

Chemistry II (Organic)

Heteroaromatic Chemistry

LECTURE 7

Deprotonation &

Benzo-heterocycles: Indoles & (Iso)quinolines

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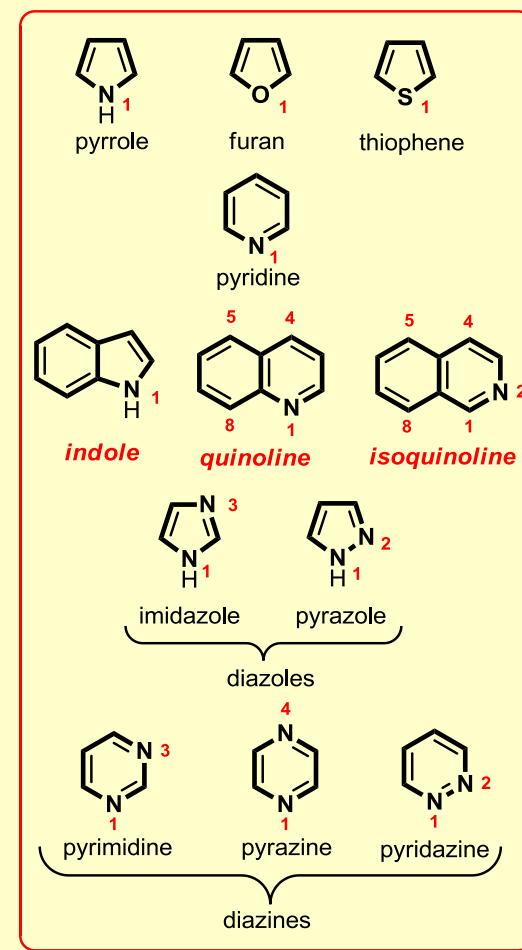
Imperial College
London

Mar 2012

Format & scope of lecture 7

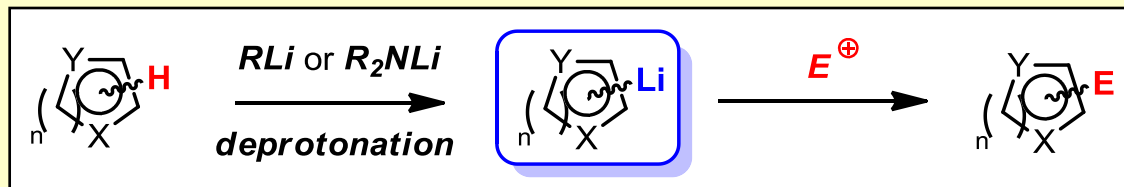
- **Deprotonation of heteroaromatics:**
 - Thermodynamic vs. kinetic deprotonation
 - azines
 - 5-membered heteroaromatics

- **Benzo-heterocycles – Indoles & (iso)quinolines:**
 - structure & properties
 - syntheses
 - reactivity



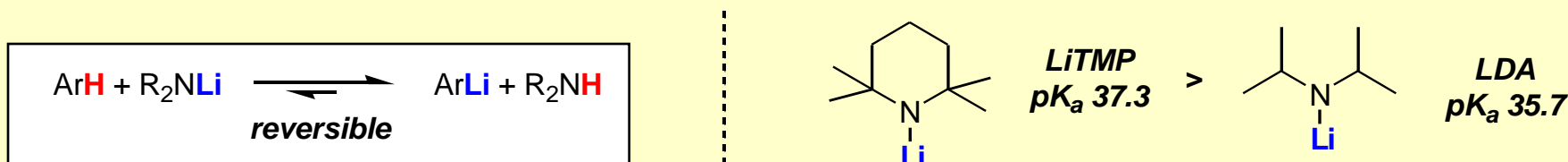
Deprotonation - *thermodynamic vs kinetic*

- Overall process:



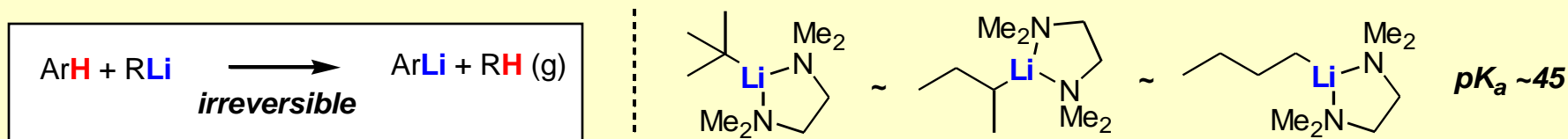
- thermodynamic deprotonation using hindered lithium amide bases:**

- amine anions are poorly nucleophilic and undergo slow competitive addition reactions
- **reversible equilibration**, success depends on the pK_a of the heteroaryl proton being lower than that of the amine:



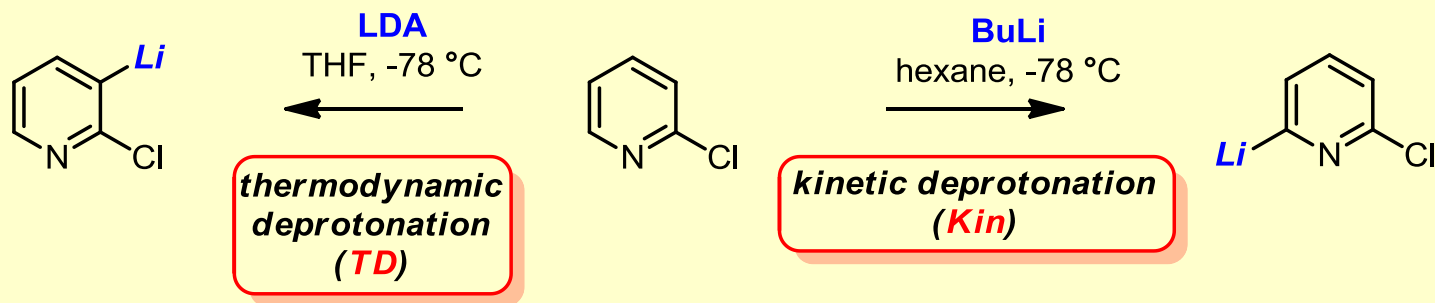
- kinetic deprotonation using alkyl lithium bases (RLi):**

- branched alkyl lithiums undergo slow competitive nucleophilic addition reactions
- **irreversible loss of RH**, maximum basicity of alkyl lithiums is in non-co-ordinating solvents e.g. hexane (with TMEDA co-solvent to break up aggregates – *i.e.* form monomeric species)



Deprotonation - *regioselectivity*

- kinetically and thermodynamically most acidic protons may differ:



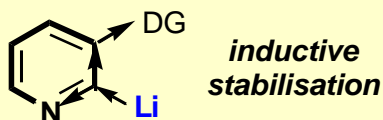
Deprotonation – azines

- Deprotonation of **pyridines (and other azines)**:

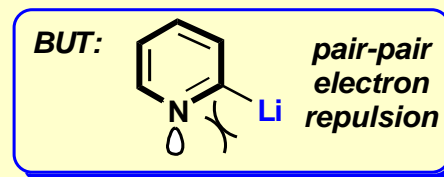
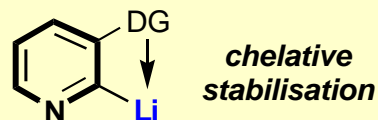
- **Thermodynamically more favourable** and **kinetically faster** than for **benzene** particularly for protons:

- *ortho* to ring N
- *ortho* to a “directing group (DG)” (see later)

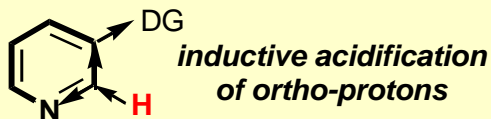
- **Thermodynamics:** (pK_a $Ar_{C=N}H$ ~35 *cf.* benzene ~40) due to:



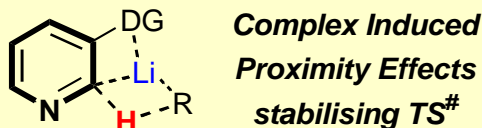
and



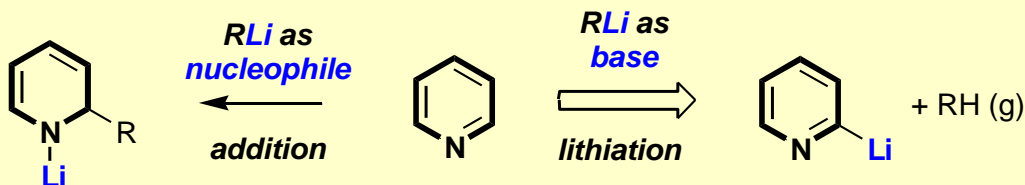
- **Kinetics:** due to:



and



- **Low temperatures & bulky bases** required to suppress **addition reactions** to **C=N function**:

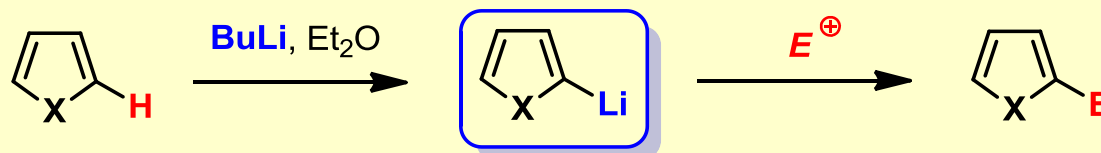


- **Reviews:** Snieckus & Beak *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, 43, 2206 ([DOI](#)), Schlosser *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, 44, 376 ([DOI](#)).

Deprotonation - 5-ring heteroarenes

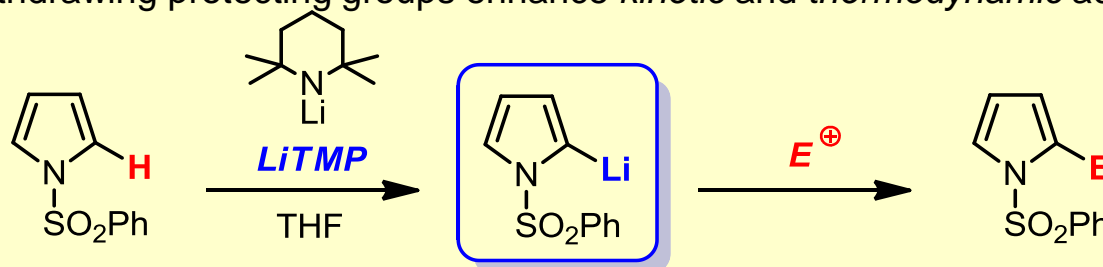
- **furans and thiophenes:**

- facile *kinetic* and *thermodynamic* deprotonation of hydrogens *ortho* to ring heteroatom

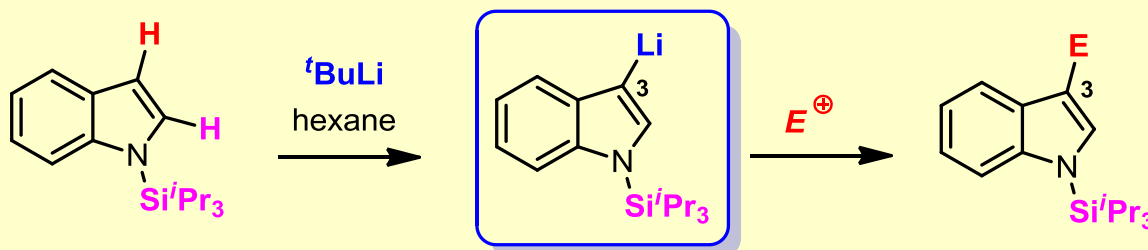


- **pyrroles: N-protection is required to avoid NH deprotonation (see lecture 2)**

- electron withdrawing protecting groups enhance *kinetic* and *thermodynamic* acidity of *ortho*-hydrogens



- **The concept of lateral protection can also be applied to deprotonation (cf. $\text{S}_{\text{E}}\text{Ar}$):**

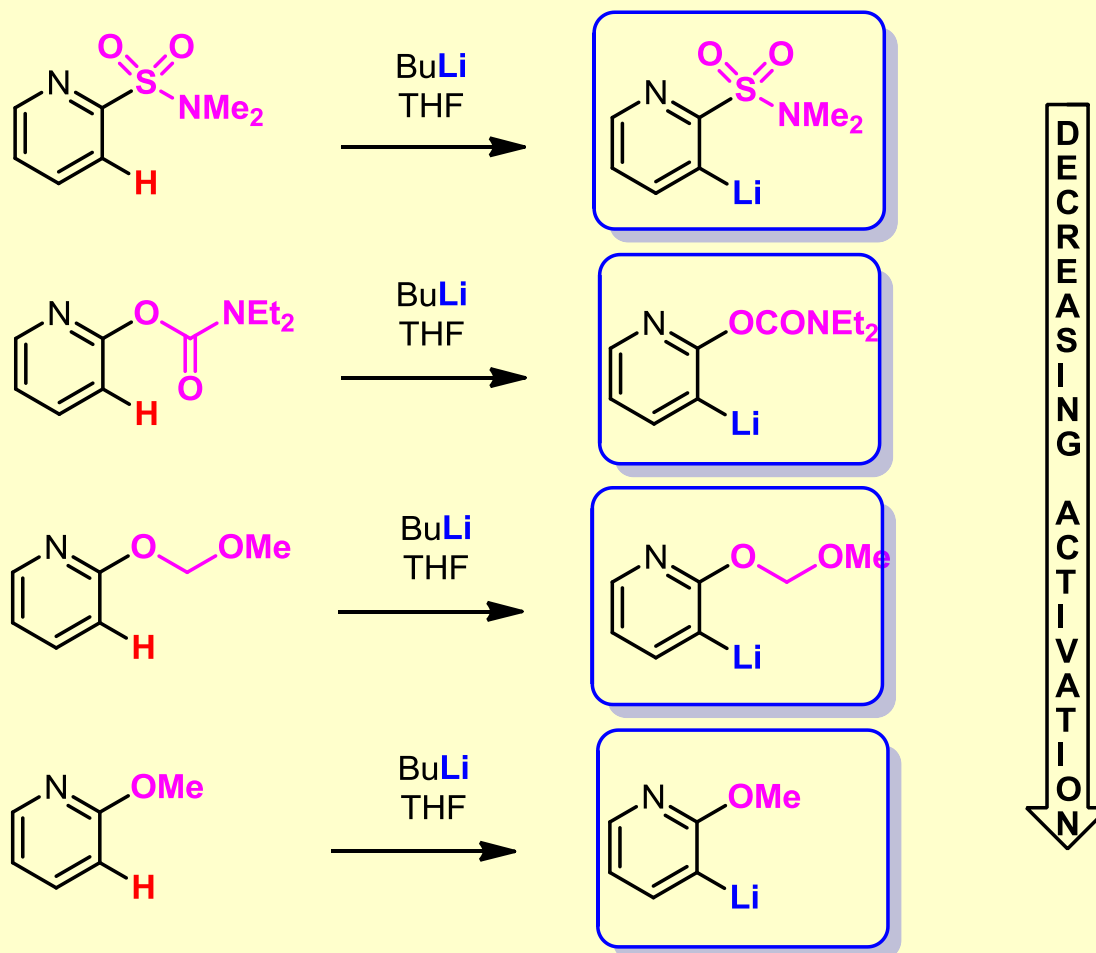


- **NOT generally susceptible to addition reactions**

Directing Groups - *directed ortho-metalation (DoM)* ⁷

- **Many substituents kinetically and thermodynamically acidify hydrogens ortho to themselves:**

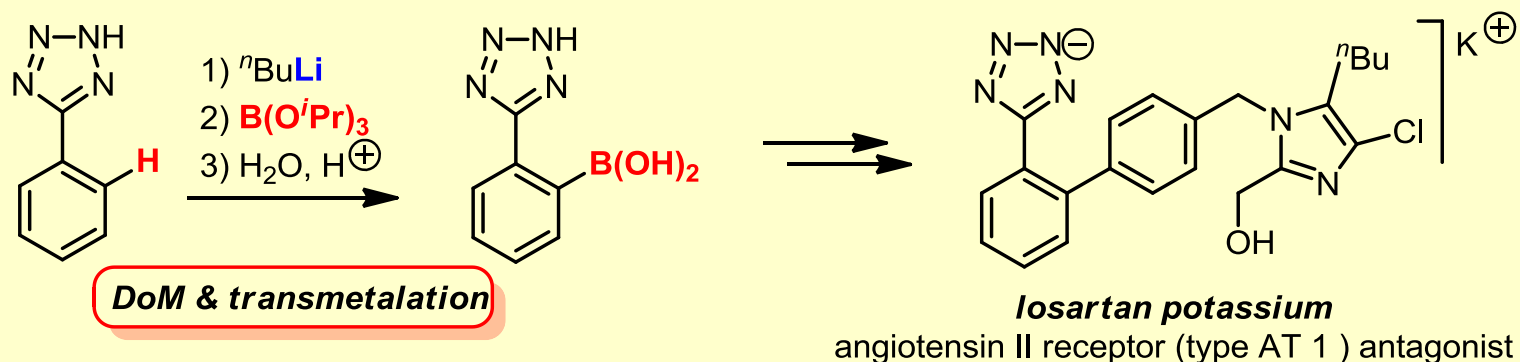
– e.g.



Pharmaceutical preparation by DoM

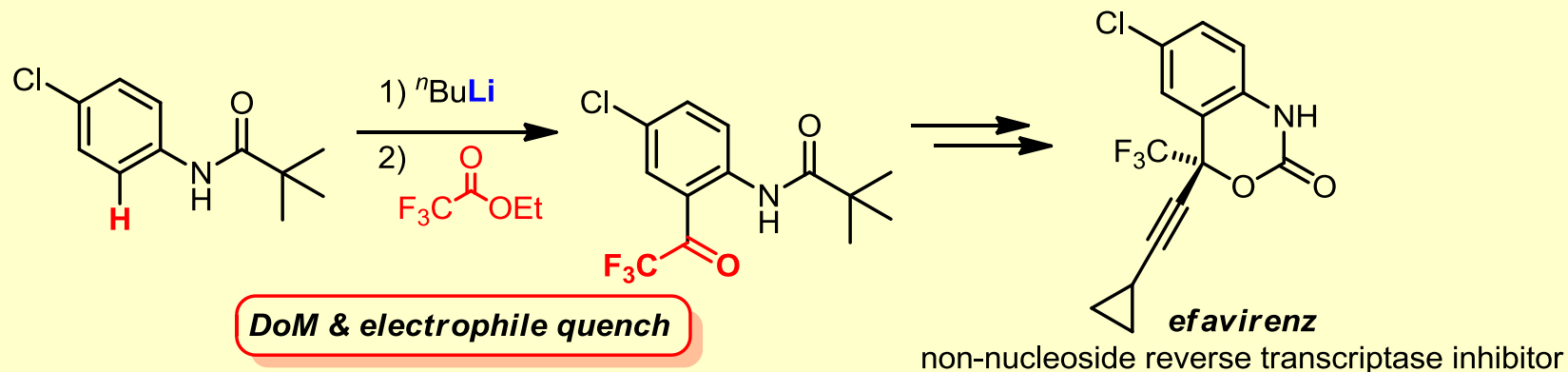
- **losartan potassium: antihypertensive**

- Process route for Merck (Rouhi *Chem. Eng. News* **2002**, July 22, 46) ([DOI](#))



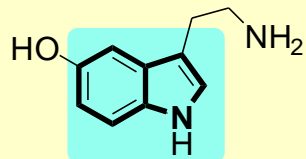
- **efavirenz: anti-viral, anti-AIDS**

- Process route for Bristol-Myers Squibb (Rouhi *Chem. Eng. News* **2002**, July 22, 46) ([DOI](#))

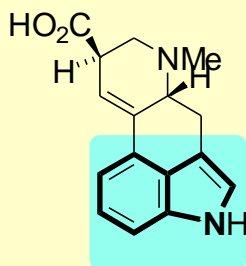


Indoles – Importance

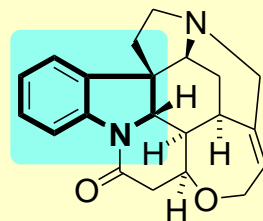
■ Natural products:



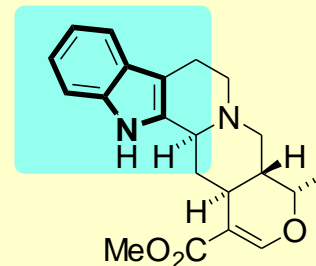
5-hydroxytryptamine
(serotonin)



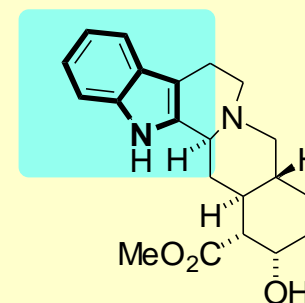
lysergic acid
(ergot alkaloid psychadelic)



strychnine
(strychnos alkaloid poison)

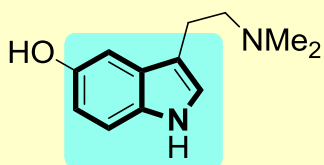


ajmalicine
(vinca alkaloid)

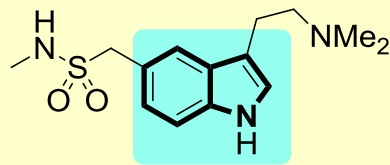


yohimbine

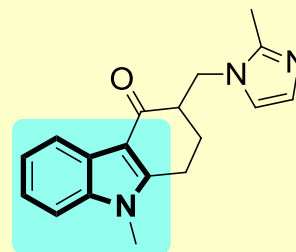
■ Pharmaceuticals:



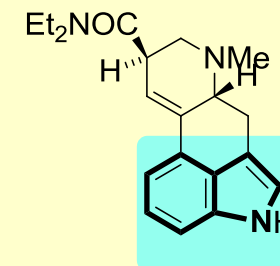
bufotenine
(jet-lag medication)



sumatriptan
(ImitrexTM, migraine relief)

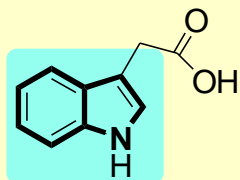


ondansetron
(ZofranTM, anti-nausea in cancer chemotherapy)

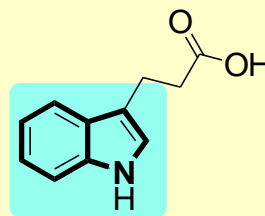


lysergic acid diethylamide
(LSD, psychadelic)

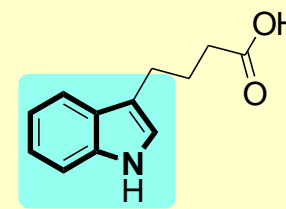
■ Agrochemicals:



heteroauxin
(plant growth regulator)



indole-3-propanoic acid
(plant growth regulator)

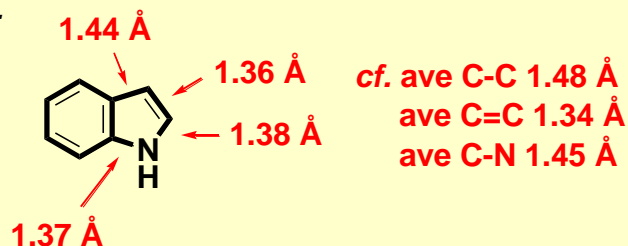


seradix
(plant growth regulator)

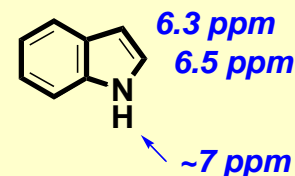
Indole – Structure and Properties

- A colourless, crystalline solid, mp 52 °C
- **Bond lengths** and **$^1\text{H NMR}$ chemical shifts** as expected for an aromatic system:

bond lengths:



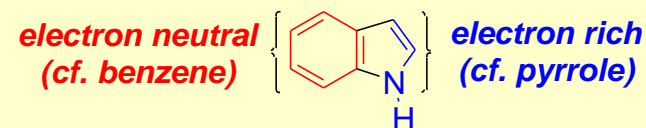
$^1\text{H NMR}$:



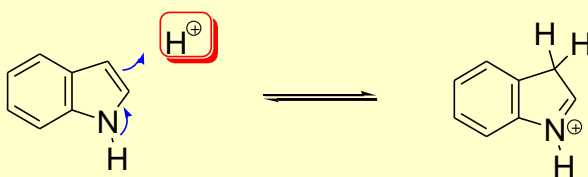
- **Resonance energy:** 196 kJmol⁻¹ [most of which is accounted for by the benzenoid ring (cf. benzene, 152 kJmol⁻¹, naphthalene, 252 kJmol⁻¹ & pyrrole, 90 kJmol⁻¹):
 - → resonance energy associated with pyrrolic ring is significantly less than for pyrrole itself – hence enamine character of N1-C2-C3 unit is pronounced

- **Electron density:** pyrrolic ring is **electron rich**, just a little less electron rich than pyrrole; benzenoid ring has similar electron density to benzene:

- → **very reactive towards electrophilic substitution ($S_E\text{Ar}$) at C3**
- → unreactive towards nucleophilic substitution ($S_N\text{Ar}$)

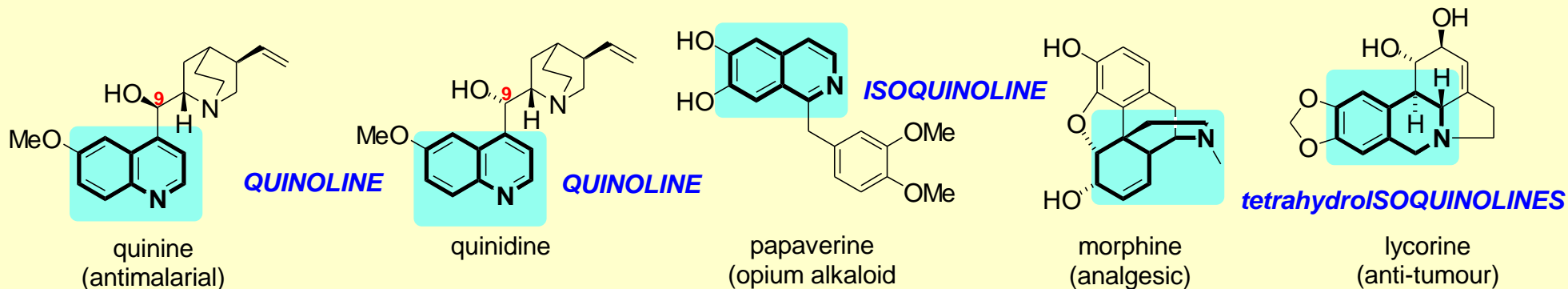


- **NH-acidic** (pK_a 16.2; cf. **pyrrole** 17.5). **Non-basic**; as for pyrrole, the **N** lone pair is involved in aromatic system; protonation occurs at **C3** (as for an enamine):

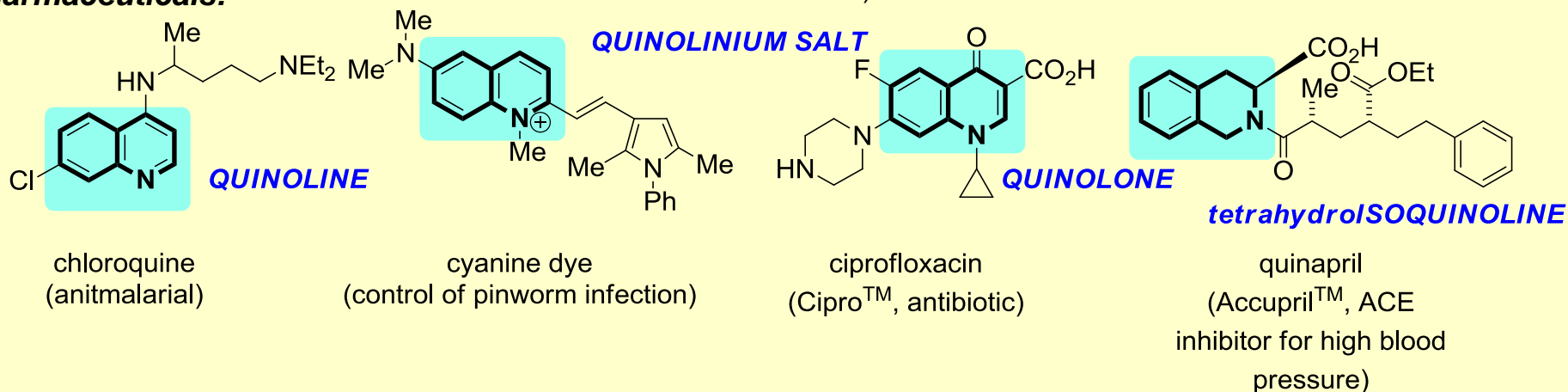


Quinolines & Isoquinolines – Importance

■ Natural products:



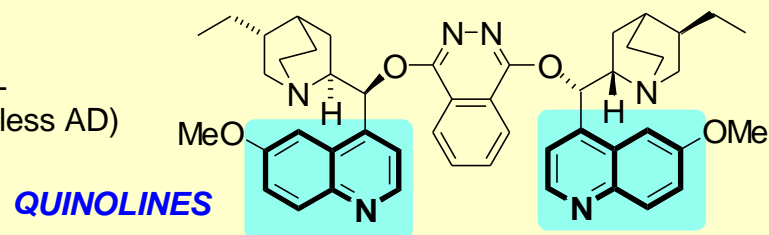
■ Pharmaceuticals:



■ Chiral catalysts:

□ Sharpless *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 2024 ([DOI](#)):

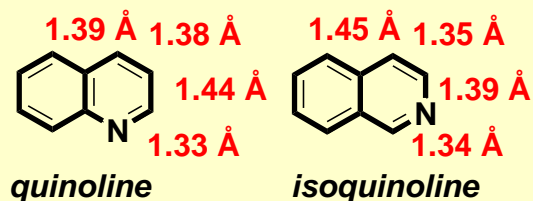
(DHQD)₂PHAL
(in AD-mix β for Sharpless AD)



Quinolines & Isoquinolines – Structure and Properties

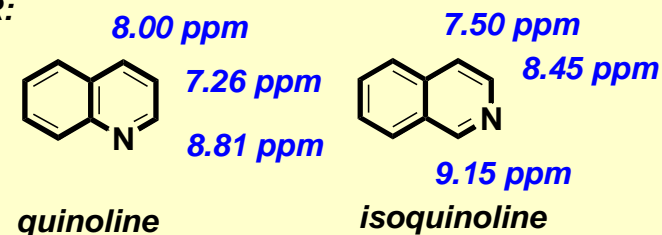
- **Quinoline:** colourless liquid, bp 237 °C; **isoquinoline:** colourless plates, mp 26 °C
- **Bond lengths** and **$^1\text{H NMR}$ chemical shifts** as expected for aromatic systems:

bond lengths:

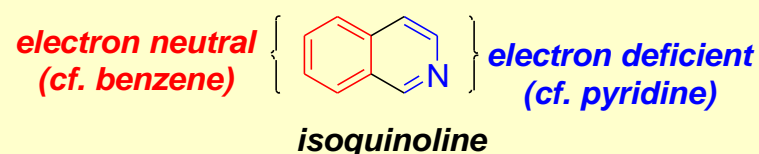
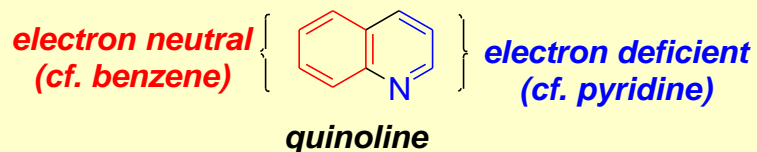


cf. ave C-C 1.48 Å
ave C=C 1.34 Å
ave C-N 1.45 Å

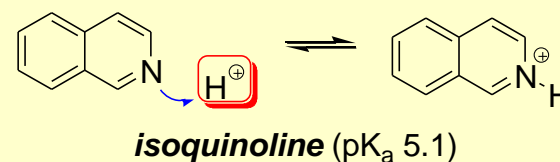
$^1\text{H NMR}$:



- **Resonance energies:** **quinoline** = 222 kJmol⁻¹ (cf. 252 kJmol⁻¹ naphthalene)
- **Electron density:** for both systems the **pyridinyl ring** is **electron deficient** (cf. ~pyridine); the **benzenoid ring** is slightly electron deficient relative to **benzene** itself:

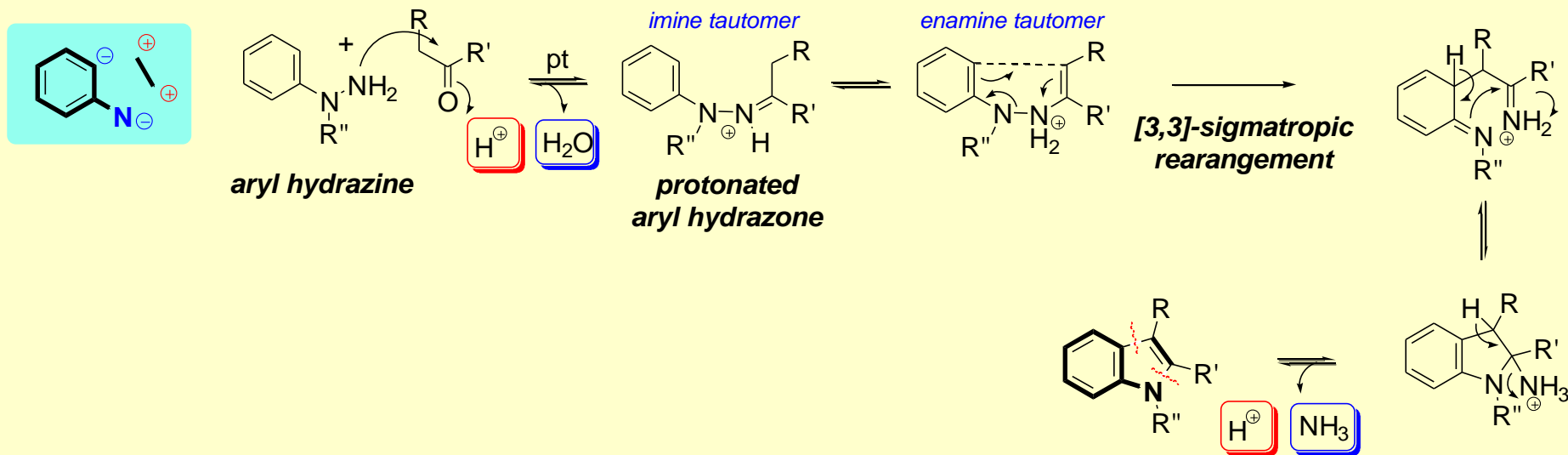


- → both **quinoline** and **isoquinoline** are:
 - reactive towards electrophilic substitution ($\text{S}_{\text{E}}\text{Ar}$) in the benzenoid ring
 - reactive towards nucleophilic substitution ($\text{S}_{\text{N}}\text{Ar}$) in the pyridinyl ring
- **Basic:** both systems have pK_{a} s similar to pyridine (5.2):
 - **quinoline:** $\text{pK}_{\text{a}} = 4.9$
 - **isoquinoline:** $\text{pK}_{\text{a}} = 5.1$



Indoles – Syntheses

■ **Fischer:** aryl hydrazine with enolisable ketone



■ **NOTES:**

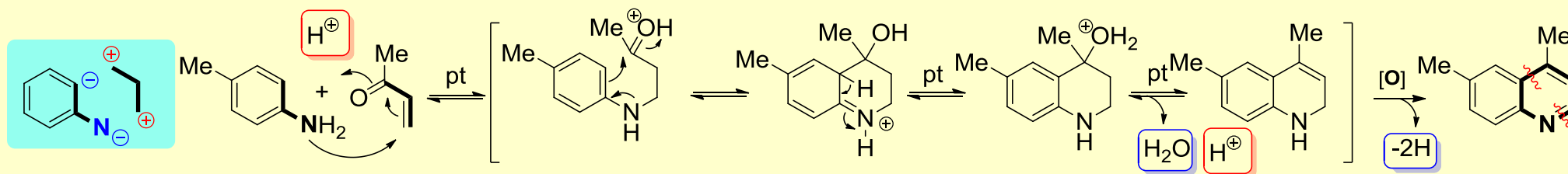
- aryl hydrazone cyclisation under acidic or Lewis acidic conditions
- high temperature (≥ 150 °C) but varies with catalyst & solvent *etc.*
- ketones that are able to form regioisomeric enamines can give mixtures of products but cyclisation is preferred *via* **more substituted enamine** (*i.e.* the more thermodynamically stable one)
- driving forces:
 - 1) loss of H_2O & NH_3 [*i.e.* ΔS° +ive, entropically favourable]
 - 2) N-N (weak bond) broken & C-C (strong bond) formed [*i.e.* ΔH° -ive, enthalpically favourable]
 - 3) aromaticity of product indole [*i.e.* ΔH° -ive, enthalpically favourable]

Quinolines & Isoquinolines – Syntheses

■ Quinolines:

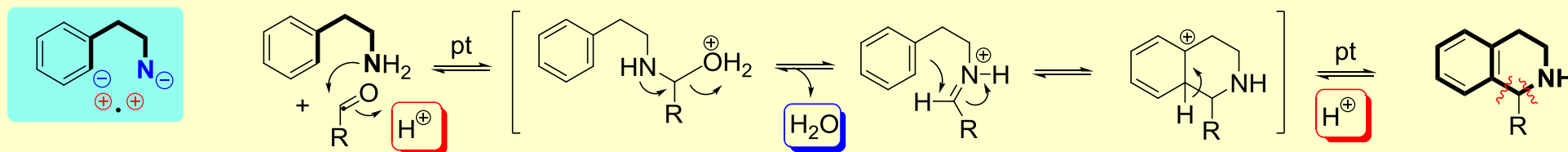
□ **Doebner-von Miller:** enone with aniline then *in situ* oxidation:

- *via apparent 1,4-addition of aniline NH₂ group to enone then cyclodehydration then dehydrogenation (oxidation) by the **imine** formed between the enone and aniline in a side reaction*



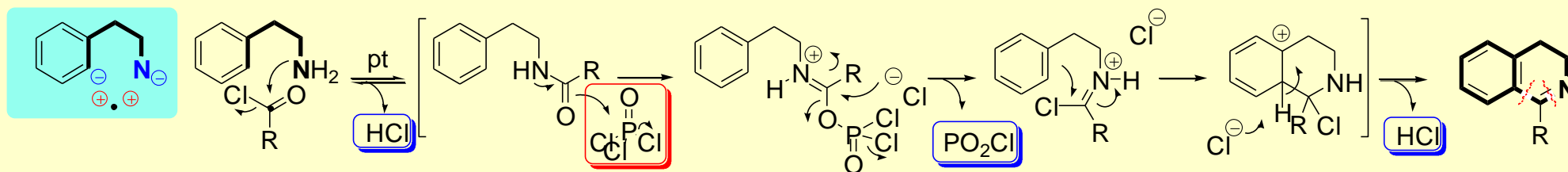
■ (Tetrahydro)isoquinolines:

□ **Pictet-Spengler:** β -phenethylamine with aldehyde (intramolecular Mannich)



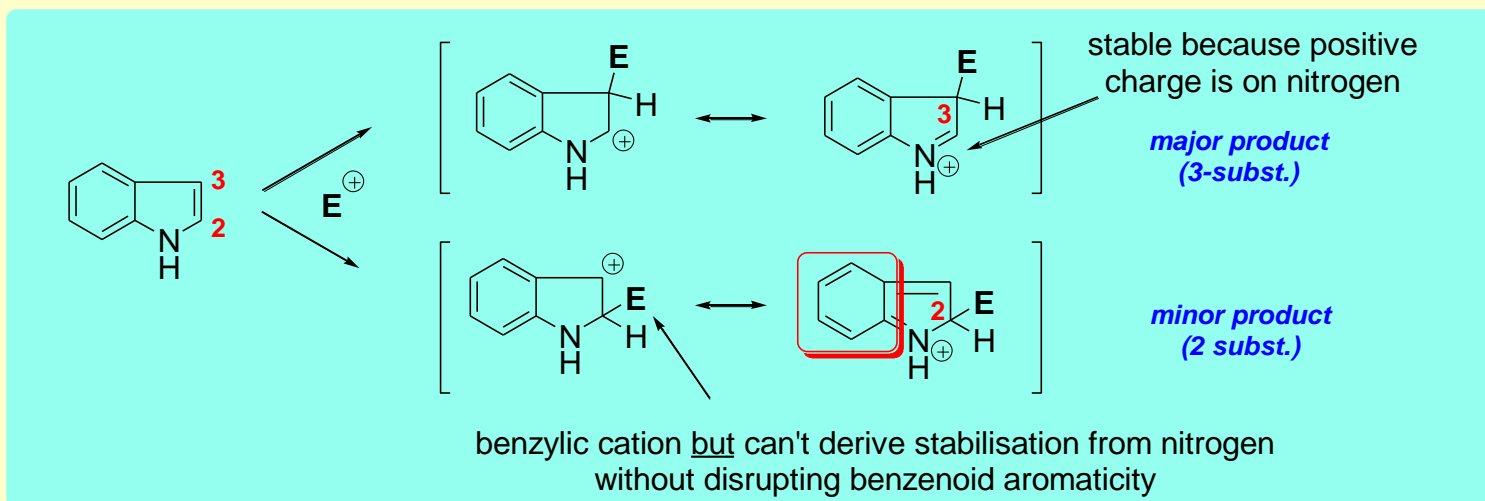
■ (Dihydro)isoquinolines:

□ **Bischler-Napieralski:** β -phenethylamine with acid chloride

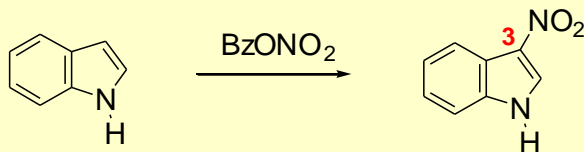


Indoles – Reactivity

- **Electrophilic substitution:** via addition-elimination (S_EAr) in the pyrrolic ring
 - **reactivity:** reactive towards many electrophiles (E^+); ~pyrrole
 - **regioselectivity:** the kinetic 3-substituted product predominates (cf. 2-position for pyrrole); predict by estimating the energy of the respective Wheland intermediates → 3-substitution is favoured:

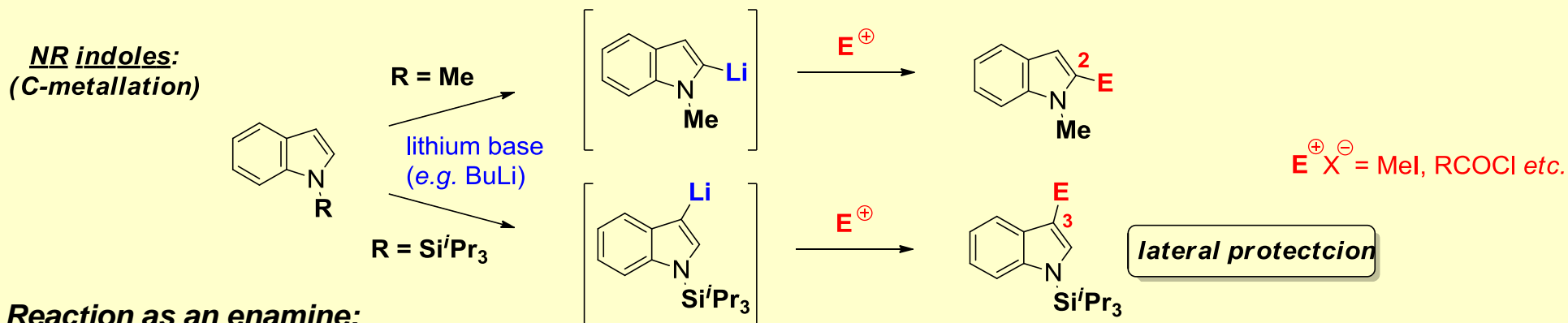
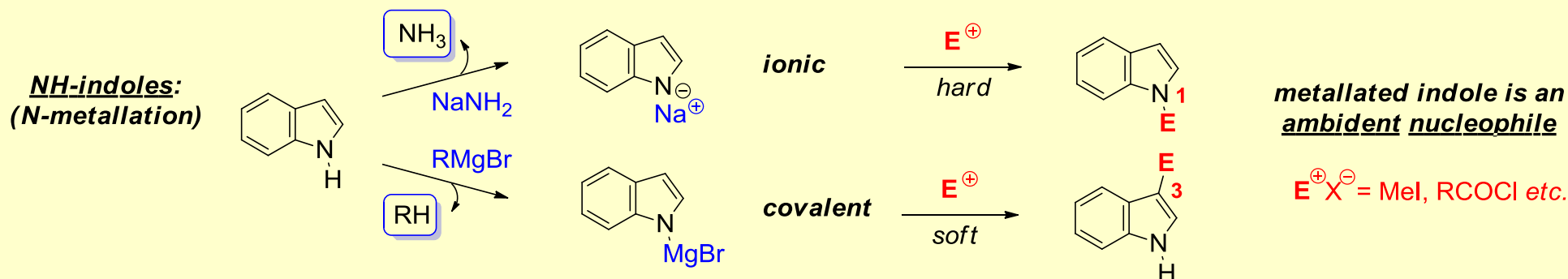


- **e.g. nitration:** ($E^+ = NO_2^+$)



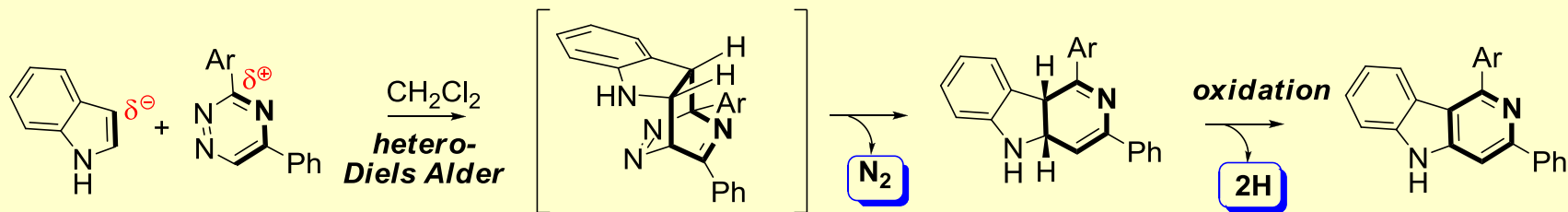
Indoles – Reactivity cont.

- **Metallation:** (NH $pK_a = 16.2$) NB. For an overview & mechanistic discussion see Joule & Smith (5th Ed) chapter 4.



- **Reaction as an enamine:**

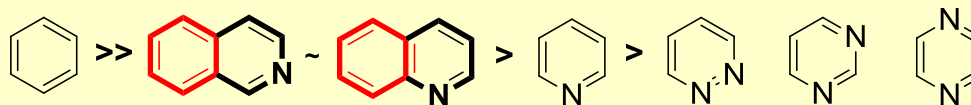
- e.g. as hetero-Diels-Alder dienophile



Quinolines & Isoquinolines – Reactivity

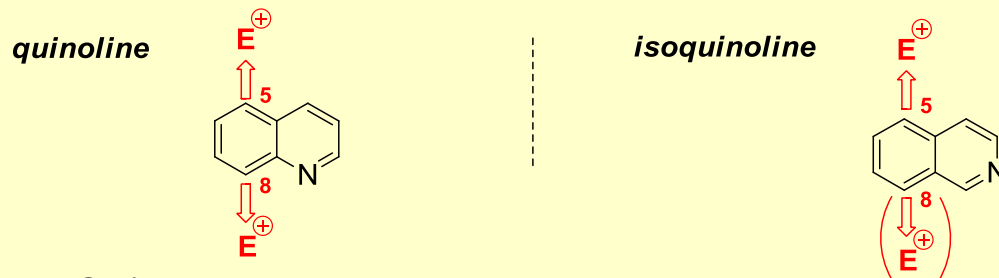
- **Electrophilic substitution:** via addition-elimination (S_EAr) in the benzenoid ring (*i.e.* more electron rich ring)

- **reactivity:** reactive towards many electrophiles (E^+); <benzene but >pyridine

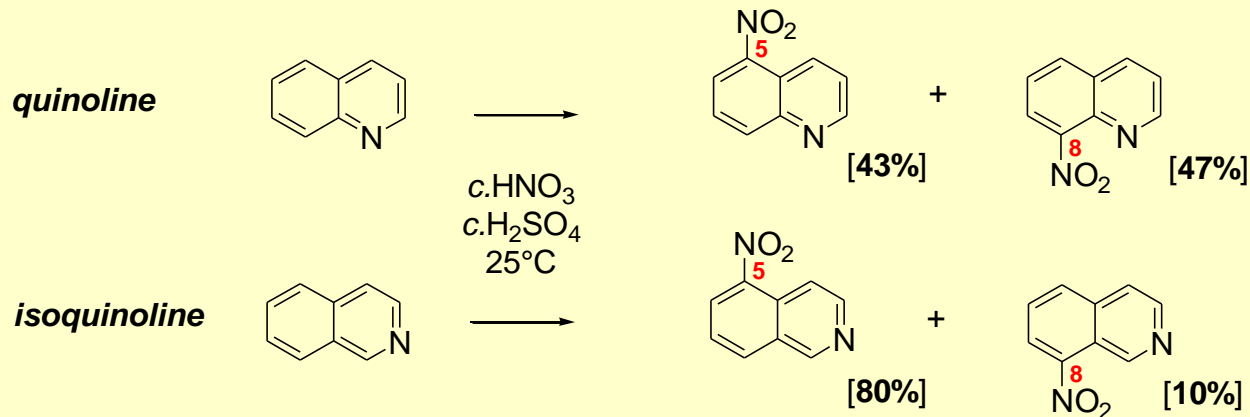


relative rates 1 $\sim 10^{-5}$ $\sim 10^{-6}$ $\sim 10^{-12}$

- **regioselectivity:** substitution at **C5** (& **C8** for quinolines) predominate – *via* most stable Wheland intermediates:



- **e.g. nitration:** ($E^+ = NO_2^+$)

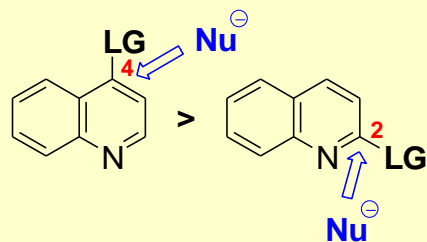


Quinolines & Isoquinolines – Reactivity cont.

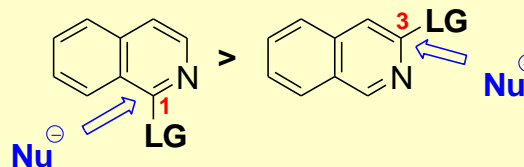
■ **Nucleophilic substitution:** via addition-elimination (S_NAr)

- **reactivity:** reactive towards nucleophiles (Nu^-) provided leaving group is situated at appropriate carbon
- **regioselectivity:** reactive at positions for which the Meisenheimer type intermediates have negative charge stabilised on the electronegative nitrogen ['leaving group' (LG) can be H but Cl, Br, NO_2 etc. more facile]:
 - **quinoline:** C4 > C2 – i.e. as for pyridine
 - **isoquinoline:** C1 > C3

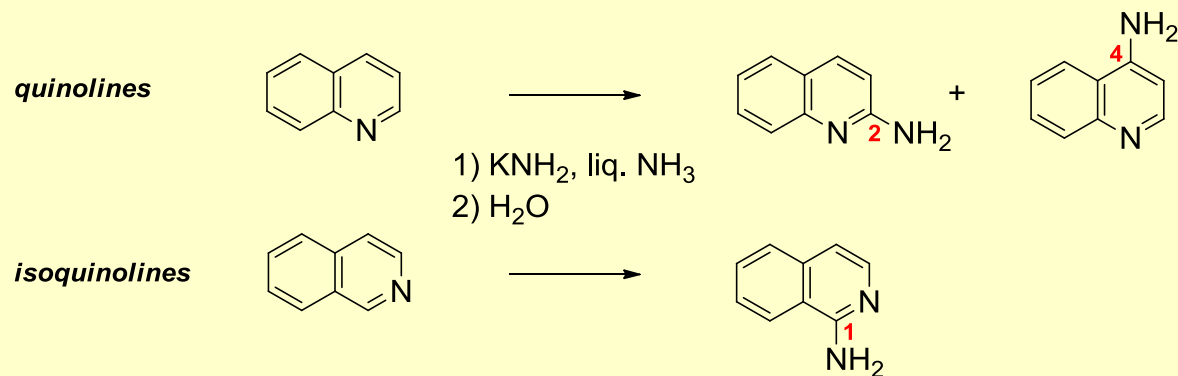
quinolines



isoquinolines



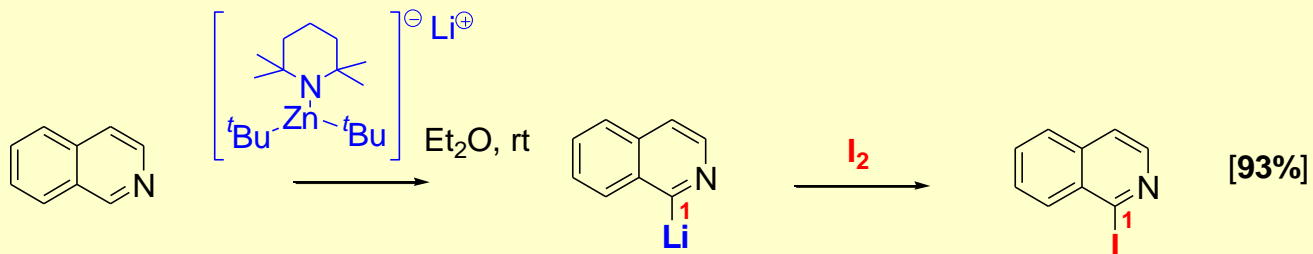
- **e.g. the Chichibabin reaction:** ($Nu^- = NH_2^-$, LG = H)



Quinolines & Isoquinolines – Reactivity cont.

Metallation:

- deprotonation by strong bases *ortho* to the **N** is difficult due to competing addition reactions but can be achieved using e.g. highly basic and non-nucleophilic zincates:



Metallation at benzylic positions:

- deprotonation at benzylic positions that give **enamine anions** (i.e. **C4** > **C2** for **quinoline**; **C1** > **C3** for **isoquinoline**) are facile (i.e. as for pyridine):

