

# Reactions involving carbonyl compounds

## Chapter Introduction

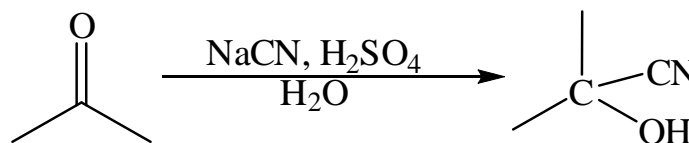
The reactions of carbonyl compounds are one of the most important class of synthetically useful reaction in organic chemistry. The carbonyl functional group is also regarded as the most important functional group. This functional group can participate in multiple modes of reactions. The reactions of carbonyls can be broadly classified as the direct **nucleophilic addition reactions** wherein a nucleophile adds to the carbonyl carbon atom. The other equally important and versatile family of reactions of carbonyl arise due to the acidity of the alpha-C-H groups. Upon treatment with a base, such compounds are capable of yielding a very useful nucleophile, known as enolate. The **chemistry of enolates** are widely exploited for the generation of C-C bonds in various reaction. This module is therefore very important for the practice of organic reaction and its mechanisms.

# I. Nucleophilic addition reactions

## Introduction

Carbonyl group of aldehyde, ketone, carboxylic acid, ester etc., a very common of all functional groups in organic chemistry, shows most important and simplest of all reactions i.e. nucleophilic addition.

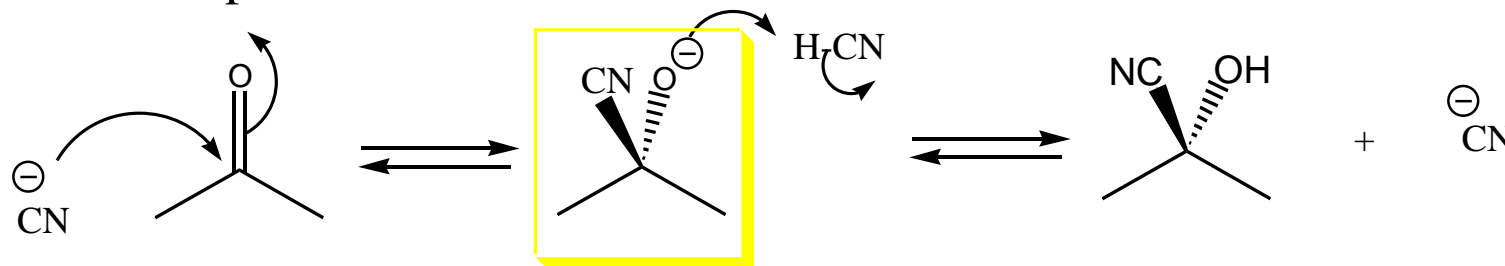
Addition of cyanide to acetone gives acetone cyanohydrin.



Reaction proceeds in two steps. In first step nucleophilic addition of cyanide occurs followed by a protonation of the resulting alkoxide anion.

In fact, this is general feature of all nucleophilic addition reaction of carbonyl compound.

## Mechanism of nucleophilic addition



Reactivity of carbonyl group towards nucleophiles

Orbital considerations give a clear picture of these addition reactions.

$\text{C}=\text{O}$  of carbonyl compounds is  $\text{sp}^2$  hybridized and is planar. It has shorter bond length than typical  $\text{C}-\text{O}$  and is twice strong than  $\text{C}-\text{O}$ . What makes it reactive toward addition reaction is polarization of  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  bond.

(Electronegativity of C is 2.5 while that of O is 3.5 )

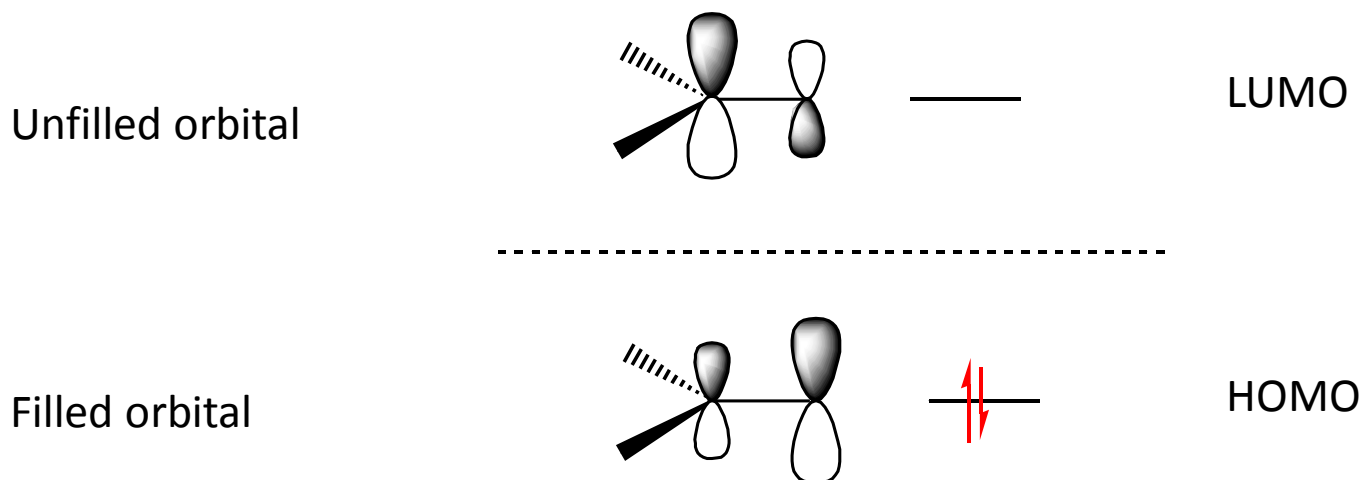
Polarization makes carbon partially positive which encourages addition of negatively charged cyanide ion.

# Orbital considerations: Why carbonyl groups are electrophiles?



The C-O bond is polarized towards the more electronegative oxygen

## Bonding in carbonyl group

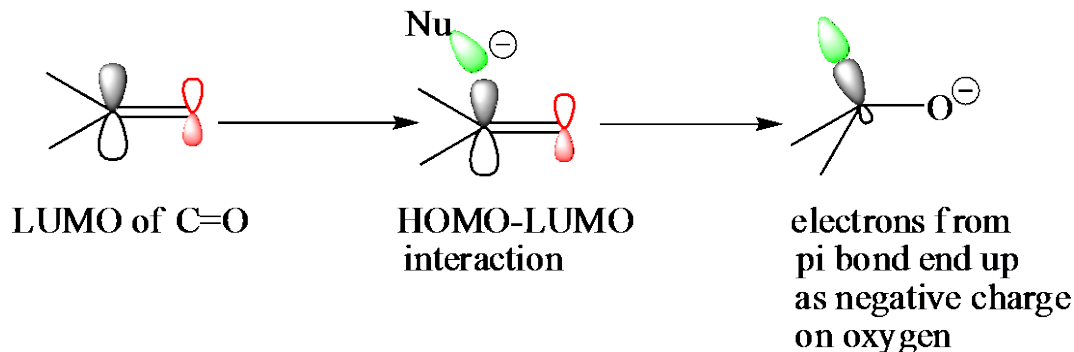


Complete diagram of filled orbitals of carbonyl compounds

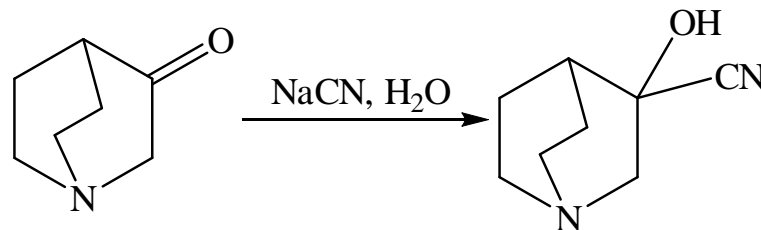
When nucleophile adds to carbonyl group, its HOMO reacts with LUMO of carbonyl group. So when this LUMO is more polarized i.e., coefficient of LUMO at carbon is greater, then this interaction is better.

When the HOMO of a nucleophile interacts with the LUMO of a carbonyl group, a new  $\sigma$  bond is formed and  $\pi$  bond is broken due to filling of electrons to the antibonding  $\pi^*$  orbital of carbonyl group. Electrons from HOMO of nucleophile now migrate towards oxygen giving it negative charge.

new  $\sigma$  bond is formed at expense of  $\pi$  bond.

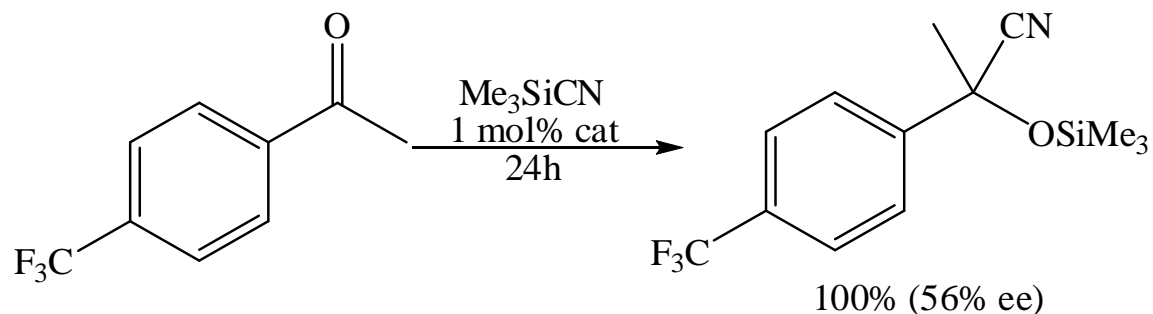


Cyanohydrin formed from this cyclic ketone is used in syntheses of 5HT<sub>3</sub> agonists.



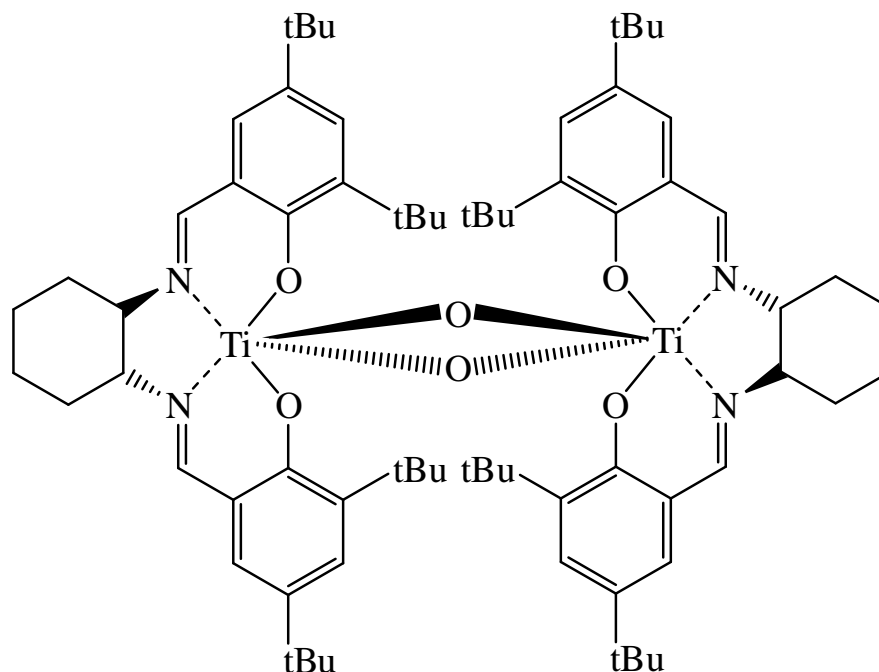
The reaction is facilitated by acid catalyst and is in equilibrium with starting material. Hence only reaction favoring product will give good yield.

Cyanohydrins can also be obtained from addition of trimethylsilylcyanide.



Bolokon, Y.N; Green, B;  
Ikonnikov, N.S; North, M;  
Parsons, T; Tararov, V.I; *Tet.*  
*Lett.*, 2001, 57, 771.

Catalyst :





## (A). Reactions with organometallic compounds

(A.1) Lithium and magnesium in nucleophilic addition reaction

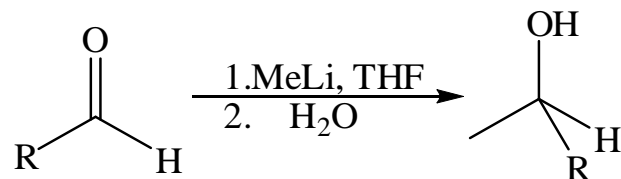
Reaction of methyllithium with aldehyde

Reaction of organometallic compound with carbonyl compound is a very important reaction as it gives alcohols by C-C bond formation.

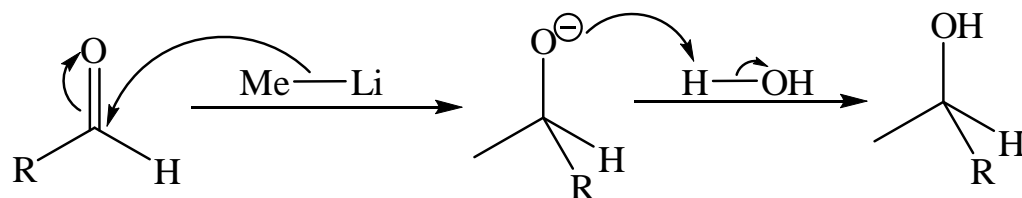
Lithium and magnesium containing organometallic compounds are of importance in these reactions.

Lithium and magnesium are very electropositive metals and hence electron density is highly polarized towards carbon in these reagents.

Hence, making them good nucleophiles which attack carbonyl compounds.

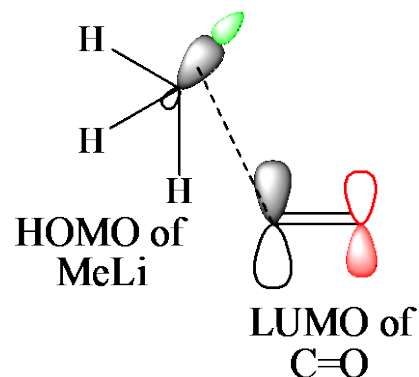


Mechanism is similar to typical nucleophilic addition reaction.



Orbital diagram gives clear picture of reaction.

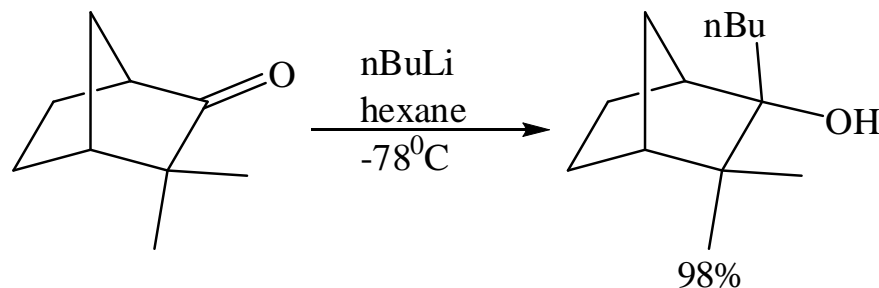
Orbitals involved in addition of methyllithium



In these reactions, water is added in last step of reaction, after methyllithium is added to carbonyl compound. Organolithium or organomagnesium compounds are very reactive

towards water and react readily to give alkane.  
To avoid this kind of side reaction, reaction is  
carried out in presence of aprotic solvent like  
THF, Et<sub>2</sub>O etc.,

Buhler, J.L, *JOC*, 1973, 38,  
904.

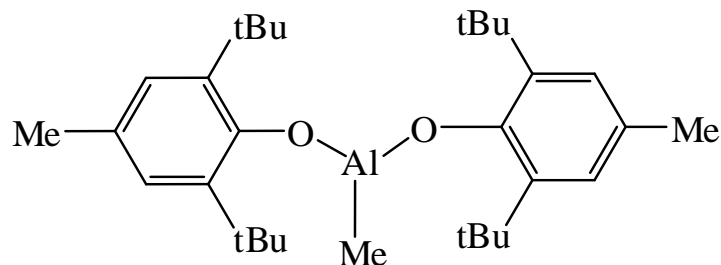
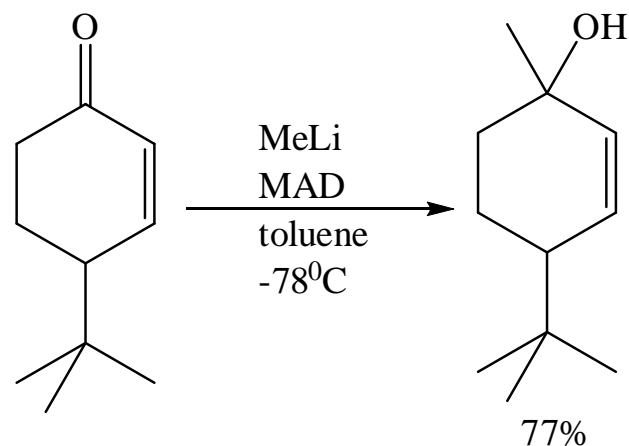


Maruoka, K; Nonoshita, K;  
Yamamoto, H; *Tet. Lett.*,  
1987, 28, 5723.

Catalyst for reaction

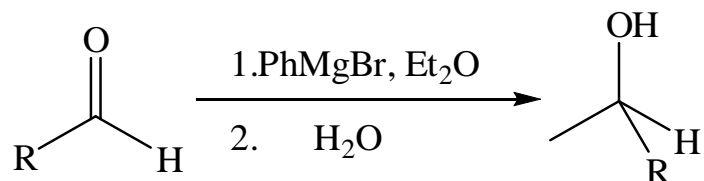
MAD-

Methylaluminiumbis(2,6-  
di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenoxide)



Organomagnesium reagents are known as Grignard reagent and these class of compounds also react in same way as that of organomagnesium and organolithium compounds.

Reaction of Grignard's reagent with carbonyl compound



Product of reaction of Grignard's reagent with carbonyl compound and that of analogous organolithium compound is same.

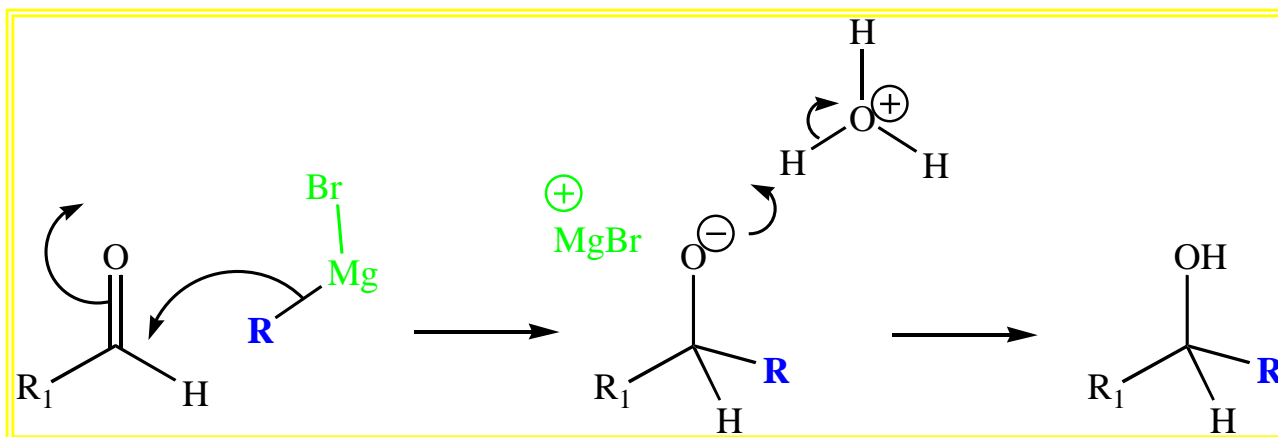
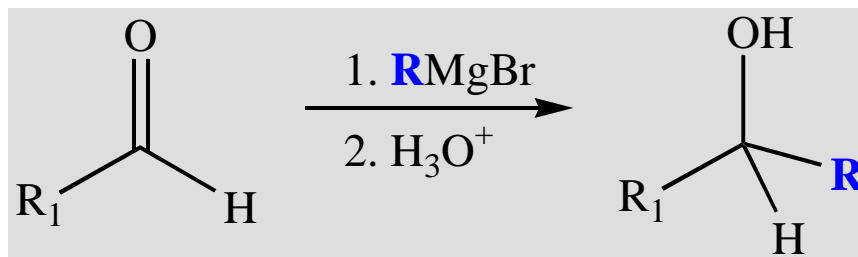
Victor Grignard is the name of a German scientist. Pronounced as "Grini-yard"

# Addition of Grignard Reagents

[carbon nucleophiles]

Grignard reagents are strong bases as well as nucleophiles

These compounds can be used for C-C bond formation reactions (construction of organic molecules)



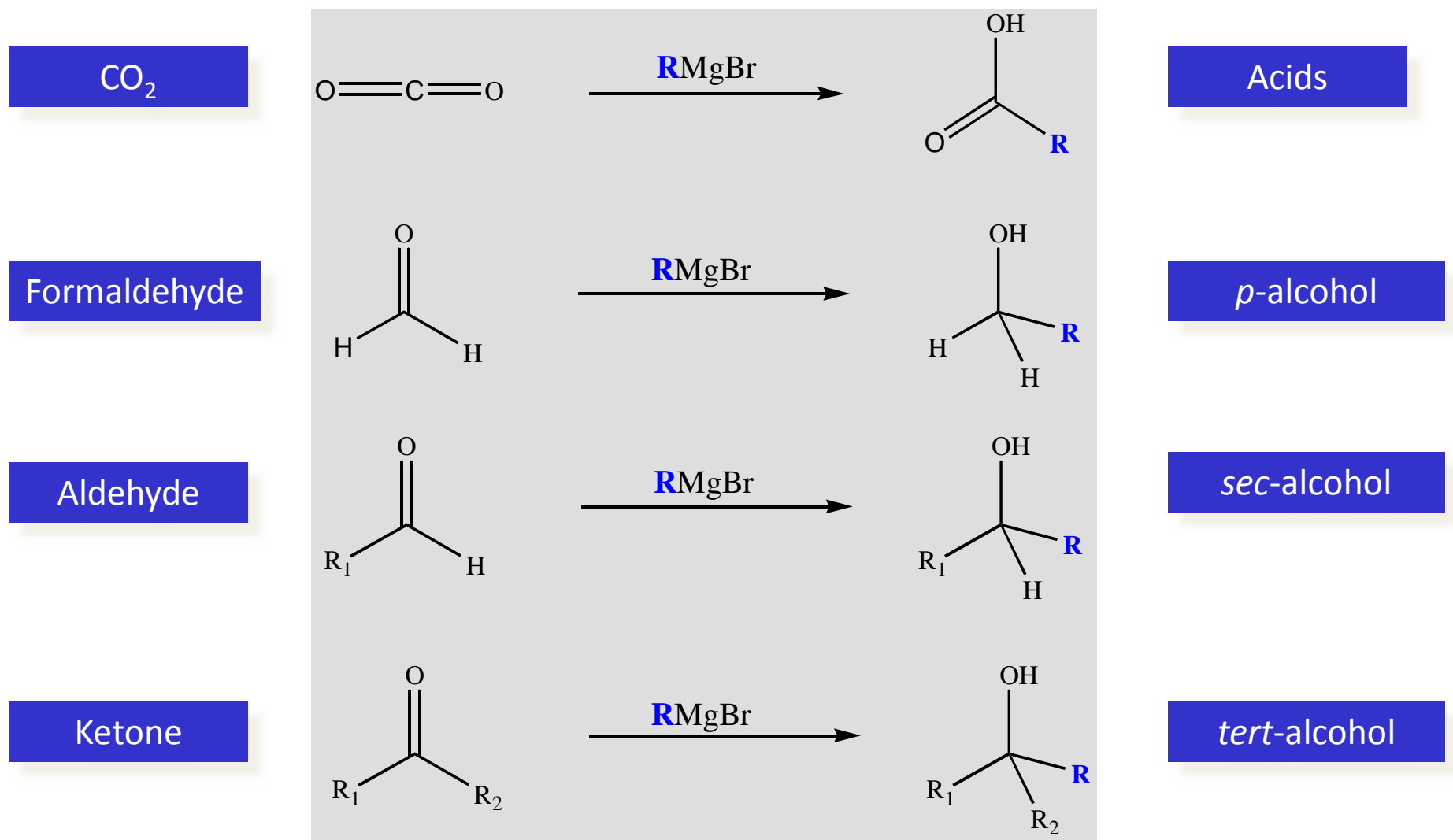
Aldehyde



sec-alcohol

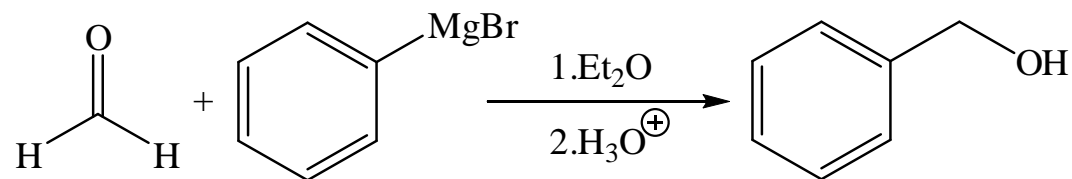
# Addition of Grignard Reagents

Grignard reagents and add to a range of carbonyl compounds,

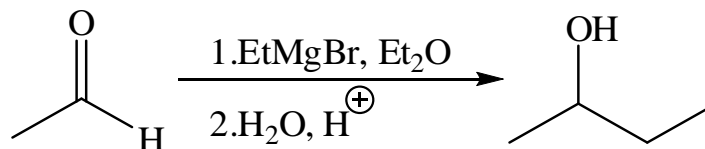


Formaldehyde on reaction with Grignard's reagent gives primary alcohol whereas other aldehydes give secondary alcohol and ketones give tertiary alcohols. [**More examples**]

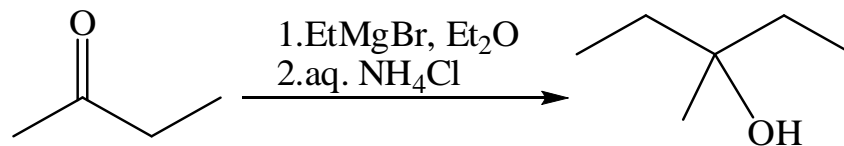
Formation of primary alcohol



Formation of secondary alcohol



Formation of tertiary alcohol

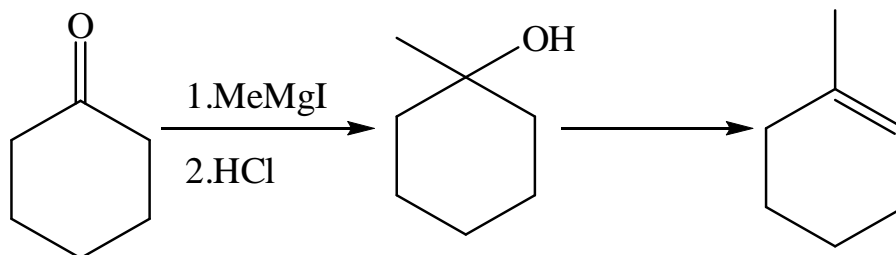




## More examples

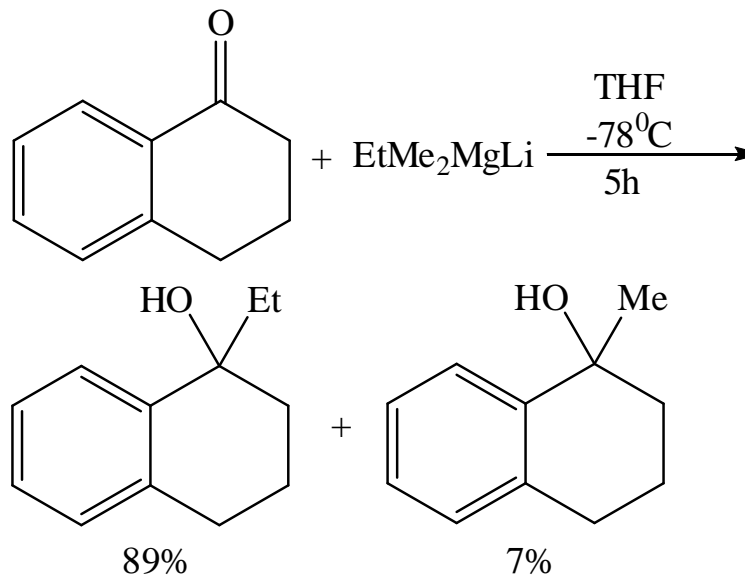
In presence of strong acid, elimination product is obtained.

Reaction of cyclohexanol with methylmagnesiumbromide



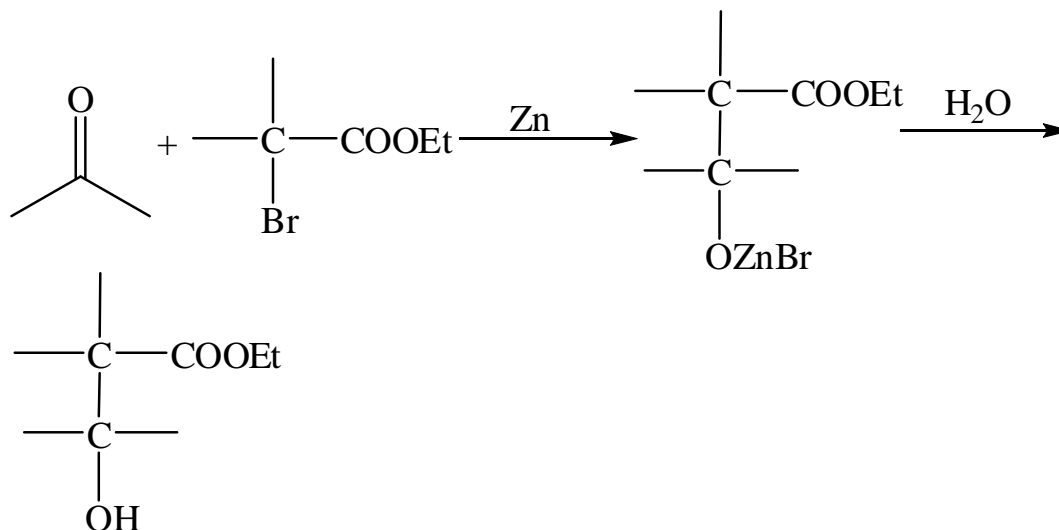
Use of alkylmagnesiumate in Grignard's type reaction

Manabu,H; Tokihiko, M;  
Kazuak,I; *Org.Lett.*, 2005, 7,  
573.



## (A.2) Reformatsky reaction

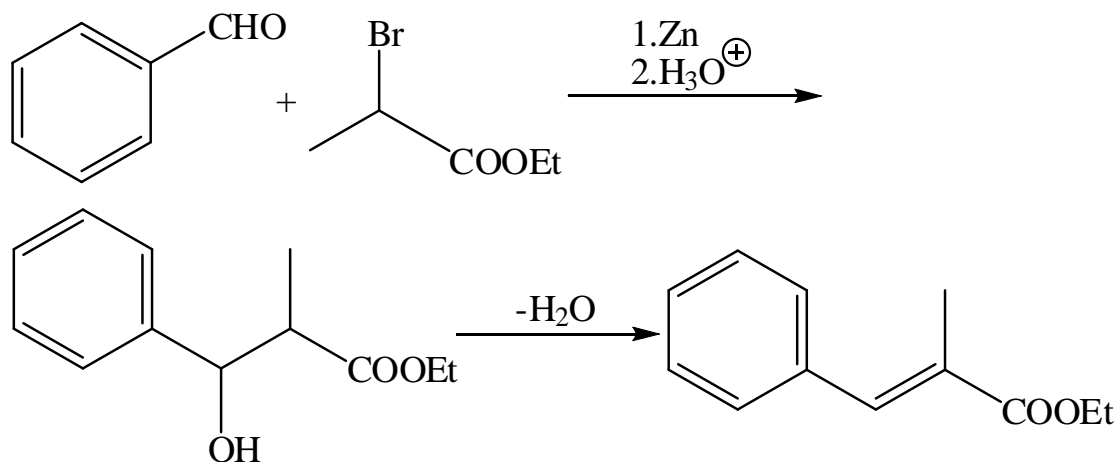
General reaction for Reformatsky reaction



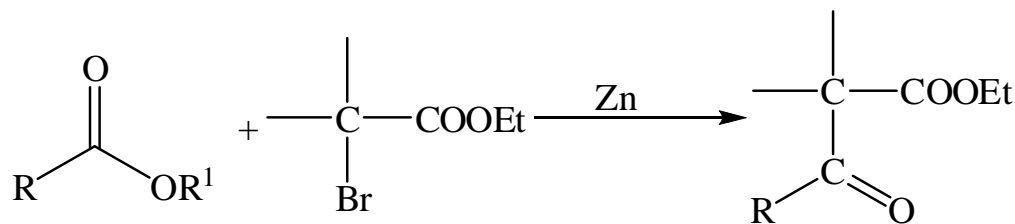
Reaction goes through intermediate analogous to Grignard's reagent.

Reaction may, particularly, in case of aldehydes produce olefin by elimination.

Reaction of benzaldehyde  
with  
Ethyl 2-bromopropionate

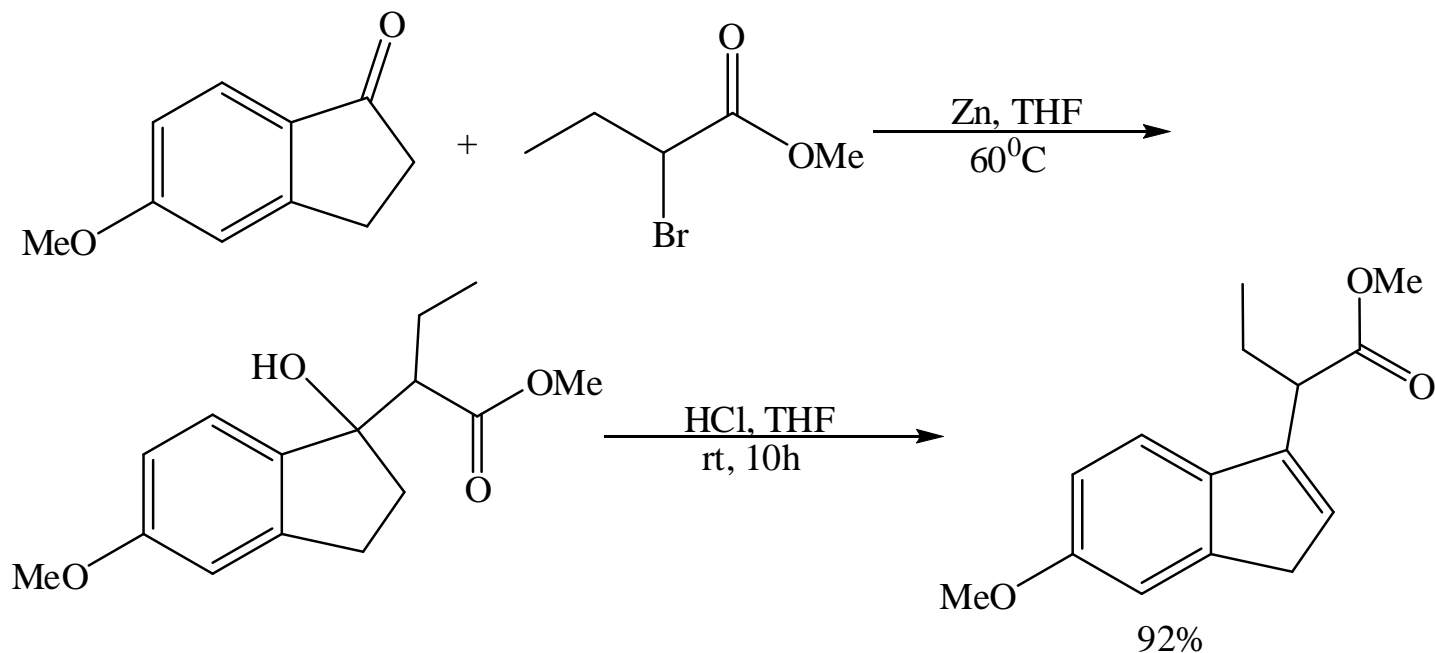
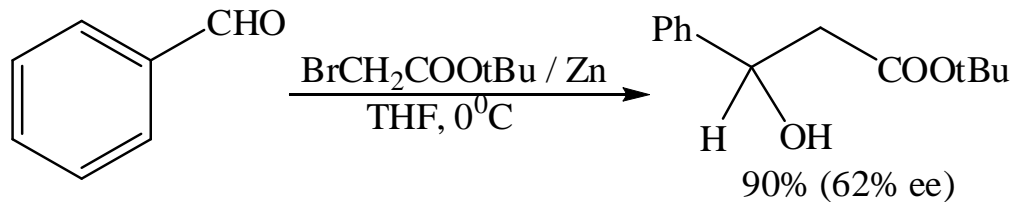


Organozinc reagents are less reactive than Grignard reagent or organolithium reagents. Thus, they do not react with esters and substitution product may result instead.



## More examples

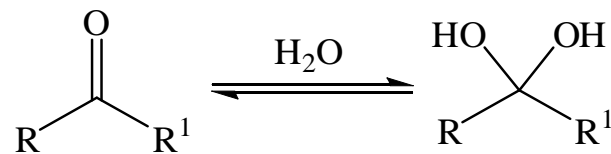
Reaction of benzaldehyde  
with  
t-butyl 2-bromoethanoate



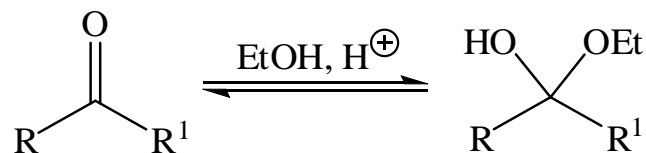
## (B). Hydration and hemiacetal formation

Water and alcohol, when added to carbonyl compound, behave as nucleophiles and add to them giving corresponding hydrates and hemiacetals or hemiketal respectively.

### Hydration



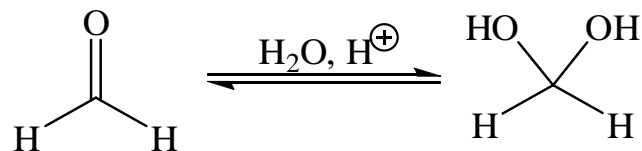
### Hemiacetal formation



Reaction is in equilibrium and position of equilibrium depends upon nature of carbonyl compound.

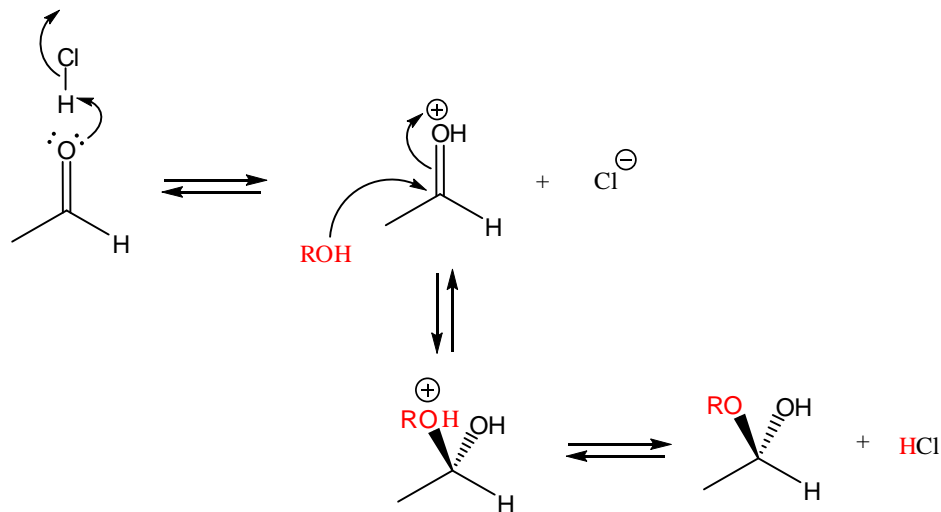
Formaldehyde reacts readily than any other carbonyl compound and exists mostly in hydrate form in water.

Formaldehyde is present in hydrated form in aqueous solution

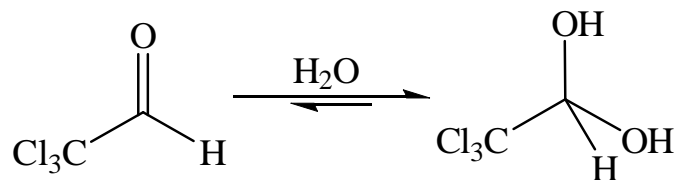


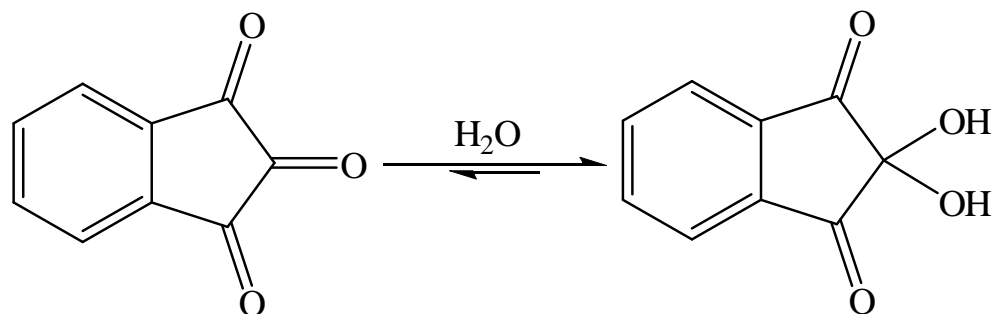
Mechanism for hydration/acetal formation (example given is for acetal formation)

Water is a weak nucleophile and hence activation of carbonyl by way of protonation is required for effective addition of water.



Hydration of chloral is favorable reaction and most of chloral is in hydrated form.



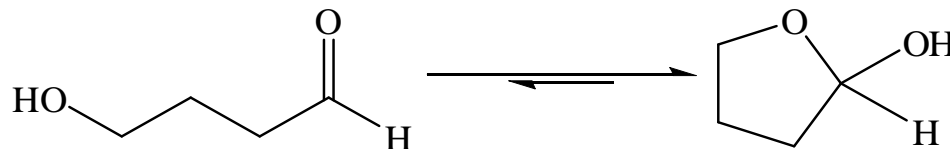


Mechanism for hemiacetal formation follows same route. It is called hemiacetal because it is halfway to acetal.

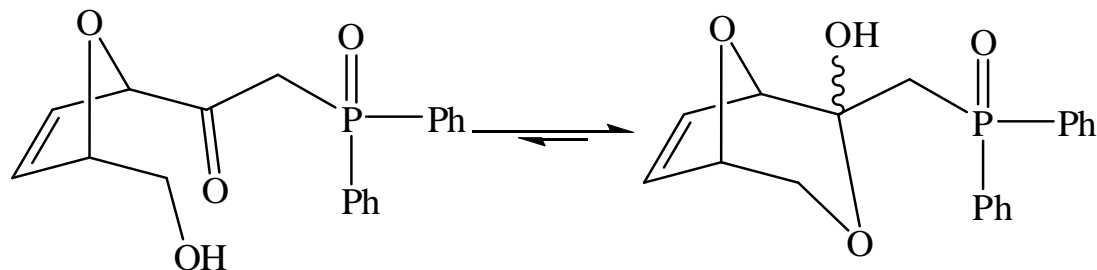
Intramolecular hemiacetal formation reaction

When carbonyl and hydroxy group are present within same molecule, intramolecular reaction occurs to give cyclic hemiacetal.

Reaction of 4-hydroxybutyraldehyde gives cyclic hemiacetal

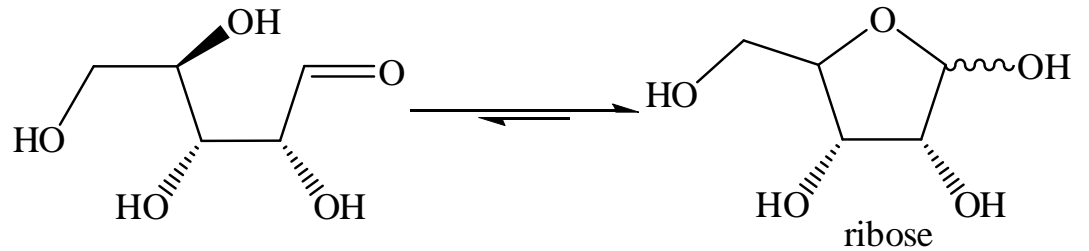
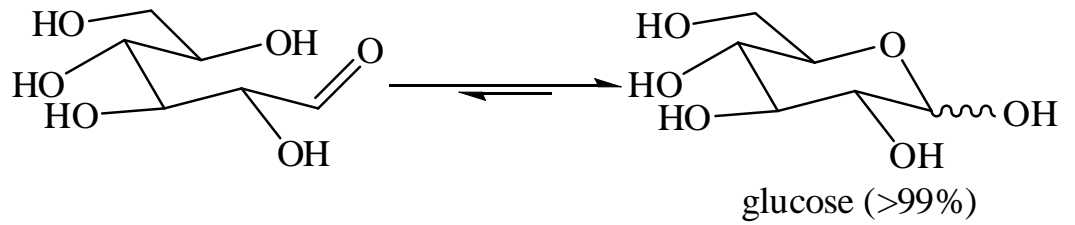


Hydroxyketones can also form cyclic hemiacetals





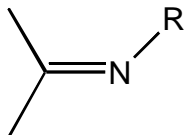
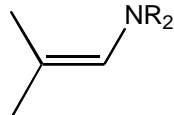
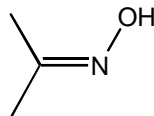
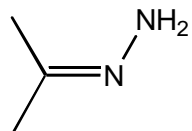
Glucose and ribose mainly  
exists in cyclic hemiacetal  
form



## C. Addition of Amines

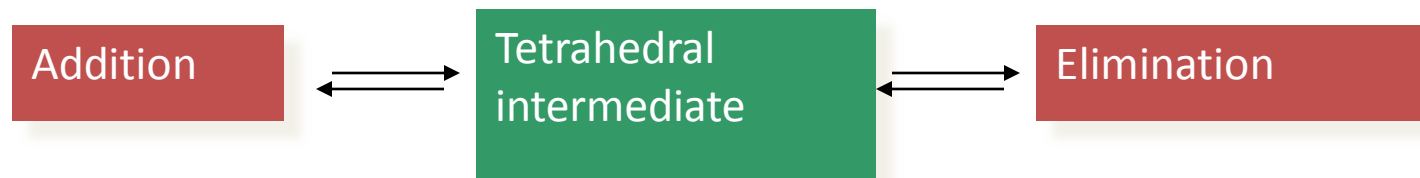
[amines as nucleophiles]

Carbonyl compounds such as aldehydes and ketones can react with ammonia derivatives

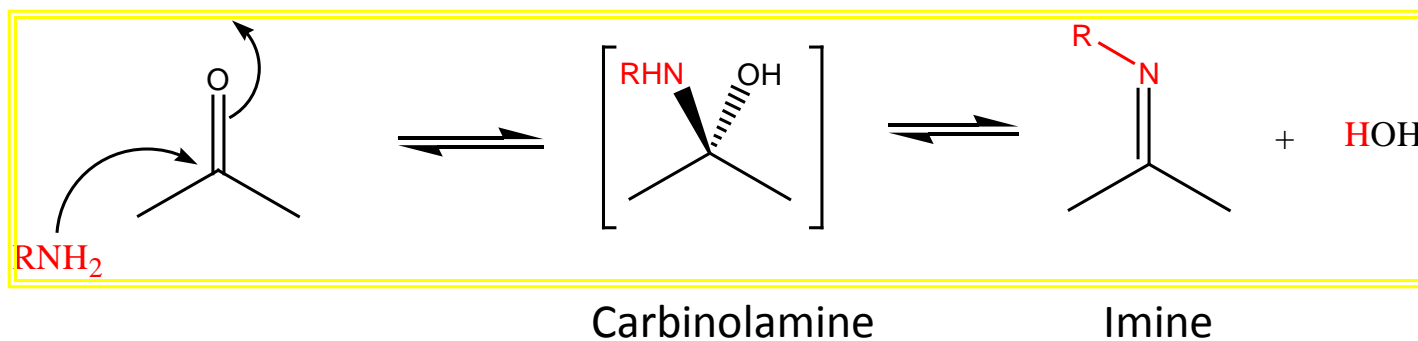
Nature of amine	Name of the product	Structure
p-amine	Imine (Schiff bases)	
sec-amine	Enamine	
hydroxylamine	Oxime	
hydrazine	hydrazone	

# Condensation reactions with ammonia derivatives

Condensation reactions\* with ammonia derivatives lead to Schiff bases



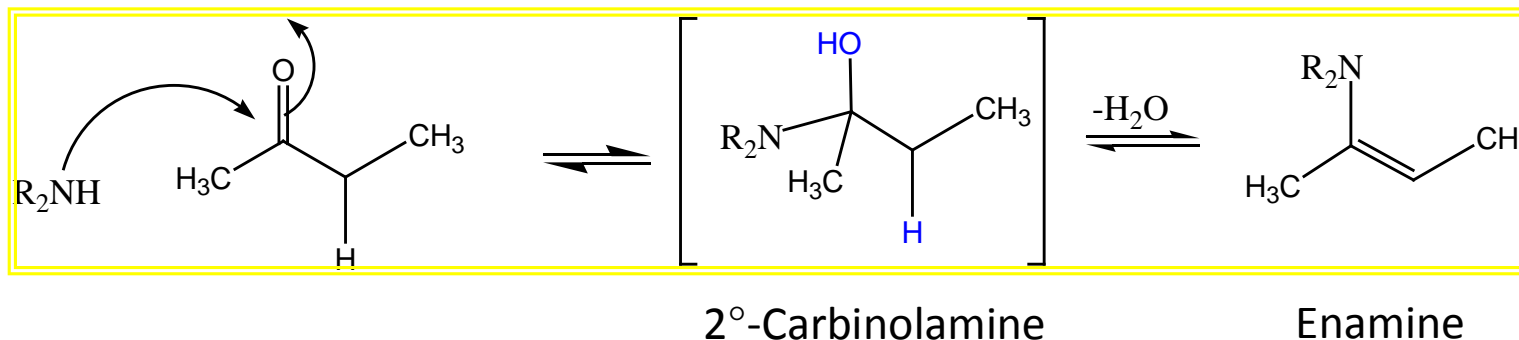
Acid catalyzed



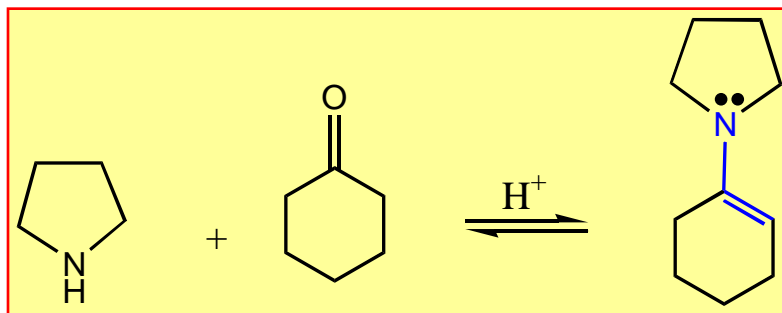
\* One or more molecules are joined with the loss of water or another small molecules

# C.1. Condensation reactions with ammonia derivatives

## Generation of Enamines



Secondary amines can give **enamines** upon condensation with ketones



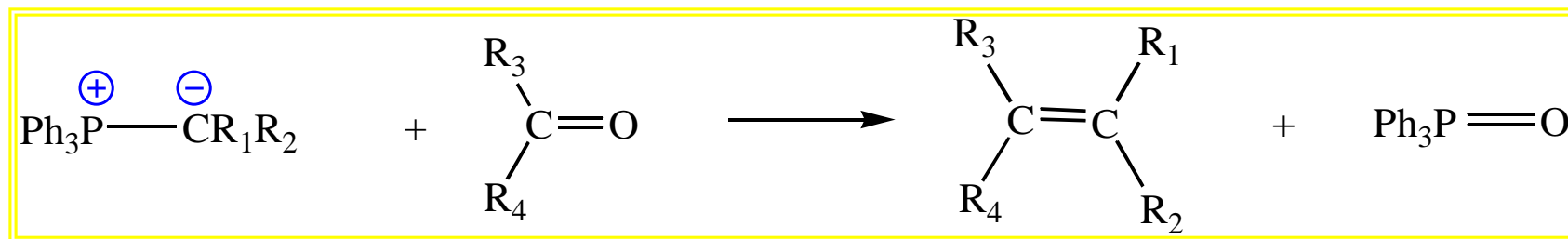
Enamines are **very good nucleophiles** for C-C bond formation

# D. The Wittig Reaction

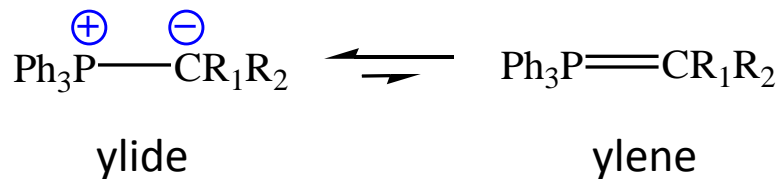
[carbanions as nucleophiles]

**Georg Wittig** (1954): Nobel prize winner 1979

Reactions of aldehydes or ketones with phosphorous ylides\* to give alkene



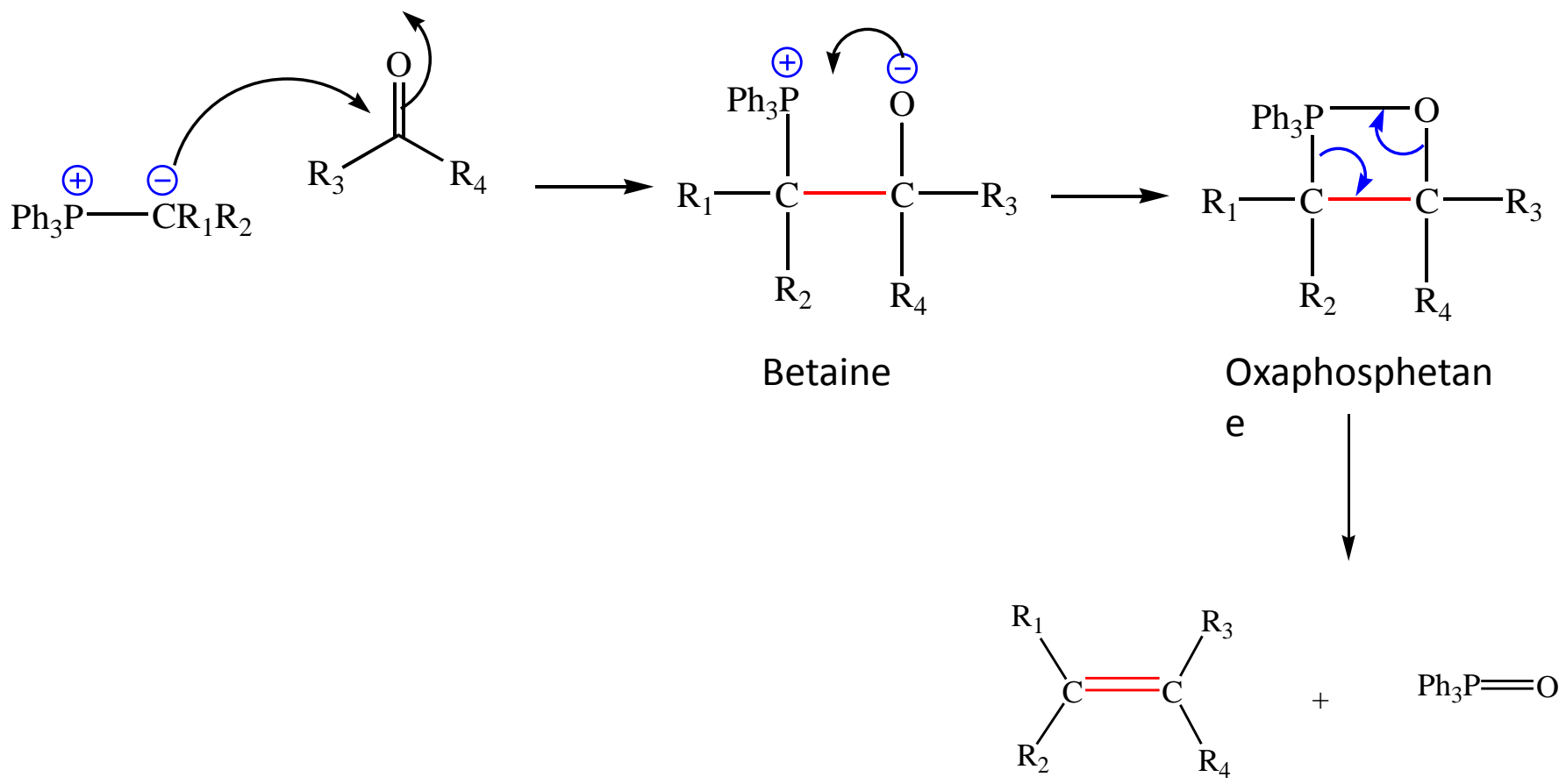
Phosphorous stabilized carbanions



**Due to carbanion character ylidic carbons are highly nucleophilic**

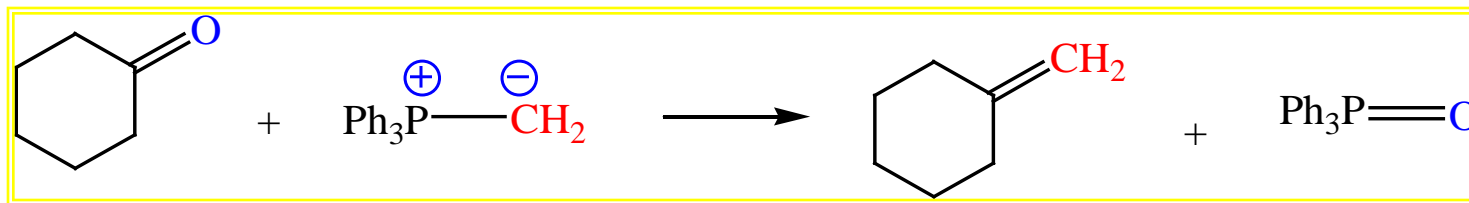
\* Ylides are neutral molecules with a negatively charged carbon atom and a positively charged heteroatom (P, S, N etc.,)

# Mechanism of Wittig Reaction

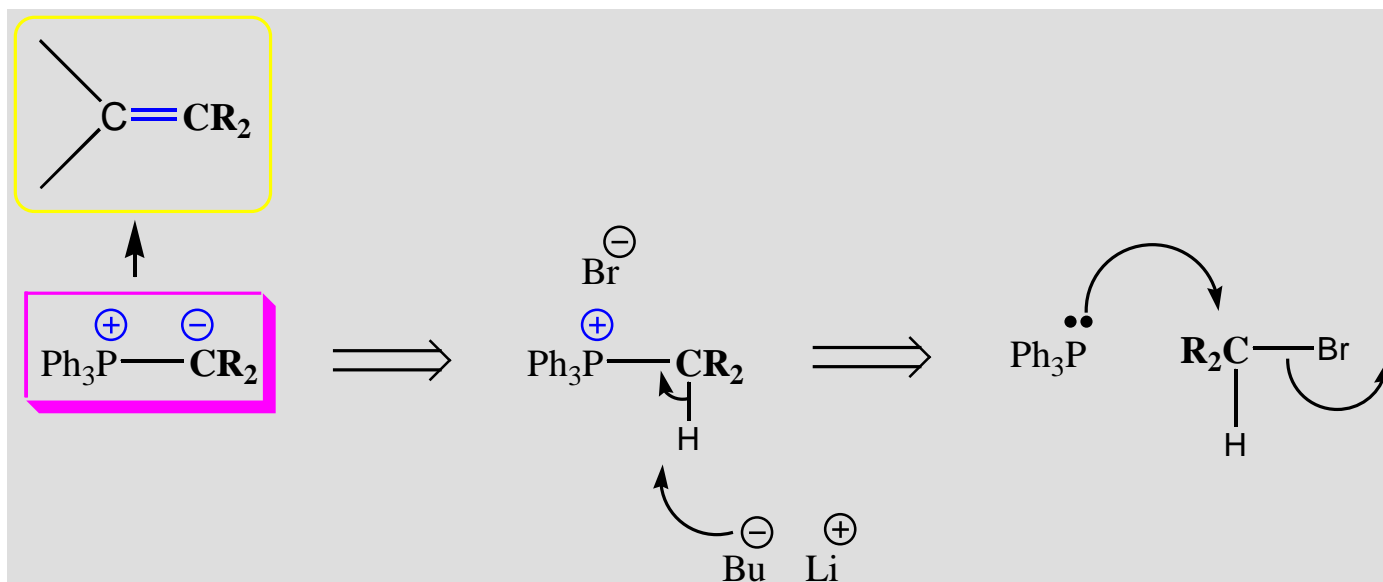


Phosphine oxide is a very stable species. Formation of alkene as well as phosphine oxide provides great thermodynamic drive for this reaction

Wittig Reaction is an **olefination** reaction



Choice of **R<sub>2</sub>CX** is critical while planning a Wittig olefination reaction

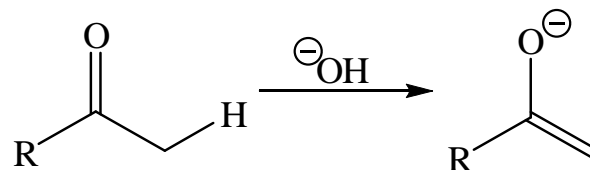


Other bases used for the generation of ylides: t-BuOK, NaH

## II. Reaction of enolates

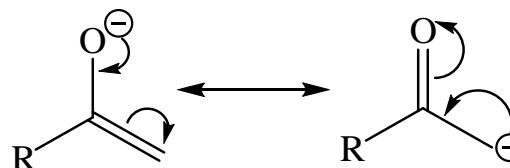
Carbonyl compound containing  $\alpha$ -hydrogen atom, when reacted with base, loses its acidic proton and forms an enolate.

Formation of enolate ion



Enolate ion is an alkoxide ion but is more stable to that of corresponding enol form because it is a conjugated, three atom, four electron system.

Delocalization of enolate ion

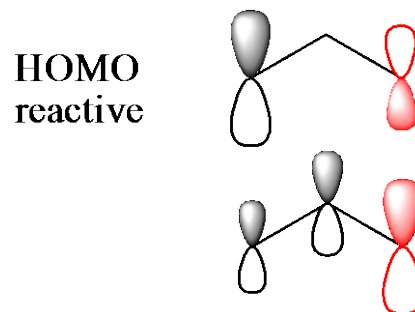


Charge is mainly on oxygen atom, more electronegative atom.

Same can be shown by use of orbitals involved.



Populated  $\pi$  orbital of  
enolate ion



In enolate, thus, more of negative charge is on oxygen and the HOMO is centered more on the carbon atom.

Various reactions are shown to proceed via enolate ion formation.

## II. (A). Aldol condensation

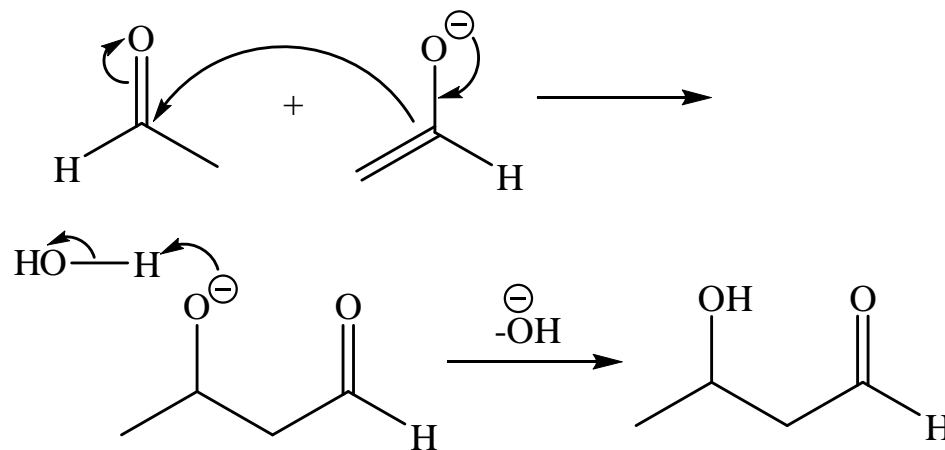
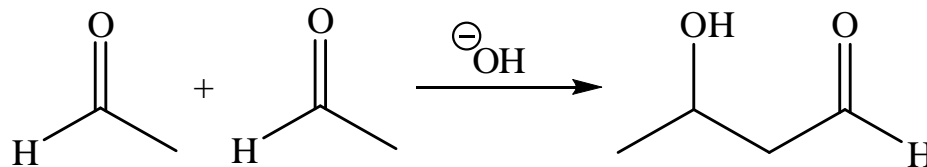
Aldol condensation is a self condensation reaction between molecules containing  $\alpha$ -hydrogen atom in presence of base.

The product of reaction is a  $\beta$ -hydroxy carbonyl compound.

Base catalyzed Aldol condensation of acetaldehyde

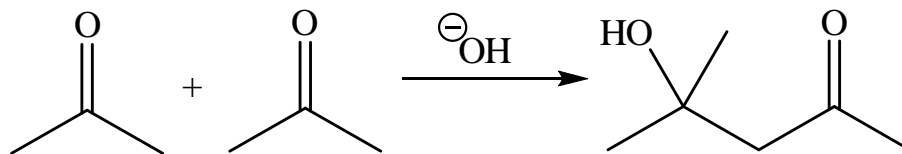
Mechanism for Aldol condensation

Base first abstracts proton from carbonyl compound and gives enolate which then adds to other molecule of carbonyl compound to give  $\beta$ -hydroxycarbonyl compound

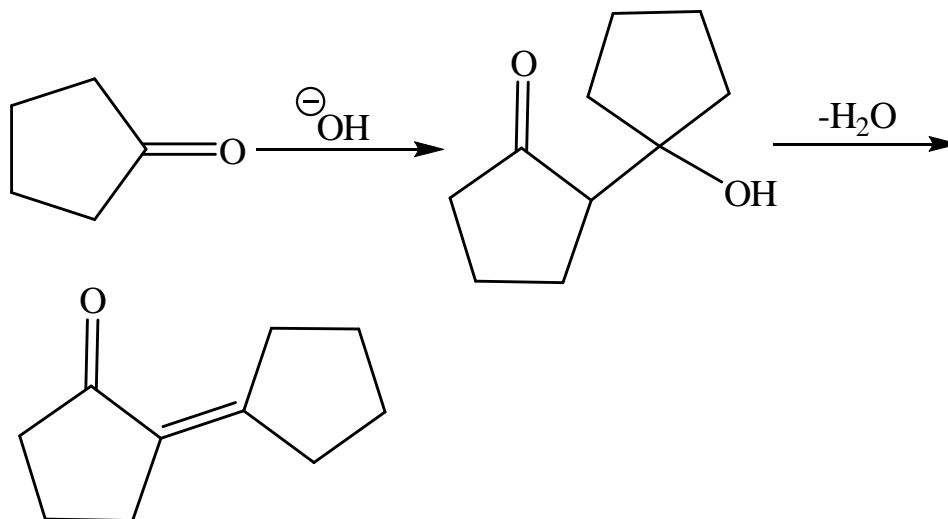


Base catalyzed Aldol  
condensation of acetone

Reaction is also furnished by ketones.



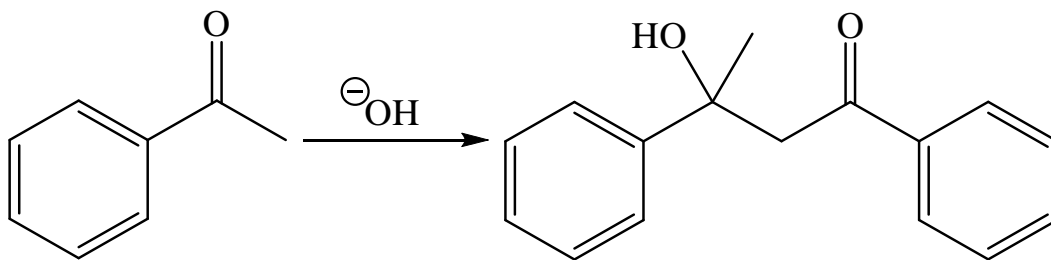
In high basic conditions, further reaction occur  
i.e. elimination.



Elimination of water  
molecule proceeds via  
E1cB mechanism

In case of symmetrical carbonyl compound, which way enolisation occurs is unimportant. Similarly, in case of unsymmetrical carbonyl compounds, containing only one  $\alpha$ -hydrogen atom, which way it is enolized is unquestionable.

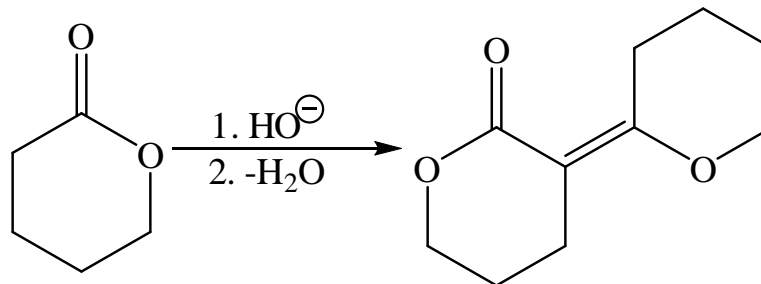
Base catalyzed Aldol condensation of acetophenone



In acetophenone, only methyl protons can be enolized.

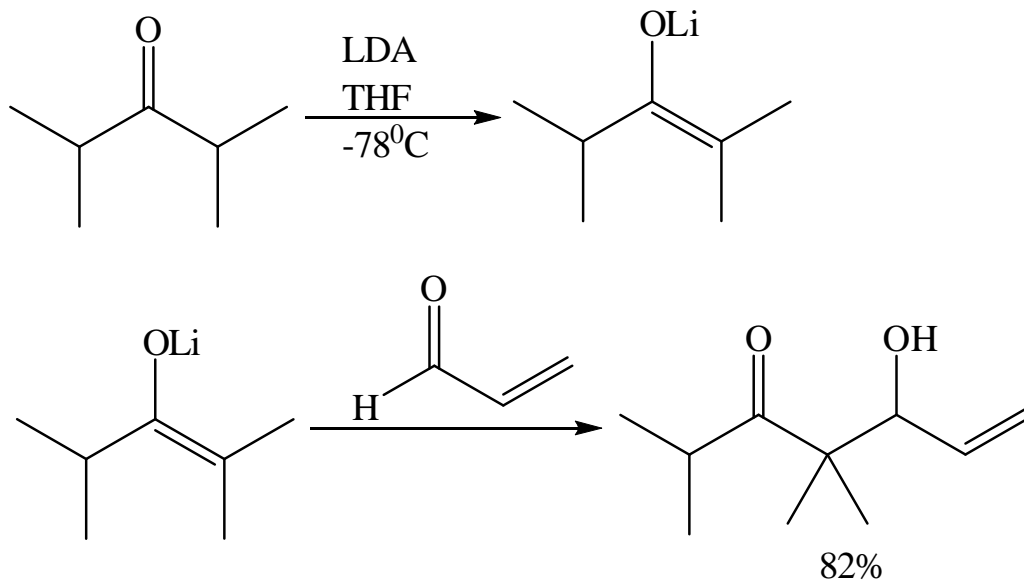
Similarly, in case of lactones, only methylene protons are available for enolisation.

Base catalyzed Aldol condensation of cyclic ester

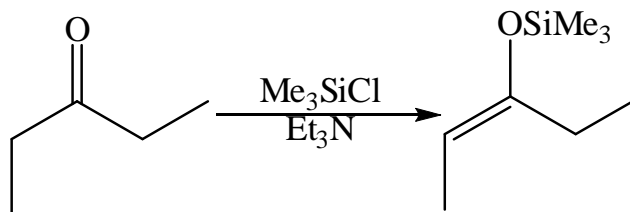


Aldol reactions can also be furnished using specific enol equivalent, such as, lithium or silyl enol ether etc.

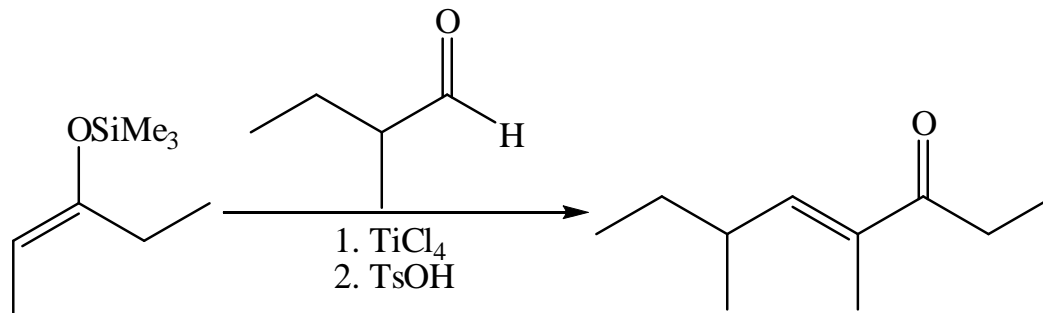
Aldol reaction using lithium enolate



Aldol reaction using silyl enol ether

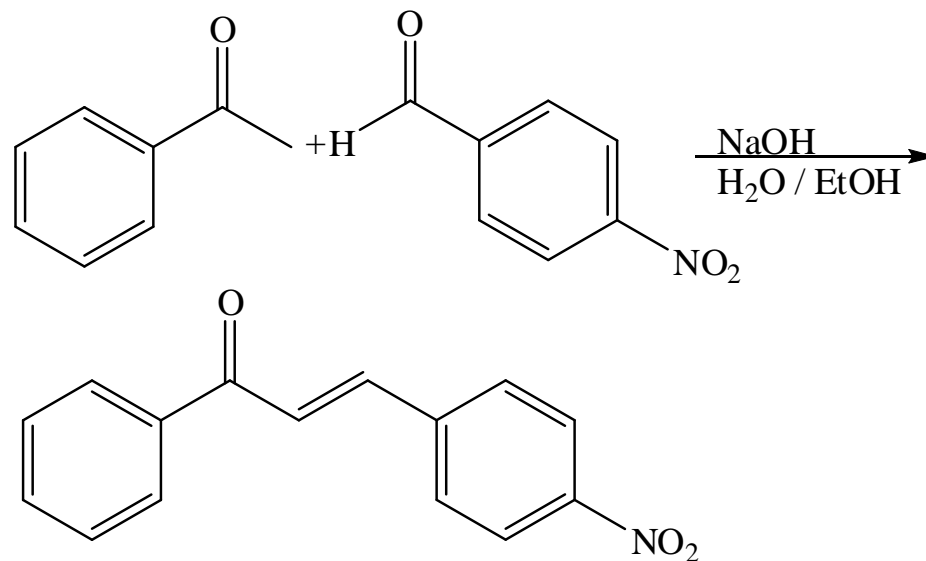


Reaction of  
2-methylbutyraldehyde with  
silyl enol ether of  
3-pentanone



When two different carbonyl compound are treated with base, condensation is observed, similar to that of self condensation. This reaction is known as cross-aldol condensation.

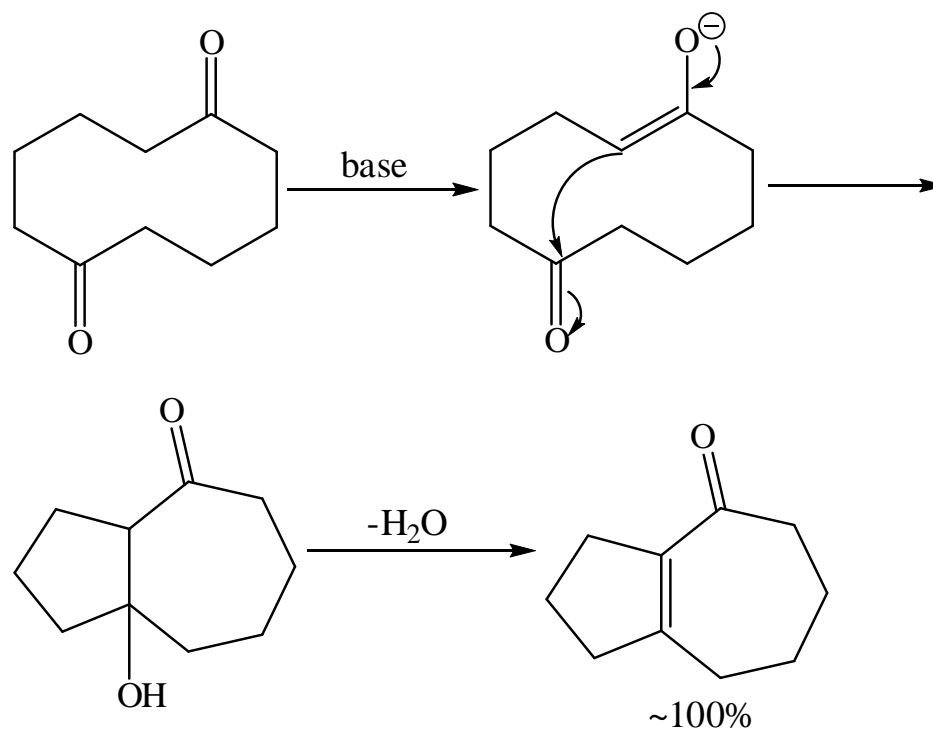
Cross-Aldol reaction  
between acetophenone and  
4-nitrobenzaldehyde



For these kind of reactions to work, there must be present at least one component which can not be enolized and is electrophilic enough for nucleophilic attack to occur and other component must be enolizable.

When, in a molecule present, two carbonyl functional groups such that one can be enolized and other is electrophilic, intramolecular Aldol reaction takes place.

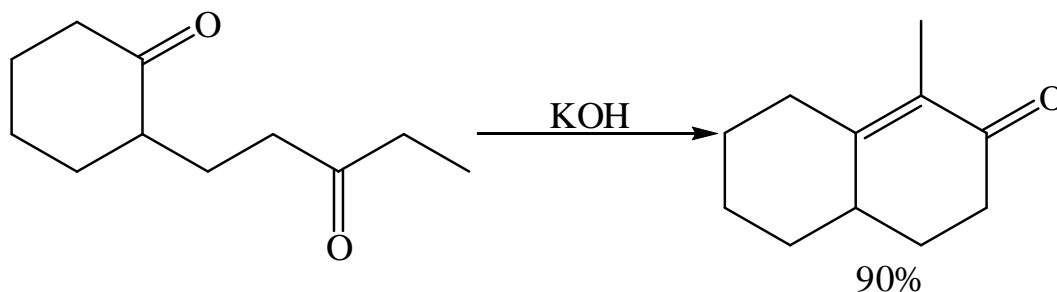
### Intramolecular Aldol reaction of 1,6-diketone





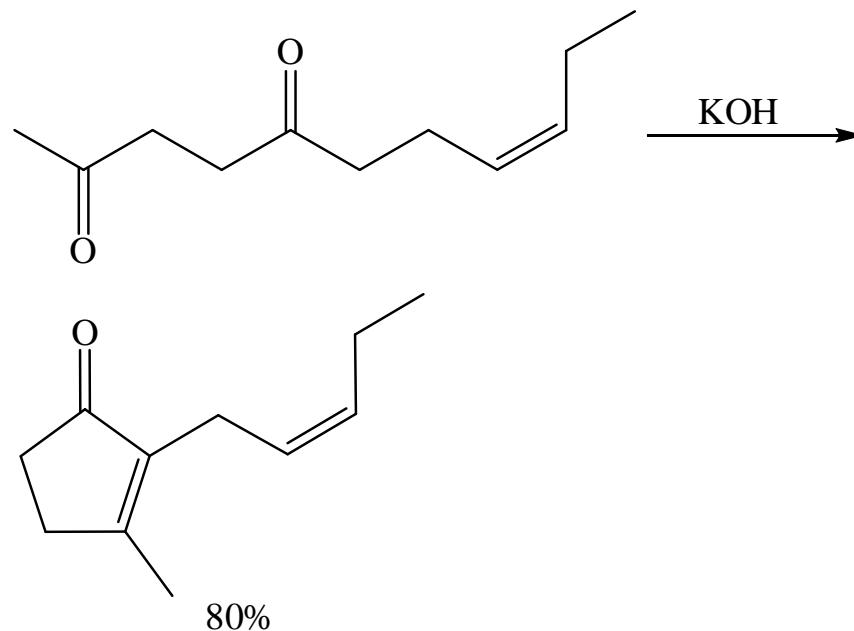
In case of unsymmetrical diketones, there are four different sites for enolisation and the final product depends on whether reaction is kinetically controlled or thermodynamically controlled.

Intramolecular Aldol  
reaction of 1,5-diketone



In this reaction, though there are several possibilities of inter and intra molecular condensation, only this product is formed in 90% yield. This is because it leads to stable conjugated enone in six membered ring.

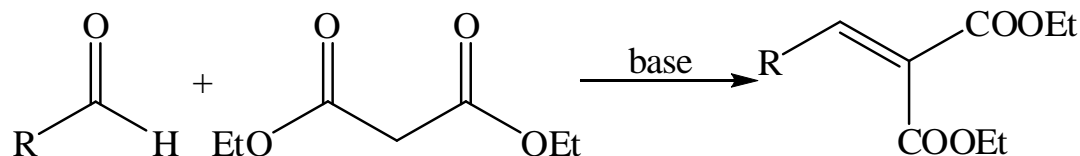
Intramolecular Aldol  
reaction of 1,4-diketone



In this reaction, 80% of the product, cis-jasmone is formed, as reaction is under thermodynamic control.

## II. (B). Knoevenagel reaction

Knoevenagel reaction is modified aldol reaction, in which reaction of carbonyl compound with active methylene compound, proceeds through enolate formation, in presence of weakly basic conditions.

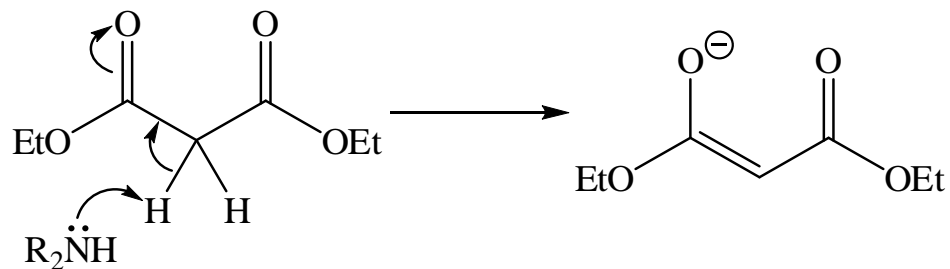


Active methylene compound in the reaction can be diethylmalonate, ethylacetoacetate, malonic acid, Meldrum's acid, cyanoacetic ester etc.

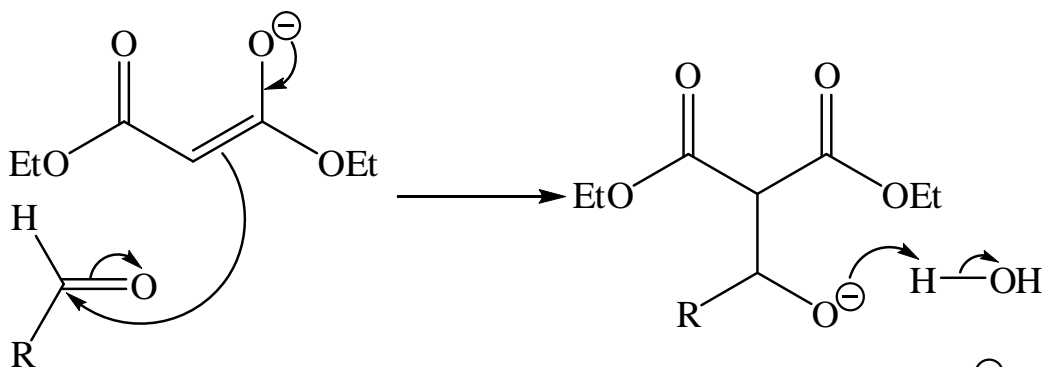
Weakly basic conditions can be maintained by use of pyridine or piperidine in reaction.

Mechanism is as follows.

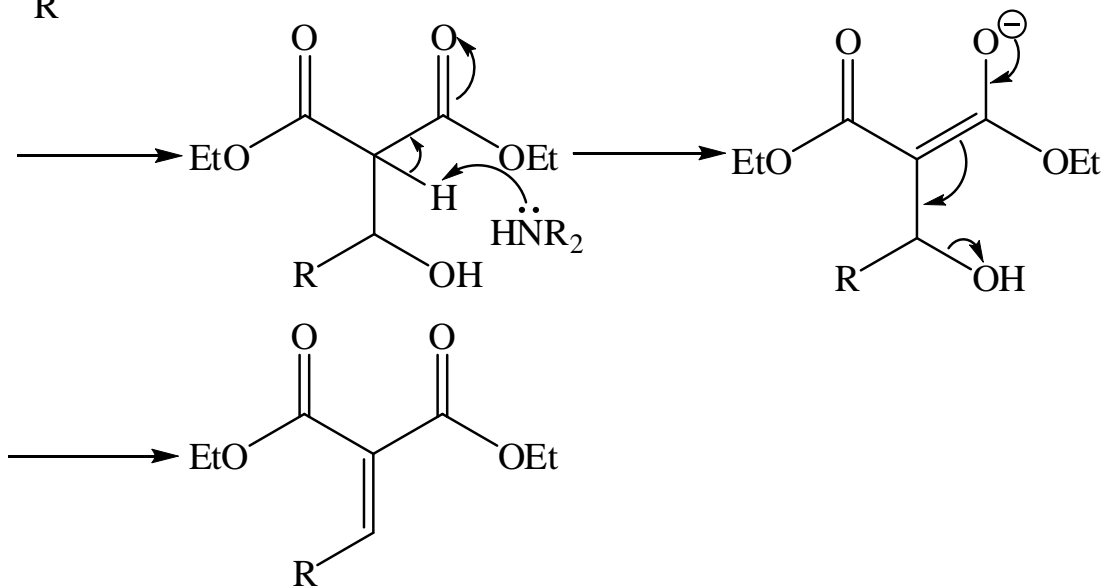
Attack of base on active methylene compound to give enolate



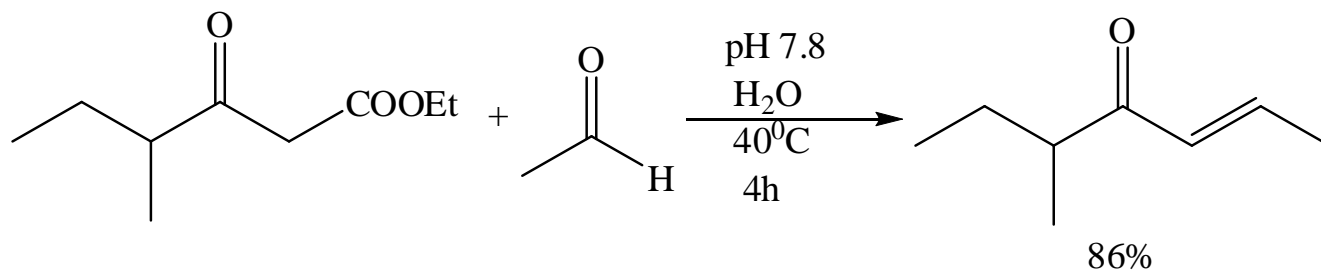
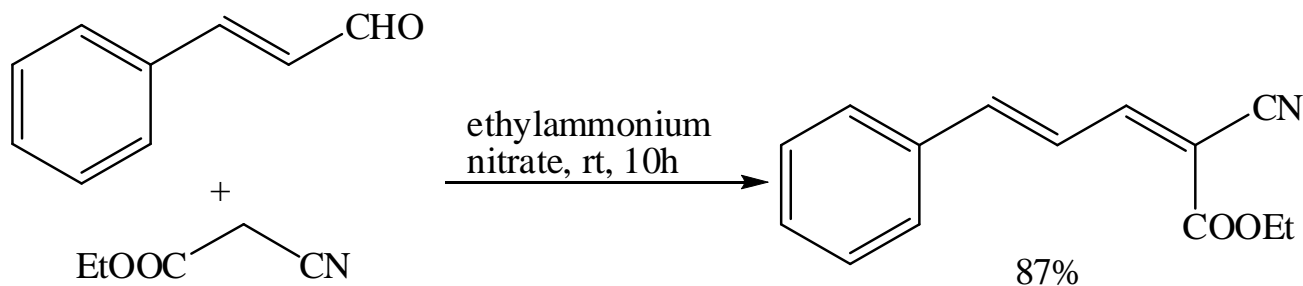
Electrophilic addition of enolate to carbonyl compound



Removal of water molecule by E1cB mechanism to give final product



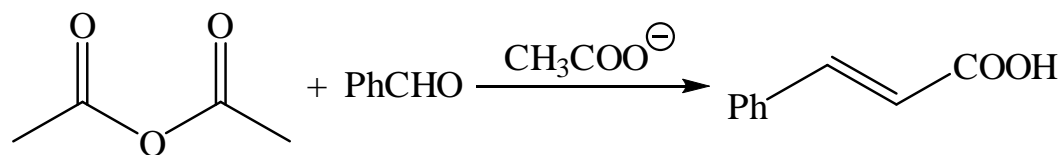
## Few more examples of Knoevenagel reaction



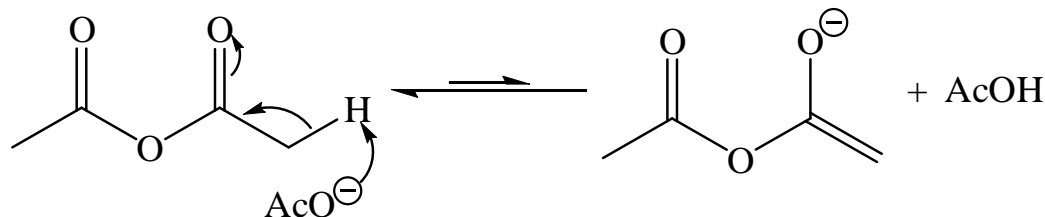
Kourouli, T; Kefalas, P; Ragoussis, N; Ragoussis, V,  
*JOC*, 2002, 67, 4615

## II. (C). Perkin reaction

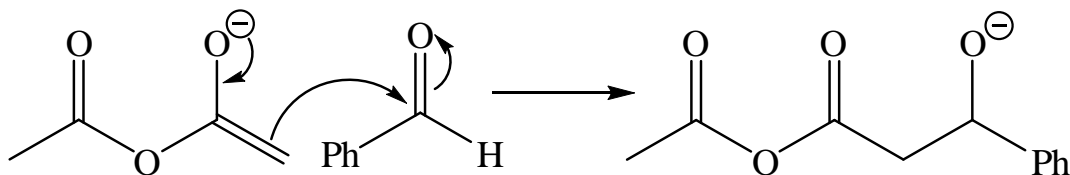
Reaction of acid anhydride and aromatic aldehyde in presence of strong base, is [Perkin](#) reaction.



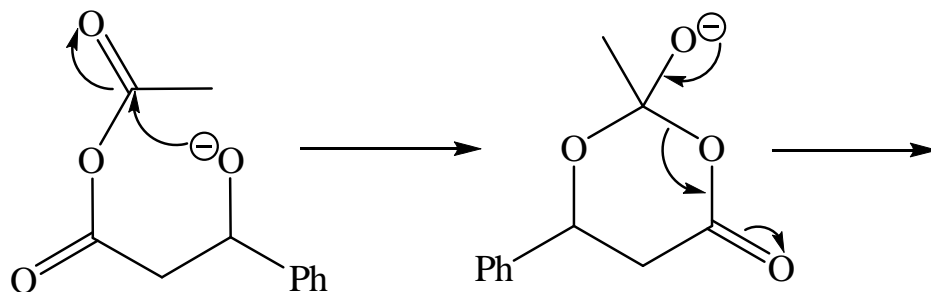
Mechanism of reaction  
Formation of enolate of anhydride



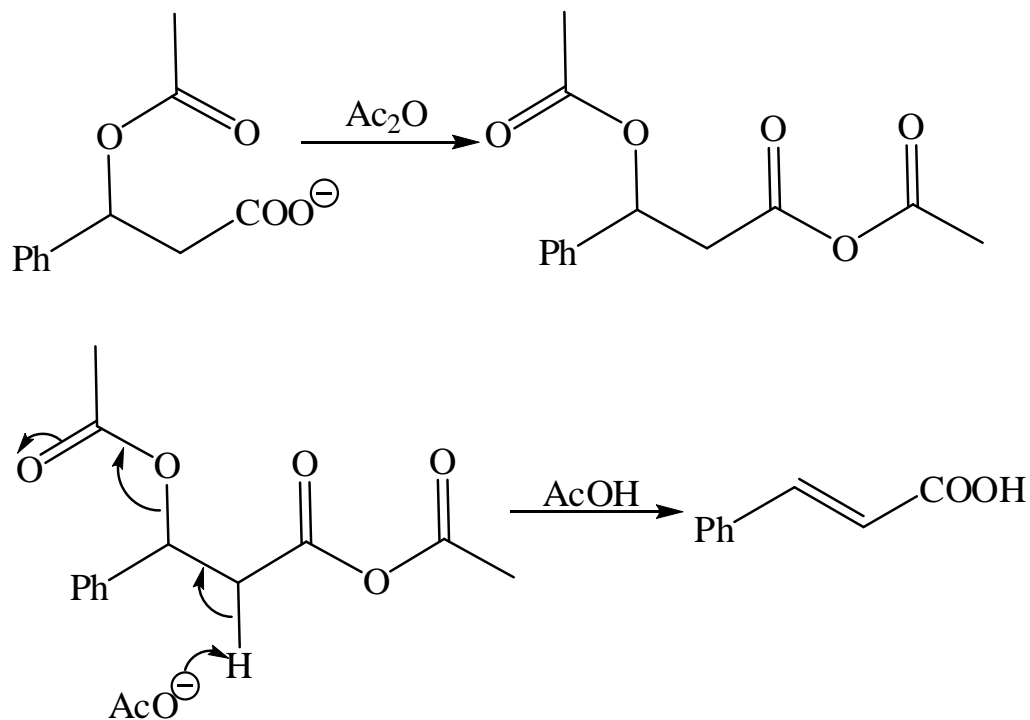
Aldol type addition of enolate to carbonyl compound



Intramolecular acylation  
followed by loss of  
carboxylate

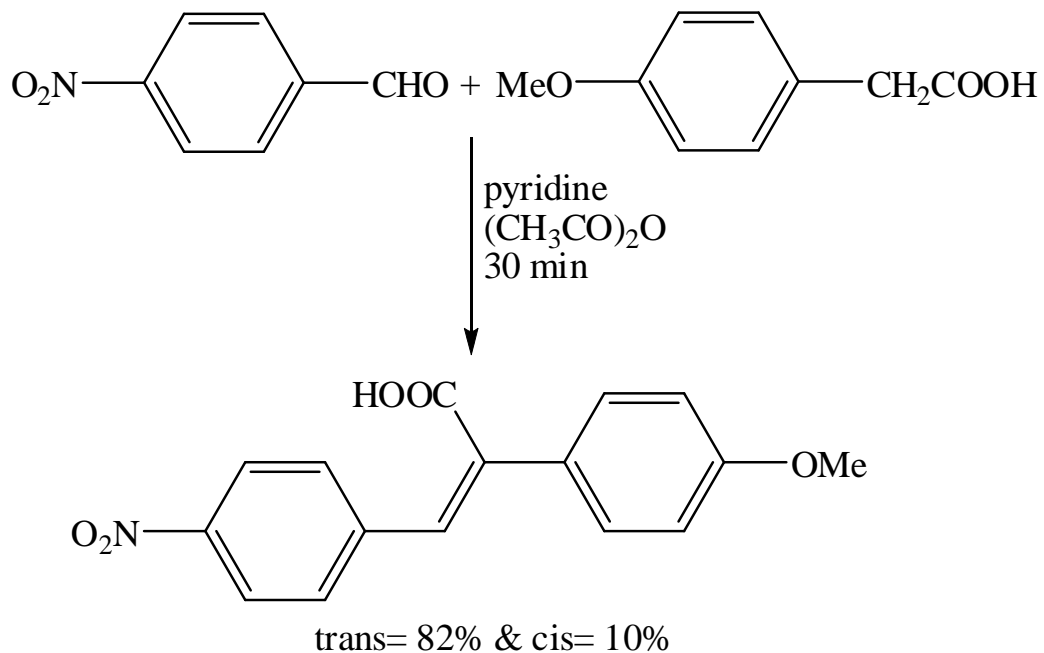


In next step mixed  
anhydride formed by  
addition of acetic  
anhydride loses acetic acid  
and is hydrolyzed in single  
step to give unsaturated  
acid



Mechanism is supported by fact that, when anhydride containing no enolizable protons is used, then final product of the reaction is one corresponding to the one obtained by loss of carboxylate.

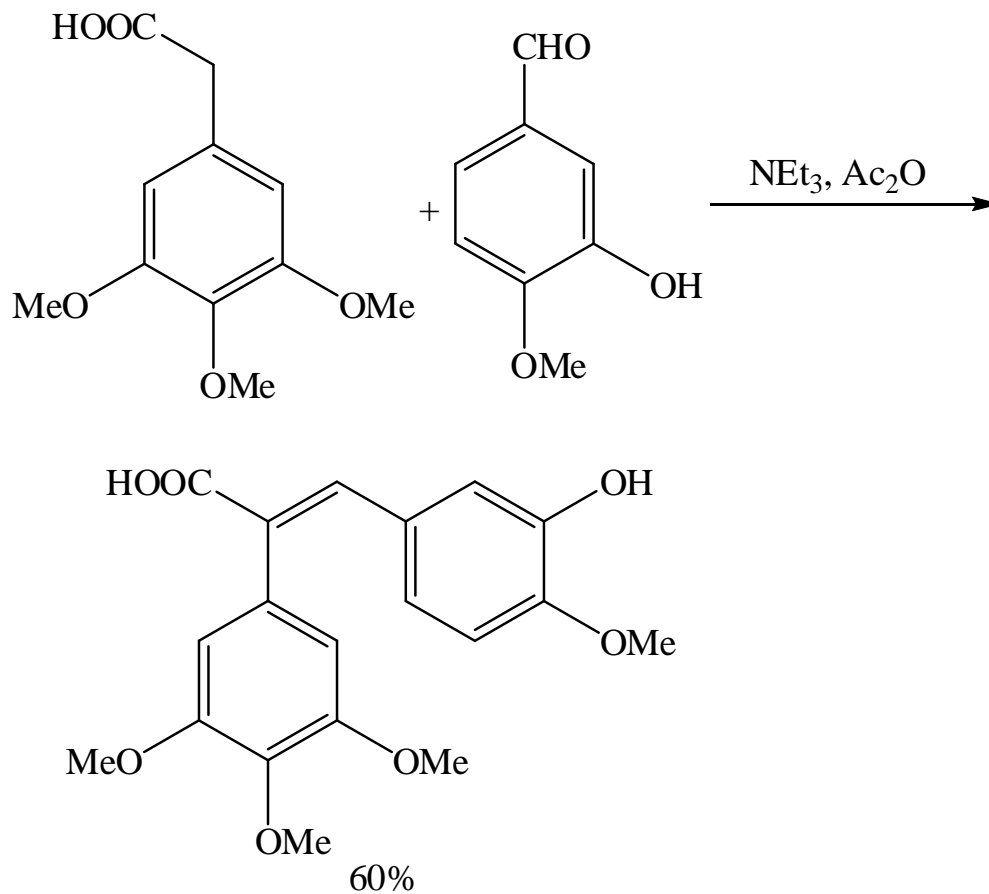
Ketcham, R, *J. Chem. Educ.*, 1964, 41, 565





## More examples

Gaukroger, K; Hadfield,  
J.A; Hepworth, L.A;  
Lawrence, N.J; McGown,  
A.T, *JOC*, 2001, 66, 8135

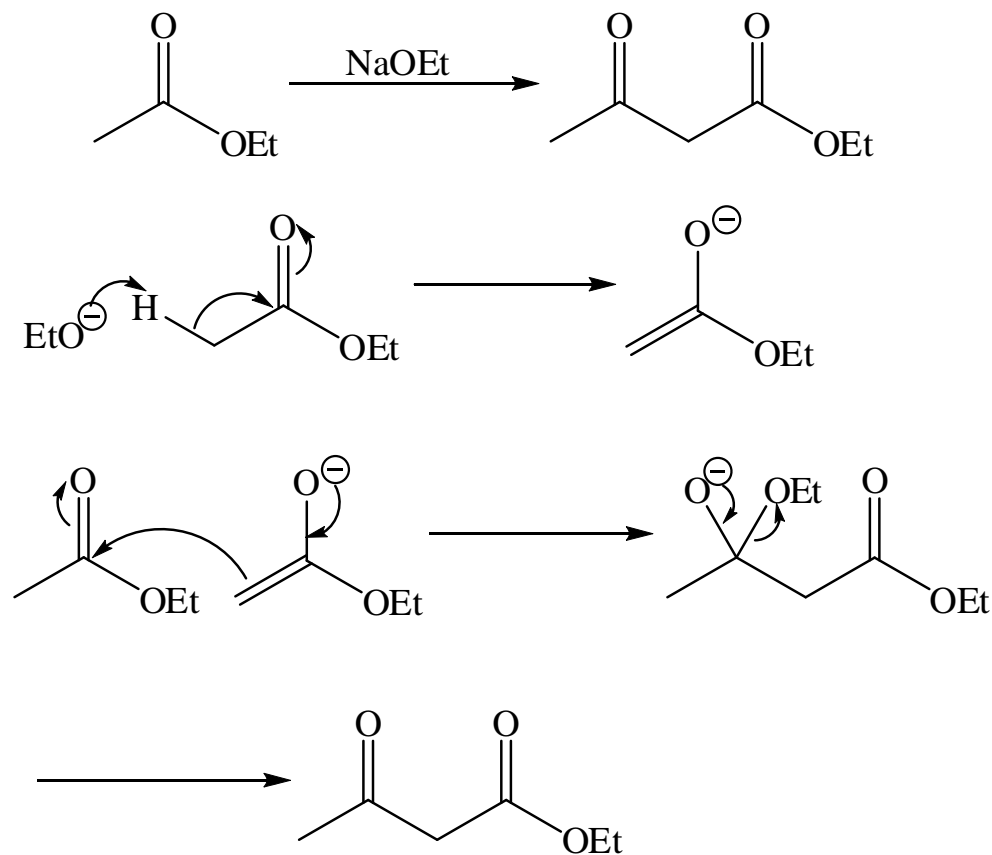


## II. (D). Claisen condensation

Ethylacetate on reaction with sodiumethoxide gives ethylacetoacetate.

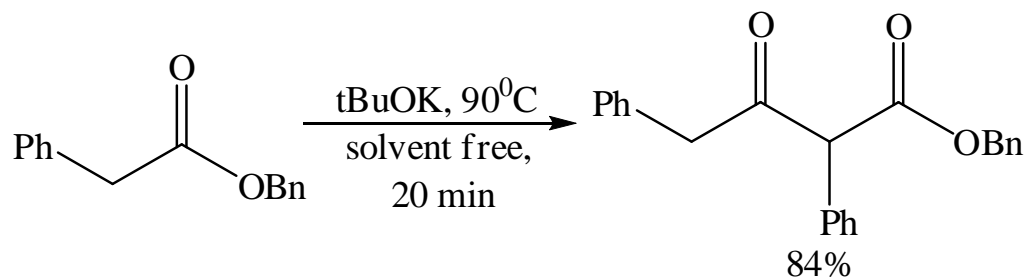
Mechanism of reaction

Self condensation reaction of enolizable ester, in the presence of base, is Claisen condensation.



Mechanism is similar to that of Aldol condensation. In this reaction, first ester is enolized. It then attacks another molecule of ester in the same way as that in aldol condensation. Adduct of the reaction then loses ethoxide, as it is good leaving group.

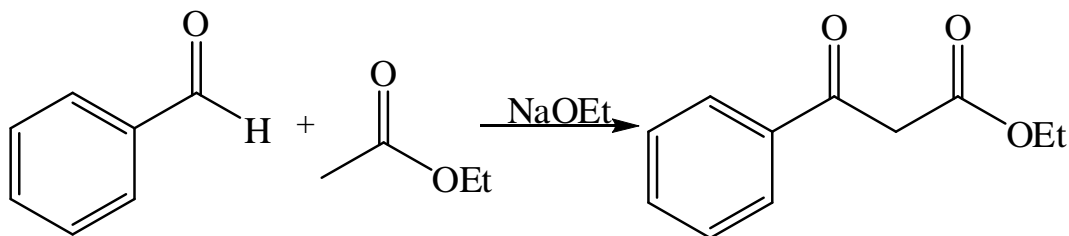
Product of the reaction is  $\beta$ -ketoester.



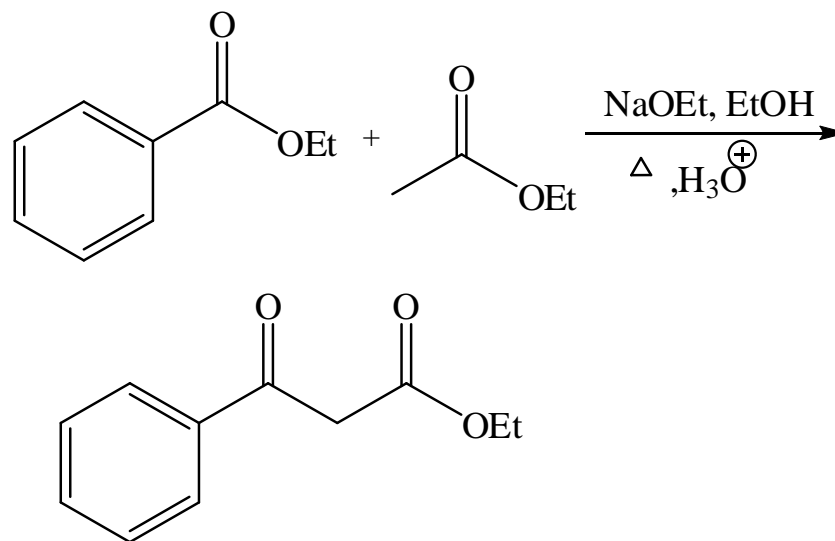
Cross-Claisen condensation are those in which two different molecules of ester or ester and other carbonyl compound are treated in presence of base.

It often forms mixture of products. Synthetically useful products are obtained, when one of the component of reaction is non-enolizable.

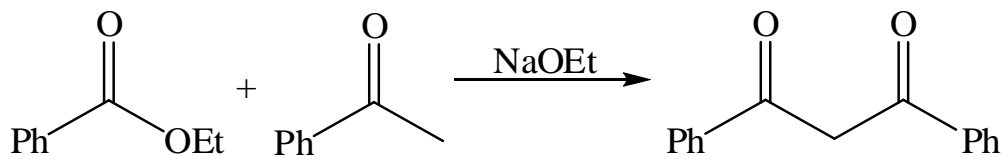
Cross-Claisen condensation  
of benzaldehyde and  
ethylacetate



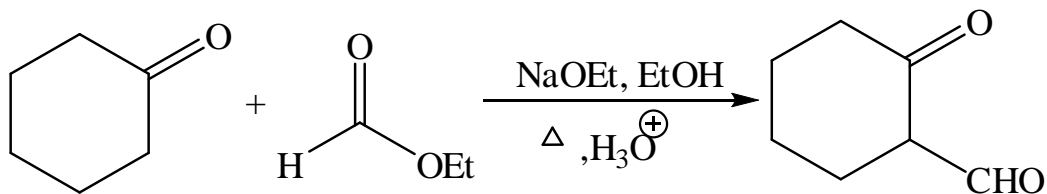
Cross-Claisen condensation  
of ethylbenzoate and  
ethylacetate



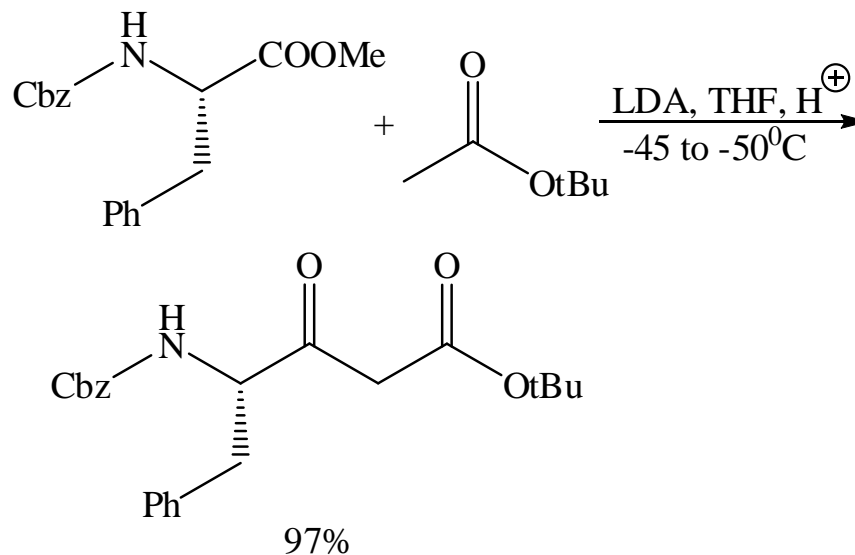
Cross-Claisen condensation  
of ethylbenzoate and  
acetophenone



Cross-Claisen condensation  
of cyclohexanone and  
ethylformate

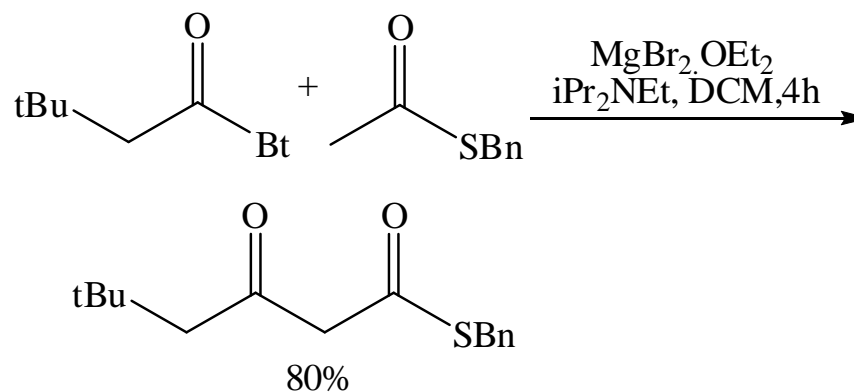


Honda, Y; Katayama, S;  
Kojima, M; Suzuki, T;  
Izawa, K, *Org. Lett.*, 2002,  
4, 447



Thioesters also undergo Claisen condensation.

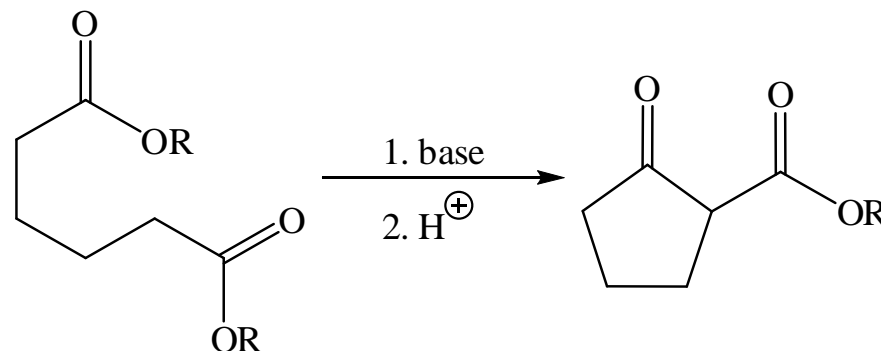
Claisen condensation of  
thioester gives  
 $\beta$ -ketothioester



Zhou, G; Lim, D; Coltart,  
D.M, *Org.Lett.*, 2008, 10,  
3809

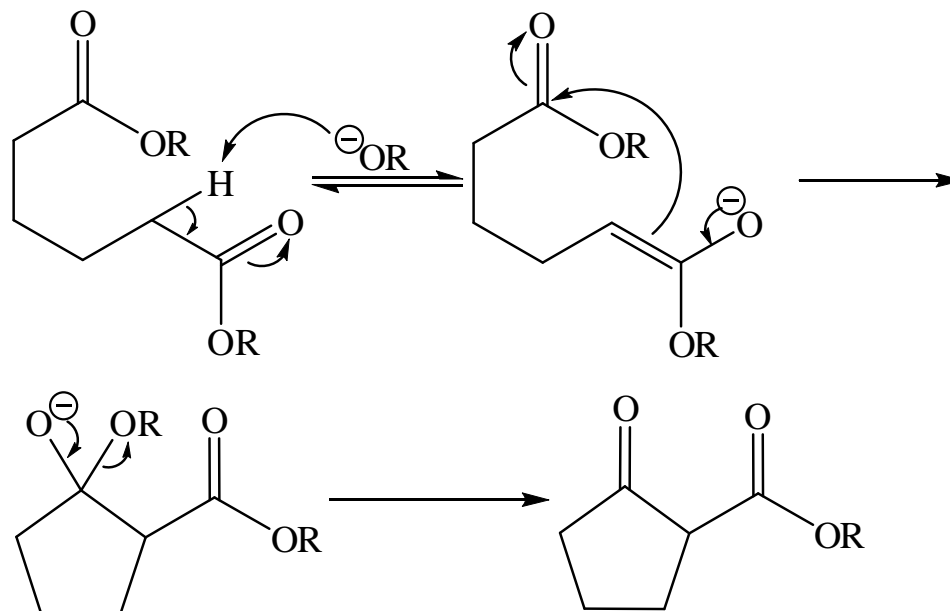
## II. (E). Dieckmann cyclisation

Intramolecular Claisen condensation of diesters in presence of a base is Dieckmann cyclisation.

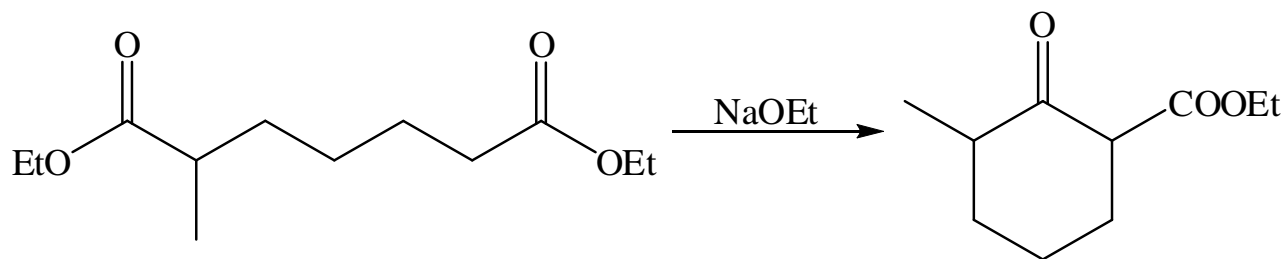
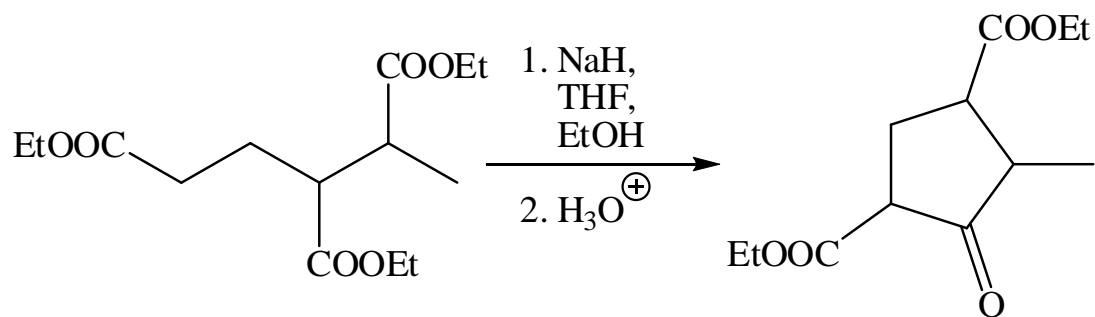


The mechanism for the Dieckmann cyclisation is analogous to that of the Claisen condensation.

Firstly one of the two esters is converted into an enolate ion. This enolate then attacks the second ester via nucleophilic acyl substitution resulting in a cyclic  $\beta$ -keto ester.

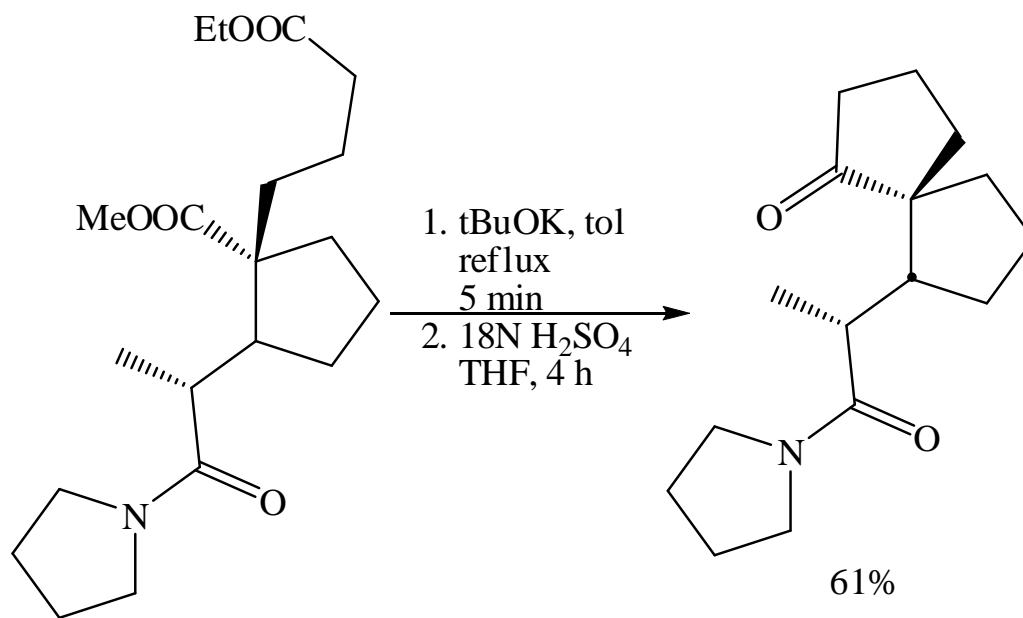


Reaction can best be carried out for 1,6 and 1,7-diester, which give five and six membered rings respectively.



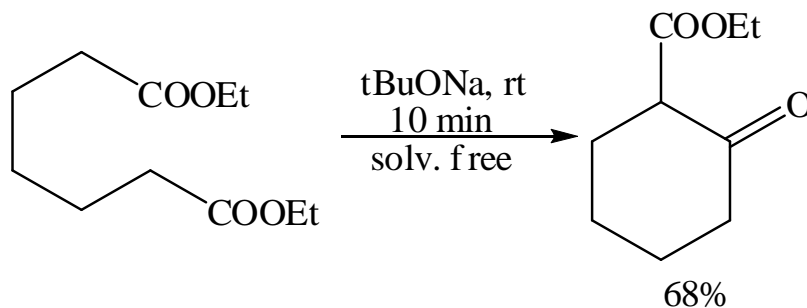


## More examples

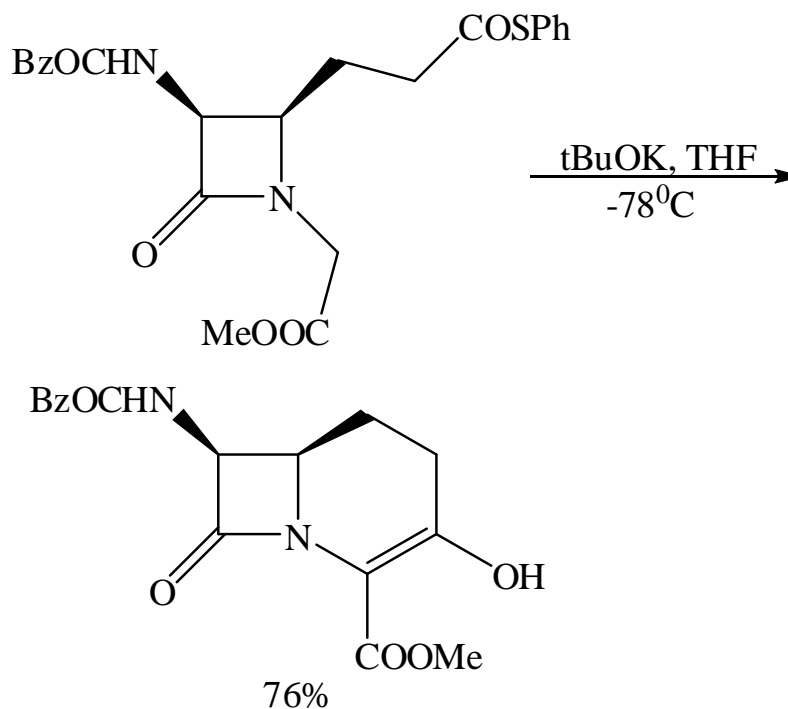


## More examples

Toda, F; Suzuki, T; Higa, S, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1998, 1, 3521

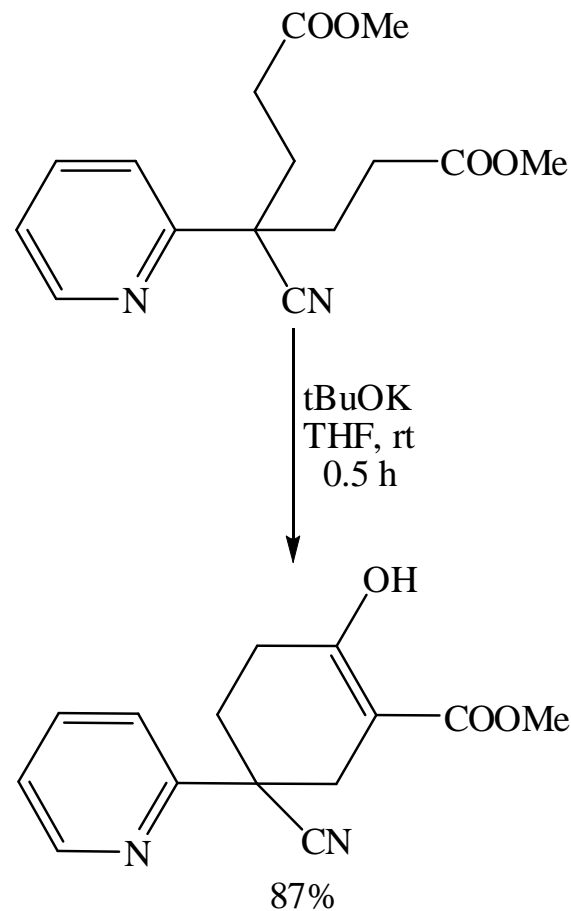


Jackson, B.G; Gardner, J.P; Heath, P.C, *Tet. Lett.*, 1990, 31, 6317

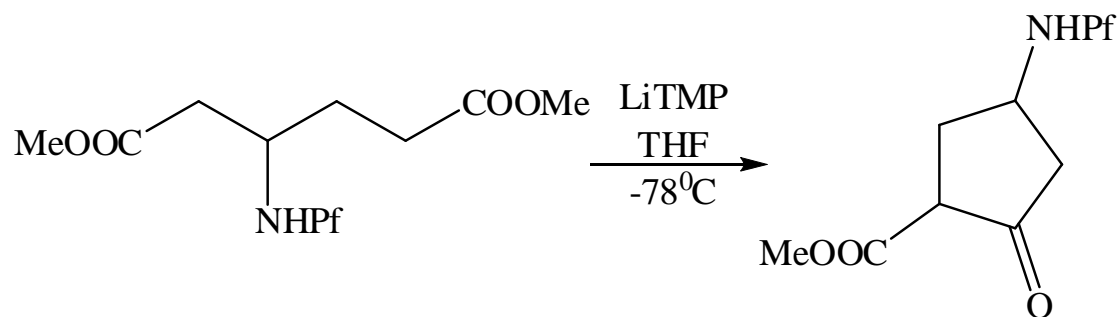


## More examples

DeGraffenreid, M.R, et.al,  
*JOC*, 2007, 72, 7455

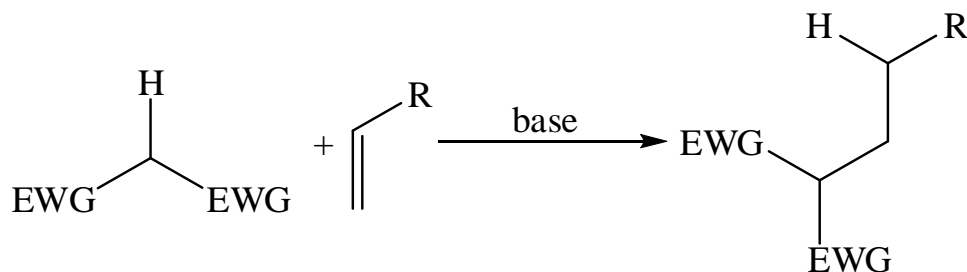


Ho, J.Z; Mohareb,  
R.M; Ahn, J.H; Sim,  
T.B; Rapoport, H,  
*JOC*, 2003, 68, 109



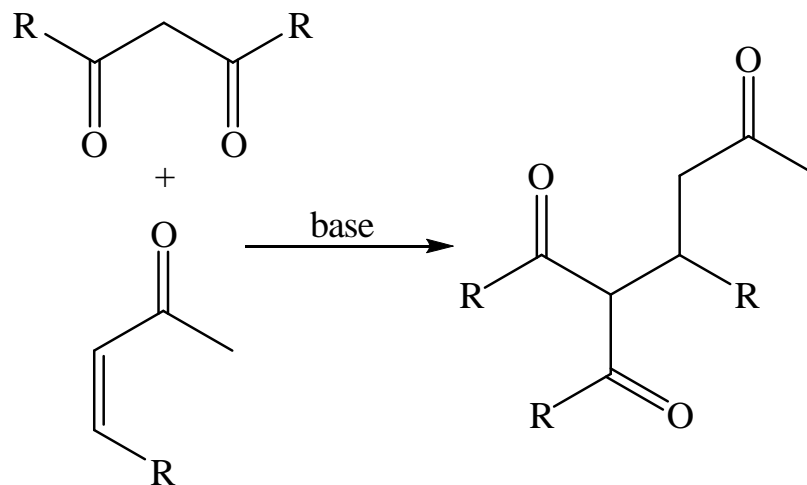
### III. Michael addition

Michael addition is nucleophilic addition of enolate to  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compound in presence of base.



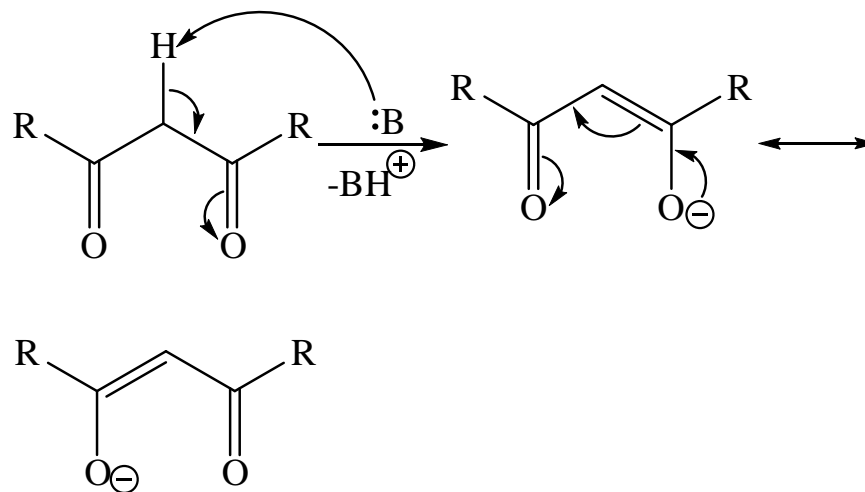
Michael reaction is conjugate addition of enolate to activated olefin and is thermodynamically controlled.

There are two components of reaction, one is Michael donor, which is usually, 1,3-dicarbonyl compound, acetoacetic ester, active methylene compound, etc. The other component is, Michael acceptor which is usually,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compound,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ester, etc.

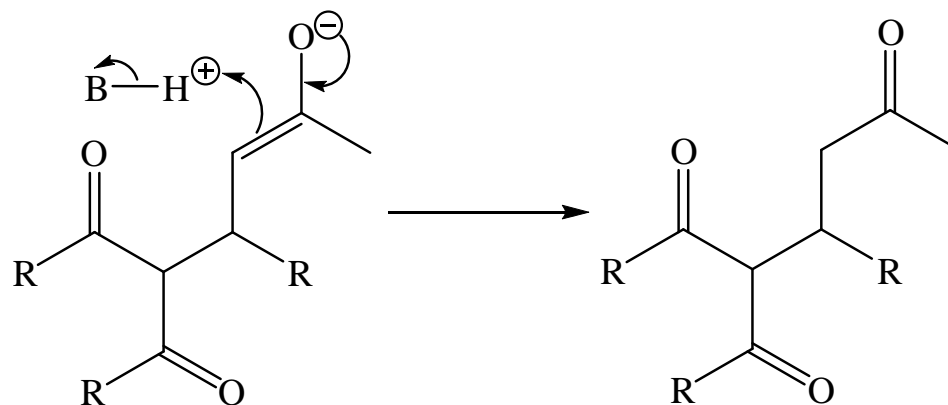
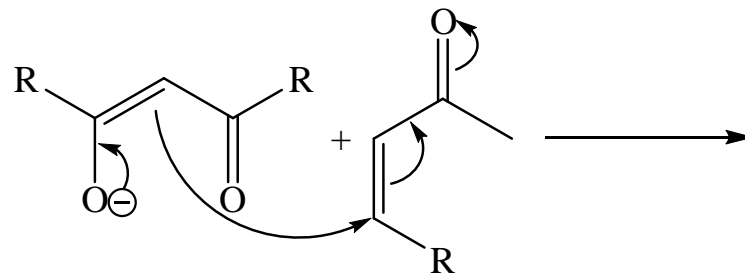


Mechanism :

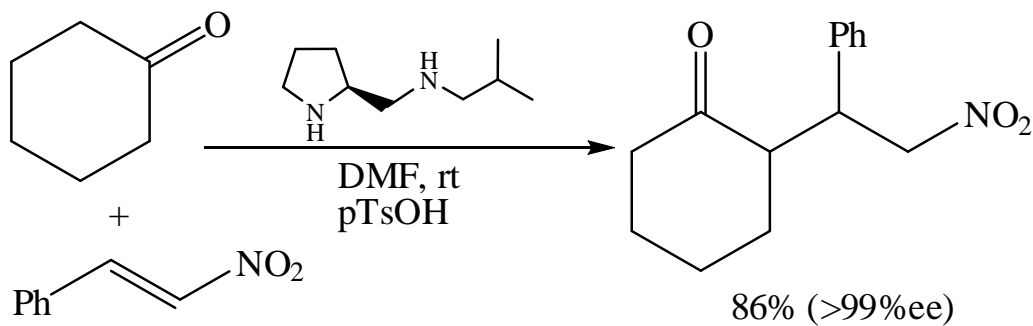
Base first, abstracts proton from donor and forms enolate.



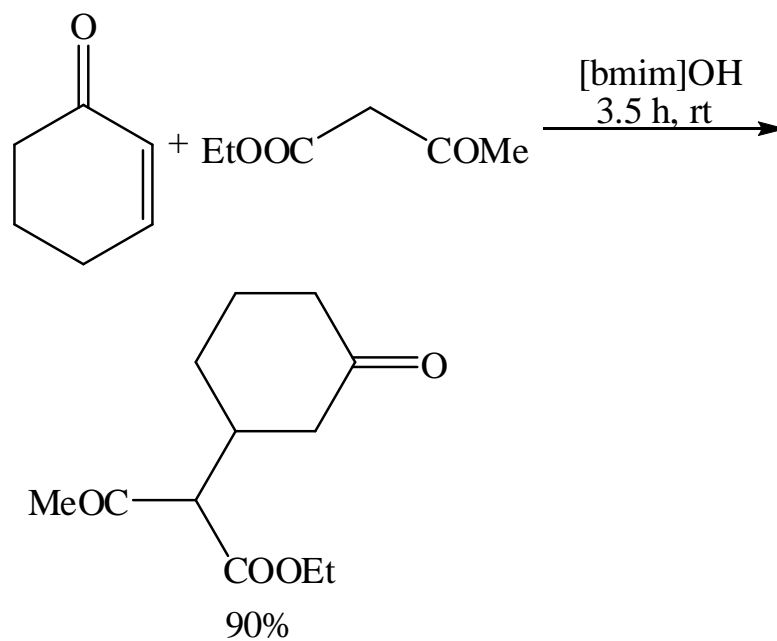
Enolate then attacks  
Michael acceptor and adds  
to it, giving Michael  
addition product.



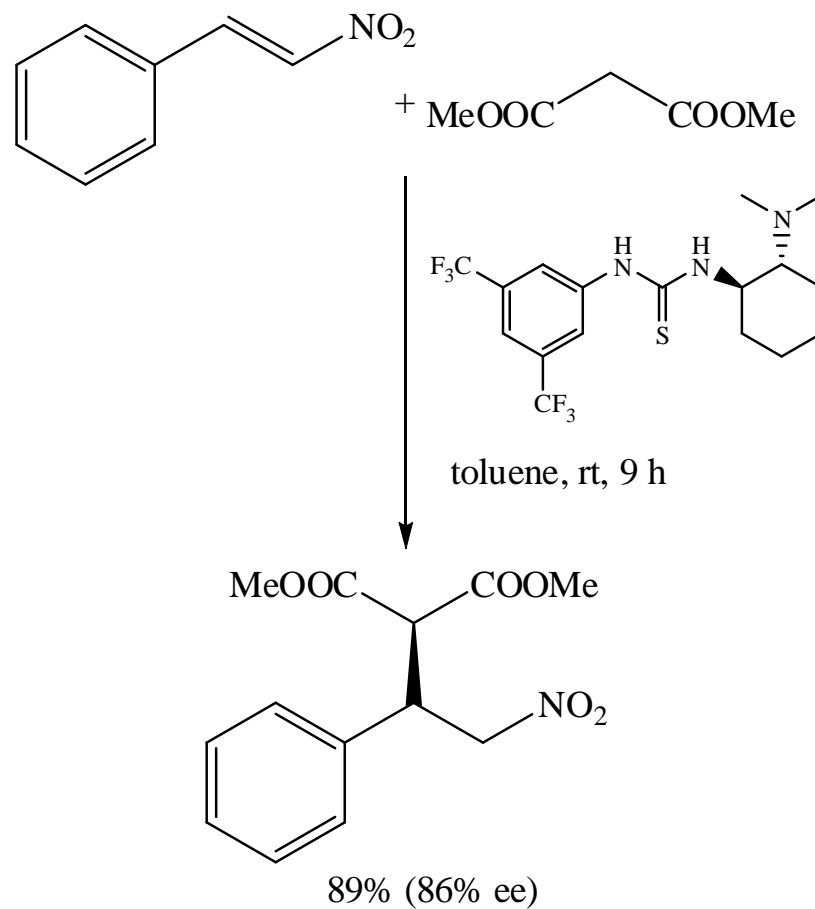
Pansare, S.V, Pandya, K,  
*JACS*, 2006, 128, 9624



Ranu, B.C; Banerjee, S,  
*Org. Lett.*, 2005, 7, 3049



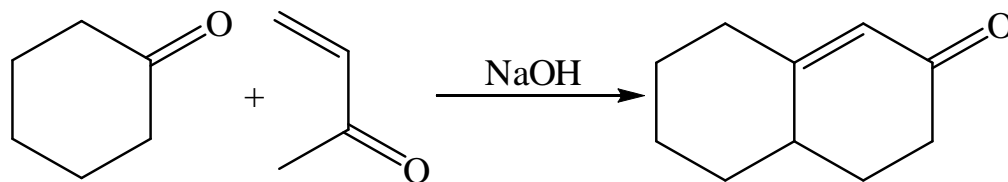
Okimo, T; Hoashi, Y;  
Furukawa, T; Xu, X;  
Takemoto, Y, *JACS*, 2005,  
127, 119





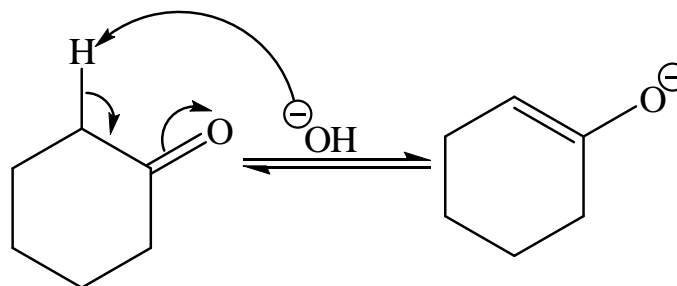
## IV. Robinson annulation

Robinson annulation is Michael addition of methyl vinyl ketone to carbonyl compound followed by Aldol condensation to give annulene.

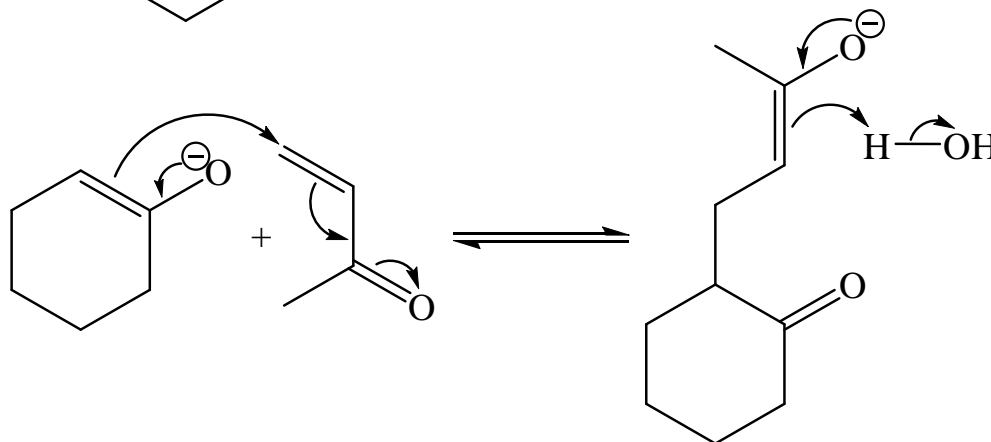


Mechanism :

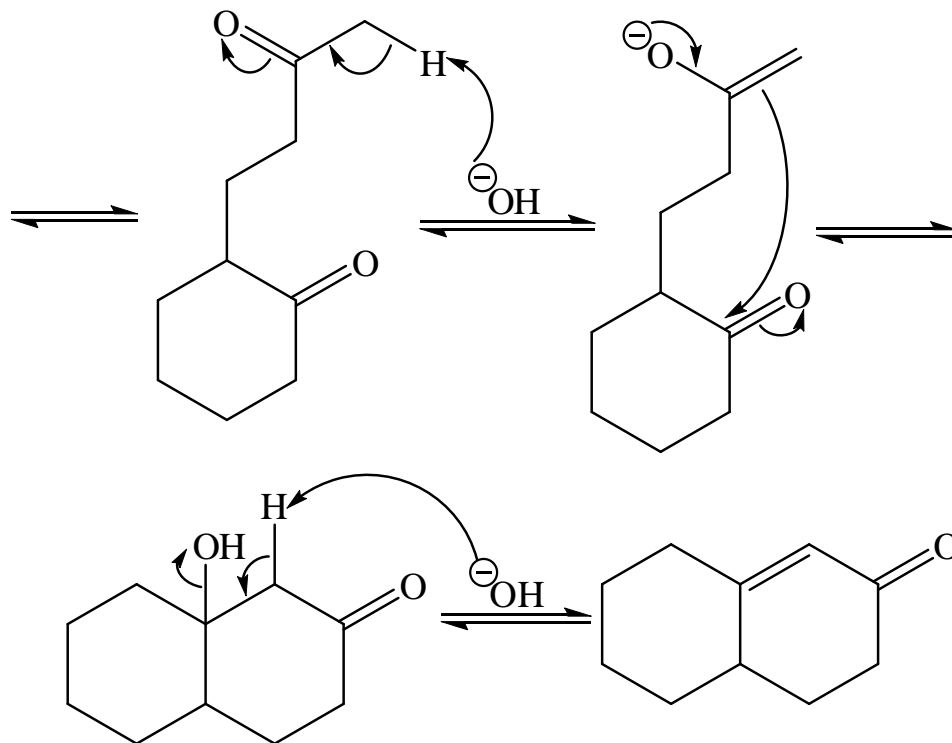
Base abstracts proton from ketone and forms enolate



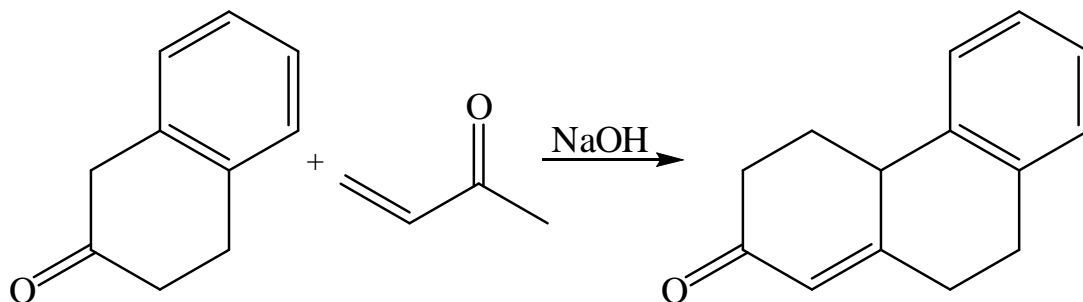
Enolate adds to Michael acceptor via conjugate addition



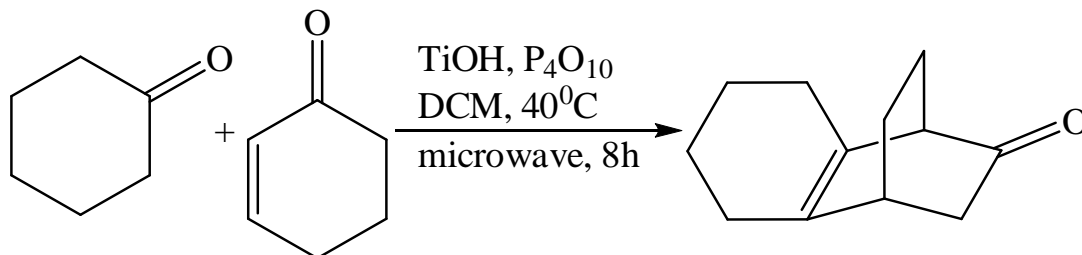
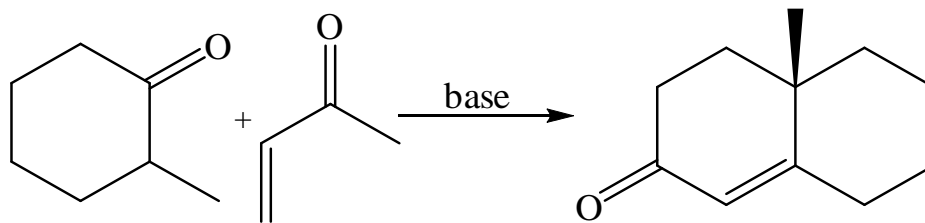
Michael addition product,  
through intramolecular  
Aldol condensation, gives  
final product i.e.  
 $\alpha, \beta$ -unsaturated ketone



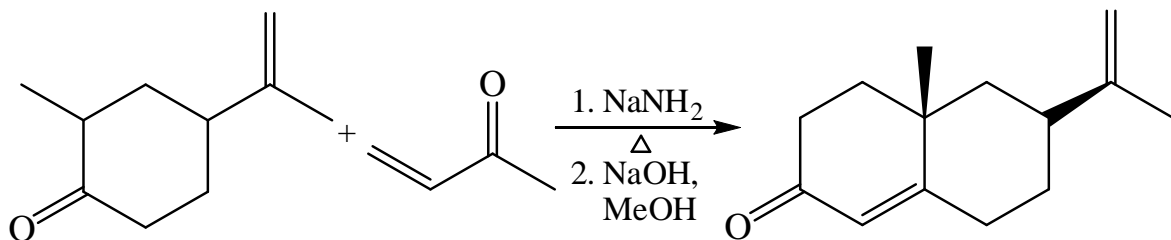
Reaction is useful in  
syntheses of six membered  
ring in polycyclic  
compounds



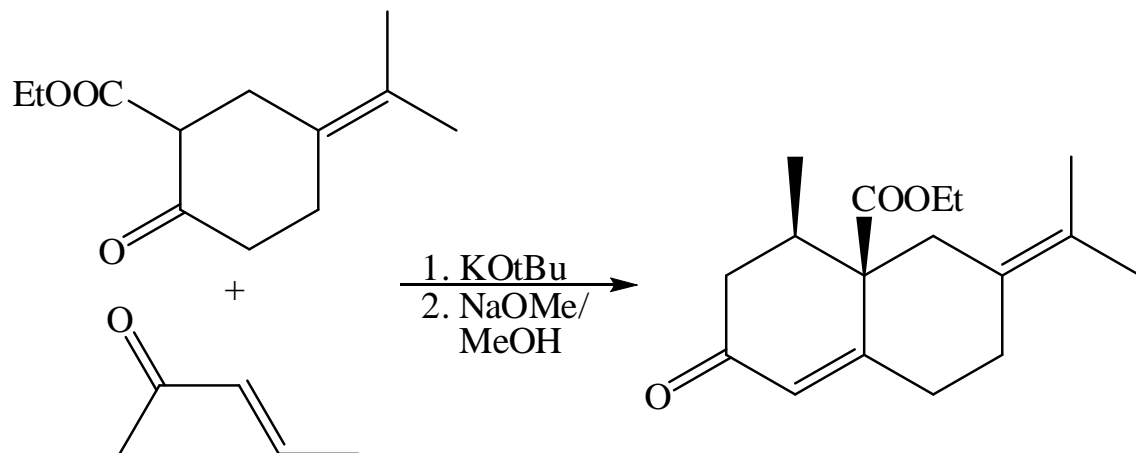
Michael addition of enolate having second enolizable group, to an enone, is necessary for reaction to occur.



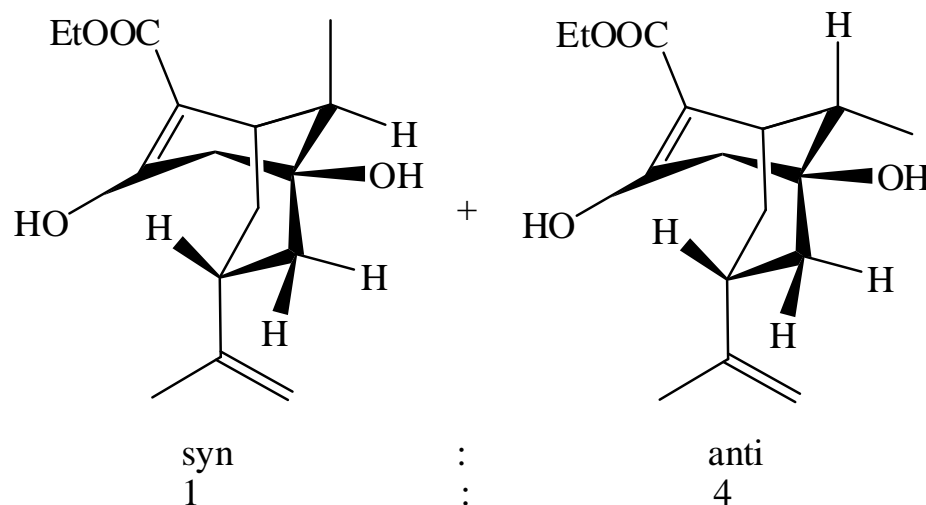
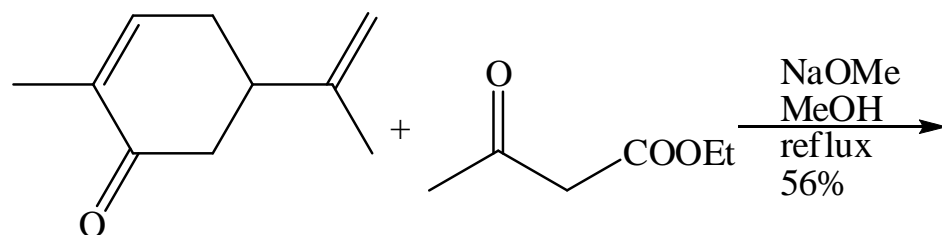
Mc Murry, *JOC*, 1975, 40, 1823



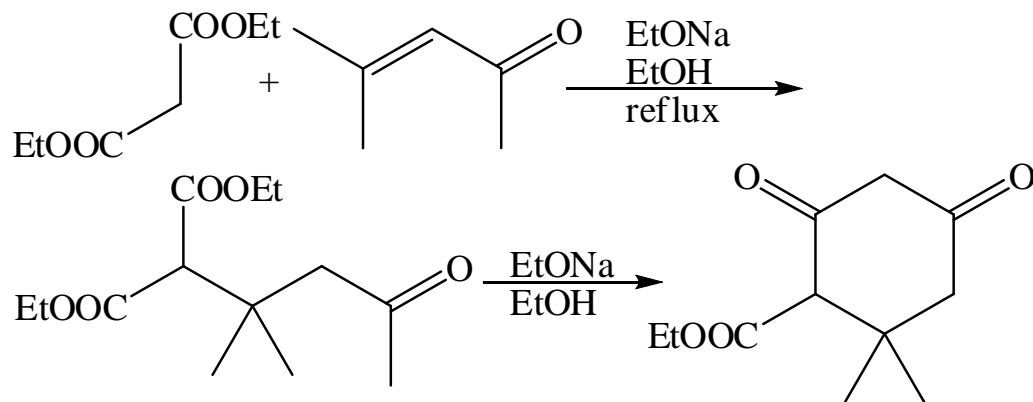
Marshall, *JOC*, 1971, 36,  
178



Wang, D; Crowe, W.E,  
Org. Lett., 2010, 12, 1232

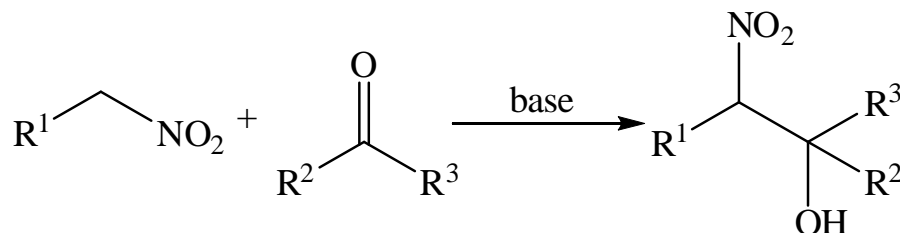


When diester is used as Michael donor, Claisen condensation, instead of Aldol condensation is seen. This reaction gives cyclic diketone.



## V. Henry reaction

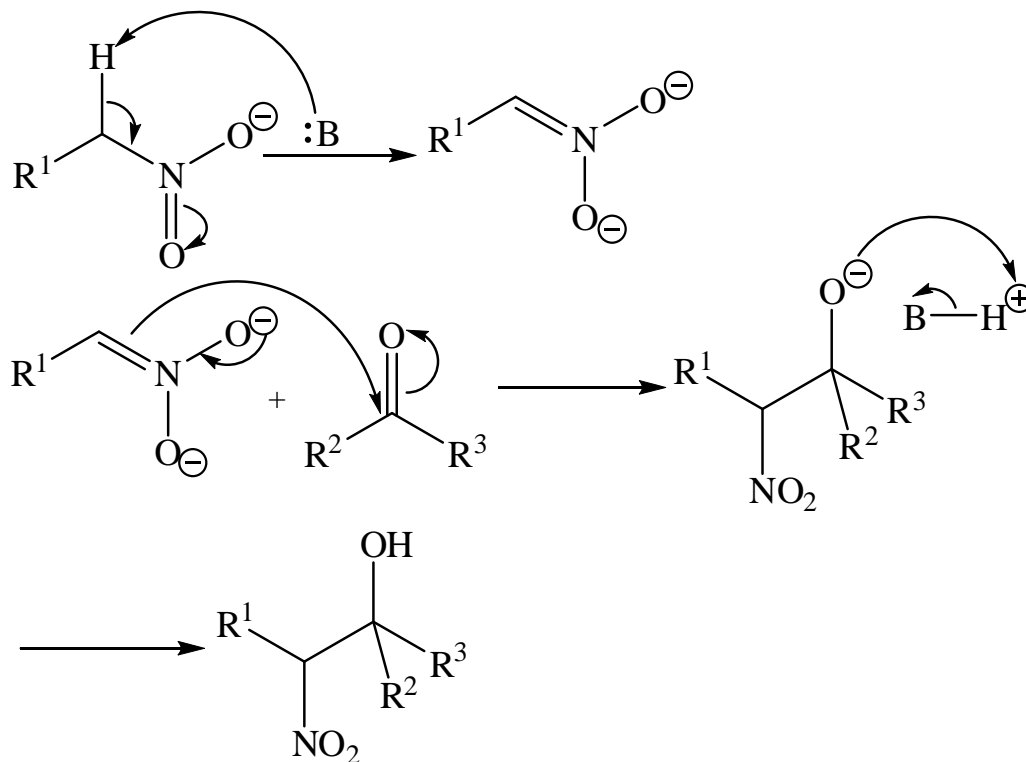
Base catalyzed reaction between nitroalkane and carbonyl compound is Henry reaction.



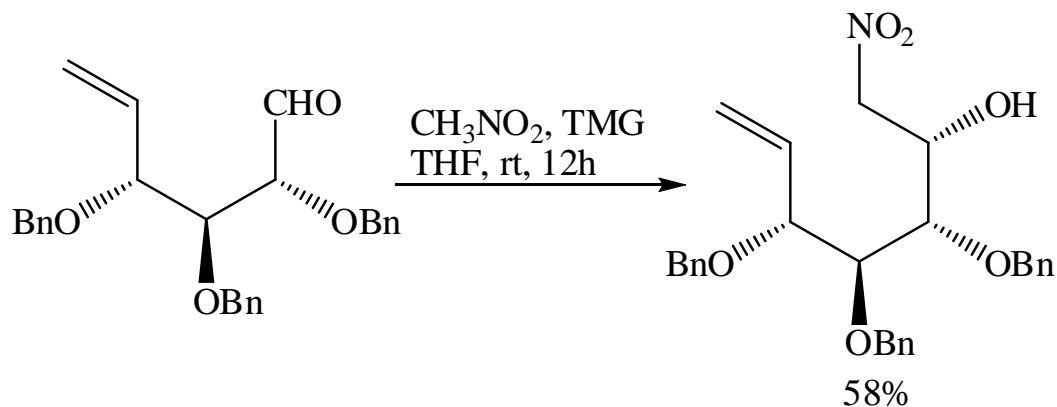
Mechanism :

Mechanism is similar to aldol condensation.

First base abstracts proton from nitro compound and gives enolate equivalent. It adds to carbonyl compound in similar way as that in Aldol reaction, to give  $\beta$ -nitro alcohol as product.

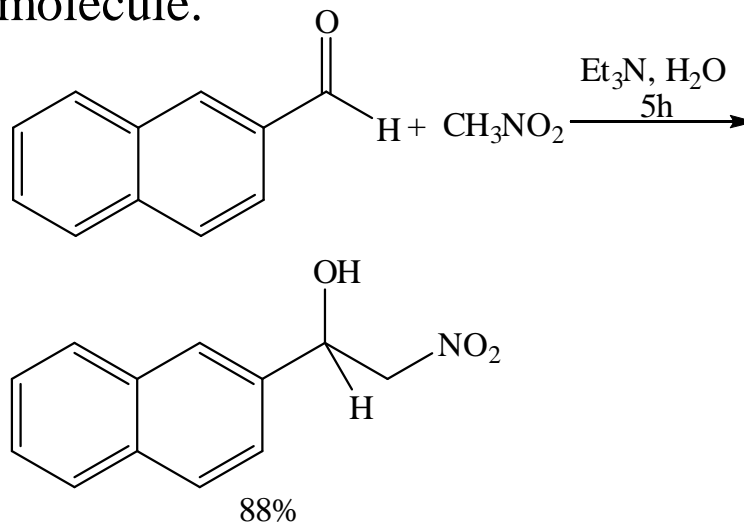


Reaction is analogous to aldol condensation and generally referred to as **Nitro-Aldol reaction**.

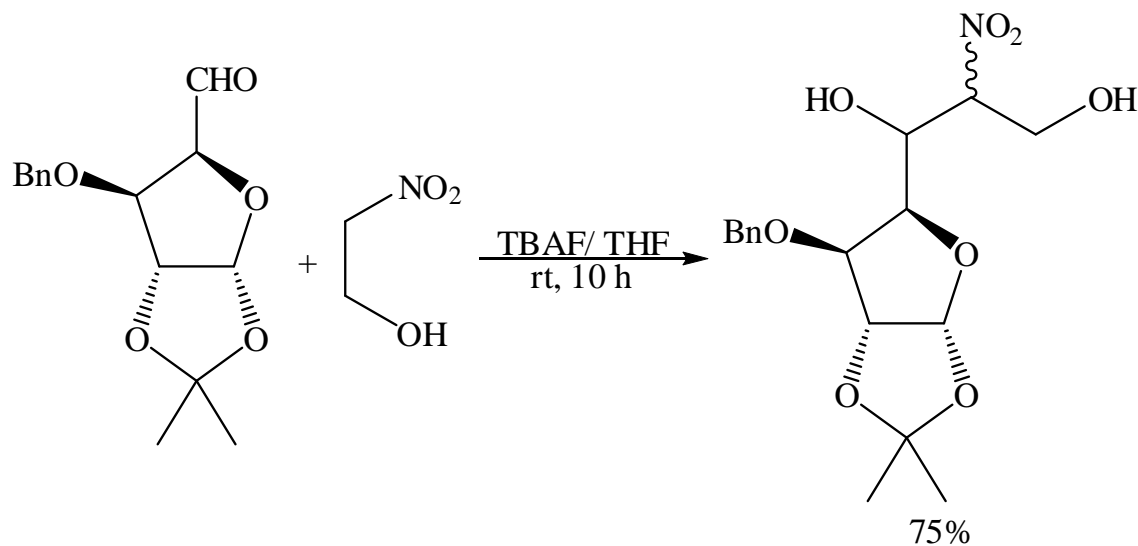


Nitro group, like, carbonyl moiety is powerful electron withdrawing group. It renders acidic properties to protons  $\alpha$  to it and can form enolate equivalent. Acidic nature of nitro compounds is so profound that very mild bases can catalyze reaction.

Like Aldol condensation,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated nitro compound can be obtained, by elimination of water molecule.



Zhou, C.L; Zhou, Y.Q;  
Wang, Z.Y, *Chinese Chem. Lett.*, 2003, 14, 355



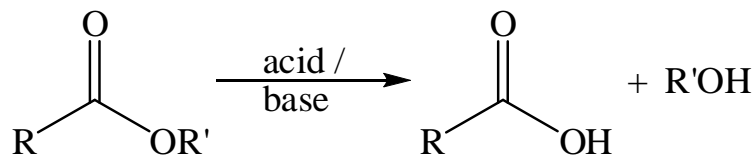


## VI. Ester hydrolysis

Hydrolysis is a chemical process in which a certain molecule is split into two parts by the addition of a molecule of water. One fragment of the parent molecule gains a hydrogen ion, other group collects the remaining hydroxyl group.

Ester is hydrolyzed when treated with excess of water. This reaction is reverse of ester synthesis from corresponding carboxylic acid and alcohol.

General reaction for ester hydrolysis



Reaction is catalyzed by acid or base. Both yield same product, except that, in base catalyzed reaction salt of carboxylic acid is obtained from which acid can be regenerated by acidic work up.

Acid catalyzed reaction is reversible. In order to get product in good yields, it is necessary to use dilute acid and ample amount of water, in contrast to that of ester synthesis, where concentrated acid is used.

Ingold in 1940 classified these mechanisms according to following factors;

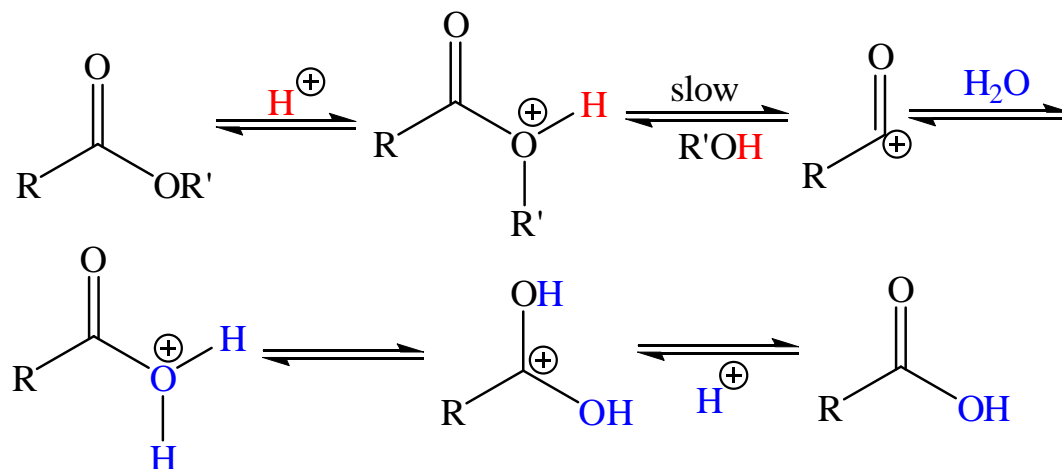
- Nature of reagent
- Point of cleavage
- Reaction kinetics

## Mechanism of ester hydrolysis

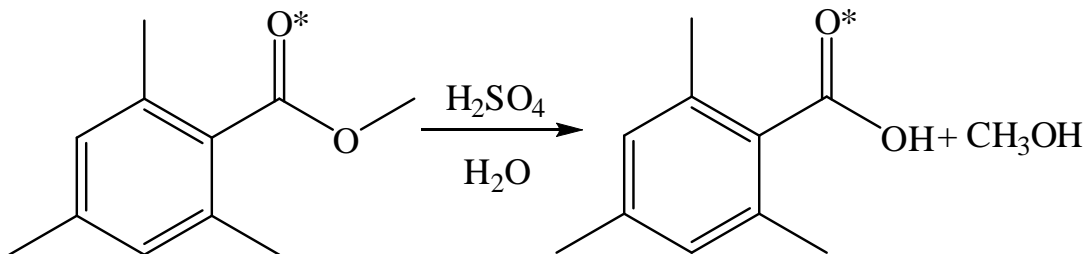
**A<sub>AC</sub>1** mechanism :

Ester hydrolysis can take place by eight possible mechanisms.

Acid catalyzed, unimolecular, acyl oxygen fission

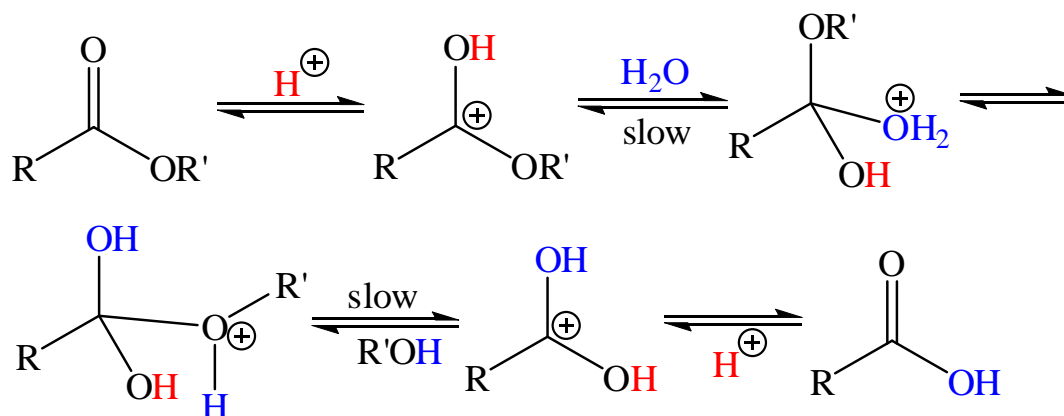


Hydrolysis of methyl mesitoate



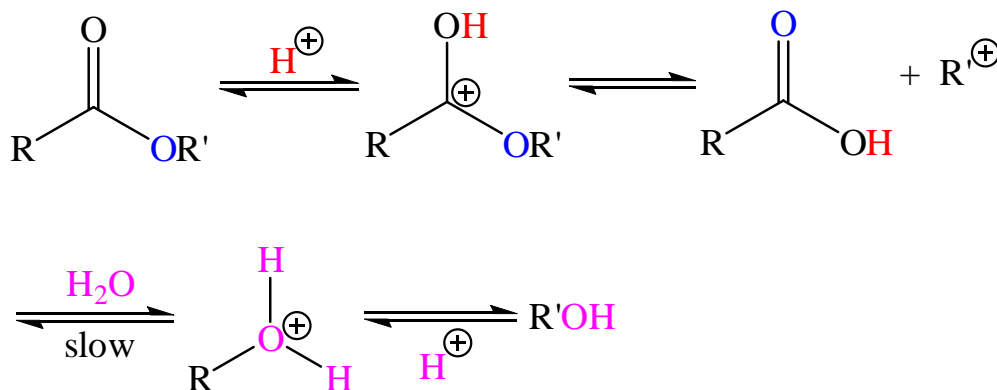
**A<sub>AC</sub>2** mechanism :

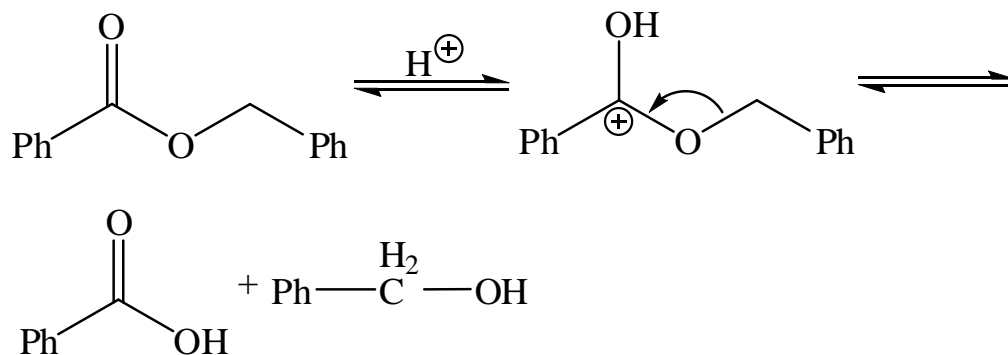
Acid catalyzed, bimolecular, acyl oxygen fission



**A<sub>AL</sub>1** mechanism :

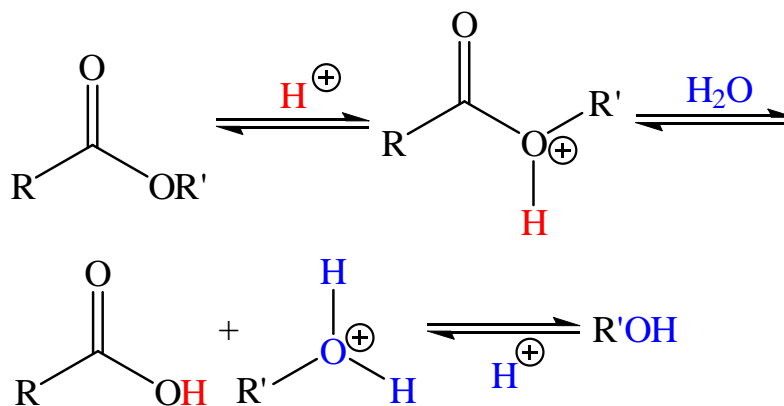
Acid catalyzed, unimolecular, alkyl oxygen fission





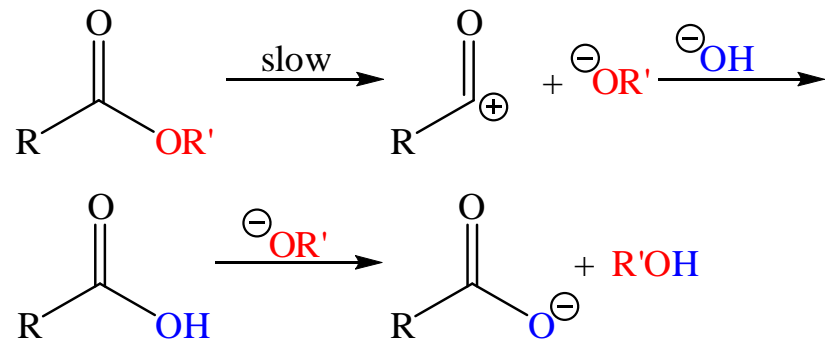
**A<sub>AL</sub>2** mechanism :

Acid catalyzed, bimolecular, alkyl oxygen fission



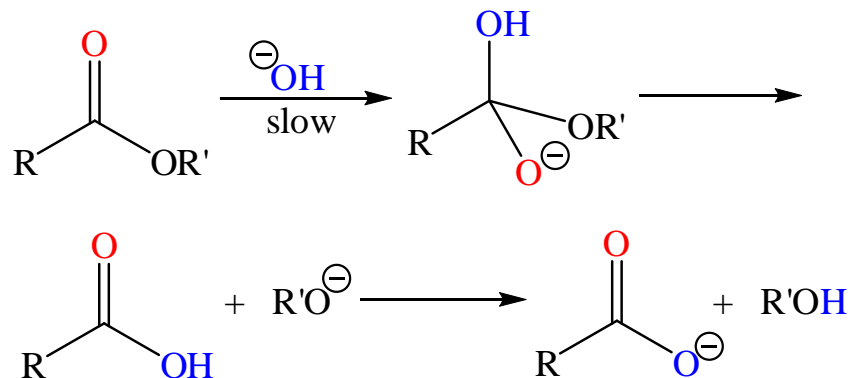
**B<sub>AC</sub>1** mechanism :

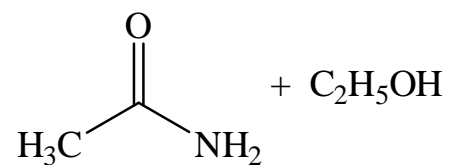
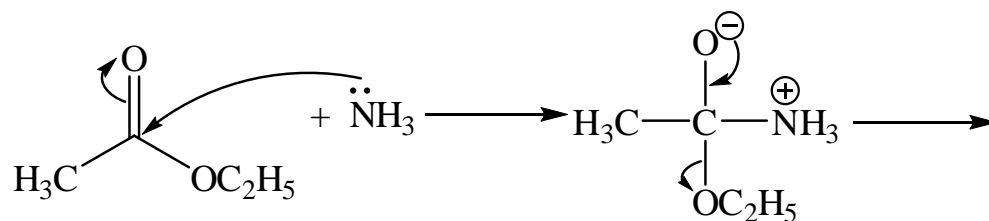
Base catalyzed, unimolecular, acyl oxygen fission



**B<sub>AC</sub>2** mechanism :

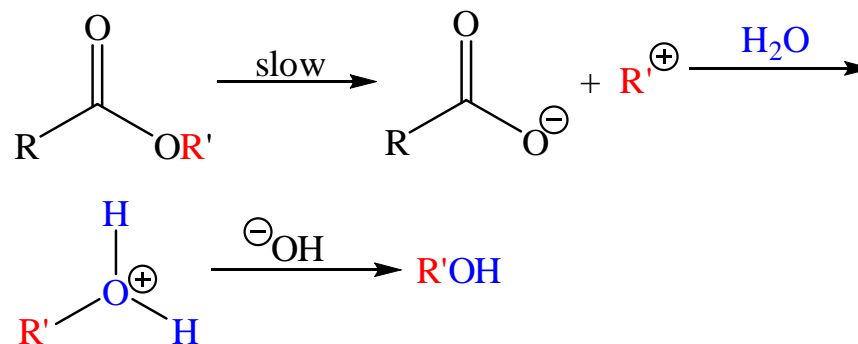
Base catalyzed, bimolecular, acyl oxygen fission





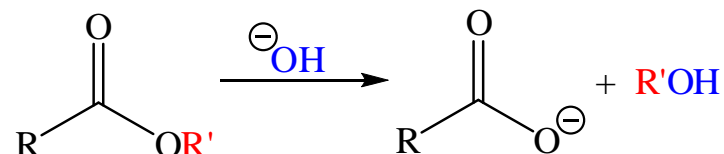
**B<sub>AL</sub>1** mechanism :

Base catalyzed, unimolecular, alkyl oxygen fission



**B<sub>AL</sub>2** mechanism :

Base catalyzed, bimolecular, alkyl oxygen fission



Though all these mechanisms are observed in many cases, A<sub>AL</sub>2 and B<sub>AC</sub>1 are not observed for any substrate.

**Most common of all these mechanisms are A<sub>AC</sub>2 and B<sub>AC</sub>2**

Evidence of acyl oxygen fission is obtained by following experiments.

- Hydrolysis with H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O, results in <sup>18</sup>O appearing in acid and not alcohol
- Esters with chiral R<sup>1</sup> group, give alcohol with retention of configuration
- Allylic R<sup>1</sup> group, does not give allylic rearrangement
- Neopentyl R<sup>1</sup> group, does not give rearrangement

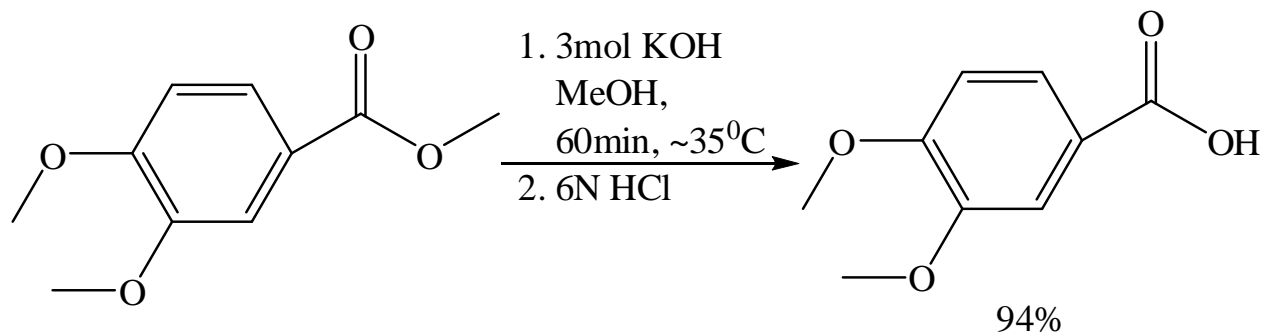
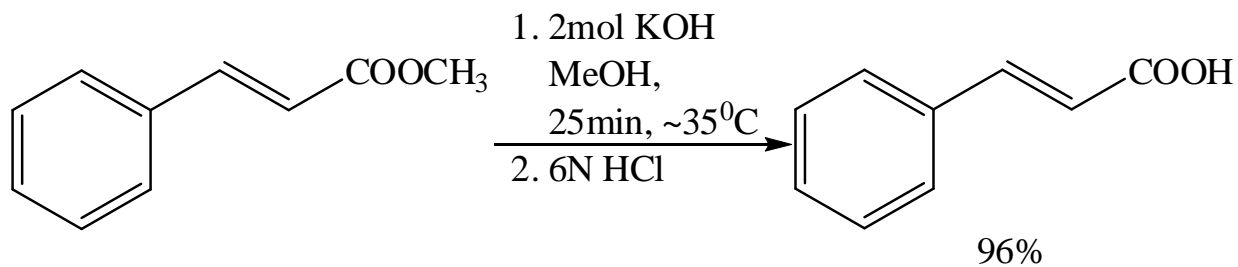
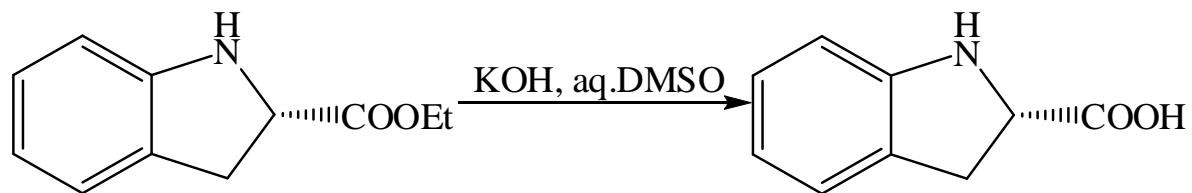
All these observations indicate that O-R<sup>1</sup> bond is not broken.

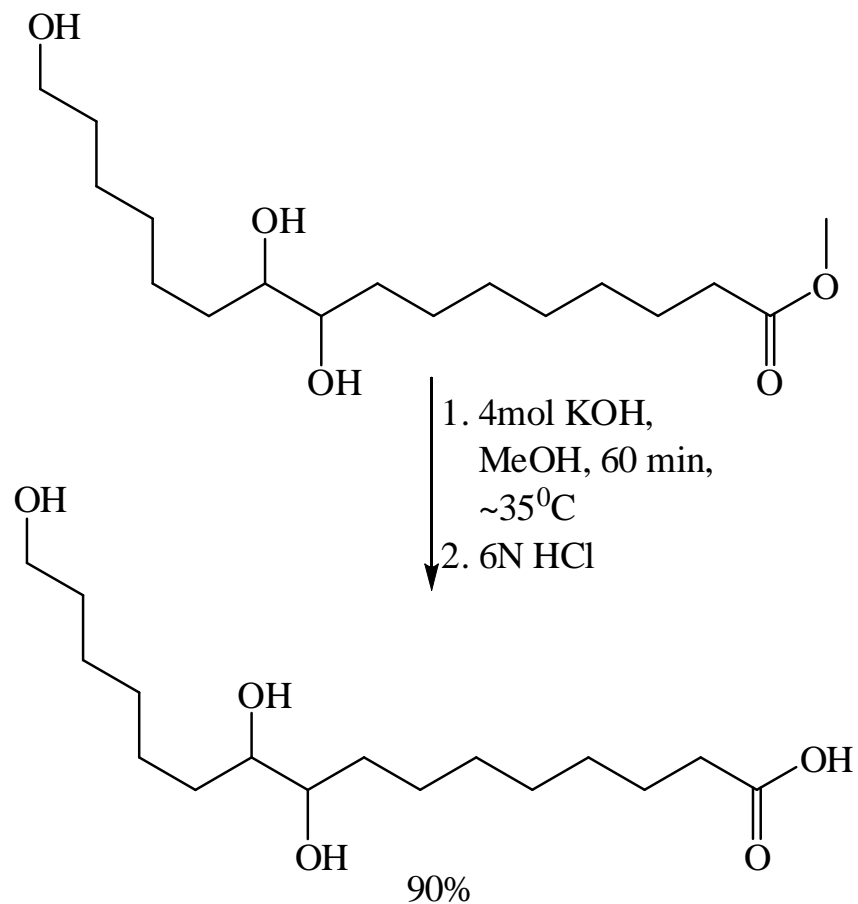


## Different nomenclature and summary of features of ester hydrolysis

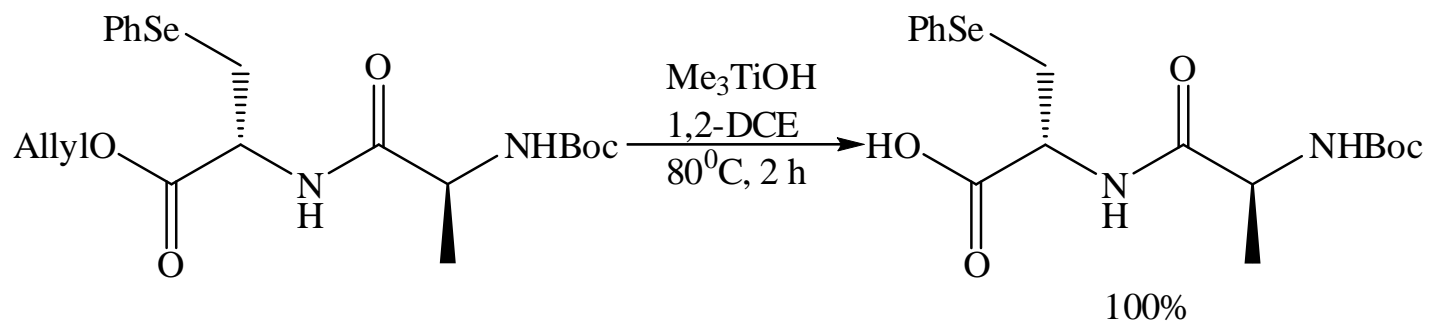
Ingold notation	Type	Hydrolysis
$A_{AC}1$	<u><math>S_N1</math></u>	Special case
$A_{AC}2$	Tetrahedral	Very common
$A_{AL}1$	$S_N1$	Very common for tertiary alcohols
$A_{AL}2$	<u><math>S_N2</math></u>	-----
$B_{AC}1$	$S_N1$	-----
$B_{AC}2$	Tetrahedral	Very common
$B_{AL}1$	$S_N1$	Special case
$B_{AL}2$	$S_N2$	Rare

## Examples of ester hydrolysis

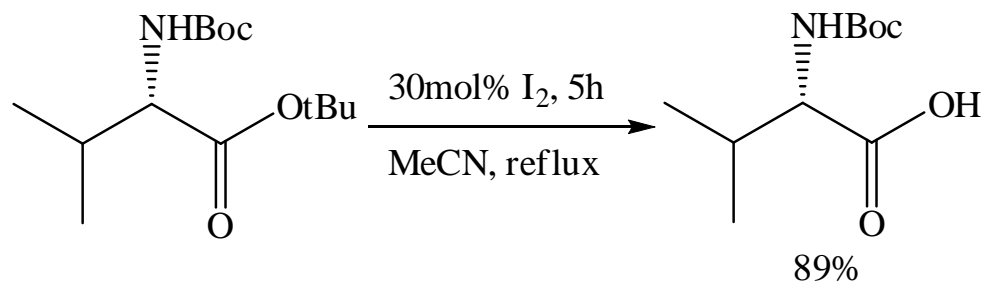


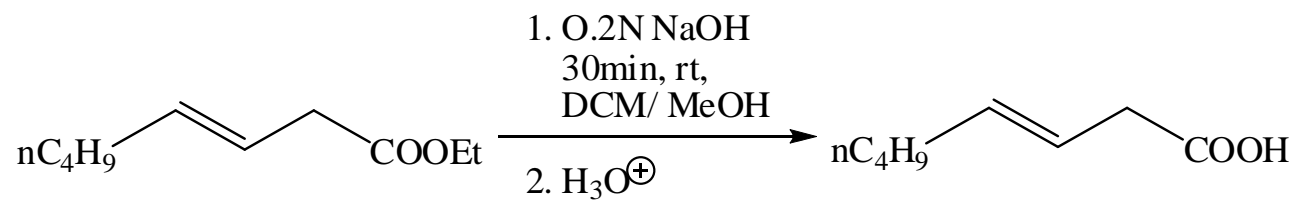
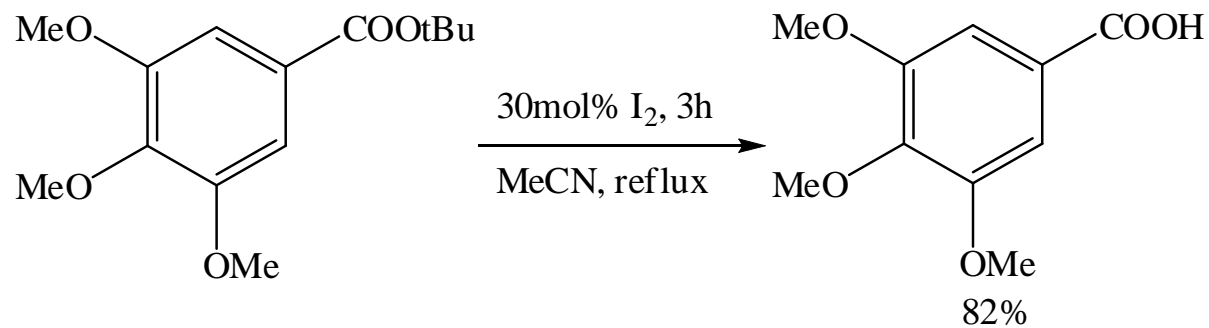


Khurana, J.M; Chauhan, S; Bansal, G, *Monatshefte fur Chemie*, 2004, 135,



Wallner, S.R; Nestl, B; Faber, K, *Tet.*, 2005, 61, 1517

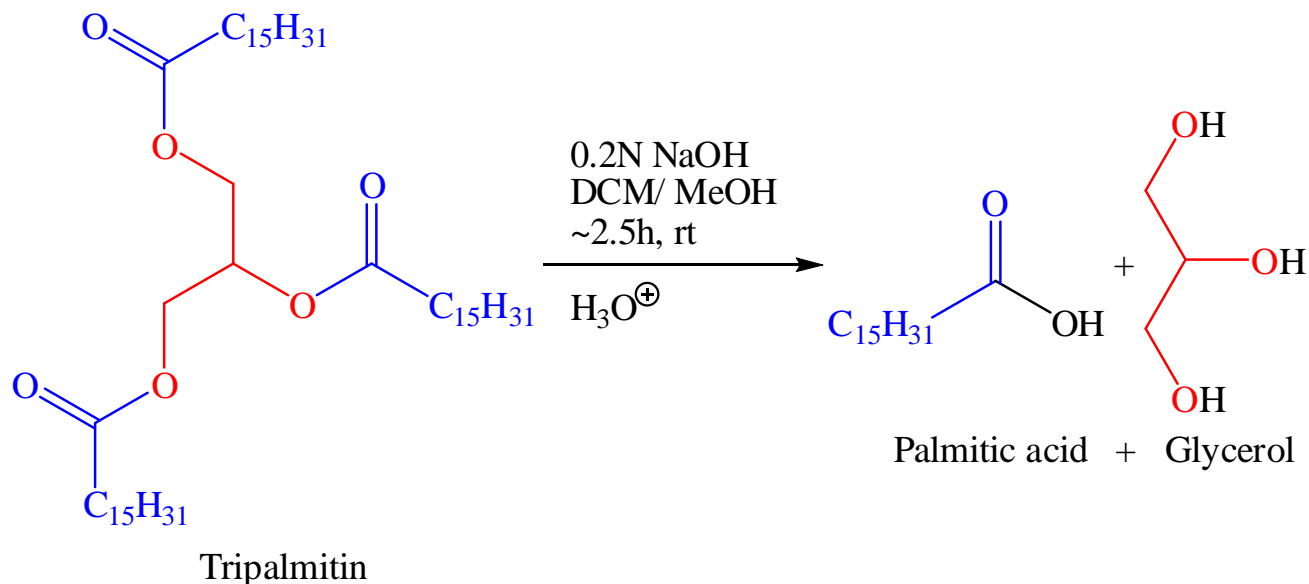




## Saponification

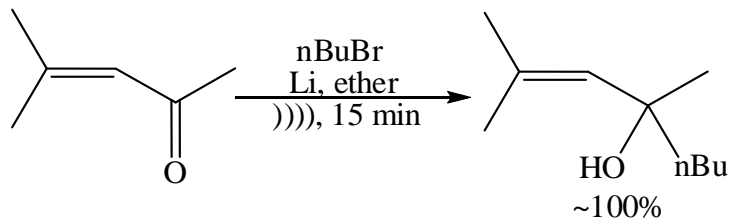
The alkaline hydrolysis of esters to give carboxylate salts is known as saponification. Principal content of soap is sodium or potassium salt of higher carboxylic acid i.e. a fatty acid.

Alkaline hydrolysis of tripalmitin gives palmitic acid and glycerol



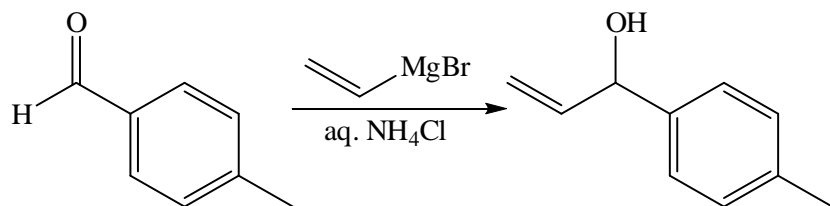
# Practice problems

(1)

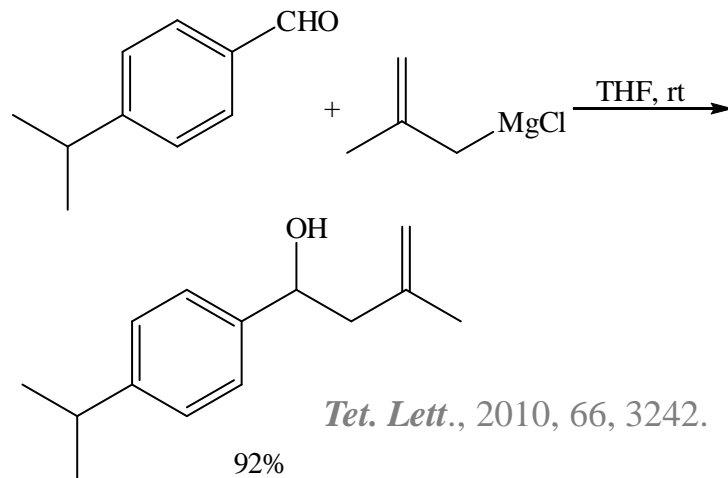


Luche, J.L.; Damiano, J.C; *JACS*, 1980, 102, 7926.

(2)

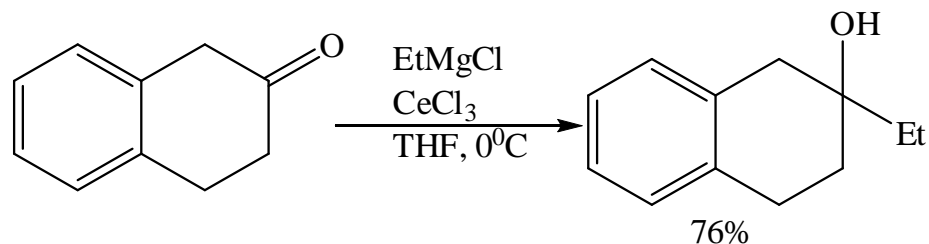


(3)



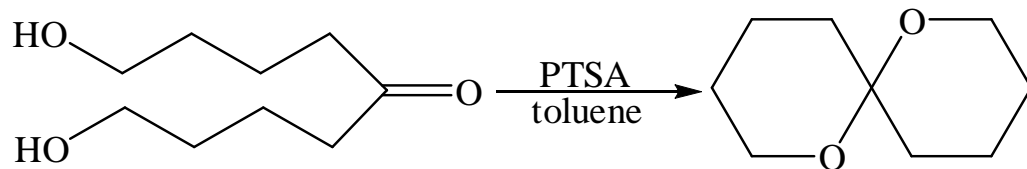
*Tet. Lett.*, 2010, 66, 3242.

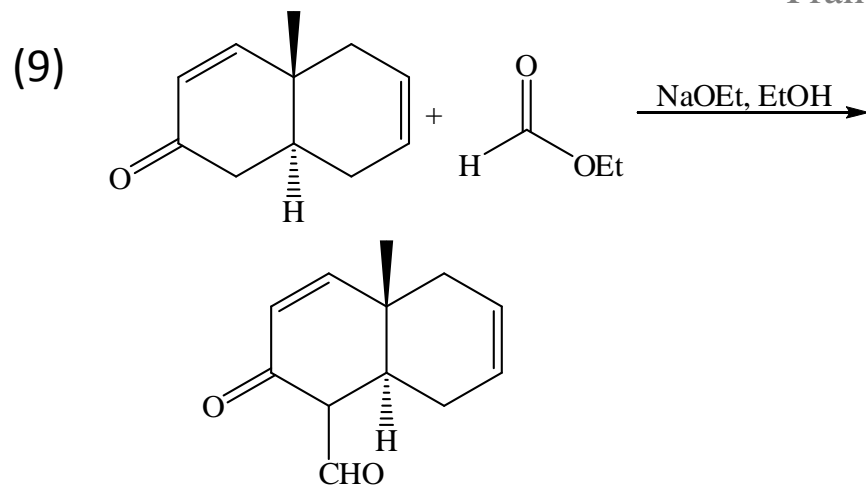
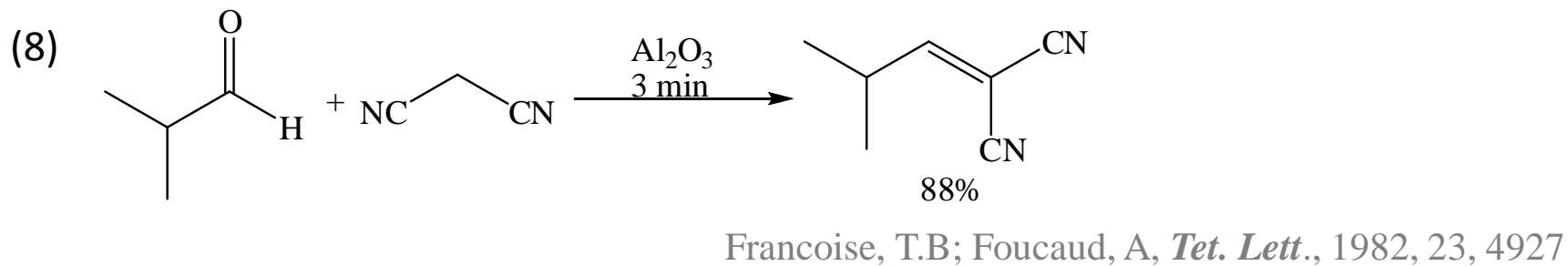
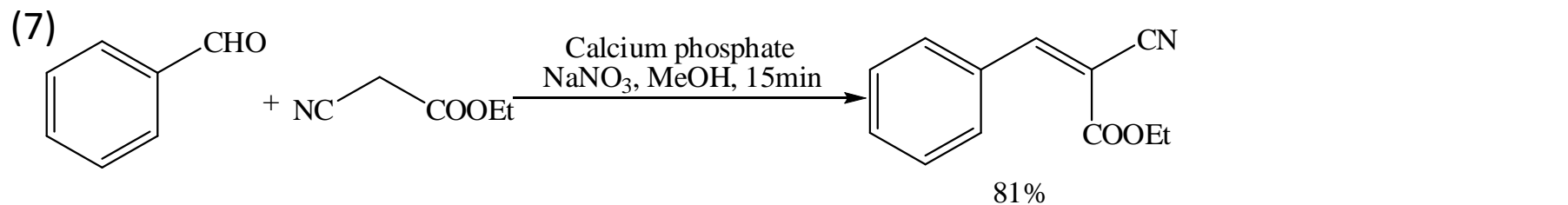
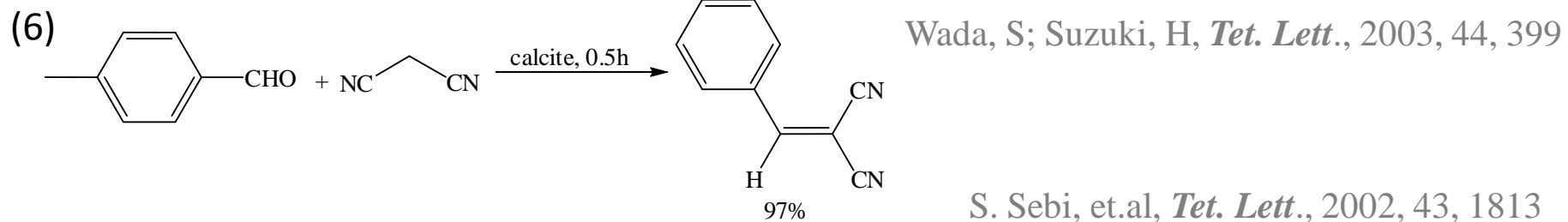
(4)



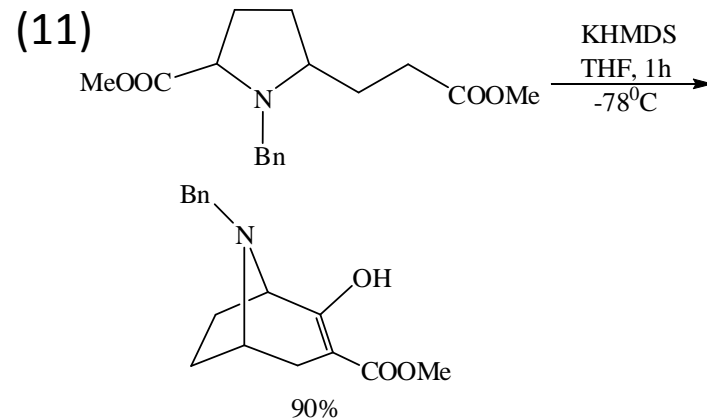
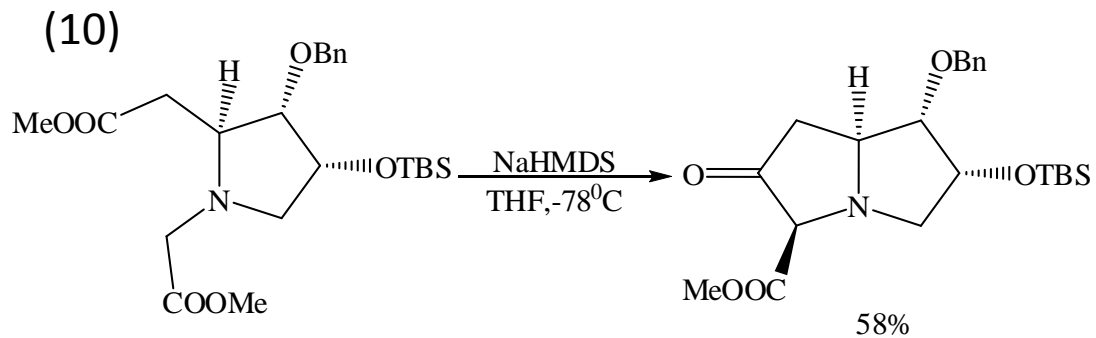
*JACS*, 1989, 111, 4392.

(5)









Lin, R; Castells, J; Rapoport, H, *JOC*, 1998, 63, 4069