

Chemistry II (Organic)

Heteroaromatic Chemistry

LECTURES 2 & 3

***Ring synthesis: cyclocondensations and
cycloadditions***

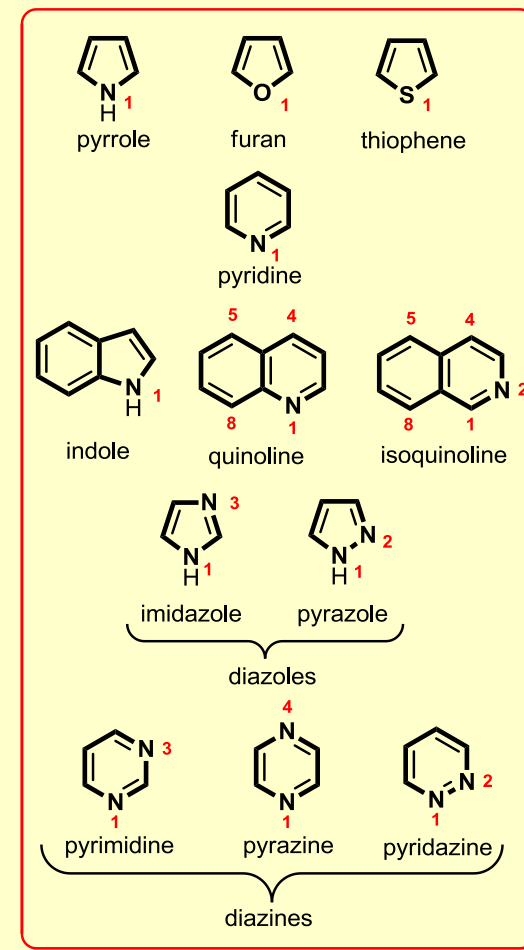
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**Imperial College
London**

Feb 2012

Format & scope of lectures 2 & 3

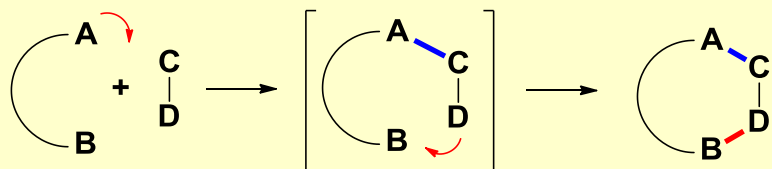
- **Ring synthesis:**
 - cyclisations vs. cycloadditions
- **Cyclisation/cyclocondensation reactions**
 - essential functional group chemistry
 - imines & enamines
 - carbonyls, enols & enol ethers
 - thiocarbonyls, ene thiols & thioenol ethers
 - kinetics & thermodynamics of ring closure
 - common strategies for cyclisations
 - 5-membered rings
 - 6-membered rings
 - design considerations
- **Cycloaddition reactions**
 - 5-membered rings – 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions [3+2]
 - 6-membered rings – *hetero*-Diels-Alder reactions [4+2]
- **Supplementary slides 1-7**
 - some background information



Two Distinct Strategies for Ring Formation

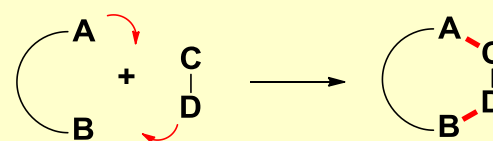
- There are **2** distinct ways in which heterocyclic aromatic compounds can be prepared:

Cyclisation reactions of acyclic substrates



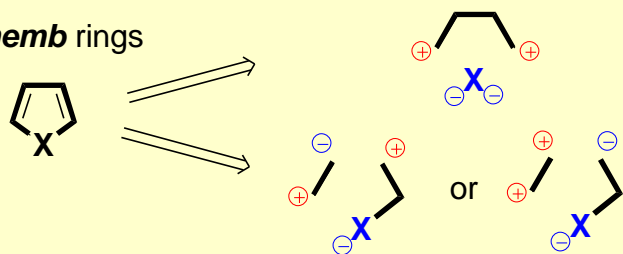
- stepwise** formation of linear **cyclisation precursor**
- formation of **1 new bond** during ring-closure
- C-C or C-het bond
- triggered by nucleophiles, electrophiles, radicals *etc.*

Cycloaddition reactions

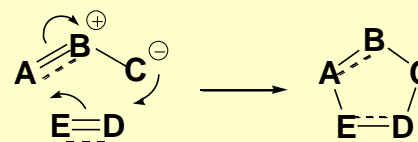


- concerted** formation of **2 new bonds**
- Pericyclic mechanism
- C-C and/or C-het bonds
- convergent (efficiency, diversity)

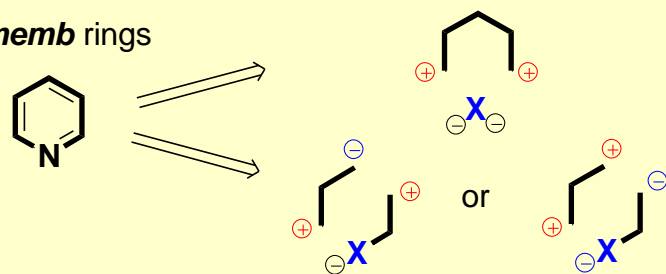
5-memb rings



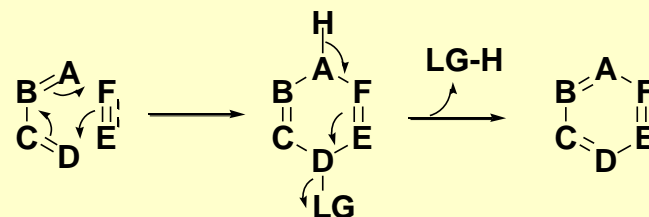
1,3-dipolar cycloadditions give 5-memb rings



6-memb rings



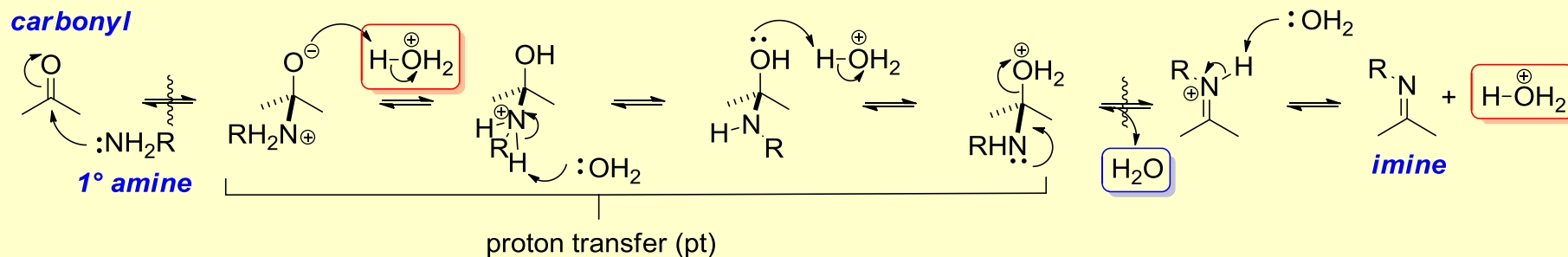
hetero-Diels-Alder reactions give 6-memb rings



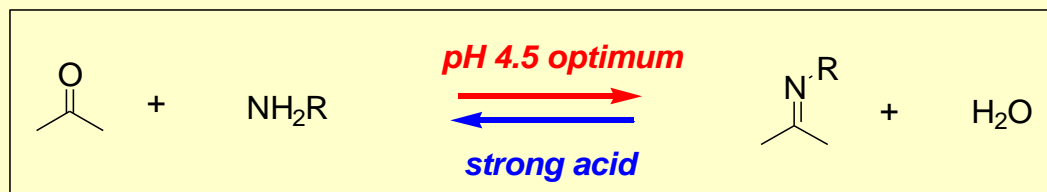
Cyclisation Reactions - Essential Functional Group Chemistry - imines

■ Imines – formation:

□ carbonyl + 1° amine → imine:



□ overall:



- need H^+ but if too much acid is present → protonates amine → stops nucleophilic addition. pH 4.5 is a compromise. For the reverse process, low pH → fast, ~irreversible reaction (amine protonated → salt)

□ reversible:

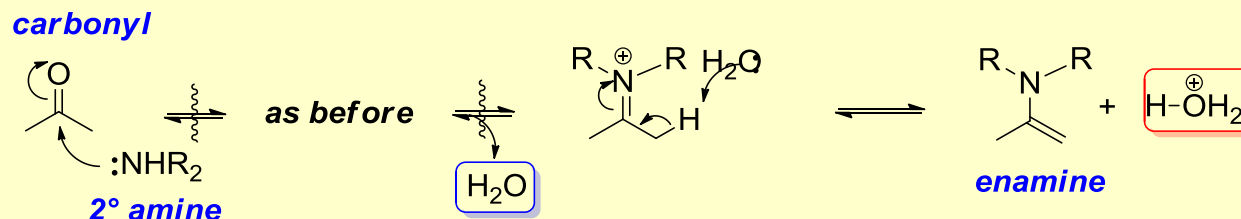
- carbonyl form is thermodynamically most stable ($\text{C=O} \sim 749 \text{ kJmol}^{-1}$ cf. $\text{C=N} \sim 607 \text{ kJmol}^{-1}$)
- need to drive off water (*i.e.* a dehydration/condensation reaction):
 - heat ($>100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for H_2O)
 - 3 Å MS (Molecular Sieves) – zeolites
 - azeotropic distillation – ‘Dean-Stark trap’ (*e.g.* benzene – H_2O)
 - chemical dehydration – *e.g.* POCl_3 or $\text{c.H}_2\text{SO}_4$

Cyclisation Reactions - Essential Functional Group Chemistry - enamines

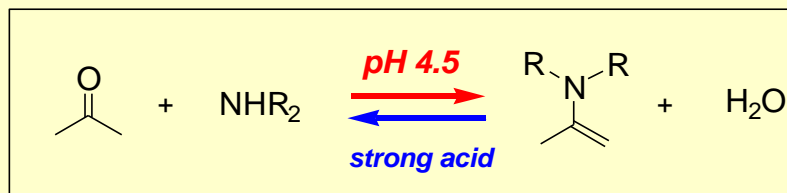
■ Enamines – formation:

□ **carbonyl + 2° amine** → **enamine**:

- last step is different:

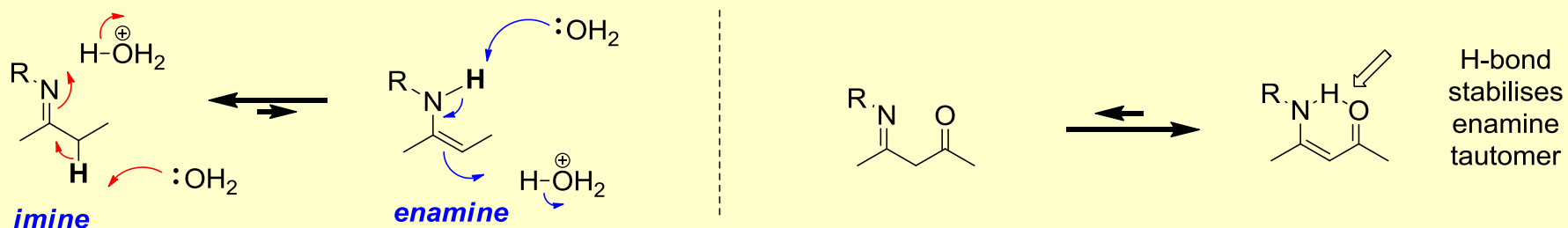


□ **overall:**



□ **of course, imines can also form an enamine tautomer**

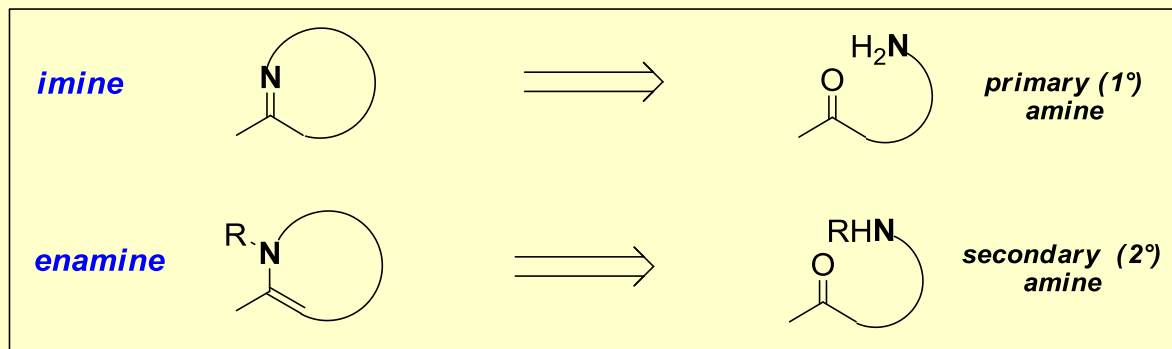
- but usually the imine form is preferred thermodynamically...except in special circumstances



Cyclisation Reactions - Essential Functional Group Chemistry – imines & enamines

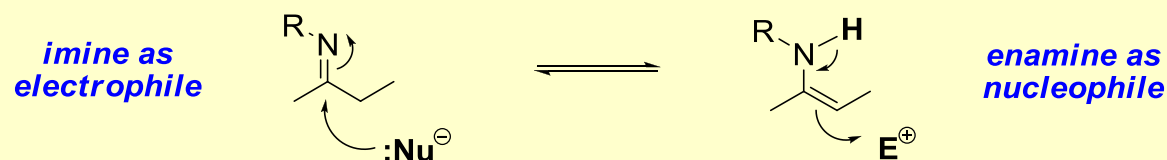
■ Imines & enamines – intramolecular formation, i.e. ring-closure:

- retrosynthetic analysis:

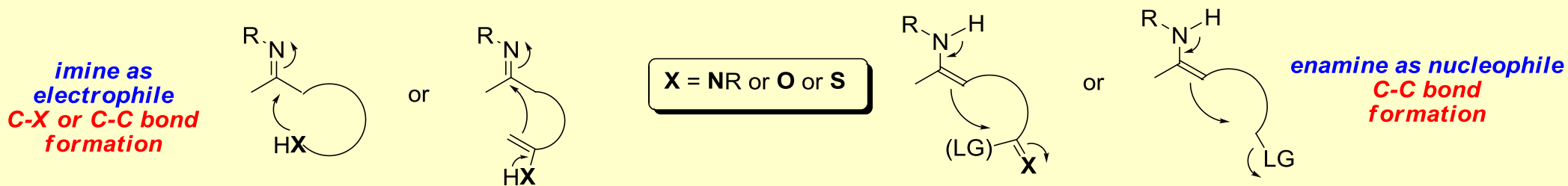


■ Imines & enamines - reactivity:

- imines are **ELECTROPHILES**; enamines are **NUCLEOPHILES**:



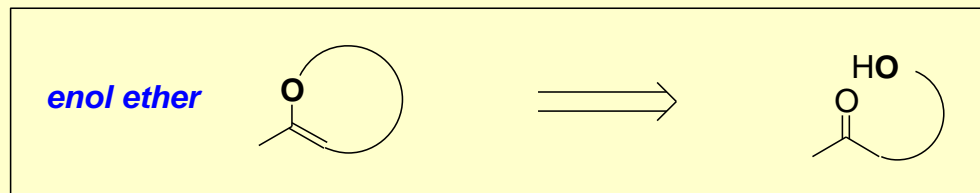
- Intramolecular reactions can lead to ring-closure...



Cyclisation Reactions - Essential Functional Group Chemistry – carbonyls & enols

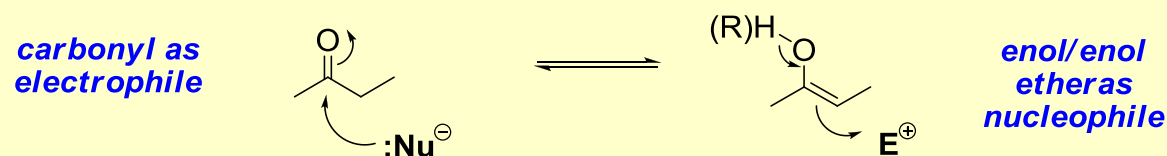
■ Carbonyls, enols & enol ethers – intramolecular formation, i.e. ring-closure:

- retrosynthetic analysis:

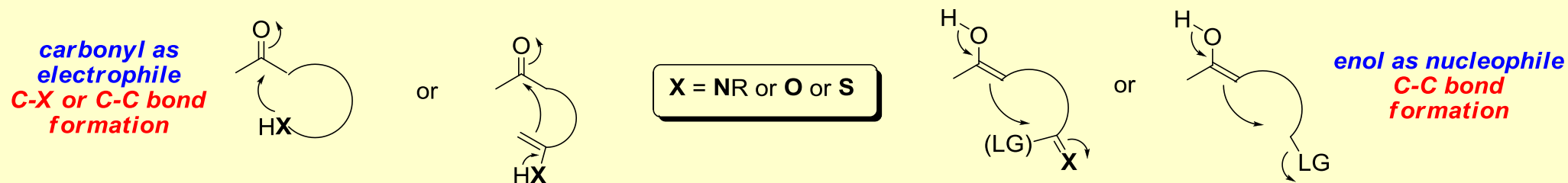


■ Carbonyls, enols & enol ethers – reactivity:

- carbonyls are **ELECTROPHILES**; enols & enol ethers are **NUCLEOPHILES**:



- Intramolecular reactions can lead to ring-closure...

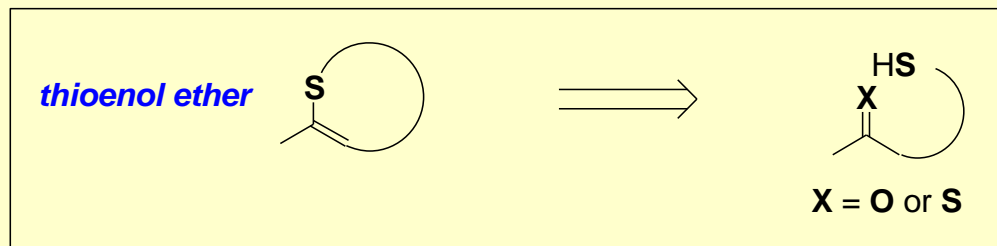


- ...revise acid and base catalysed **aldol reactions** (see supplementary slides 1-2)

Cyclisation Reactions - Essential Functional Group Chemistry – thiocarbonyls & ene thiols

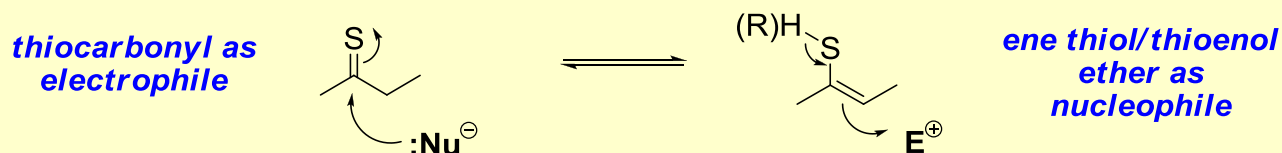
- **Thiocarbonyls, ene thiols & thioenol ethers** – intramolecular formation, i.e. ring-closure:

- retrosynthetic analysis:

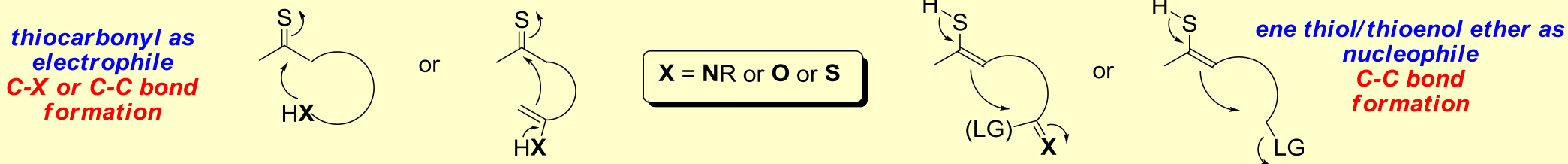


- **Thiocarbonyls, ene thiols & thioenol ethers** – reactivity:

- **thiocarbonyls are ELECTROPHILES; ene thiols & thioenol ethers are NUCLEOPHILES:**



- **Intramolecular reactions can lead to ring-closure...**



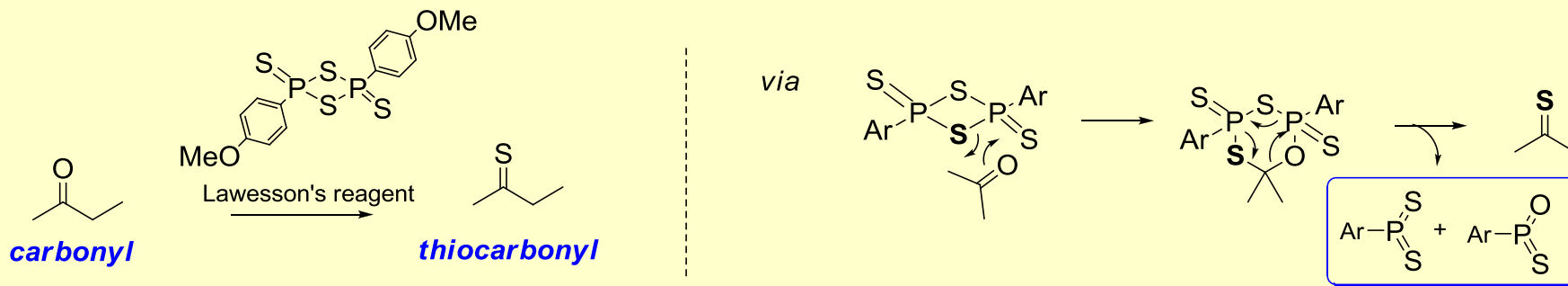
- *thiols* are MORE nucleophilic than *alcohols* & *thiocarbonyls* are MORE electrophilic than *carbonyls*

Cyclisation Reactions - Essential Functional Group Chemistry – thiocarbonyls & ene thiols

■ Thiocarbonyls, ene thiols & thioenol ethers – formation:

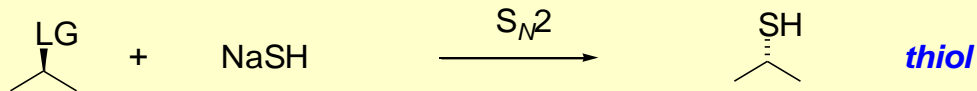
□ thiocarbonyls are generally prepared from the corresponding carbonyl compounds:

- typically use P_2S_5 or Lawesson's reagent ([e-EROS](#)):



- reactions driven by strength of P=O vs. P=S bond

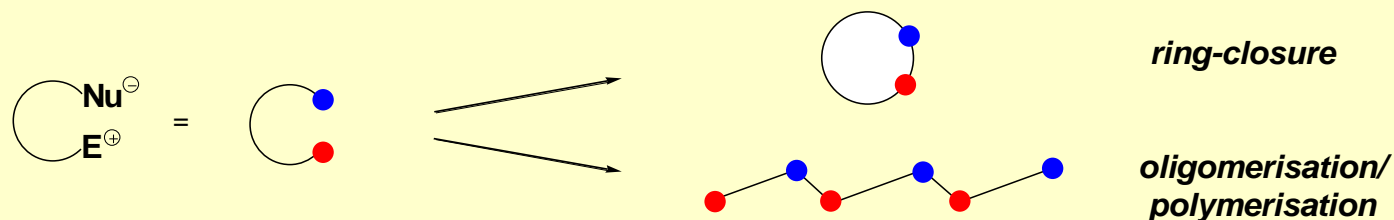
□ thiols are generally formed by substitution of a leaving group (LG):



□ CAUTION... most thiol and thiocarbonyl compounds STENCH!

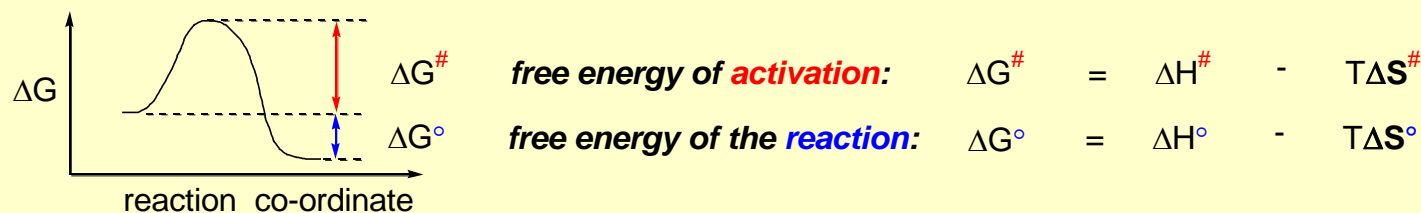
Cyclisation Reactions – Thermodynamics & Kinetics of Ring Closure

- Intra-molecular **ring-closure** vs. inter-molecular **oligomerisation/polymerisation**:



- **entropy is the key factor:**

- **concentration of the reaction** – high dilution favours ring-closure
- **ring size formed** – smaller rings favoured (but...see below)



- **Ring-closure** under **thermodynamic (TD) control** (*i.e.* reversible conditions):

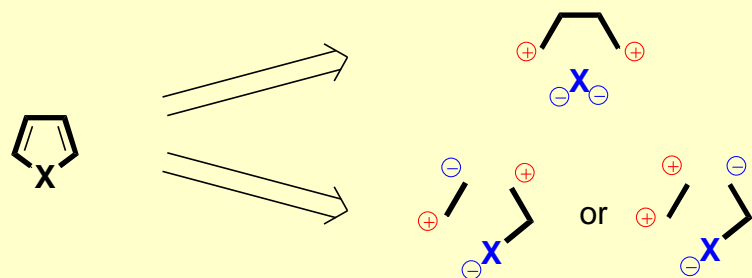
- many reactions forming heteroaromatic products are driven by:
 - favourable ΔS° due to loss of small molecule (as vapor at high temperature → irreversible)
 - *i.e.* cyclodehydrations ($-\text{H}_2\text{O}$) & cyclocondensations ($-\text{H}_2\text{S}$, NH_3 , MeOH etc.)
 - favourable ΔH° due to stability of aromatic product

- **Ring-closure** under **kinetic control** (*i.e.* irreversible conditions):

- less common when forming heteroaromatic products, but does affect the rate of TD controlled reactions:
 - variable ΔS^\ddagger - critically dependent on ring size & hybridisation of reacting centres - **Baldwin's rules** (see supplementary slides 3-4)

Cyclisation Reactions – Common Strategies for 5-Membered Rings

2 common strategies for cyclisations:

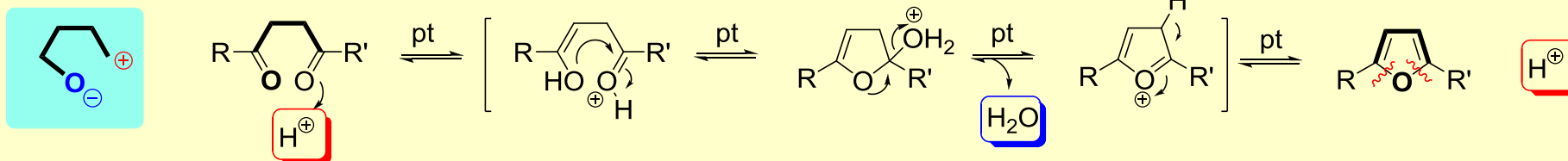


TYPE I: 2 x C-X bond formation

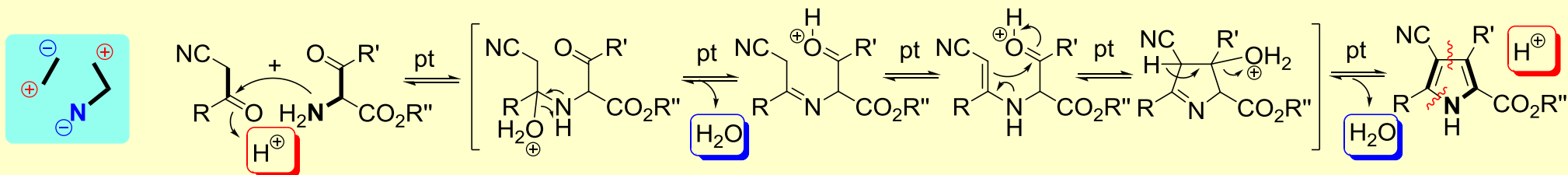
TYPE II: 1 x C-X bond & 1 x C-C bond formation

- for synthetic equivalents of these 'synthons' and others (see supplementary slide 5)

TYPE I: e.g. Paal-Knorr furan synthesis



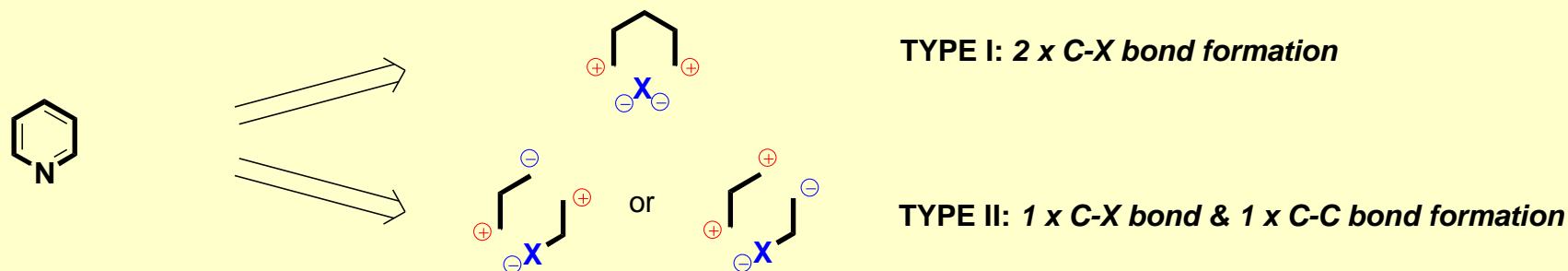
TYPE II: e.g. Knorr pyrrole synthesis



- the exact sequence of individual steps for most cyclocondensation reactions is unknown and will vary with reaction conditions (solvent, temperature, pH etc.) – seek *plausible* pathways

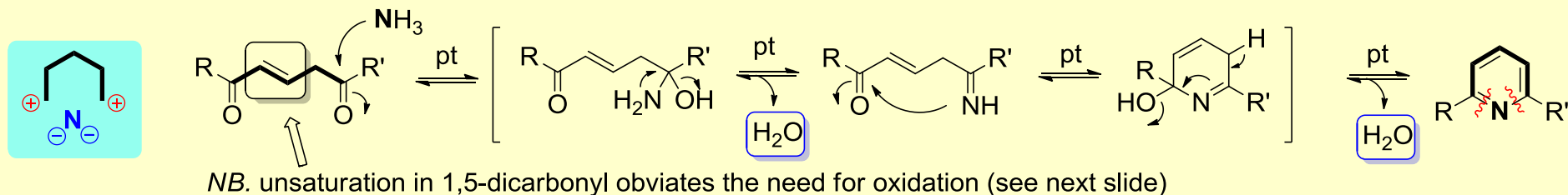
Cyclisation Reactions – Common Strategies for 6-Membered Rings

■ 2 common strategies for cyclisations:

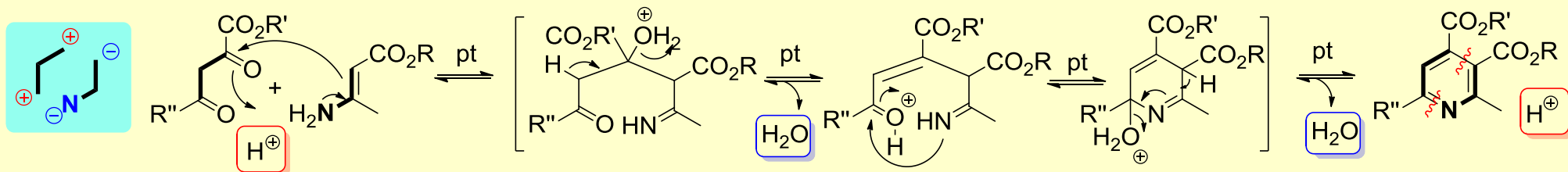


□ for synthetic equivalents of these 'synthons' and others (see supplementary slide 5)

TYPE I: e.g. 'Paal-Knorr' pyridine synthesis



TYPE II: e.g. enamine/1,3-dicarbonyl pyridine synthesis

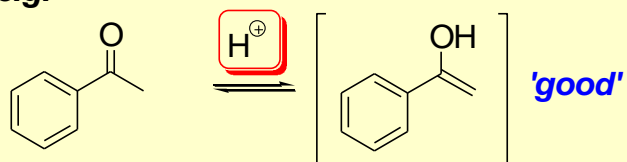


Cyclisation Reactions – Design Considerations

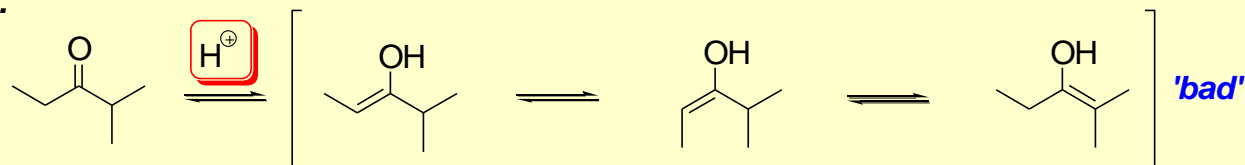
■ Considerations during retrosynthetic analysis – synthesis design:

- identify **strategic bond disconnections** – seek maximum convergence
 - identify **synthons** with simple, readily available **synthetic equivalents** (see supplementary slide 5)
 - avoid substrates with multiple possible enol/enolate forms:

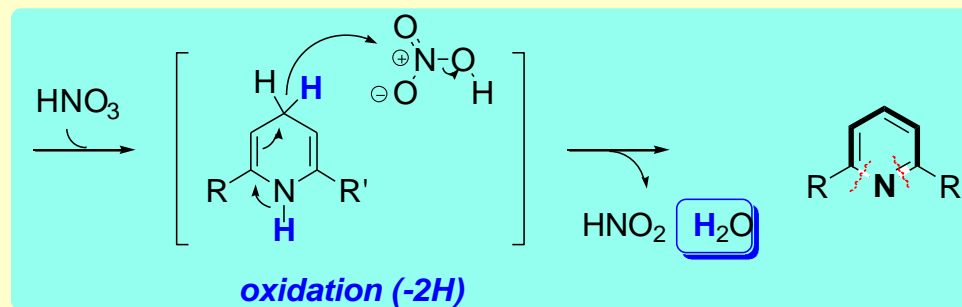
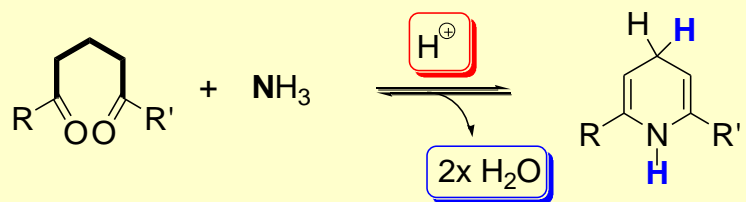
e.g.



cf.

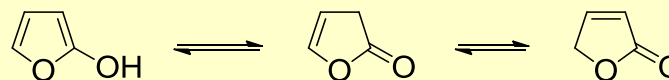
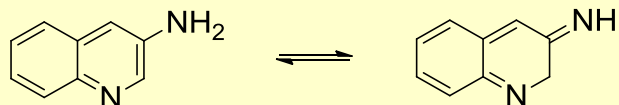


- pay attention to oxidation level – is the degree of unsaturation correct to avoid need for oxidation?



- what functional groups are required?...introduce before, or after ring formation?

■ Look out for different **tautomeric forms** of intermediates & products (see supplementary slides 6-7)



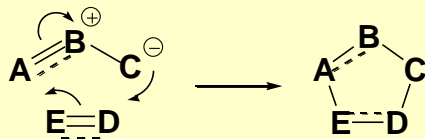
Cycloaddition Reactions – General Features

■ Cycloaddition reactions are characterised by:

- ❑ **concerted** formation of **2 new bonds** (C-C and/or C-het) – no reaction intermediates
- ❑ asynchronous bond formation – *i.e.* some build up of charge in transition state as the formation of some bonds is more advanced than that of others
- ❑ ‘aromatic’ transition state $[(4n + 2) \pi \text{ electrons involved}]$ – pericyclic reactions
- ❑ convergent (efficiency, diversity) but need to control **regiochemistry** (see later)

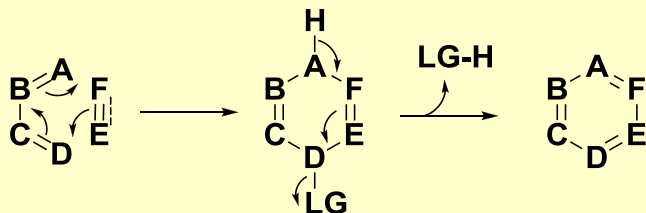
■ **5-Membered rings** are formed from **1,3-dipolar cycloadditions** $\{[\pi_{4s} + \pi_{2s}] \text{ pericyclic processes}\}$

- ❑ reaction of **1,3-dipole** with **dipolarophile**
- ❑ initial products can be **aromatic** or require subsequent elimination/oxidation → **aromatisation**



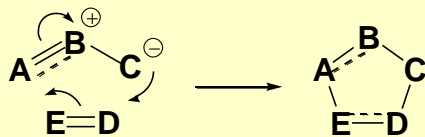
■ **6-Membered rings** are formed from **hetero-Diels-Alder reactions** $\{[\pi_{4s} + \pi_{2s}] \text{ pericyclic processes}\}$

- ❑ reaction of **diene** with **dienophile**
- ❑ initial products are **di- or tetrahydro intermediates** – subsequent elimination/oxidation → **aromatisation**

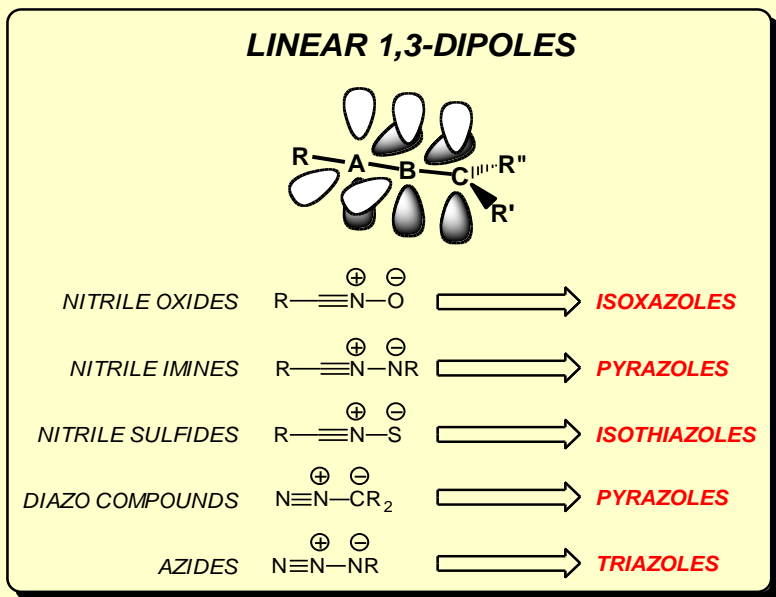


Cycloaddition Reactions – 1,3-Dipolar Cycloadditions → 5-Membered Rings

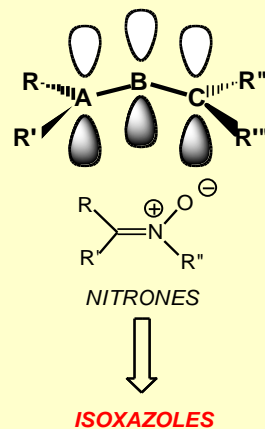
- 1,3-Dipolar cycloadditions are 6 electron [$\pi_{4s} + \pi_{2s}$] concerted pericyclic reactions:
 - sometimes referred to as [3+2]-cycloadditions – this refers to the number of ATOMS (not electrons)



- There are 2 main classes of dipoles used in 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions:



TRIGONAL 1,3-DIPOLES

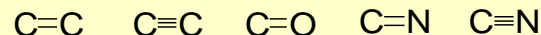


notes

- 3 atom/4 π electron species
- central atom \neq C
- always have formal charges
- charges @ 1,2- NOT 1,3-positions
- linear are: sp-sp-sp²
- trigonal are sp²-sp²-sp²
- no correlation between reactivity & geometry
- retrosynthetic 'signature' is ≥ 2 adjacent heteroatoms in the ring

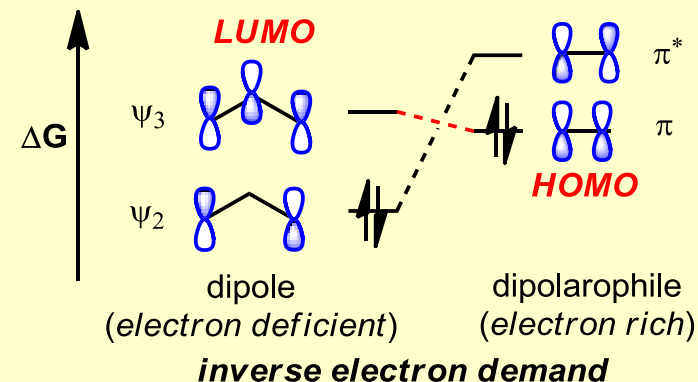
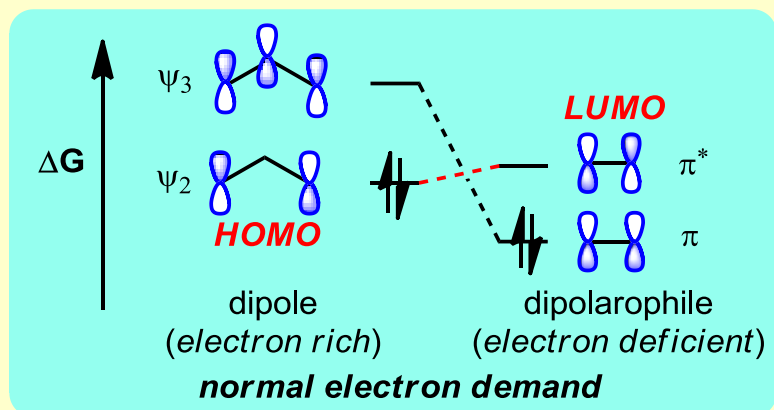
- Most multiple bonds can act as dipolarophiles:

□ BUT usually a C=C bond...

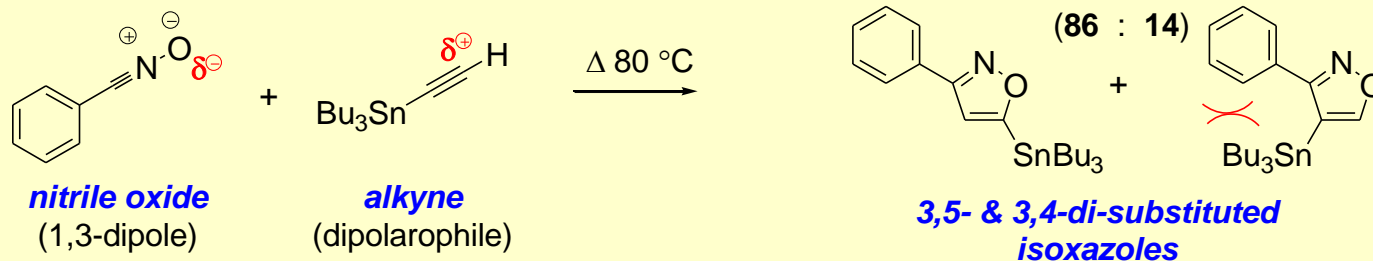


Cycloaddition Reactions – 1,3-Dipolar Cycloadditions – reactivity & regioselectivity

- **Reactivity** is controlled by relative energies of Frontier Molecular Orbitals (FMOs)
 - the key interaction is between the Highest Occupied Molecular Orbital (HOMO) of one reactant and the Lowest Unoccupied (*i.e.* empty) Molecular Orbital (LUMO) of the other reactant
 - the closer the two interacting orbitals are in energy the faster the reaction rate
 - consequently, 2 important types can be identified:



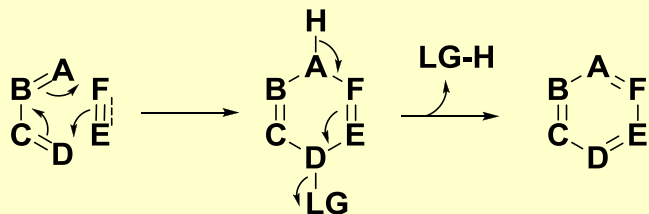
- **Regiochemistry** is controlled by:
 - the polarity of the frontier molecular orbitals (as for hetero-Diels-Alder regioselectivity, see later)
 - BUT, sterics can override e.g.:



Cycloaddition Reactions – hetero-Diels-Alder Reactions → 6-Membered Rings

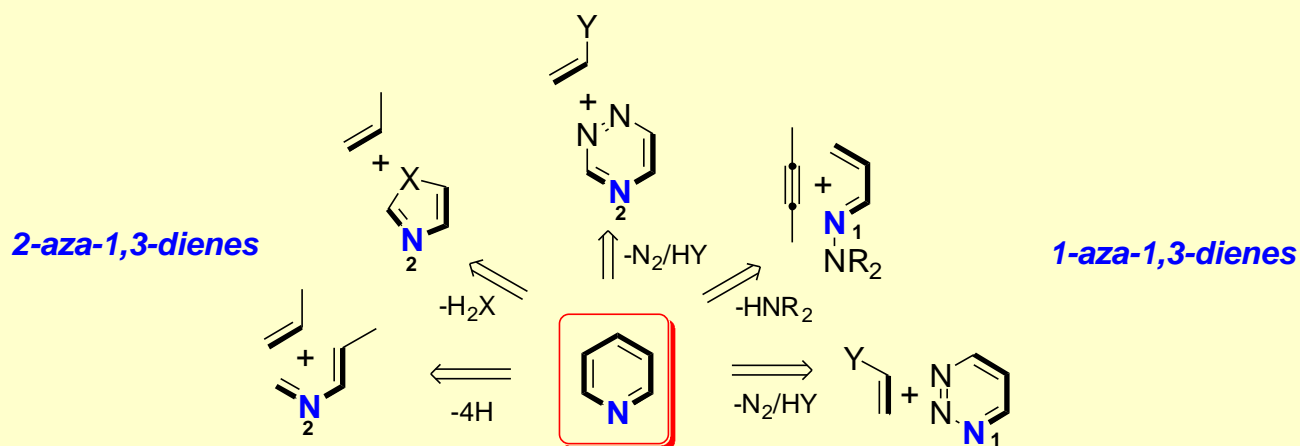
- **hetero-Diels-Alder cycloadditions are 6 electron [$\pi_{4s} + \pi_{2s}$] concerted pericyclic reactions:**

- sometimes referred to as [4+2]-cycloadditions – this refers to the number of ATOMS (not electrons)

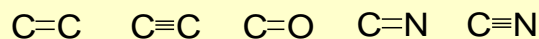


- **Azines are generally prepared by aza-Diels-Alder reactions between aza-1,3-dienes and alkenes/alkynes**

- usually **inverse electron demand**
- generally give non-aromatic heterocycle → extrusion of small molecule(s) → aromatic species



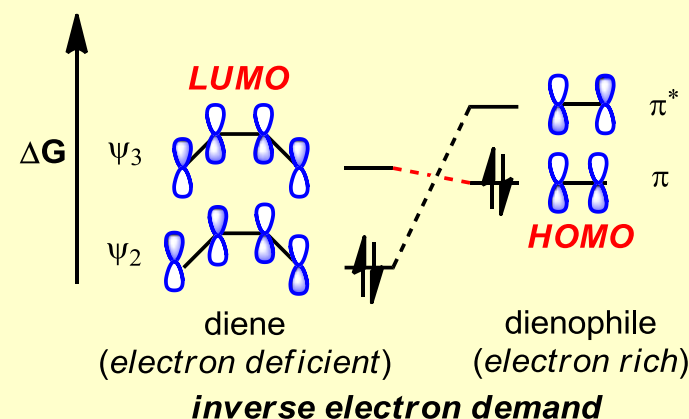
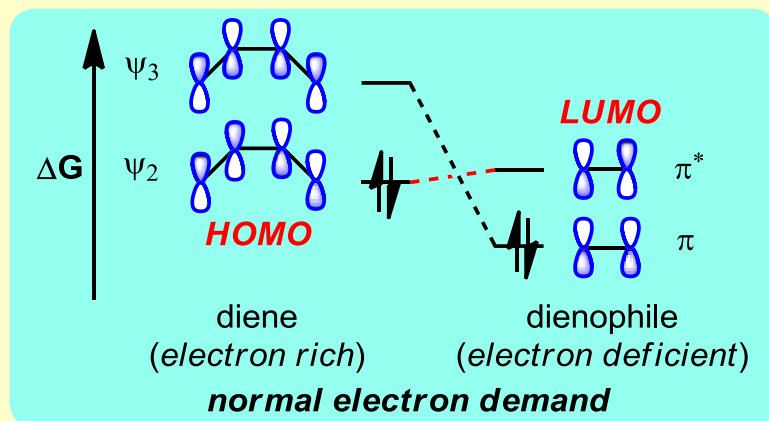
- **Most multiple bonds can act as dienophiles:**



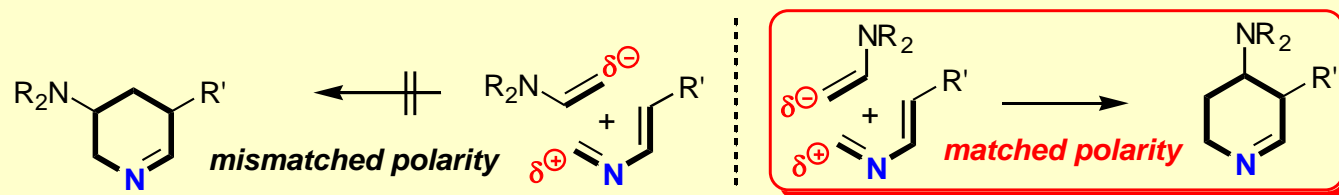
Cycloaddition Reactions – hetero-Diels-Alder Reactions – reactivity & regioselectivity

- **Reactivity** is controlled by the relative energies of the Frontier Molecular Orbitals (FMOs)

- again, 2 important types:



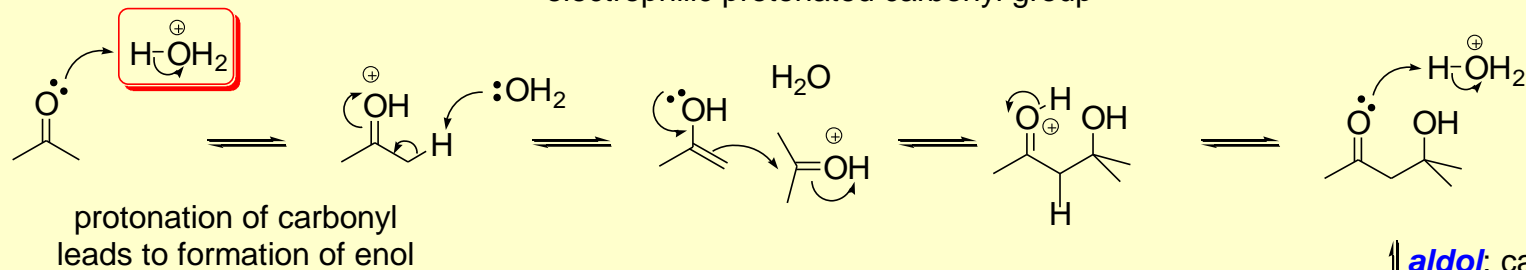
- **hetero-diene + all carbon dienophile** ✓ usually **inverse electron demand**
 - all carbon diene + hetero-dienophile ✓ usually **normal electron demand**
 - hetero-diene + hetero-dienophile ✗ *rare (tend to have alternative reaction paths available)*
-
- **Regiochemistry** is controlled by the polarity of the frontier molecular orbitals
 - electron donating and withdrawing substituents perturb energies and sizes of orbitals – most favourable reactions involve overlap of orbitals of similar size with complementary polarities:



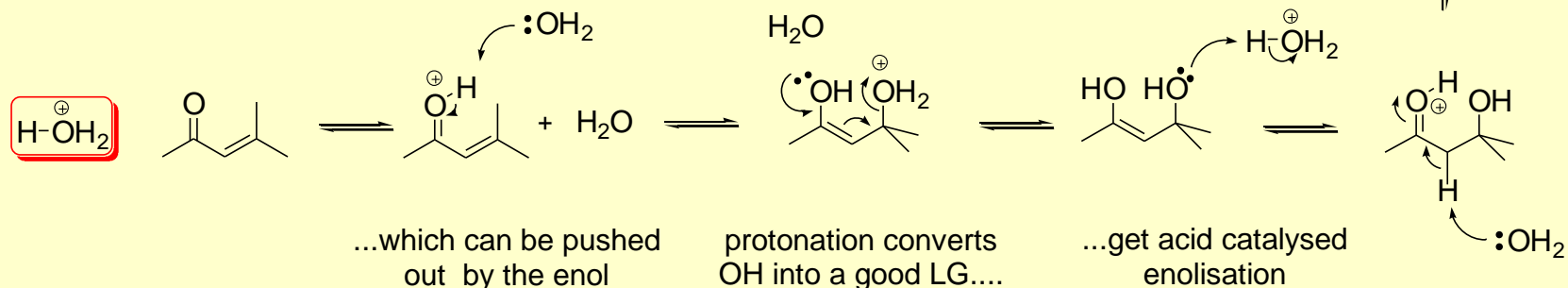
Supplementary slide 1 - Essential Functional Group Chemistry – acid catalysed aldol reaction

■ The acid catalysed aldol reaction:

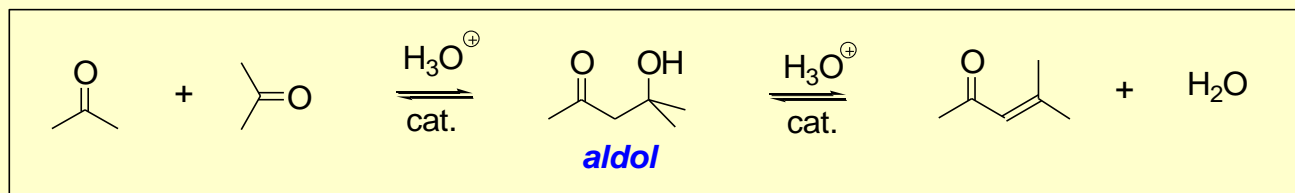
nucleophilic enol reacts with highly electrophilic protonated carbonyl group



aldol; can stop here but under more forcing conditions....

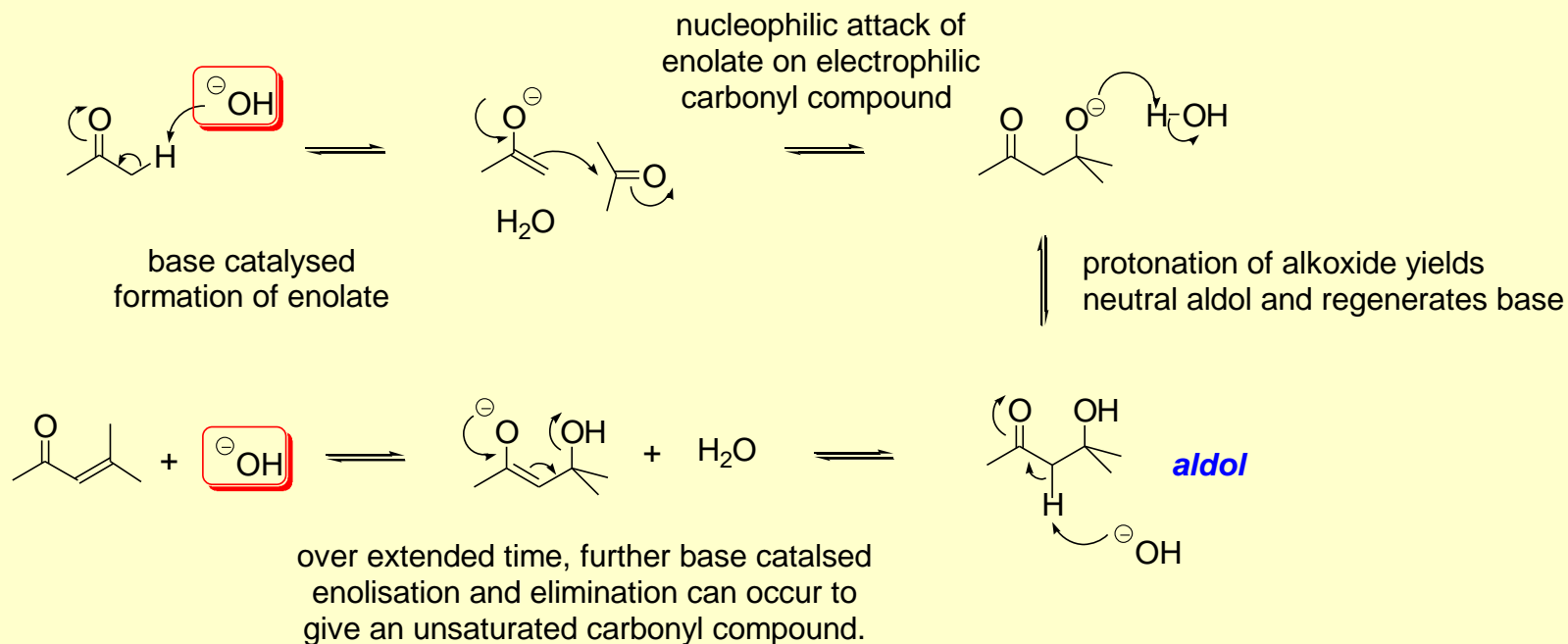


■ Overall:

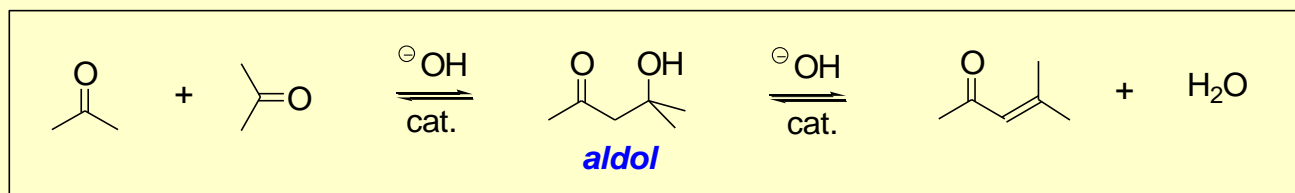


Supplementary slide 2 - Essential Functional Group Chemistry – base catalysed aldol reaction

■ The base catalysed aldol reaction:



■ Overall:



Supplementary slide 3 – Baldwin's 'Rules for Ring Closure'

■ For kinetically controlled ring closures:

- Baldwin *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1976**, 734 ([DOI](#)) & *ibid* 736 ([DOI](#)) & *ibid* 738 ([DOI](#))
- the relative facility of ring-closure depends critically on the ring size, the hybridisation of the reacting centres & the mode of ring-closure (*exo* or *endo*)

nomenclature

Exo - the bond being broken in the ring closure is exocyclic *i.e.* outside the ring

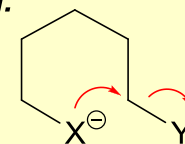
Endo - the bond being broken in the ring closure is endocyclic *i.e.* inside the ring

Tet - electrophilic centre has sp^3 hybridisation

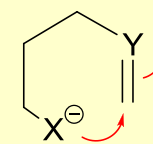
Trig - electrophilic centre has sp^2 hybridisation

Dig - electrophilic centre has sp hybridisation

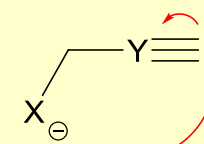
e.g.



6 - *exo* - *tet*



6 - *endo* - *trig*



4 - *endo* - *dig*

□ tetrahedral systems:

- 2 to 7-*exo-tet* are all favoured processes
- 5 to 6-*endo-tet* are disfavoured

□ trigonal systems:

- 3 to 7-*exo-trig* are all favoured processes
- 3 to 5-*endo-trig* are disfavoured; 6 to 7-*endo-trig* are favoured

□ digonal systems:

- 3 to 4-*exo-dig* are disfavoured processes; 5 to 7-*exo-dig* are favoured
- 3 to 7-*endo-dig* are favoured

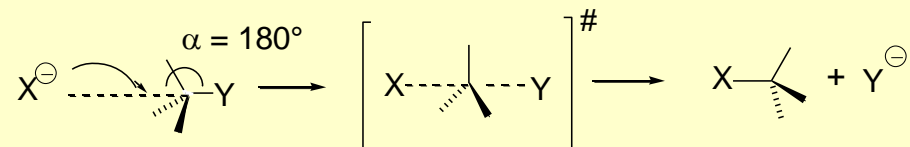
Supplementary slide 4 – Baldwin's 'Rules for Ring Closure' cont.

- Baldwin's rules were formulated following analysis of transition state geometries:

- Baldwin *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1976**, 734 [DOI] & *ibid* 736 [DOI] & *ibid* 738 [DOI]

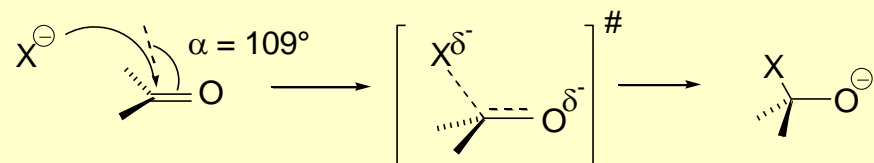
- **Tet** - electrophilic centre has sp^3 hybridisation - S_N2 reaction

- evidence for this trajectory see: Eschenmoser *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1970**, 53, 2059 [DOI]



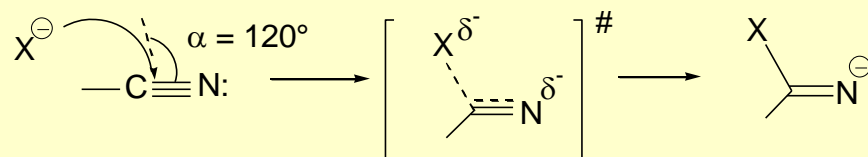
- **Trig** - electrophilic centre has sp^2 hybridisation - Nucleophilic addition to carbonyl/imine

- evidence for this trajectory see: Burgi *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1973**, 95, 5065 [DOI] & Proctor & Dunnitz *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1981**, 64, 471 [DOI]



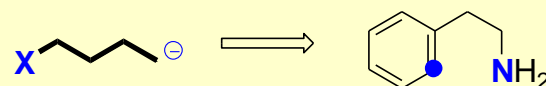
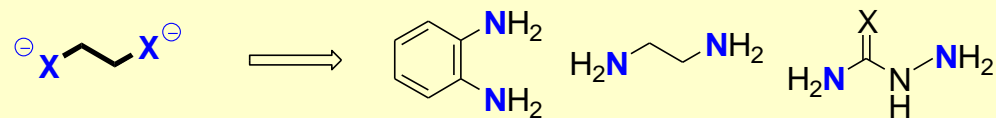
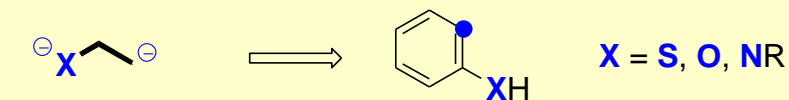
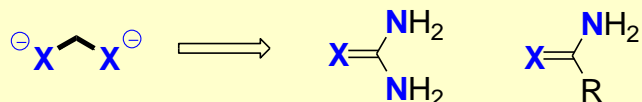
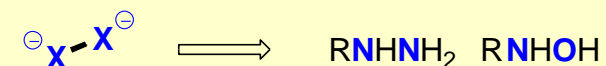
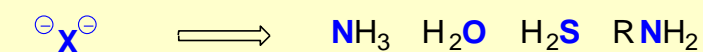
- **Dig** - electrophilic centre has sp hybridisation - Nucleophilic addition to nitrile/alkyne

- evidence for this trajectory see: Proctor *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1978**, 61, 2538 [DOI] & **1981**, 64, 471 [DOI]

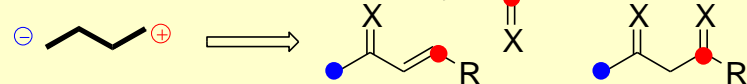
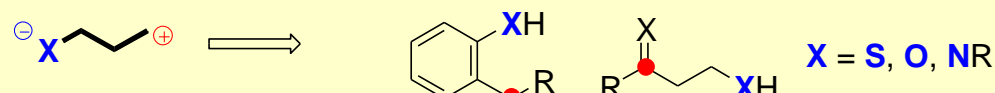
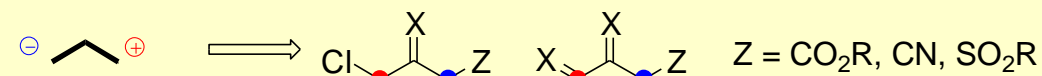
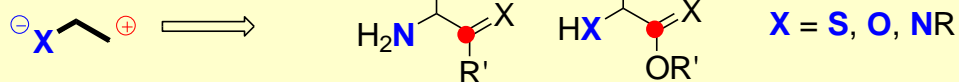
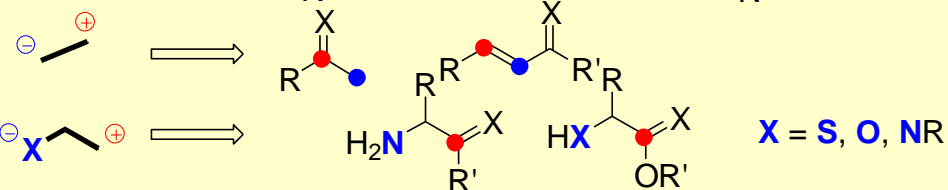
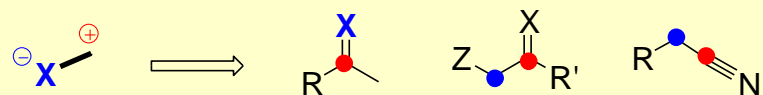


Supplementary slide 5 – ‘Synthons’* ↔ Synthetic Equivalents

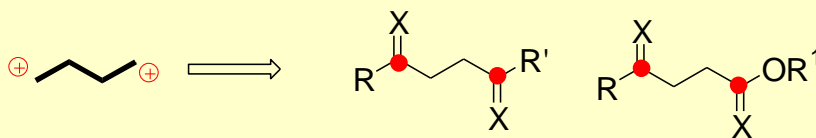
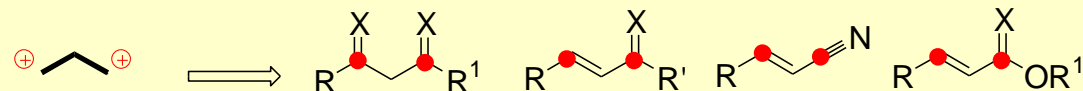
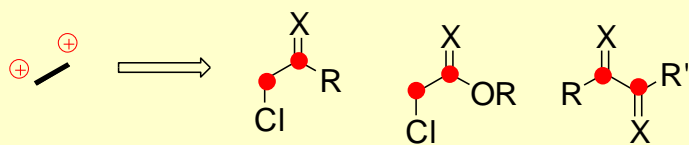
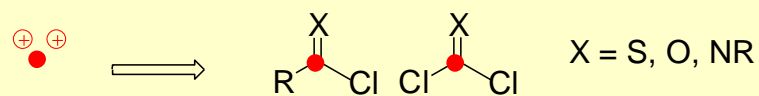
■ dinucleophiles:



■ nucleophile/electrophiles:



■ dielectrophiles:

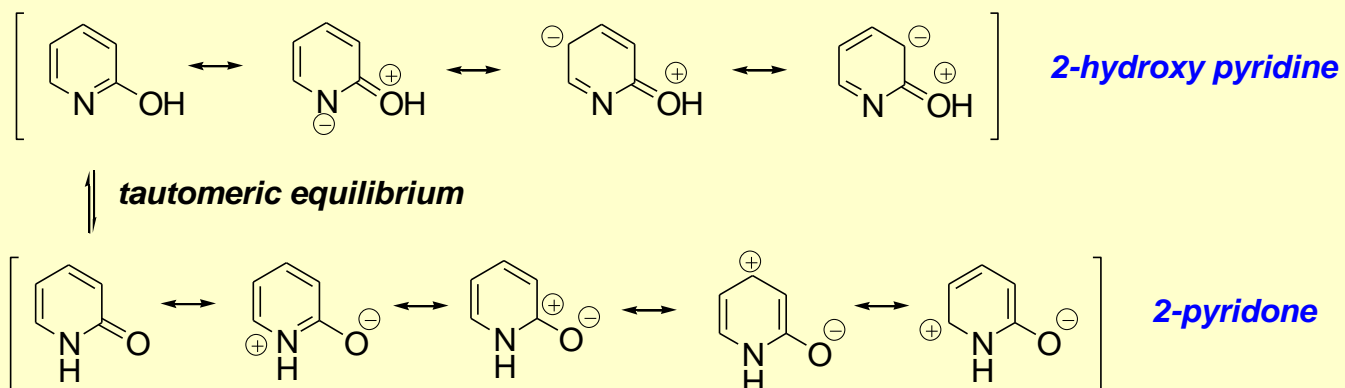


* The term ‘synthon’ is used rather loosely here to denote the indicated ‘polarity assigned retrosynthetic skeleta’. For clarity and generality, these lack full indication of oxidation level unlike a true ‘synthon’ (see: Corey & Cheng ‘The Logic of Chemical Synthesis’ Wiley 1989).

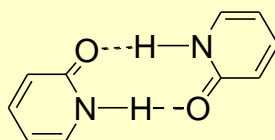
Supplementary slide 6 – Tautomerism

■ Tautomerism in heterocyclic systems:

- many heteroaromatic compounds can exist in two or more TAUTOMERIC forms. TAUTOMERS are structurally distinct isomers in rapid equilibrium (usually). In most cases a proton shifts from one atom to another
- do not confuse TAUTOMERS with resonance forms
 - e.g. 2-hydroxy pyridine and 2-pyridone are TAUTOMERS and are distinct isomers which can be detected spectroscopically. Each can be represented by a series of resonance structures. The position of the tautomeric equilibrium can be different in different SOLVENTS



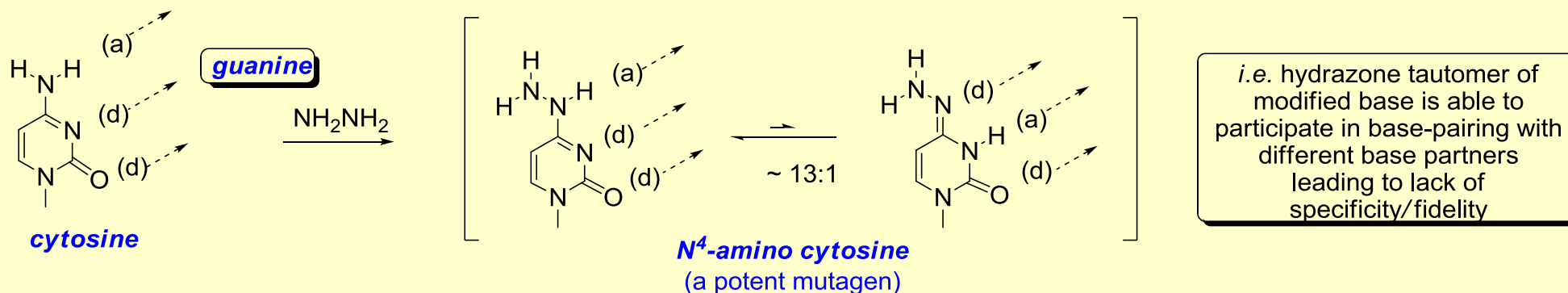
- 2-hydroxy pyridine is the predominant tautomer in the gas phase
- 2-pyridone is the predominant tautomer (>9:1 in EtOH) in solution... probably due to hydrogen-bonding:



Supplementary slide 7 – Tautomerism & Binding/Reactivity

■ Heterocyclic tautomerism in biological systems:

- tautomer specific H-bonding is important in DNA/RNA base-pairing:



■ Tautomeric equilibria & the Curtin-Hammett principle:

- Curtin-Hammett principle: 'the ratio of products formed in a kinetically controlled reaction from one starting material, present in two (or more) rapidly equilibrating tautomeric forms, depends on the relative energies of the respective transition states NOT the relative ground state energies of the equilibrating tautomers.'
- e.g. methylation of 2-pyridone/2-hydroxypyridine:

