cycle for the endo-tet TS to become possible?



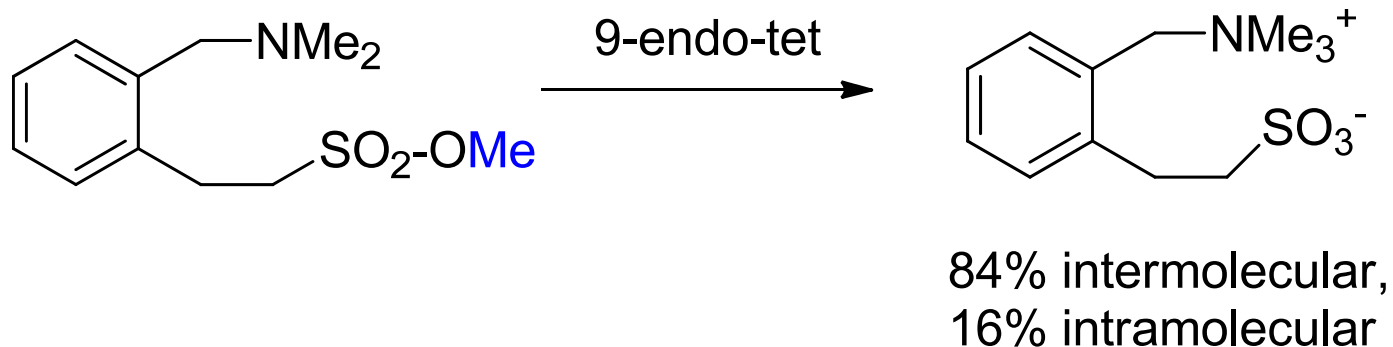
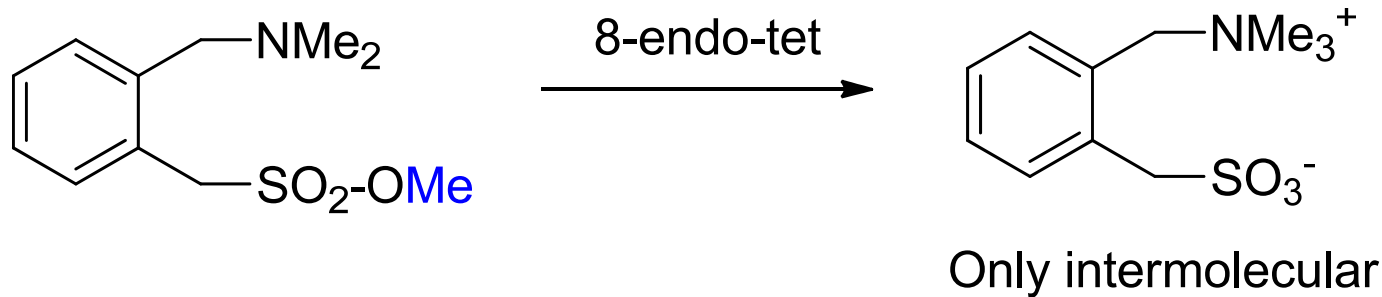
Only **inter**molecular



Only **intra**molecular

Can you explain why?

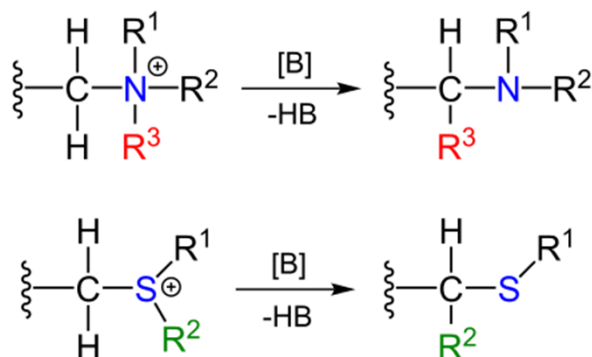
Endo-cyclic restriction test, continued



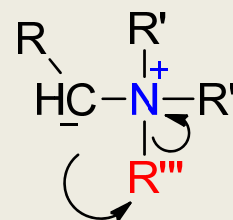
Favorable endo cyclization modes required transition state ring sizes of at least nine atoms

Complex mechanisms for simple reactions:

Stevens rearrangements

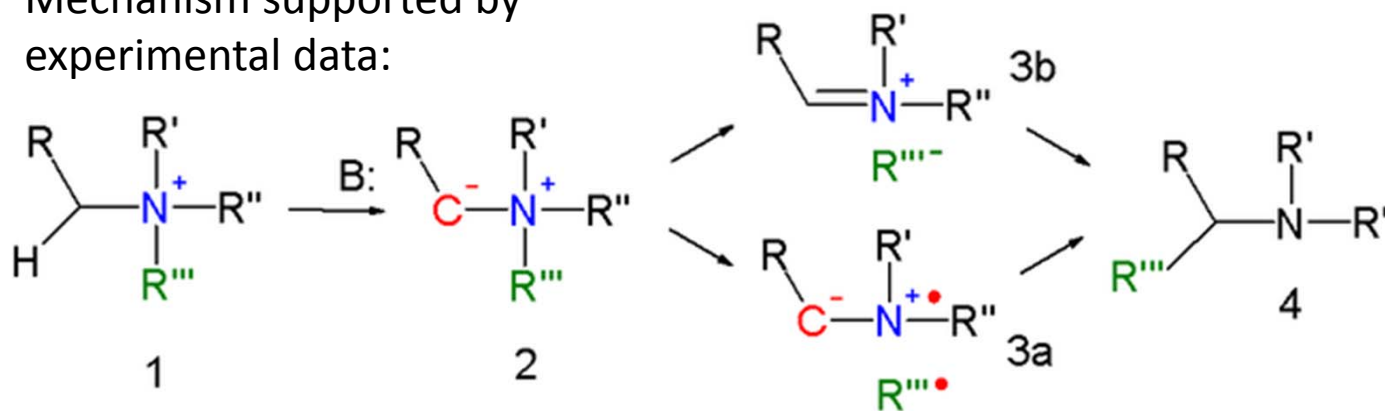


What do you think about this concerted mechanism?



3-endo-tet – fact or fiction?

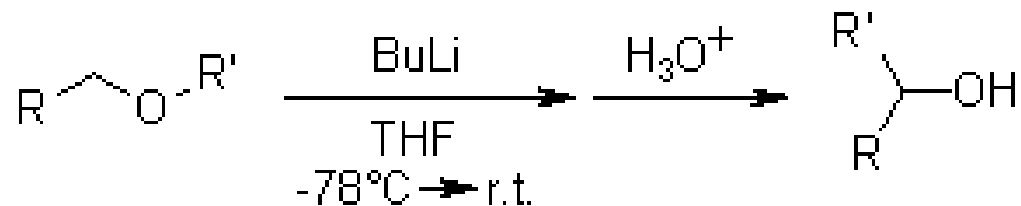
Mechanism supported by experimental data:



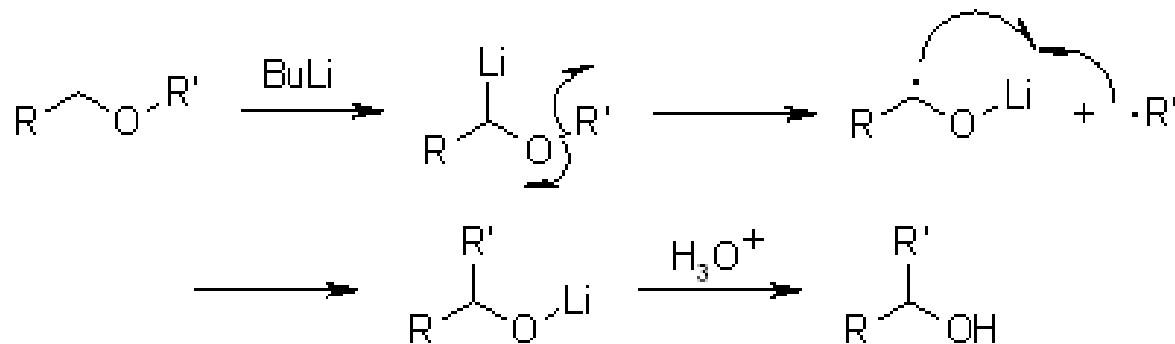
T.S. Stevens *et al.* J. Chem. Soc., **1932**, 1926

Complex mechanisms for simple reactions:

Suggest mechanism for the 1,2-Wittig rearrangement



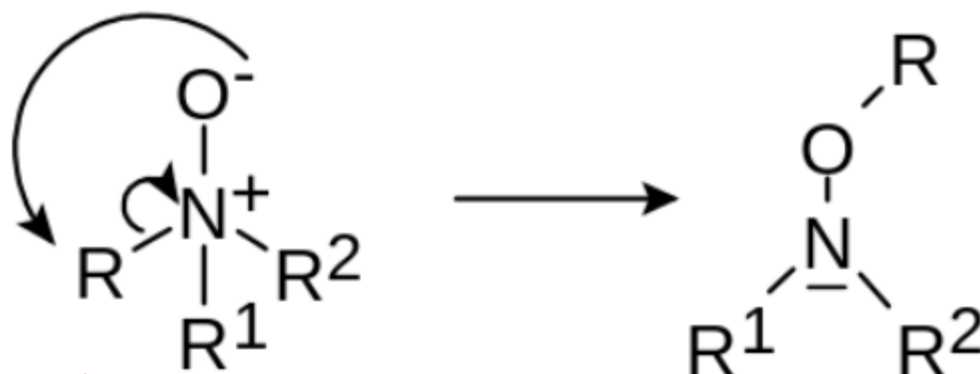
The [1,2]-Wittig Rearrangement is a carbanion rearrangement that proceeds via a radical dissociation-recombination mechanism. The lithiated intermediate forms a ketyl radical and a carbon radical, which give an alkoxide after fast recombination within the solvent cage



Should you always believe Wikipedia?

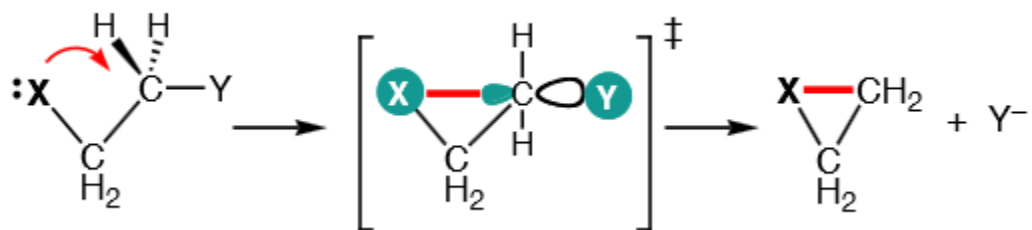
“In the Meisenheimer rearrangement (after Jakob Meisenheimer) certain N-oxides $R^1R^2R^3N^+O^-$ rearrange to hydroxylamines $R^2R^3N-O-R^1$ ”

in a 1,2-rearrangement:



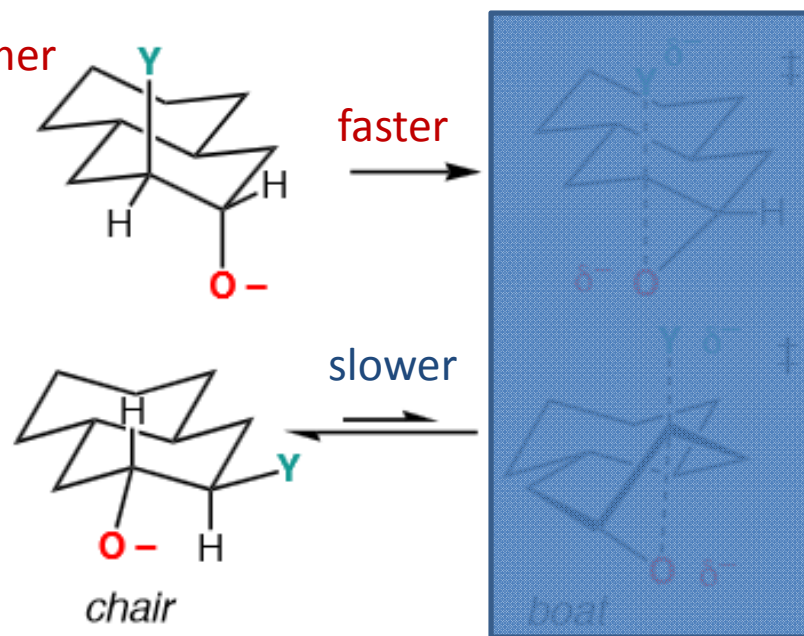
Is this a good mechanism?

3-*exo*-tet cyclizations are favored



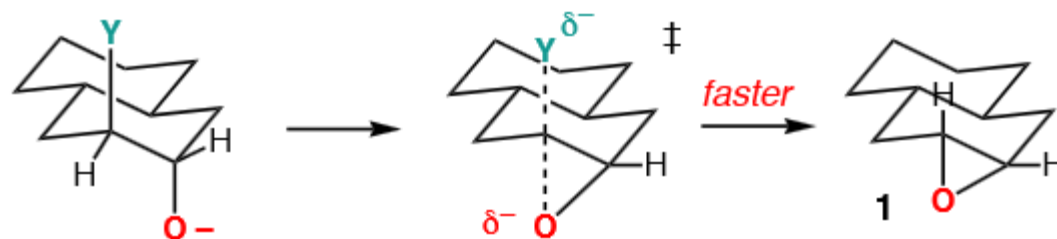
Stereoelectronic restrictions still require antiperiplanar attack of nucleophile at the breaking bond:

Diaxial conformer
is optimal:



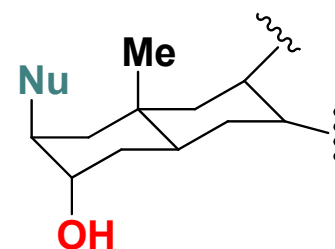
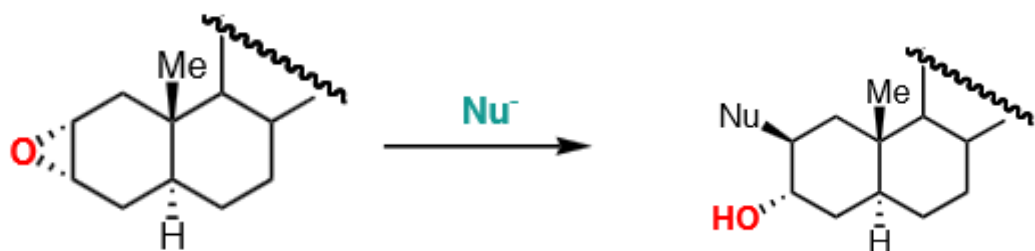
We can use the rules for ring openings too: Epoxide reactions - 3-**exo**-tet cyclizations in reverse

Diaxial
arrangement
is the best



Which bond will be opened in examples below?

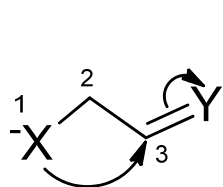
Let's use the
principle of
microscopic
reversibility



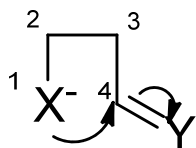
The Fürst-Plattner rule
(the trans-diaxial effect)

Baldwin rules for trigonal systems

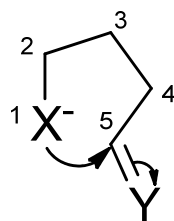
All exo-trig cyclizations are **favorable**



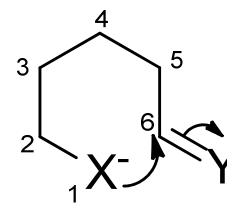
3-exo-Trig



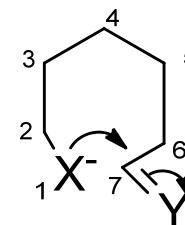
4-exo-Trig



5-exo-Trig

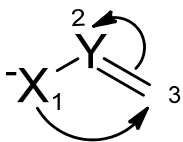


6-exo-Trig

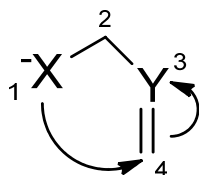


7-exo-Trig

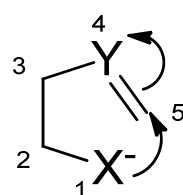
3,4,5-endo trig are **unfavorable**



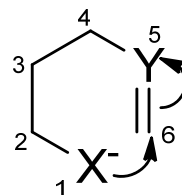
3-endo-Trig



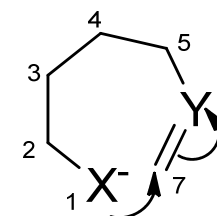
4-endo-Trig



5-endo-Trig



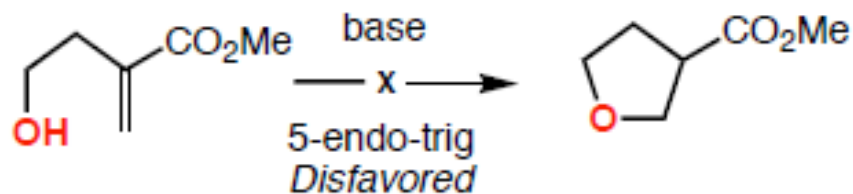
6-endo-Trig



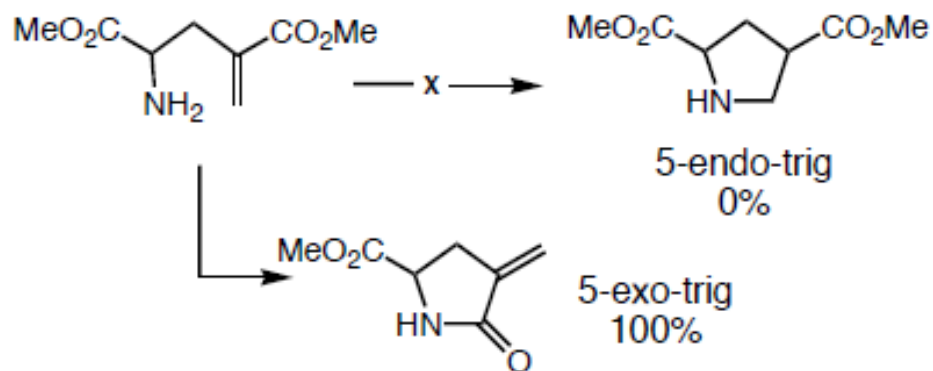
7-endo-Trig

Trigonal systems

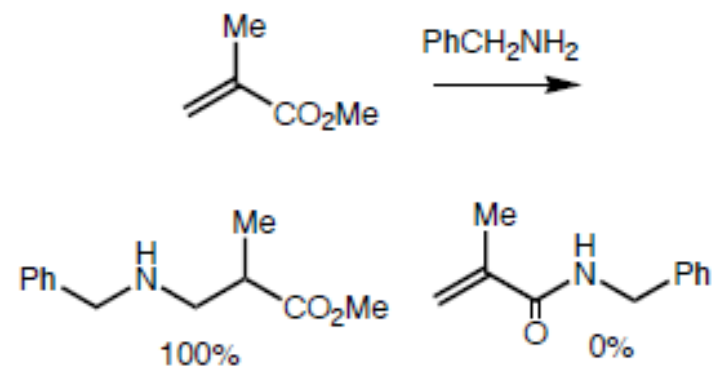
5-endo trig is at the border between favored and unfavored – let's analyse it in more detail



Baldwin, J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., **1976**, 734

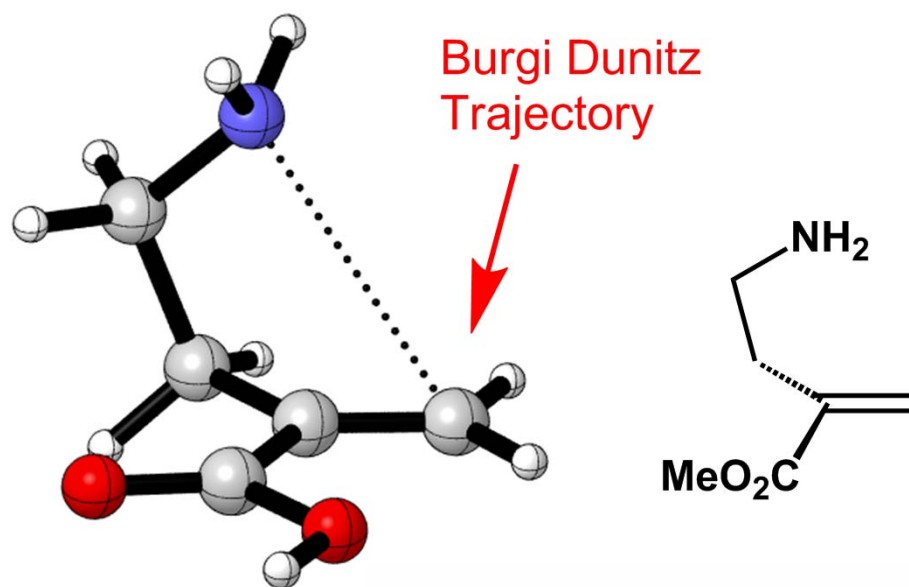


Control experiment:



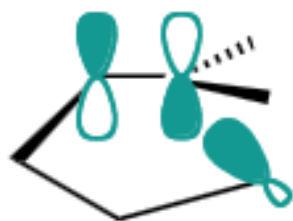
5-Endo-trigonal reactions: a disfavoured ring closure. Baldwin, J. et al. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., **1976**, 736

5-endo-trig: geometric restrictions

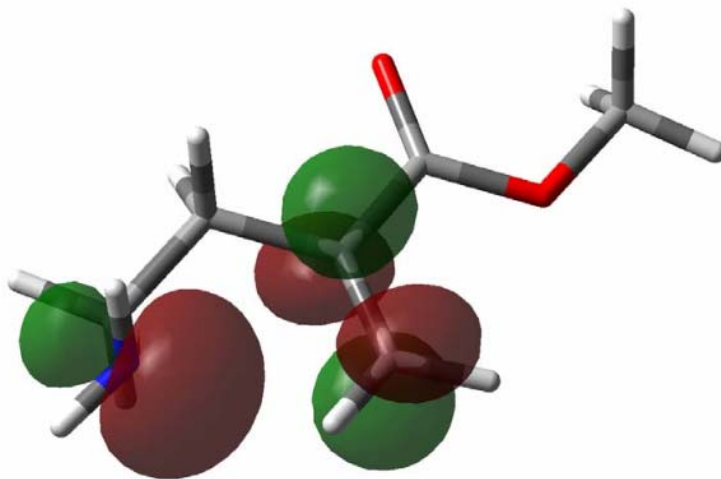


The Burgi-Dunitz angle approach is difficult: the tether is too short.

Nucleophile lone pair can't achieve the right angle of attack



In-plane approach; nucleophile lone pair is orthogonal to π^*

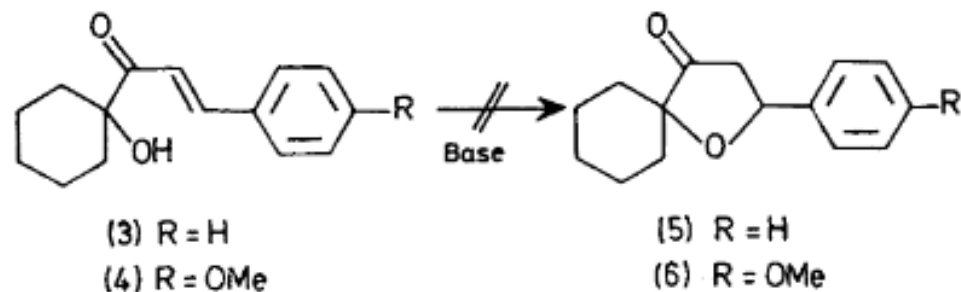


Nucleophile lone pair can't make the bond by attacking at the nodal plane

B3LYP/6-31g(d)

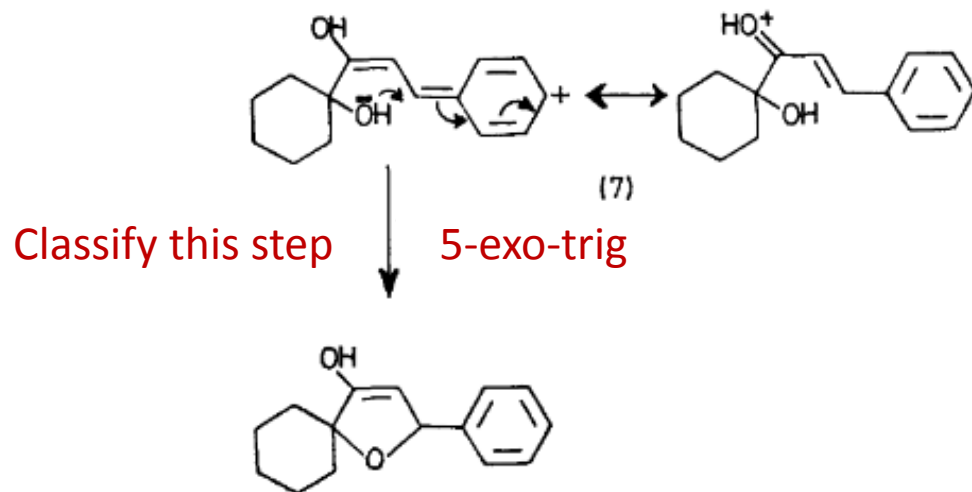
D. A. Evans, J. Johnson, Chem 206 Notes, Harvard

5-endo-trig: additional examples



5-endo-trig
closure is
unfavorable...

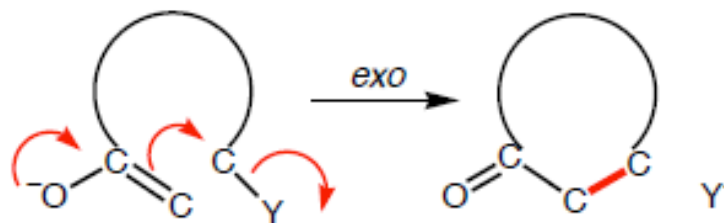
... but the transformation becomes possible once the
mechanism is changed



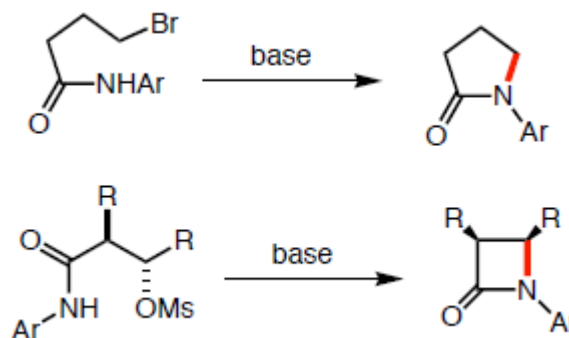
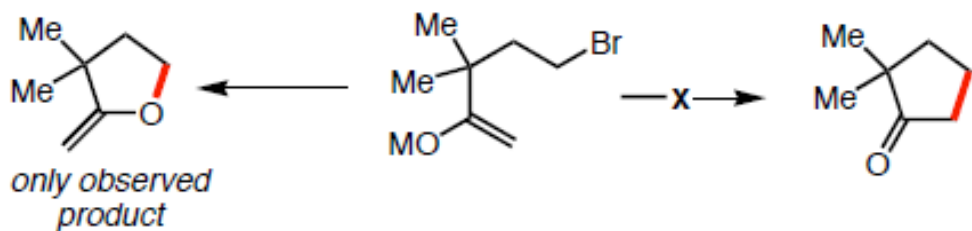
5-Endo-trigonal reactions: a disfavoured ring closure. Baldwin, J. et al.
Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., **1976**, 736

Sometimes one has to consider more than one orbital system: Enolate alkylation

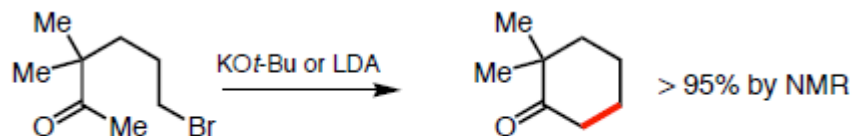
A “hybrid” of *exo*-tet and *endo*-trig cyclizations



Are enolates always alkylated at carbon?



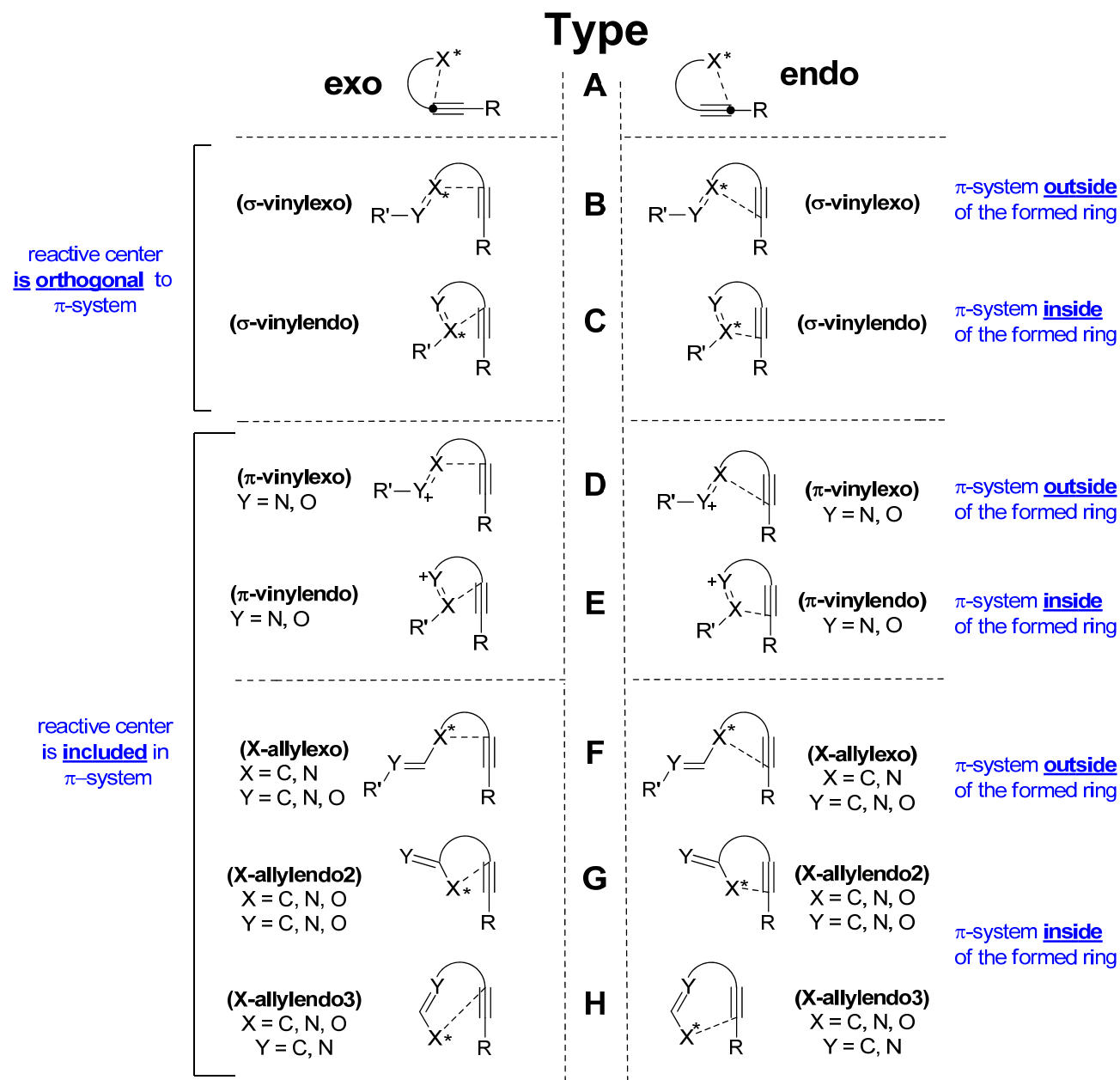
Let's add one more carbon to the tether



Baldwin, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1977**, 233.

Heteroatoms are more
“stereoelectronically forgiving”

Full classification of possible ring closure patterns

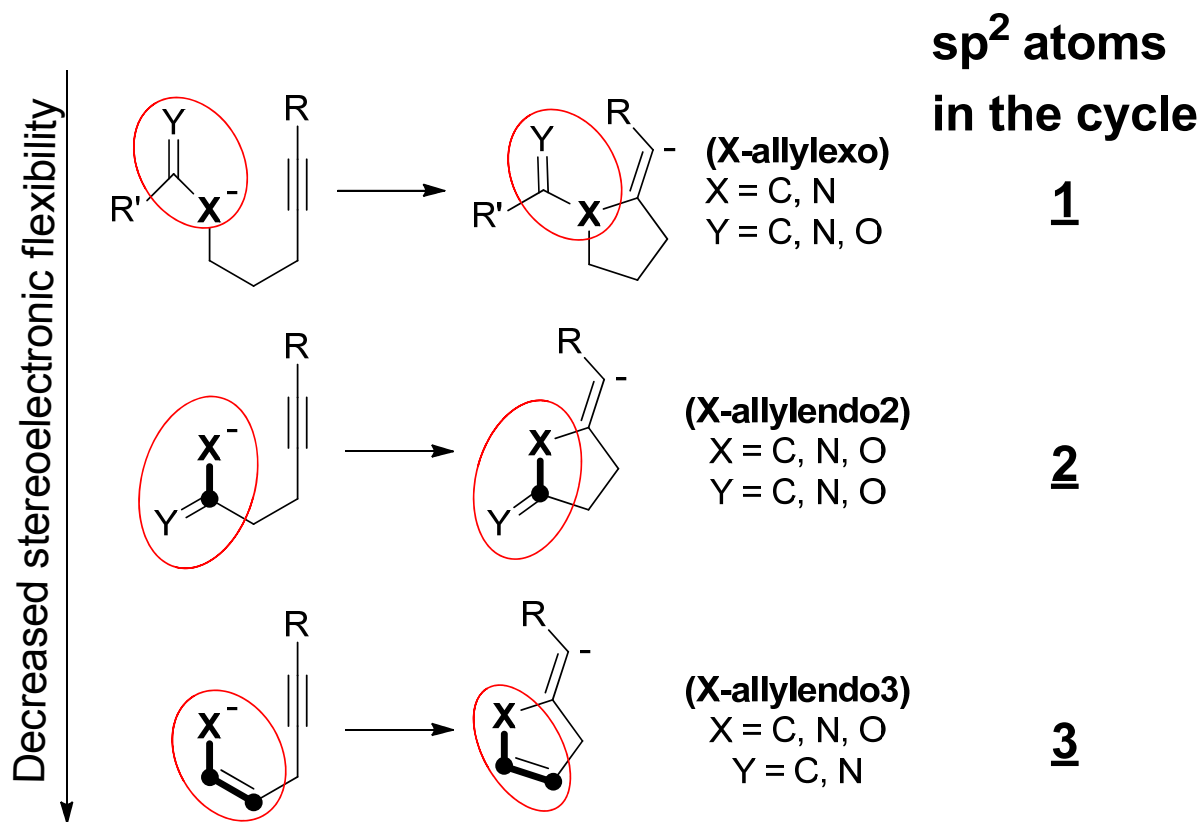


Let's save
detailed
discussion for
another day.

This is still a not
well-understood
field and many of
these reactions
remain unknown

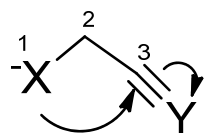
Selected examples:

Differences in stereoelectronic flexibility for the three possible cyclizations of allylic/heteroallylic reagents

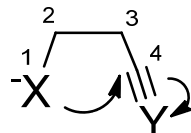


Alkynes (digonal systems): Original Baldwin rules

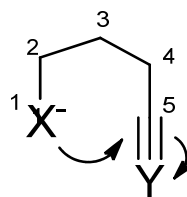
3,4 exo-dig cyclizations are **unfavored**



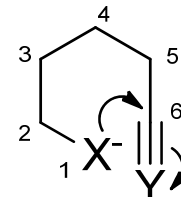
3-exo-Dig



4-exo-Dig

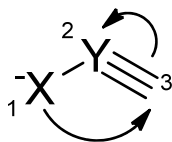


5-exo-Dig

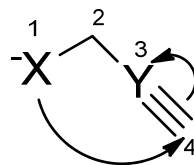


6-exo-Dig

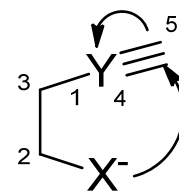
All endo-dig are **favored**



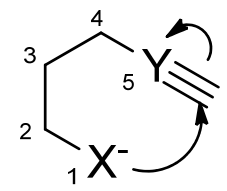
3-endo-Dig



4-endo-Dig



5-endo-Dig



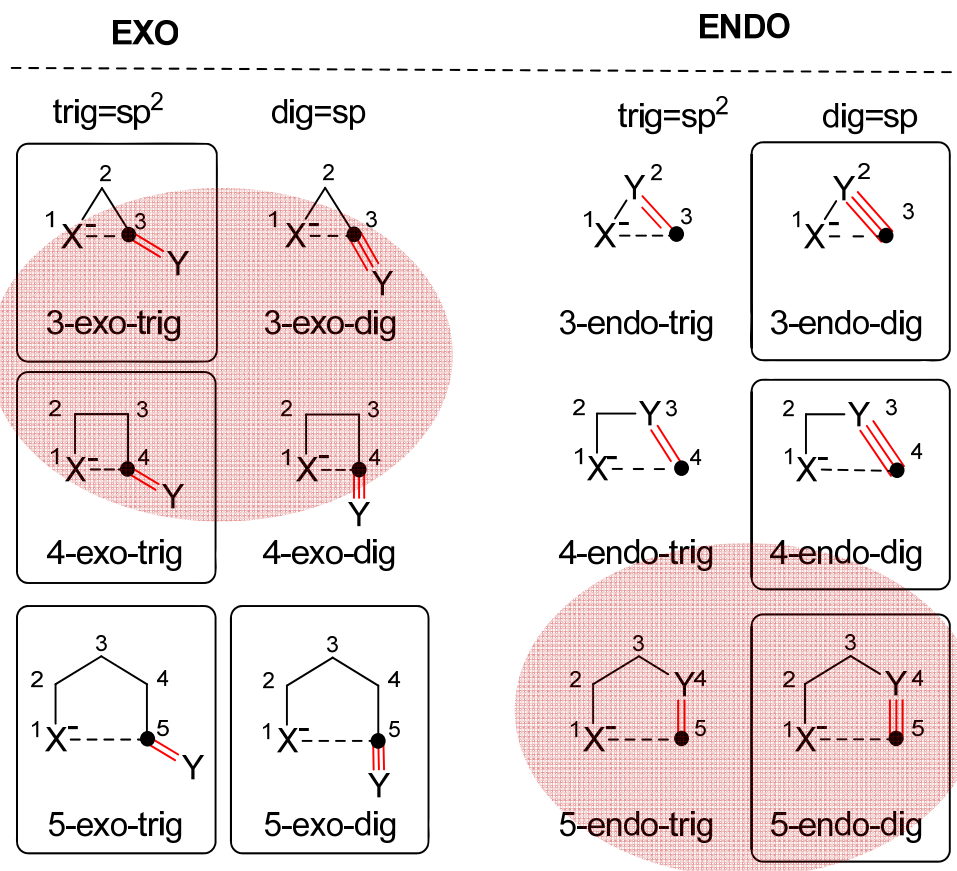
6-endo-Dig

We will have to revisit and reanalyze these predictions very soon



Why Baldwin predictions were surprising?

Boxed reactions were predicted to be favorable

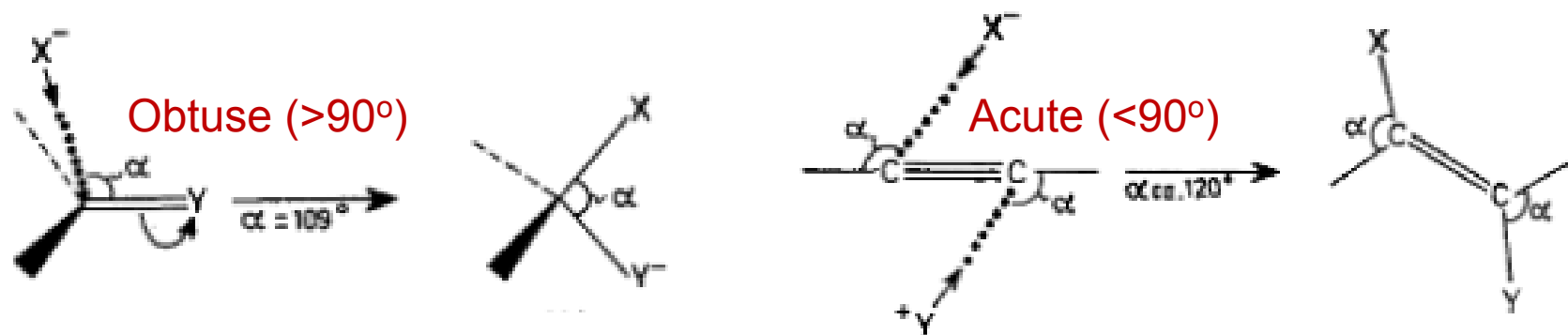


Alkenes and alkynes follow the **opposite** trends

Exo-cyclizations for alkenes and endo-cyclizations for alkynes

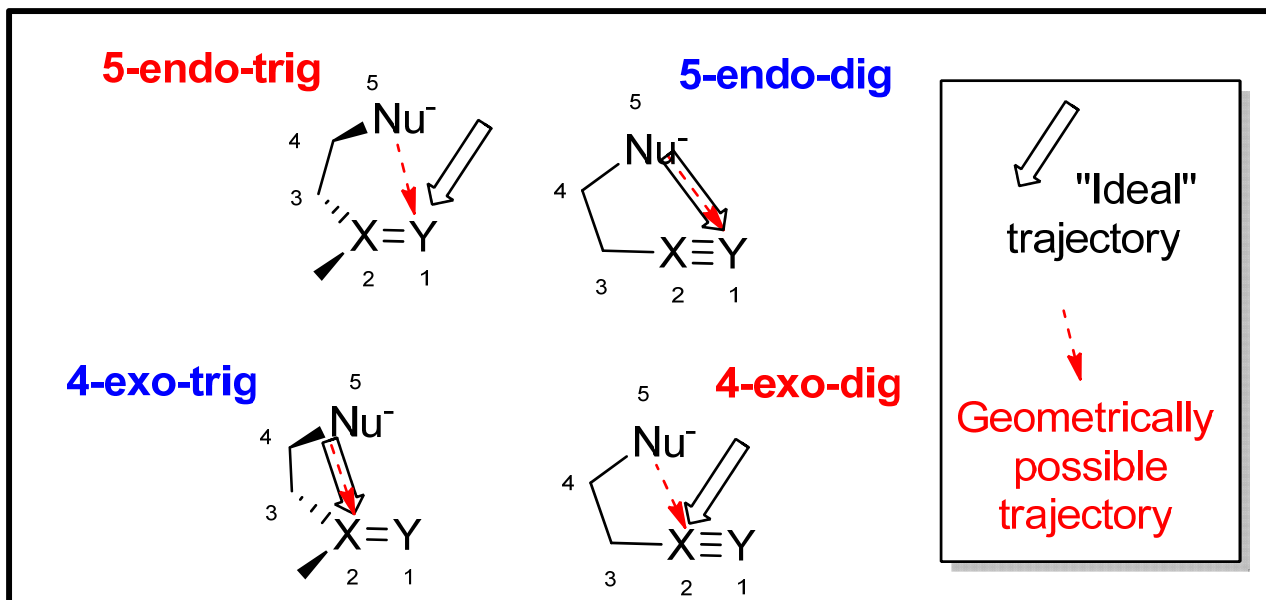
Baldwin Rules: alkynes vs. alkenes

Why rules for alkynes and alkenes are different?



Baldwin, J. E. *Chem. Commun.*, 1976, 734

Contrasting trajectories = contrasting predictions



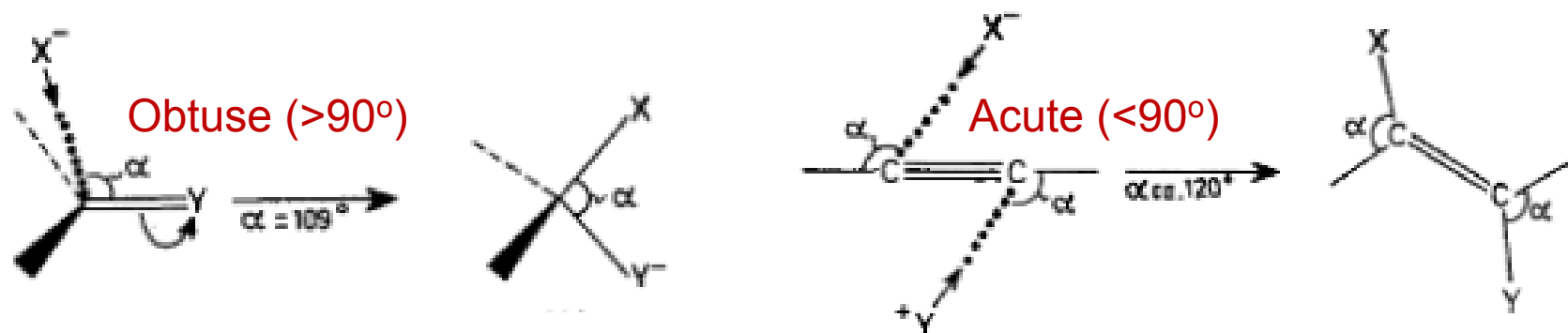
Additional factors:
Presence of the 2nd
 π -system in alkynes



Does it make a
difference?



Where does the acute trajectory come from?



Baldwin, J. E. *Chem. Commun.*, 1976, 734

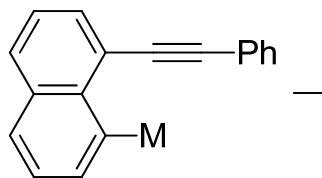
I remember asking myself this question in ca. 1989 when I read the Baldwin's paper for the first time

I could not understand it, so I concluded that I don't know enough (or not smart enough)

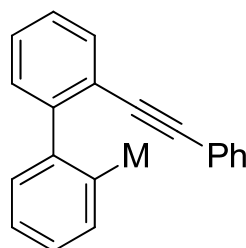
In 2010, I received an invitation to write a Chem. Rev. article on the Baldwin rules. **The time had come to finally find the answer!**

Let's reexamine the facts

Experimental evidence available to Baldwin



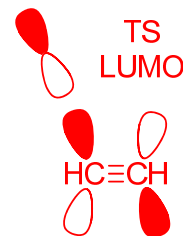
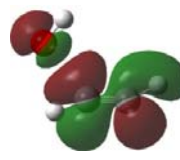
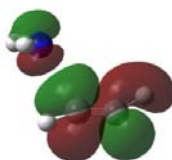
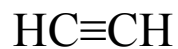
"parallel"



"convergent"

Dessy, R. E.; Kandil, S. A. *J. Org. Chem.* 1965, 3857. Kandil, S. A.; Dessy, R. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1966, 3027

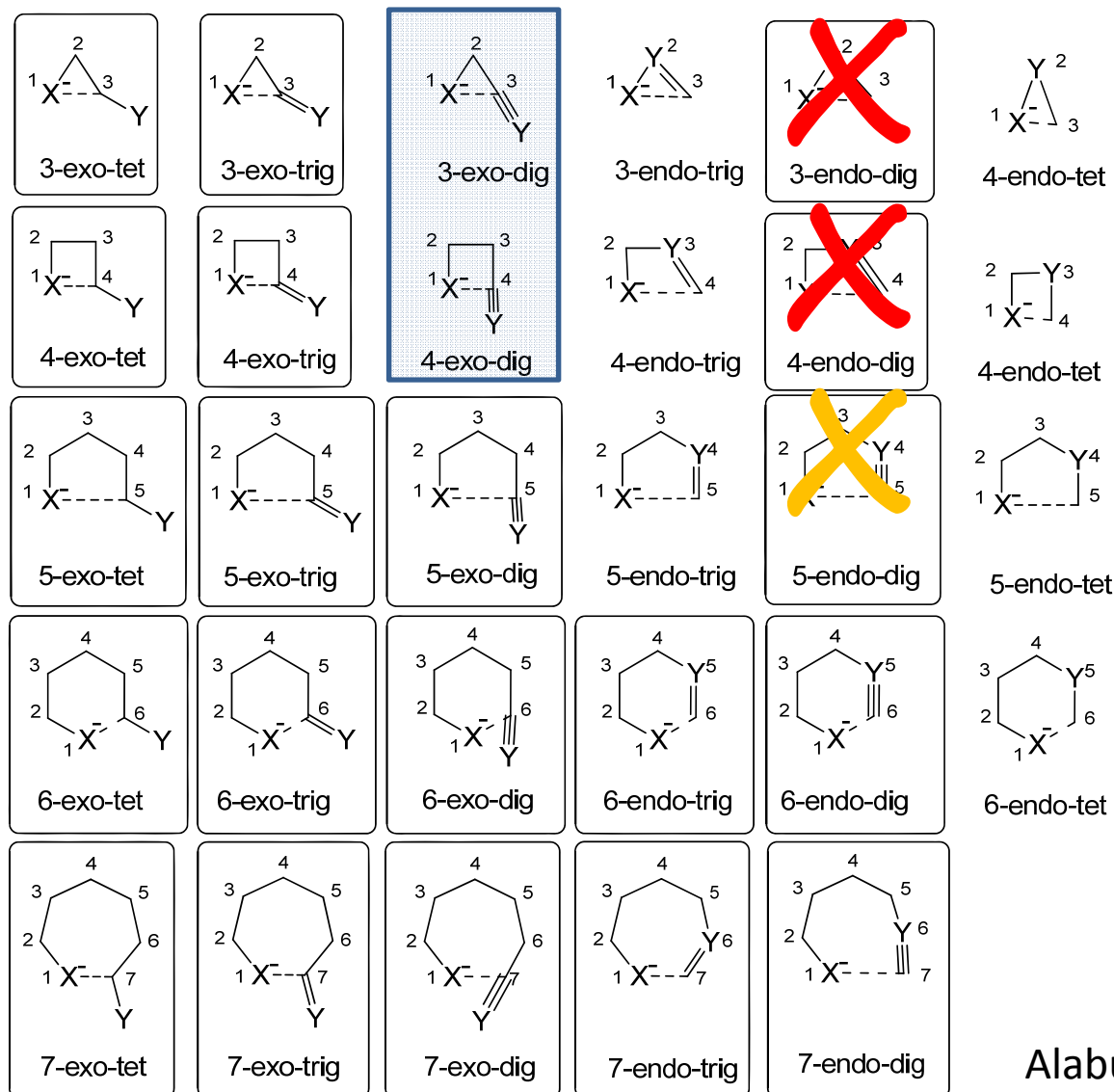
**Subsequent
computational
data**



115-130 degree
attack angle
follows from the
LUMO symmetry

Houk, *JACS*, **1979**, 1340. Alabugin, *Gilmore Chem. Rev.* **2011**, 6513

Modified Baldwin rules

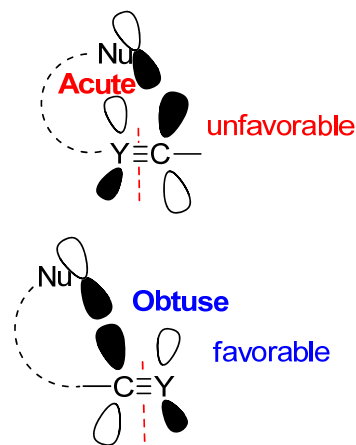


Alabugin, Gilmore:
JACS, **2011**, 12608;
Chem. Rev. **2011**, 6513

Redefining the rules for alkyne cyclizations



Kerry Gilmore



Stereoelectronics suggests exo-selectivity

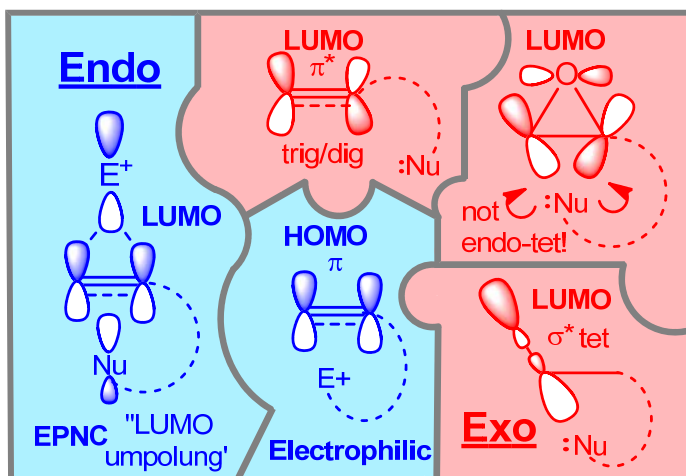
JACS, **2011**, 12608;

Chem. Rev. **2011**, 6513

“Refined Rules”:

Radical/anionic cyclizations prefer exo path

(similar prediction for radical reactions was made by Beckwith decades ago)



“Finding the right path: Baldwin “Rules for Ring Closure” and stereoelectronic control of cyclizations”.

Alabugin, I. V.; Gilmore, K. *Chem. Commun.*, **2013**, 49, 11246 (Viewpoint).

What is it good for?

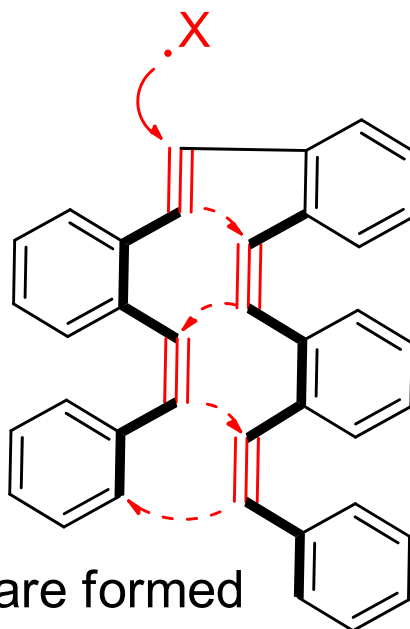
Since alkynes are “carbon-rich”, let’s make something “carbon-rich”!

Polyaromatics: A perfect test for the cyclization rules

How far can one go with all exo cascades?

Radical cascade:
All Exo

*J. Amer. Chem.
Soc.*, **2012**, *134*,
9609

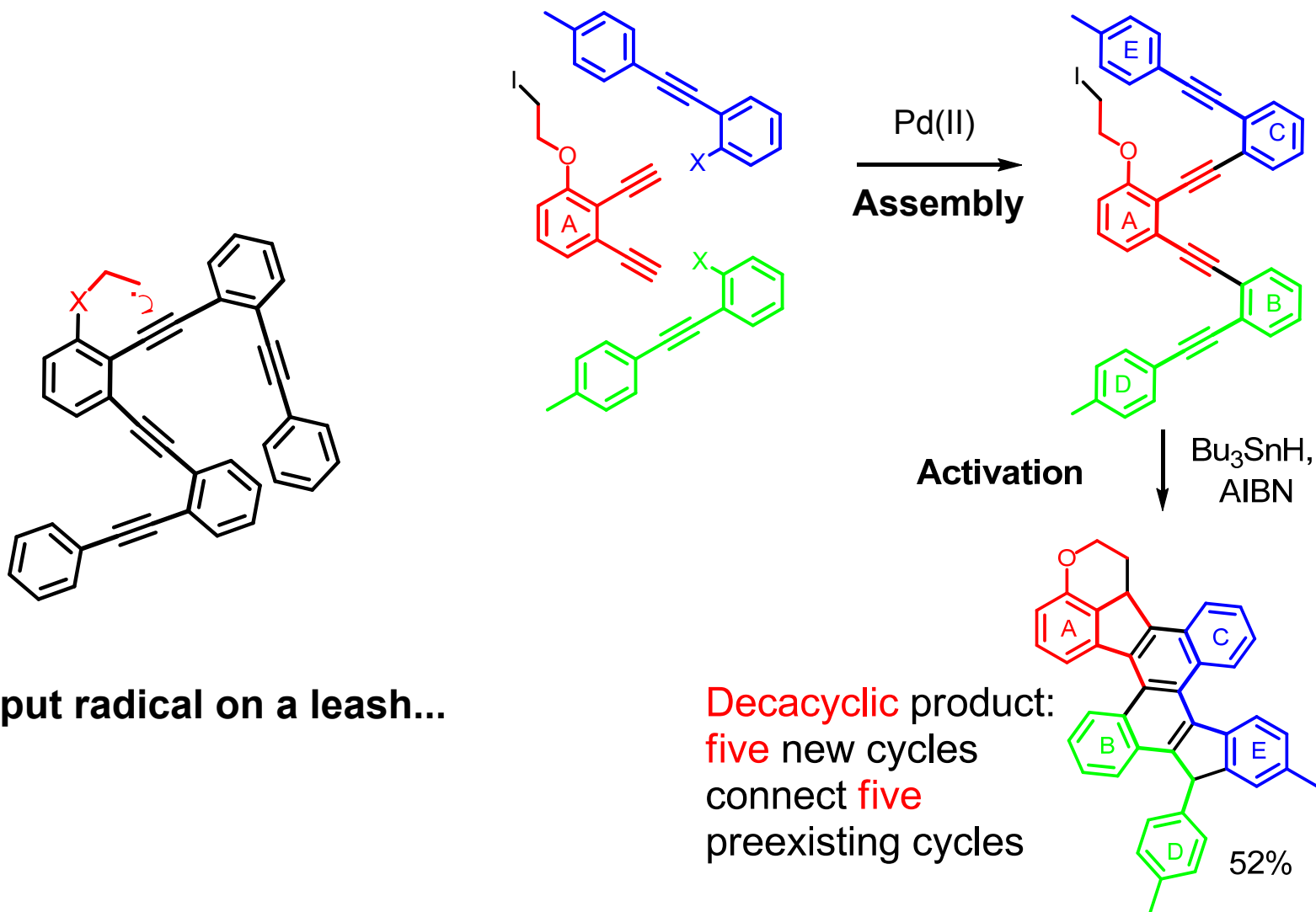


All cycles are formed
via **exo**-cyclizations

How about
making
polyacetylene
chain between
two rows of
benzenes with
radical
“polymerization”?

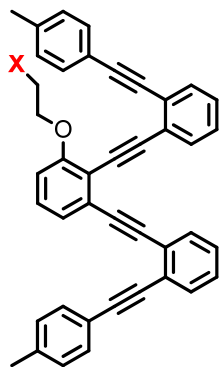
In search of chemoselectivity: guiding radical processes

All aromatic building blocks can be different



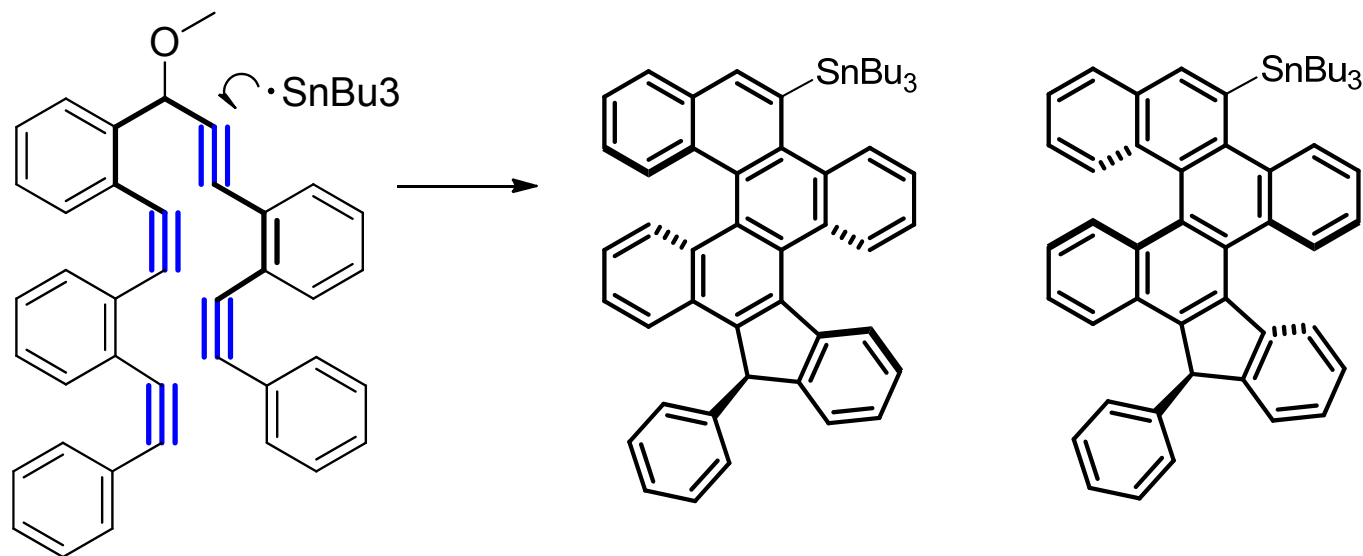


Five new cycles via an “all-exo” cascade



For $X=I$, >93% yield per step. *Only exo cyclizations!*

Selective initiation of the all-exo-cascade without tethers



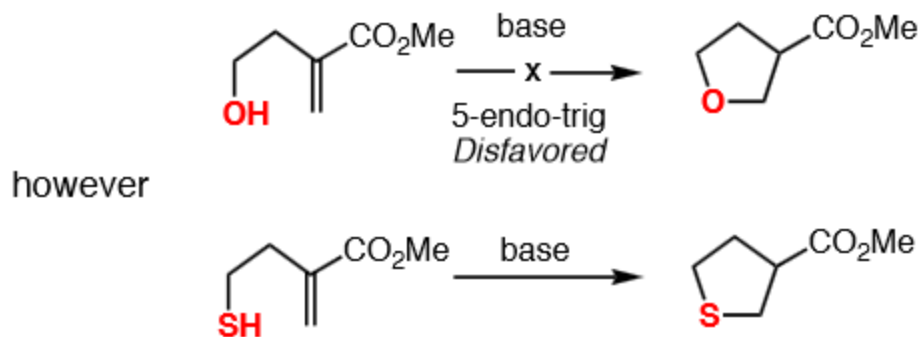
Helicenes

JACS, **2015**, in press, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/ja510563d>

CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

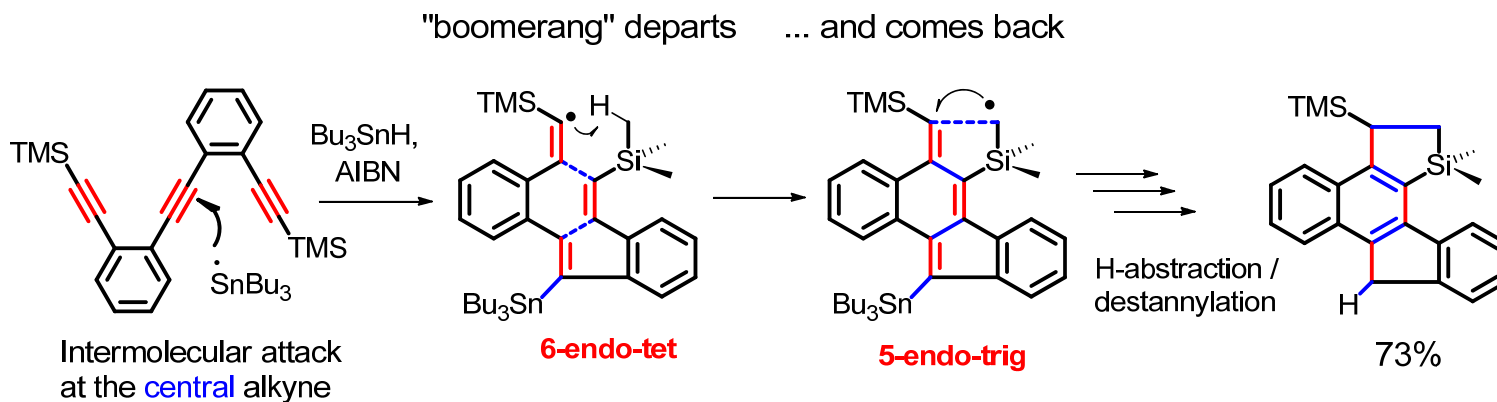
Unusual bond lengths

Due to the larger atomic radii and bond distances of heavier atoms, Baldwin stipulated that atoms in the cycle must be “first row elements”.



A less recognized corollary is that reactions which involve the cleavage and formation of the much shorter bonds to hydrogen often do not follow the rules as well. For example, radical 1,5-hydrogen transfers, which formally proceed via the unfavorable 6-endo-tet transition state, are common

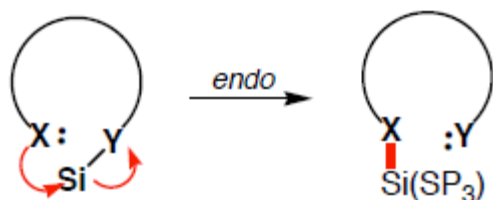
J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2008, 130, 11535



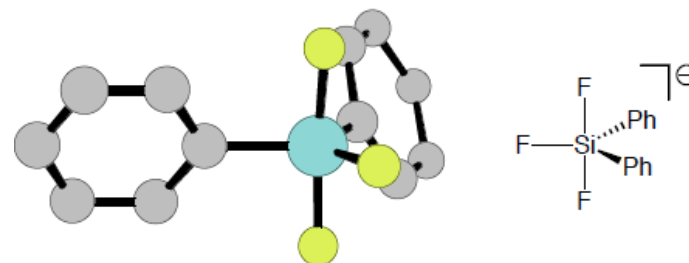
CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Unusual atoms

Endo-Tet cyclization modes are allowed for tetrahedral Silicon



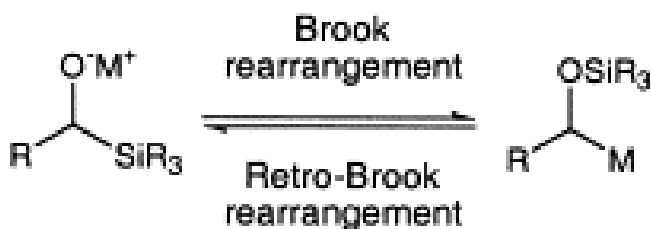
Brook Rearrangements



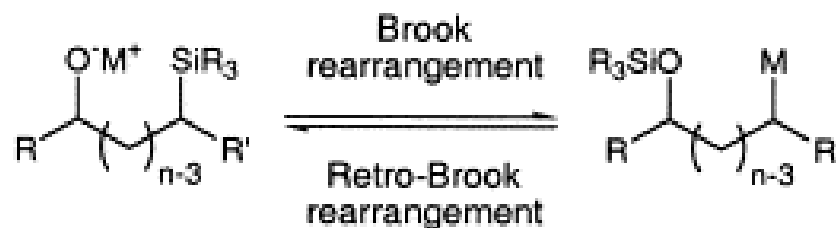
Hypervalent intermediates may be involved (*Inorg. Chem.* **1984**, 1378)

D. A. Evans, J. Johnson, [Chem 2006](#), Harvard

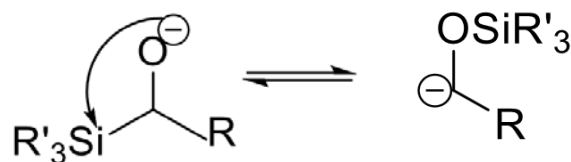
[1,2]-Silyl Migrations



[1,n]-Silyl Migrations



Classify this process:



Formally, 3-endo-tet

Moser, W. H. "The Brook Rearrangement in Tandem Bond Formation Strategies," *Tetrahedron* **2001**, 57, 2065



CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

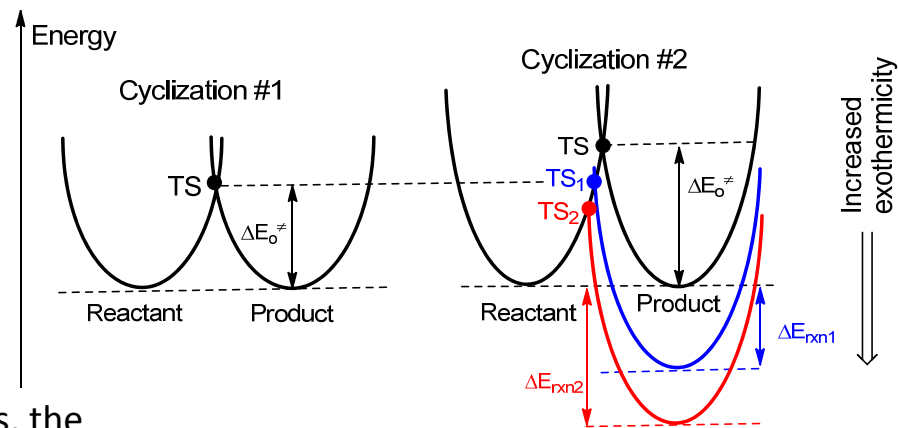
Role of thermodynamic factors

1. Baldwin rules are not applicable to transformations that proceed under thermodynamic control
2. In addition, even under kinetic control, thermodynamic factors can modify reactivity in two ways.

2a. Exothermic reactions have early, reactant-like transition states and consequently require less distortion from the reactant geometry to reach the optimal bond-forming trajectories.

In the absence of a thermodynamic bias, the unfavorable cyclization #2 has a higher barrier

2b. Second, thermodynamic contributions directly lower activation barriers of exothermic cyclizations

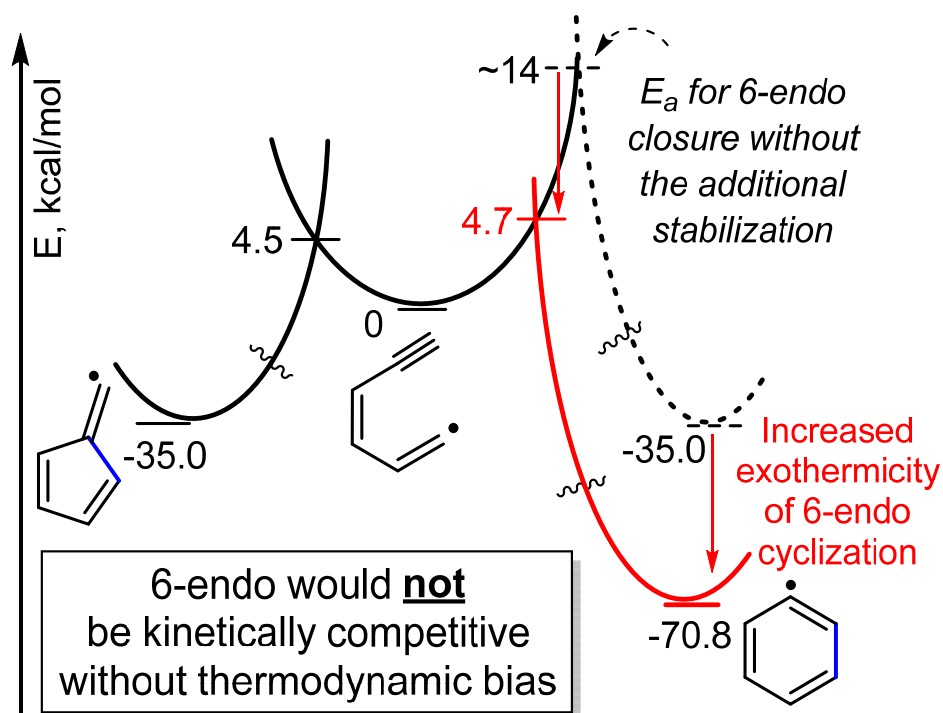


When the **thermodynamic driving force for reaction #2 is sufficiently large (red curve)**, this cyclization becomes more kinetically favorable than the initially favored process #1

CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Role of thermodynamic factors

Example: Effect of aromatic stabilization of the 6-endo-product on the kinetic competition between 5-exo/6-endo-dig closures of conjugated reactants



Effects of thermodynamics on kinetics are evaluated using Marcus equation:

$$\Delta E_o^\ddagger = \frac{\Delta E^\ddagger - \frac{1}{2}\Delta E_R + \sqrt{\Delta E^{\ddagger 2} - \Delta E^\ddagger \Delta E_R}}{2}$$

Alabugin I.V.; Manoharan, M.
J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2005**, 12583



CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Rules for alkynes

Anionic		3	4	5	6
Dig	endo-	x	x	✓	✓
	exo-	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
Radical		3	4	5	6
Dig	endo-	x	x	✓	✓✓
	exo-	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓

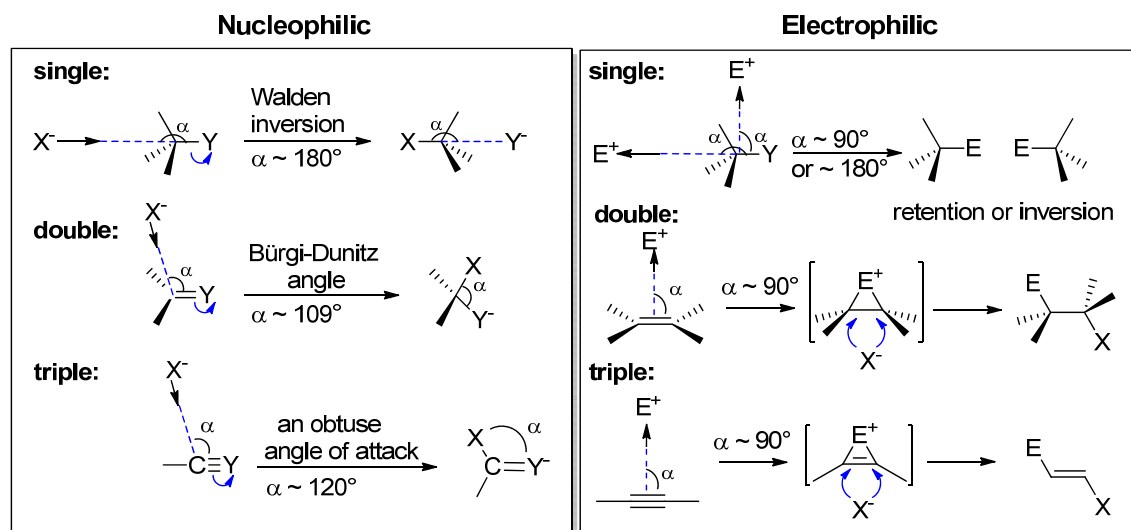
Revised Baldwin rules for nucleophilic and radical cyclizations of alkynes

Alabugin, I. V.; Gilmore, K. *JACS*, **2011**, 12608;
Chem. Rev. **2011**, 6513

CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Rules for cations – very different from anions!

Another potentially controversial aspect of the Baldwin rules is whether their utility extends beyond nucleophilic closures. Although Baldwin stated that this treatment “also applies to homolytic and cationic processes”, one cannot simply “transfer” the guidelines between the different attacking species.

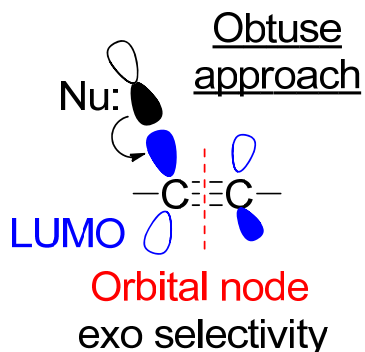


For example, the cationic 1,2-shifts involved in Wagner-Meerwein rearrangements are analogous to the anionic 3-endo-tet process but, whereas cationic processes are ubiquitous, fast, and concerted, their anionic counterparts are clearly unfavorable as illustrated by the non-concerted nature of the [1,2]-Wittig and related anionic rearrangements

Violations can be useful.

LUMO Umpolung: design of endo-selective cyclizations

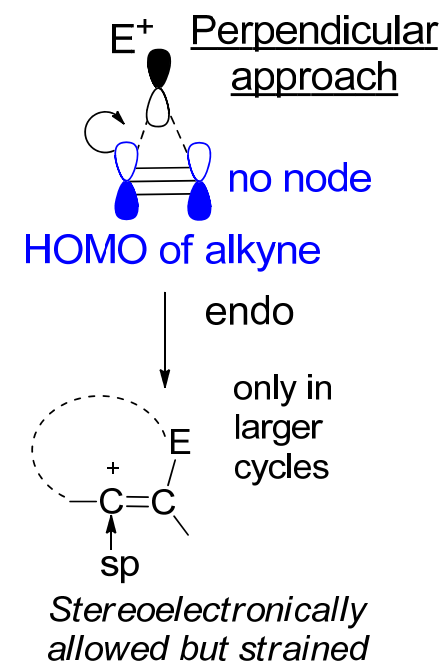
Nucleophilic



Endo cyclizations are disfavored either stereoelectronically (nucleophiles) or thermodynamically (electrophiles).

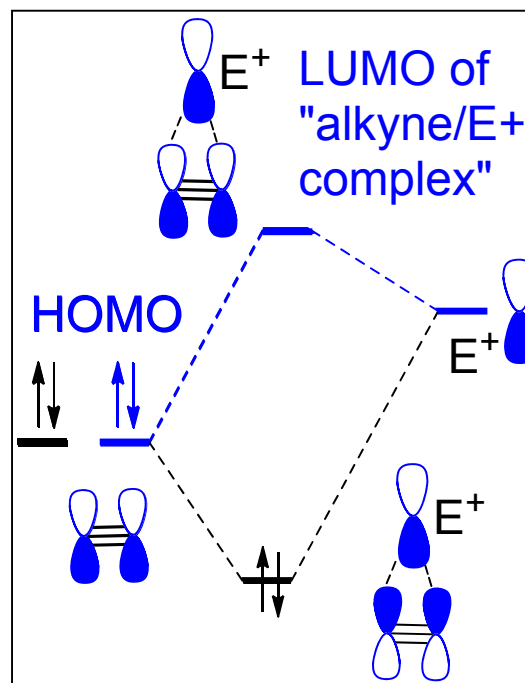
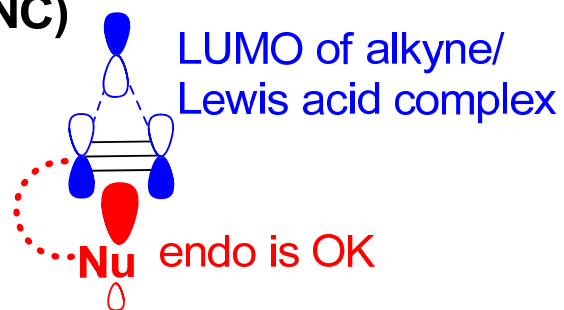
The solution is to design *nucleophilic* cyclizations that follow stereoelectronic rules of *electrophilic* cyclizations.

Electrophilic

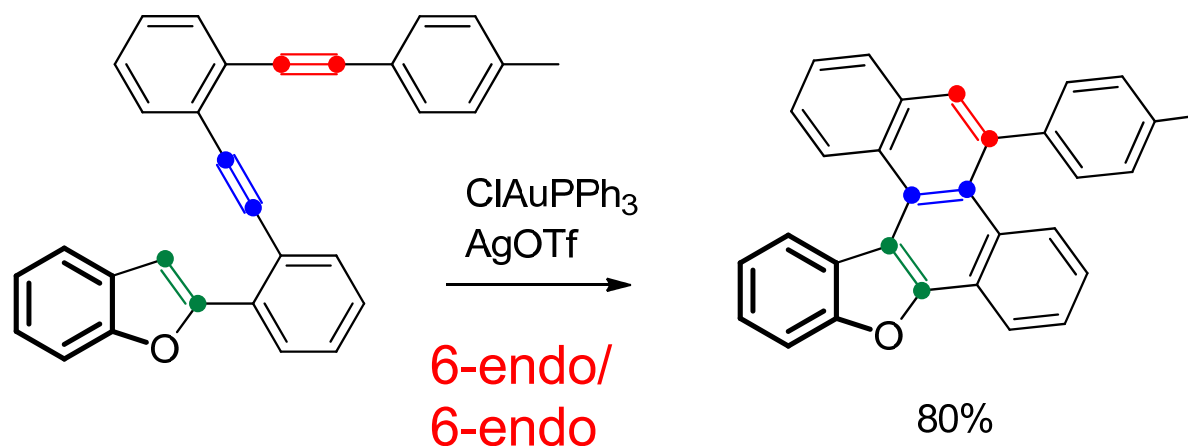
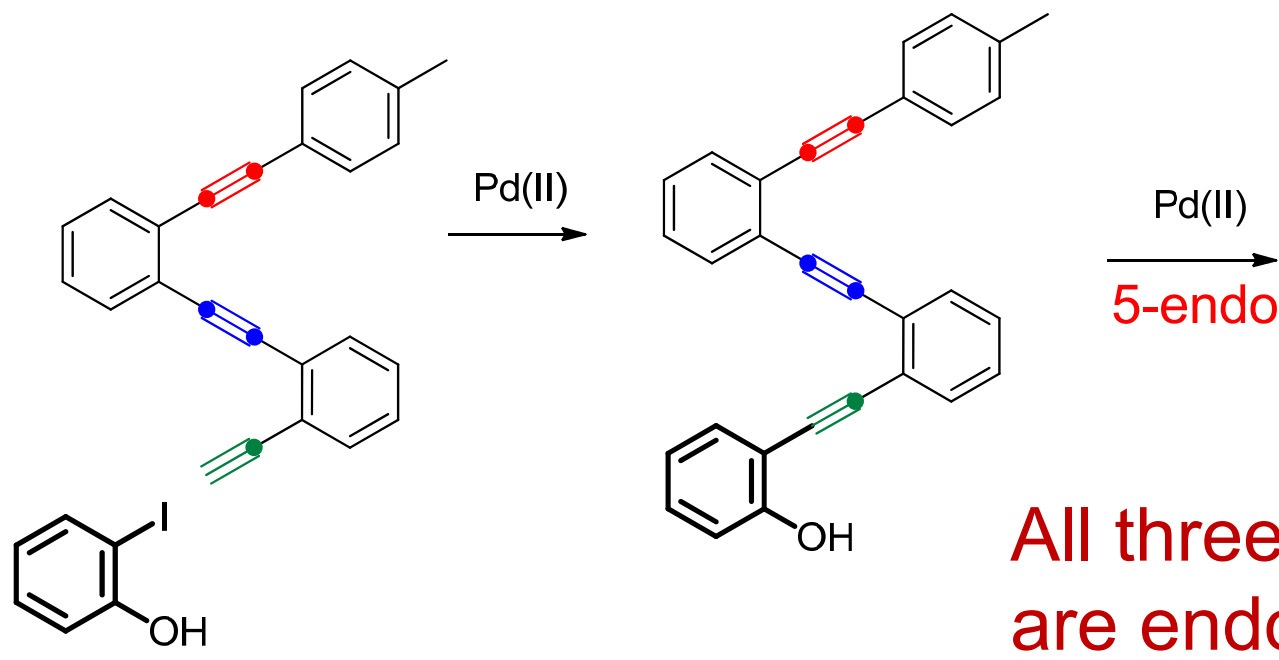


We need to "convert" alkyne HOMO into a LUMO.

Electrophile-Promoted Nucleophilic Closure (EPNC)



“All endo” cascades towards polyaromatics



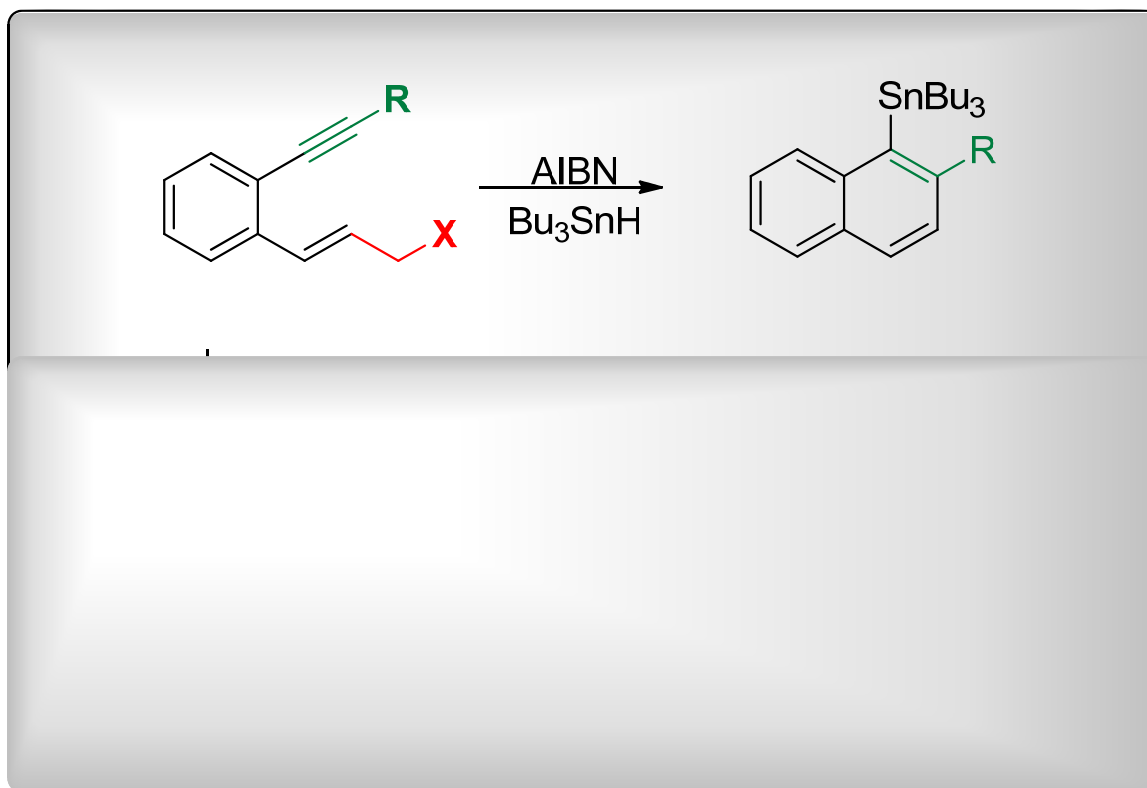
Byers, P. M.; Rashid, J. I.; Mohamed, R. K.;
Alabugin, I. V. *Org. Lett.*, **2013**, 6032

Review: Mohamed, Peterson, Alabugin,
Eur. J. Org. Chem., **2013**, 2505

Another way to achieve endo-selectivity: couple TWO exo-cyclizations with a fragmentation

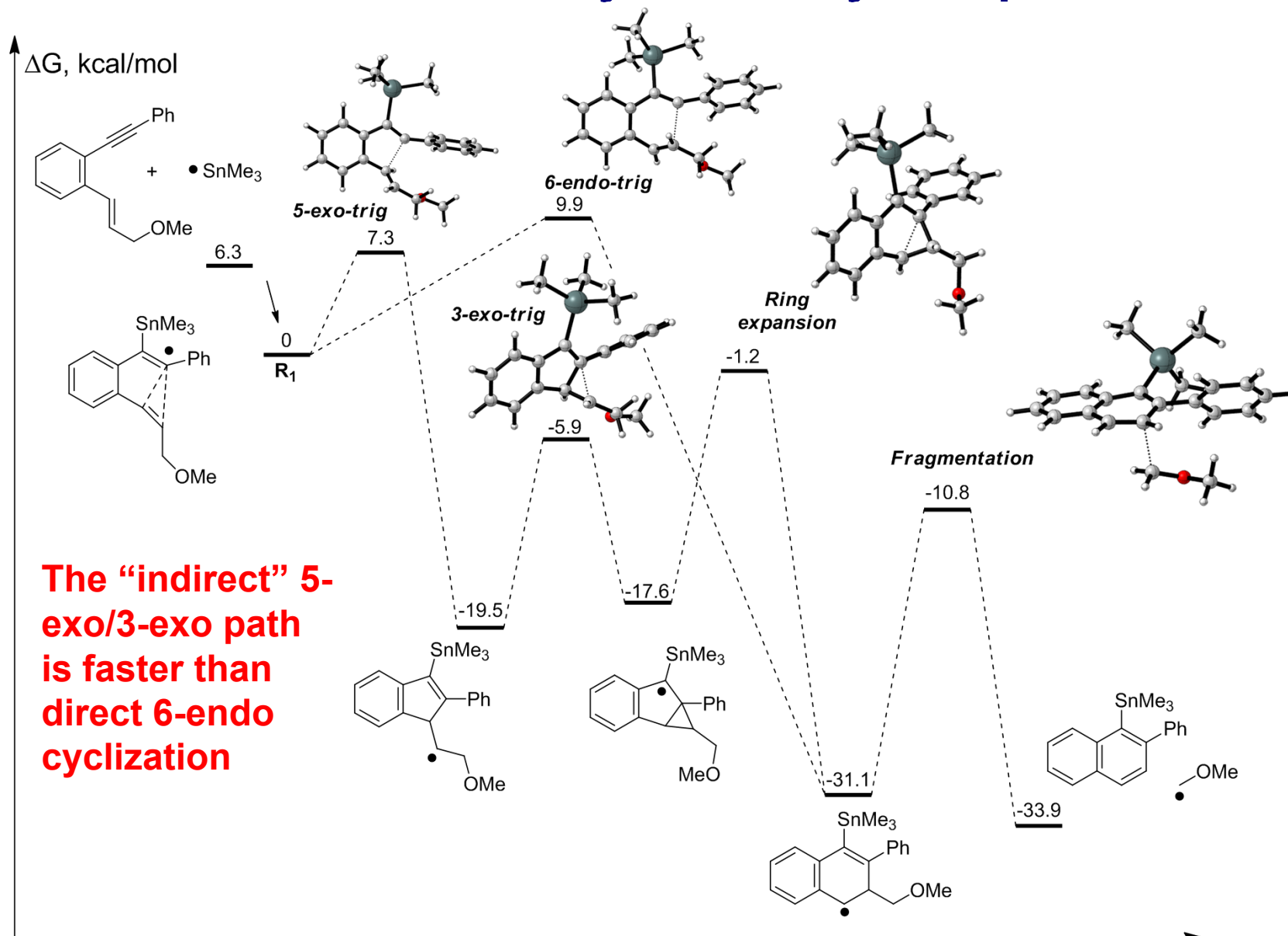
Ring expanding cascades

Why and how did the selectivity change?



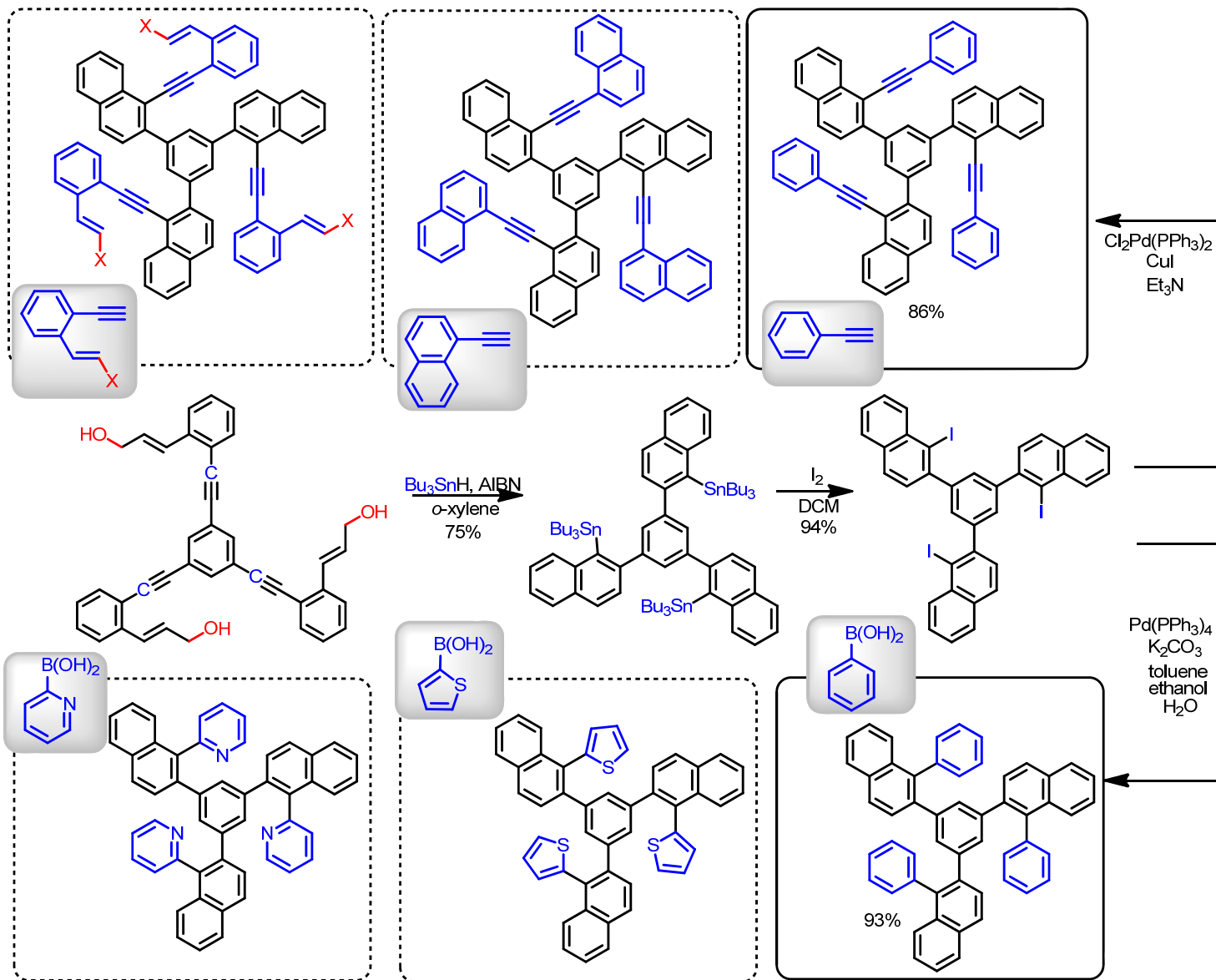
It is not that simple!

Switch in selectivity: homoallylic expansion



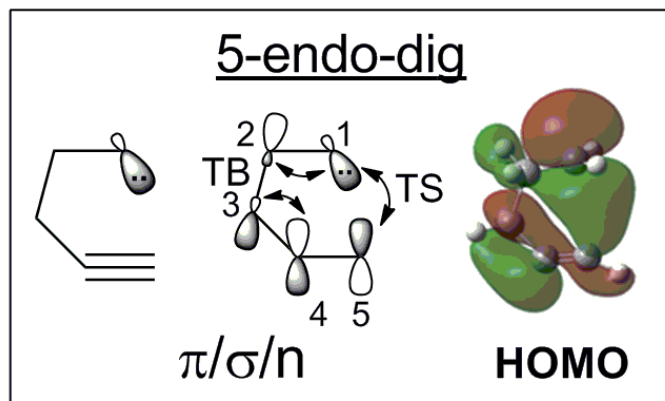
UM062X/LanL2DZ level of theory. Energies in kcal/mol. ΔG 's are calculated at 384K

Modular approach to carbon nanostructures with 3-fold symmetry

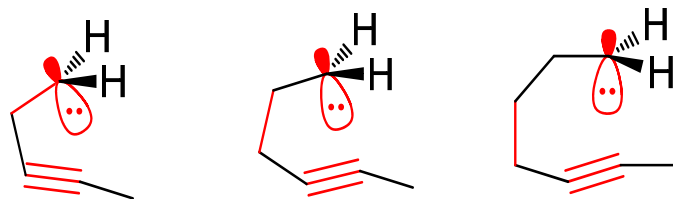


CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Sigmatropic shifts masquerading as endo-cyclizations

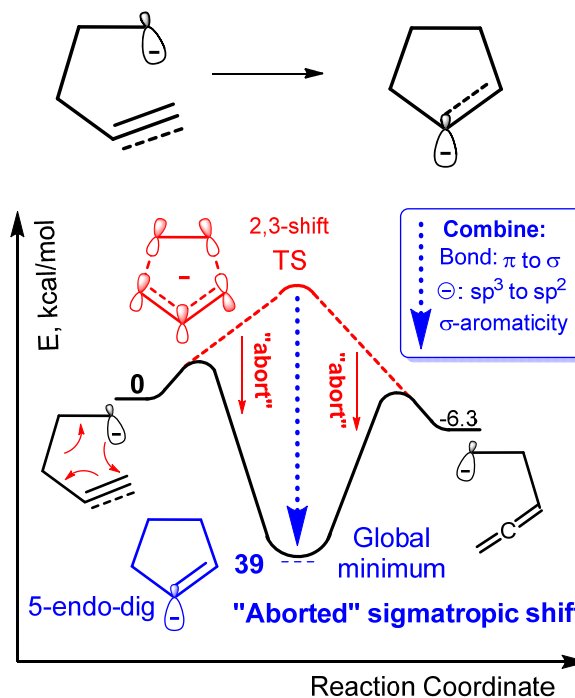


Symmetry-enforced cyclic delocalization: σ -aromaticity



Lone Pair	+21.7	-9.0	+3.1
in-plane π	-1.1	-6.2	-2.6
sigma	+3.3	-5.3	+4.7
NICS(0) _{MOzz}	+23.9 ppm (+20.6 ppm) ^a	-20.5 ppm	+5.2 ppm
	<i>antiaromatic</i>	<i>aromatic</i>	<i>non-aromatic</i>

Anionic 5-endo cyclizations



Anionic 5-endo cyclizations are “**aborted** [2,3]-sigmatropic shifts” because cyclic intermediate (geometry close to the pericyclic TS) is **more stable** than the rearrangement product

CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Enzyme-catalyzed reactions of epoxides – a violation?

Baldwin mentions cyclic closure onto epoxides only briefly, stating “The rules for opening three-membered rings to form cyclic structures seem to lie between those for tetrahedral and trigonal systems, generally preferring exomodes”. This statement led to much misunderstanding and several reports of “anti-Baldwin” reactions

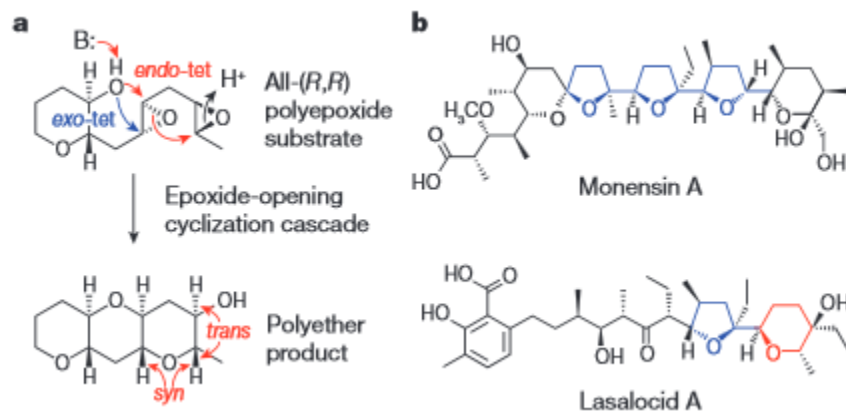
LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature10865

Enzymatic catalysis of anti-Baldwin ring closure in polyether biosynthesis

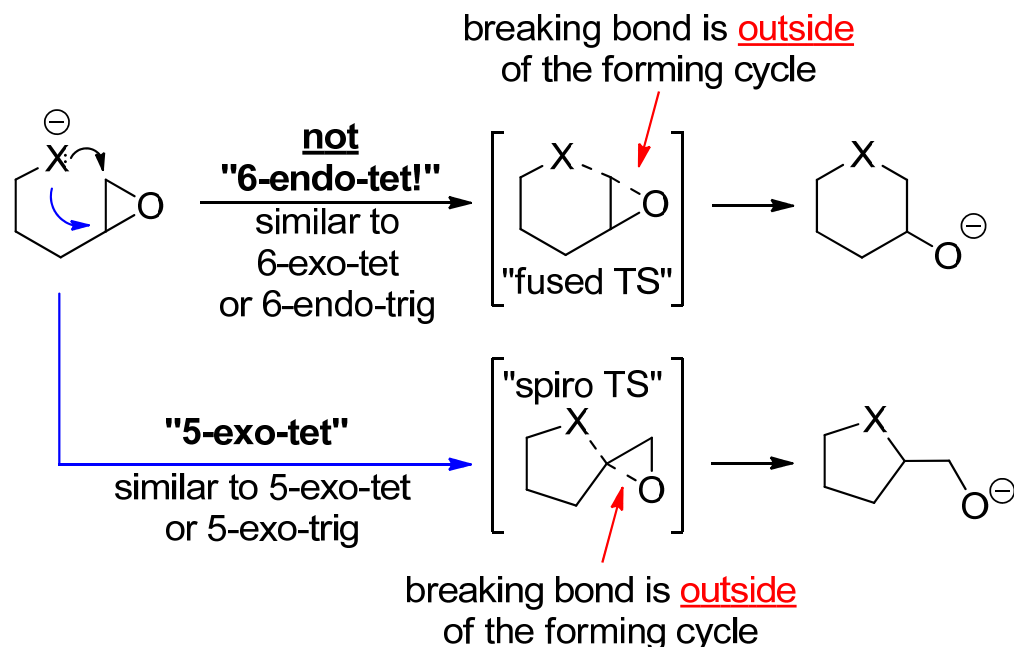
Kinya Hotta^{1*}, Xi Chen^{1*}, Robert S. Paton², Atsushi Minami³, Hao Li¹, Kunchithapadam Swaminathan¹, Irimpan I. Mathews⁴, Kenji Watanabe⁵, Hideaki Oikawa³, Kendall N. Houk⁶ & Chu-Young Kim¹

Do you agree with the **endo-tet** classification?



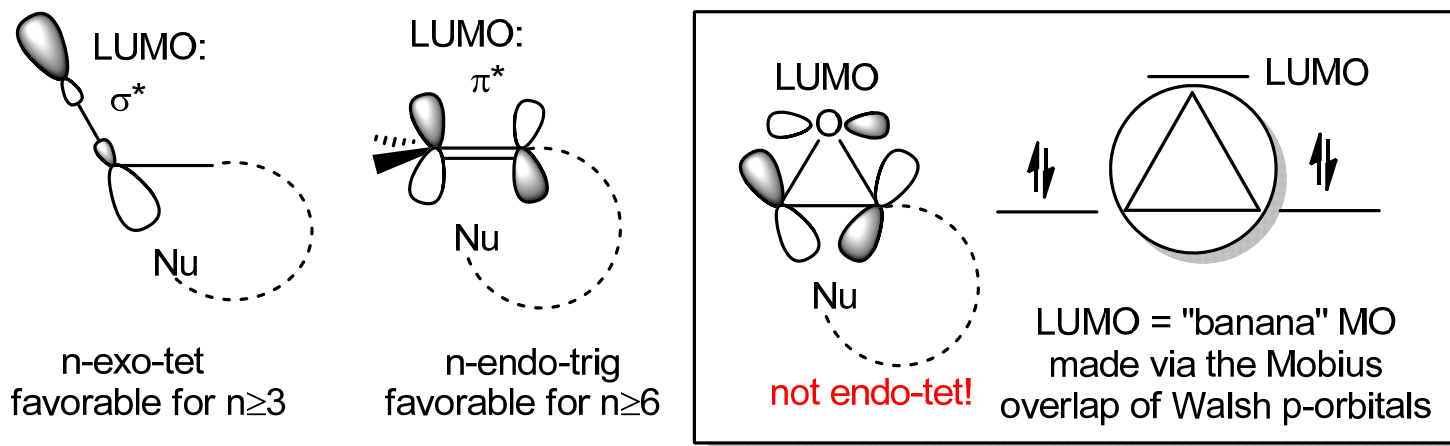
CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Enzymes **DO** follow the Baldwin rules



The “anti-Baldwin” enzymatic reactions of epoxides correspond to the favorable 6-exo-tet/6-endo-trig cyclizations. Nature chooses to achieve selective transformations by giving an **additional advantage** to one of the two favorable processes **rather than overruling basic stereoelectronic principles**

Epoxides: stereoelectronic analysis resolves controversies



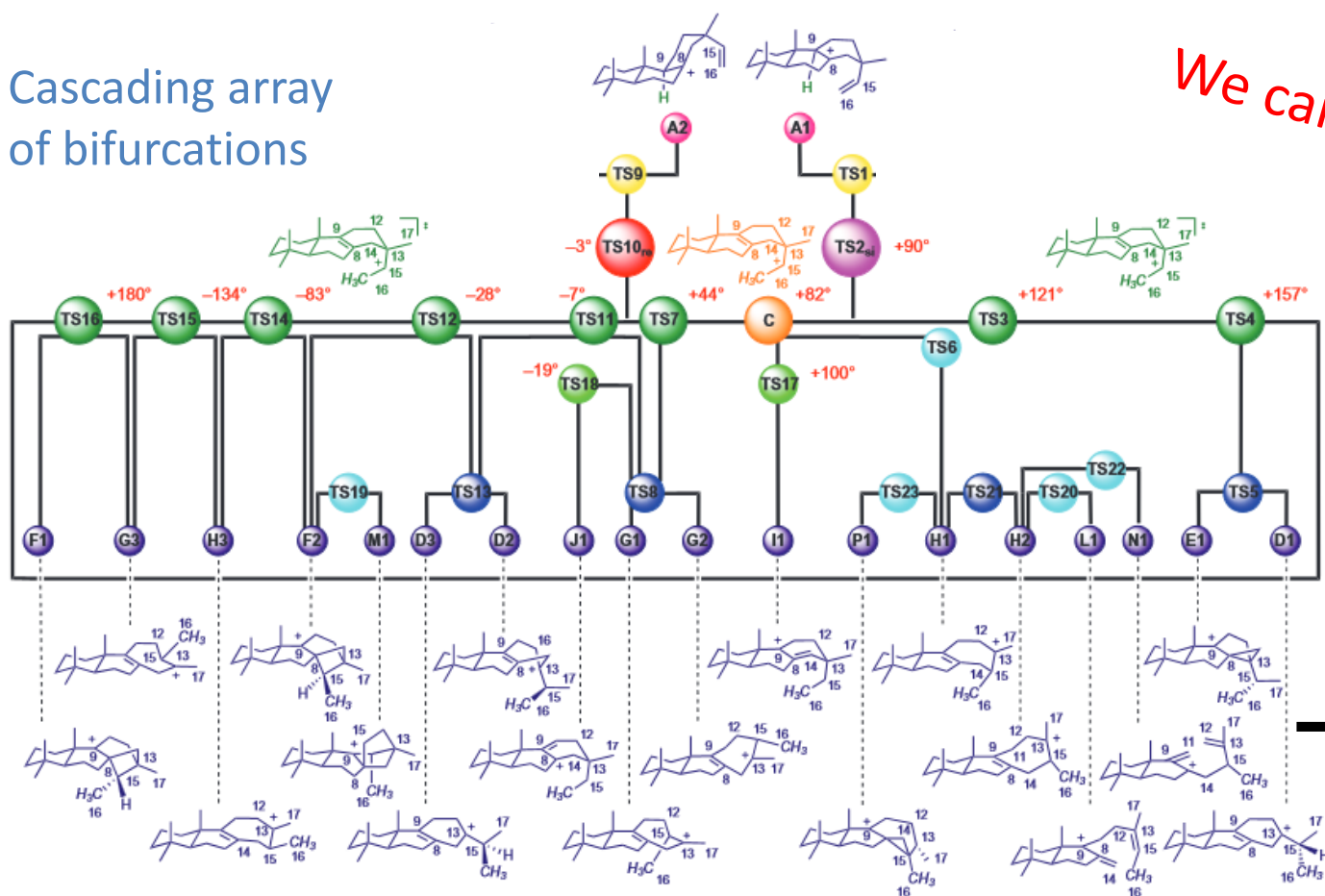
Epoxide cyclizations are indeed a
stereoelectronic hybrid of
 exo-tet and endo-trig cyclizations

CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Formation of multiple products through a single TS

Cascading array
of bifurcations

We can still learn from
Nature

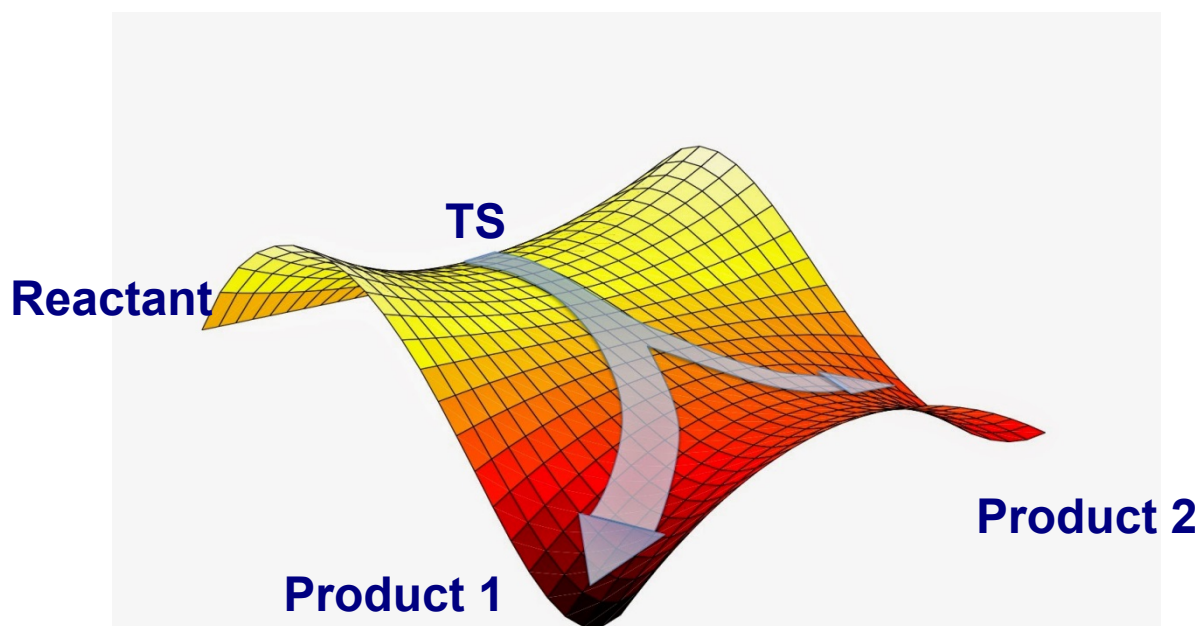


Deprotonation of
minima would
lead to diterpene
products.

Network of pathways that connects the **pimar-15-en-8-yl cation** (two conformers, A1 and A2) to **18 minima** (purple) via only **a single intervening minimum (C)**.

CAVEATS AND VIOLATIONS

Formation of multiple products through a single TS



Idealized potential energy surface featuring a bifurcation after the saddle point (Transition State). The point at which the pathway splits into two is a valley ridge inflection (VRI).



Conclusions

Baldwin rules brought order into chaos, providing a set of simple guidelines for the design of cyclization reactions.

Precise control of cyclization steps is crucial for the success of cascade transformations

The rules had stimulated numerous studies aimed at the better understanding of organic structure and reactivity.

Baldwin rules were instrumental for the development of modern understanding of stereoelectronic effects.