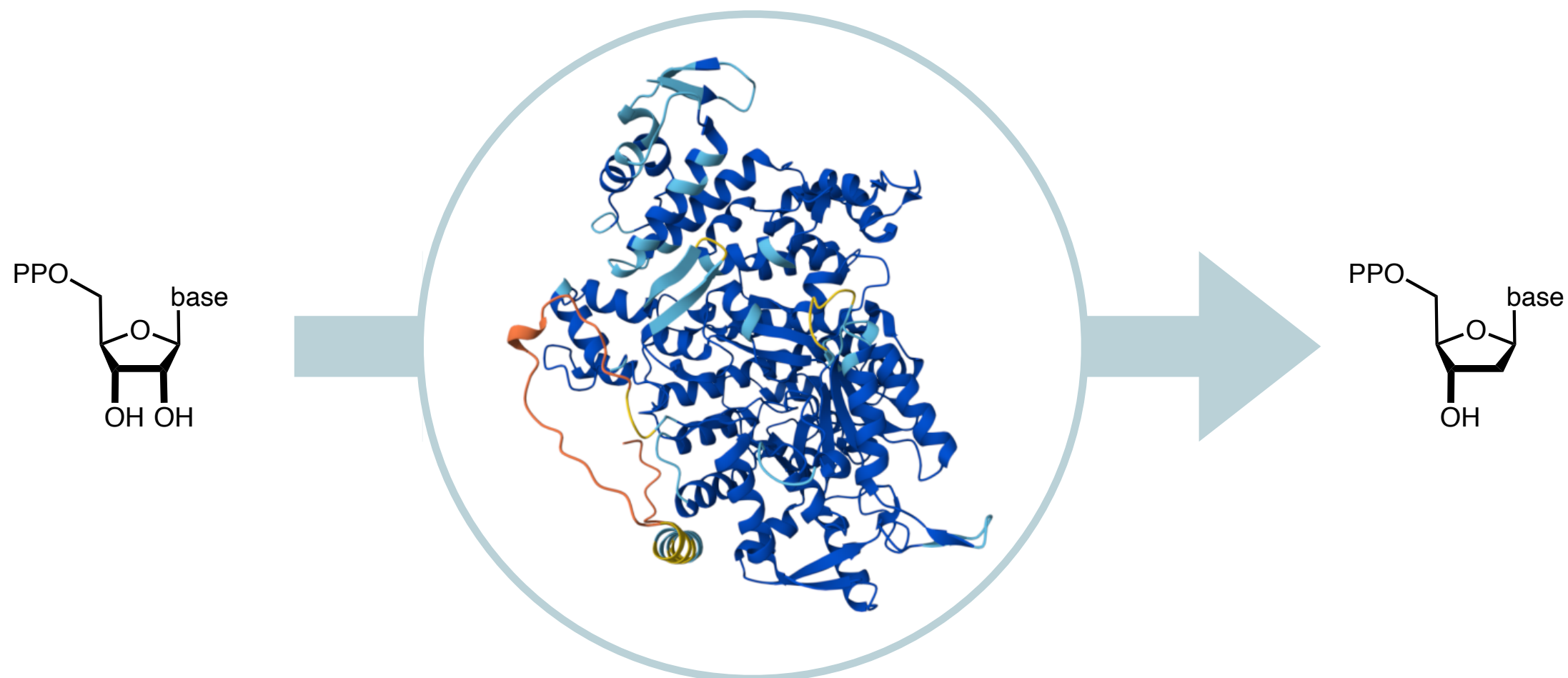


Spin-Center Shift



June 17th, 2025

Will Lyon

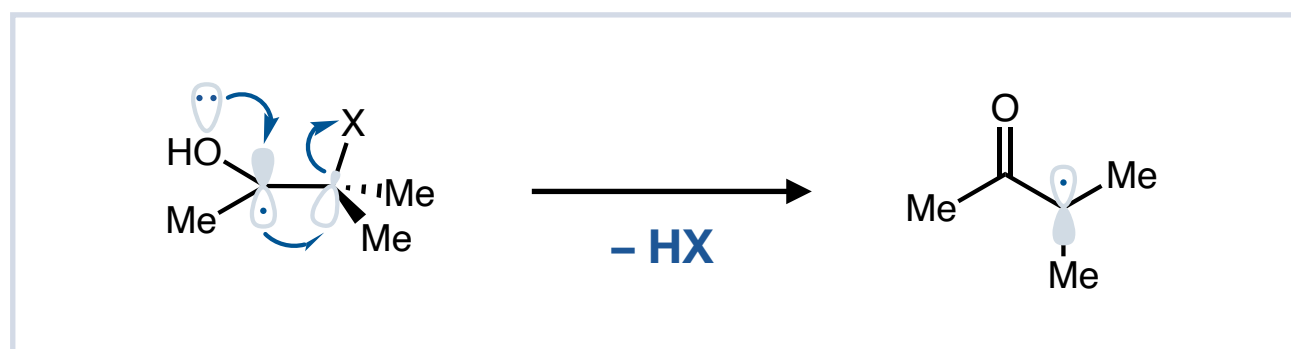
MacMillan Group

Princeton University

What is spin-center shift?

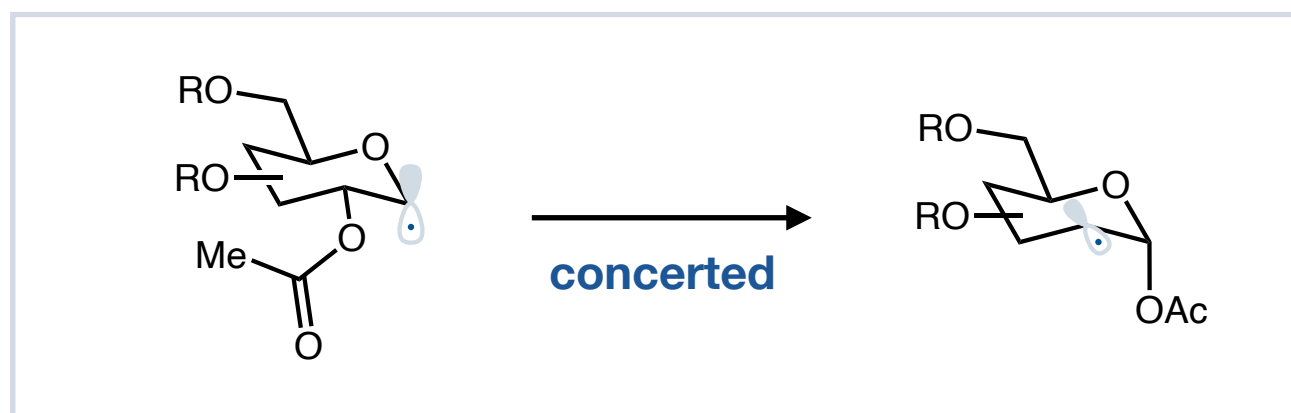
“The 1,2-radical shift accompanied by the elimination of an adjacent leaving group or the corresponding acid”

– Wang, 2022



“Shifting the position of the radical center to another atom in the course of the reaction”

– Ngai, 2021



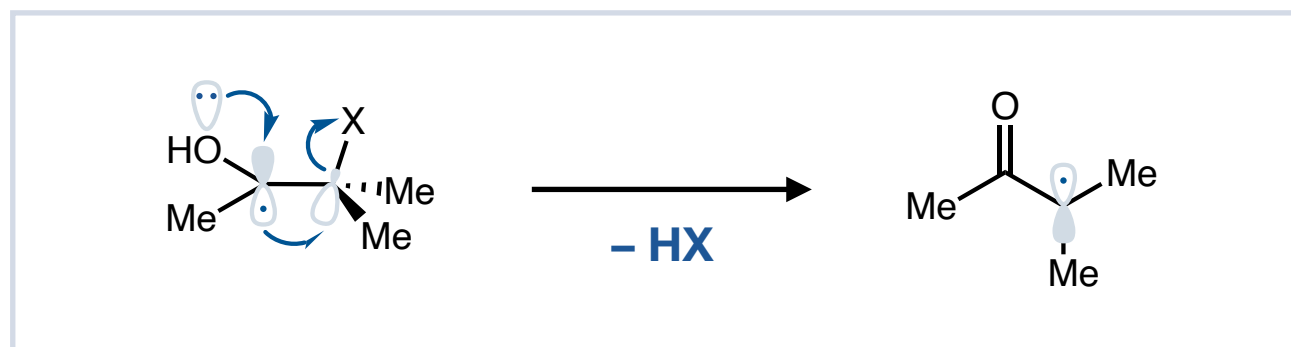
Zhang, F.-L.; Li, B.; Houk, K. N.; Wang, Y.-F. *JACS Au* **2022**, 2 (5), 1032–1042.

Zhao, G.; Yao, W.; Mauro, J. N.; Ngai, M.-Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2021**, 143 (4), 1728–1734.

What is spin-center shift?

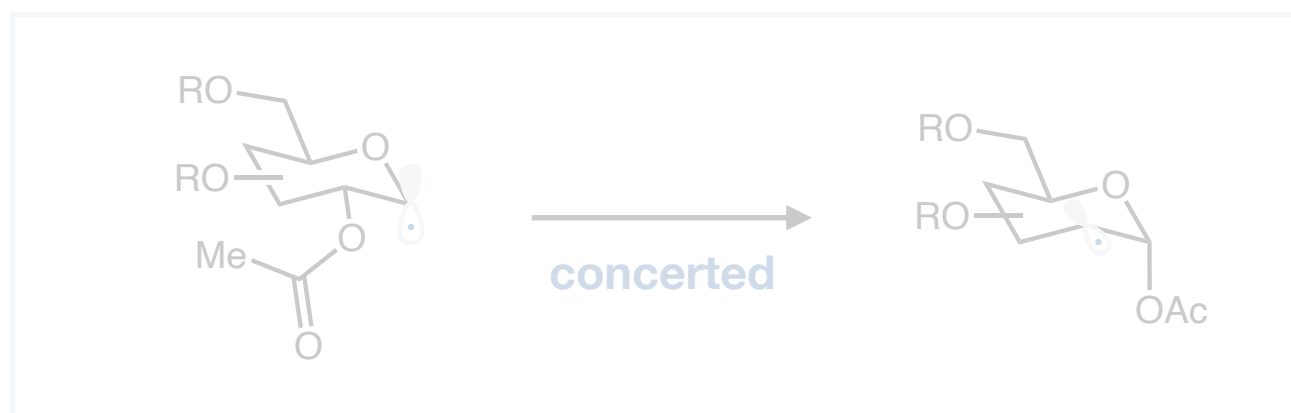
“The 1,2-radical shift accompanied by the elimination of an adjacent leaving group or the corresponding acid”

– Wang, 2022



“Shifting the position of the radical center to another atom in the course of the reaction”

– Ngai, 2021

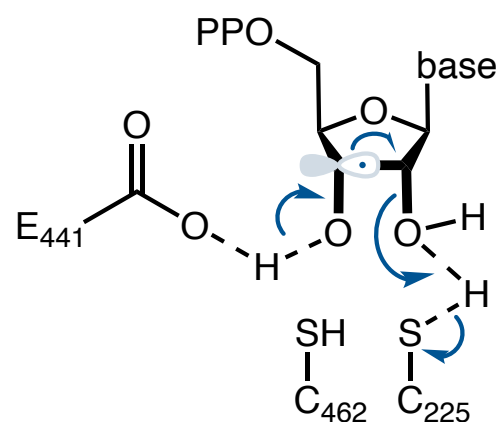


Zhang, F.-L.; Li, B.; Houk, K. N.; Wang, Y.-F. *JACS Au* **2022**, 2 (5), 1032–1042.

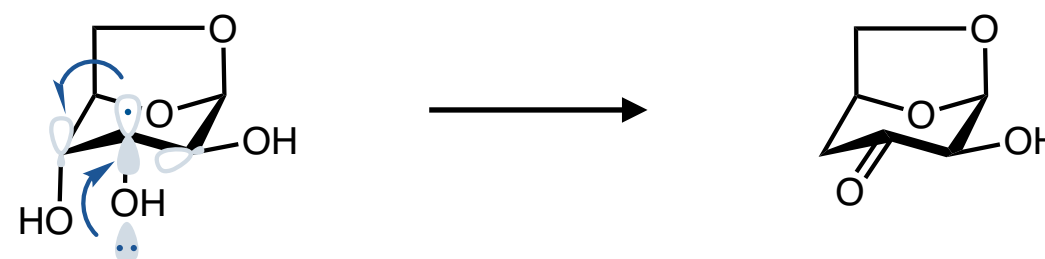
Zhao, G.; Yao, W.; Mauro, J. N.; Ngai, M.-Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2021**, 143 (4), 1728–1734.

Outline

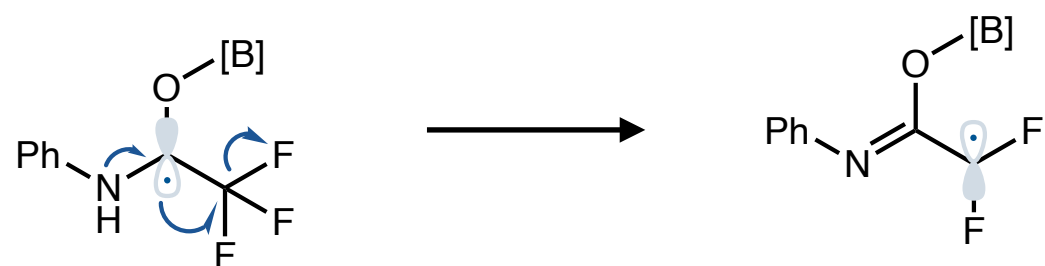
Biochemical and mechanistic background



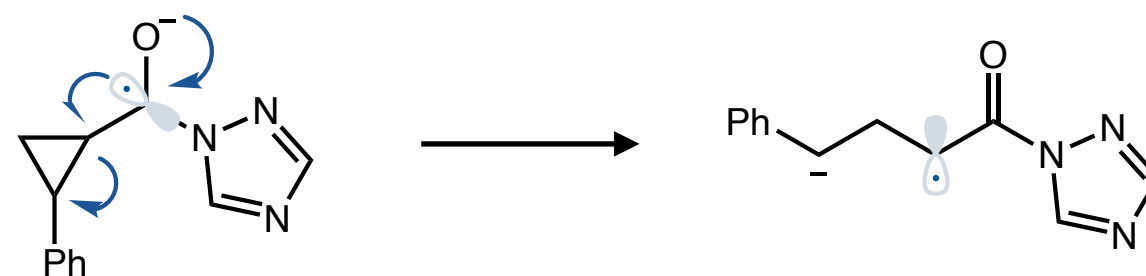
C–O bond activation



C–F bond activation

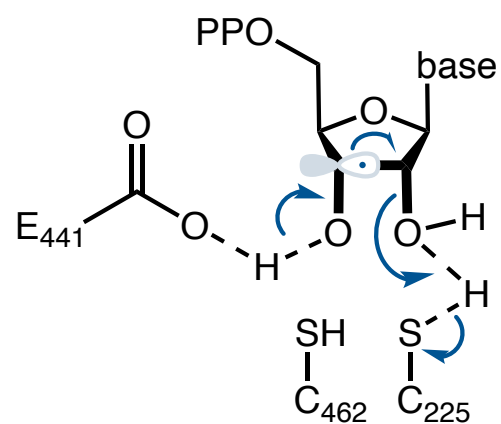


Miscellaneous SCS reactions

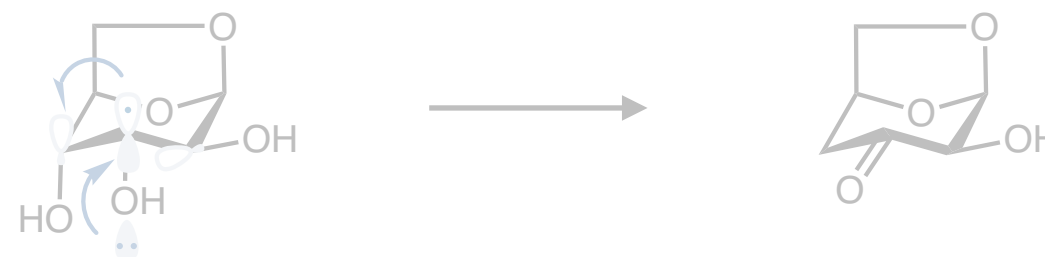


Outline

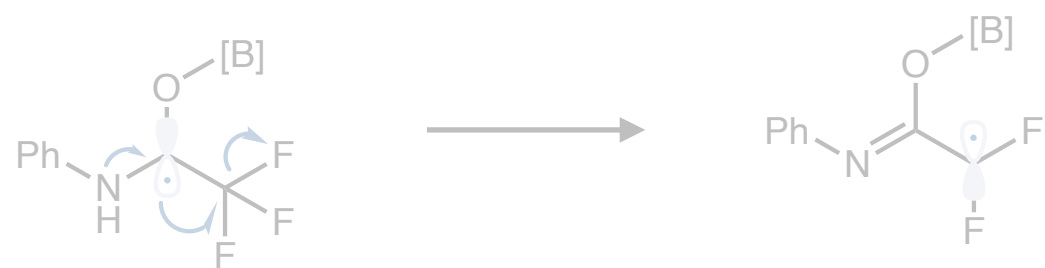
Biochemical and mechanistic background



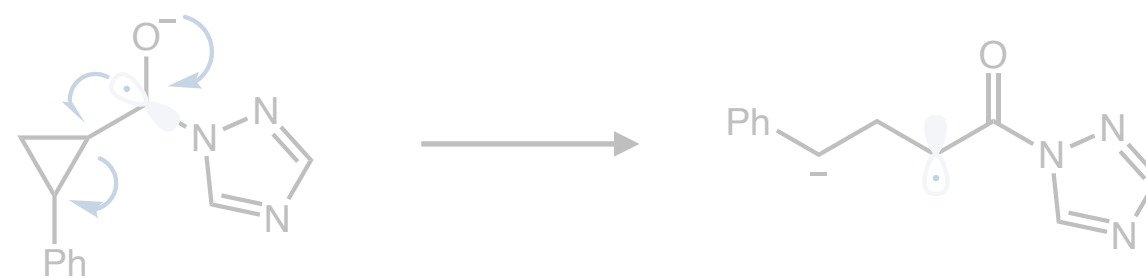
C–O bond activation



C–F bond activation



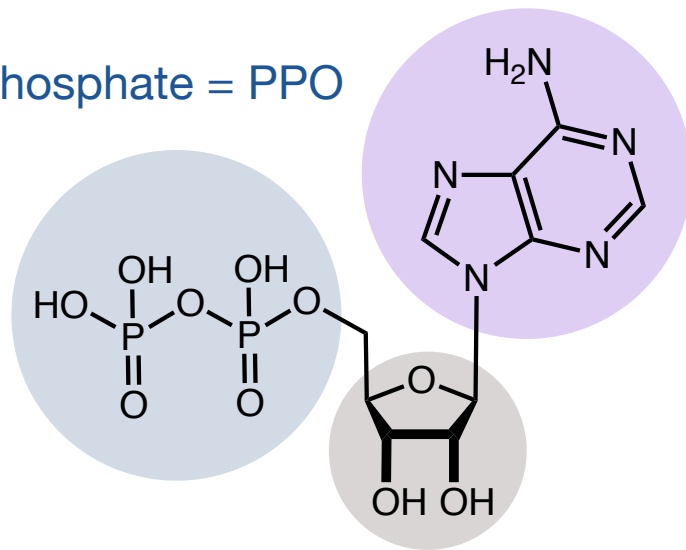
Miscellaneous SCS reactions



SCS in biological systems: DNA synthesis

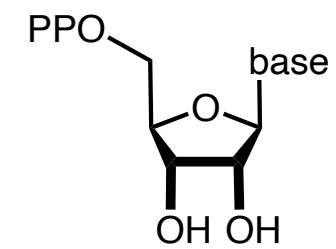
nucleobase (adenosine) = b

diphosphate = PPO



ribose

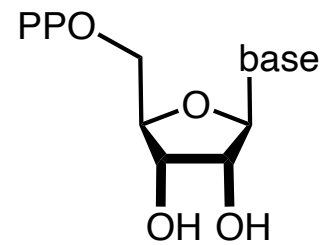
≡



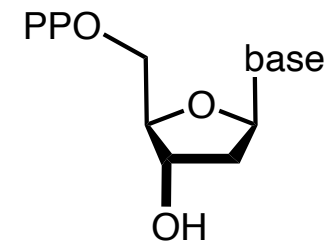
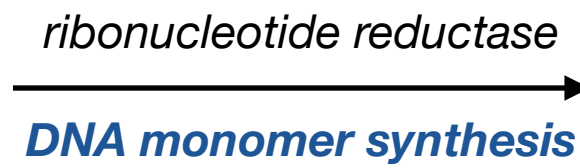
ribonucleoside diphosphate

precursor to DNA

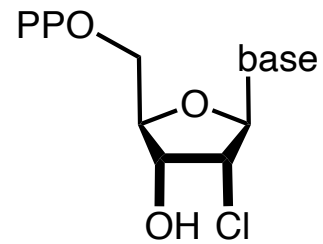
SCS in biological systems: DNA synthesis



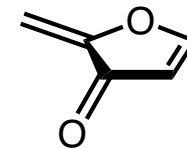
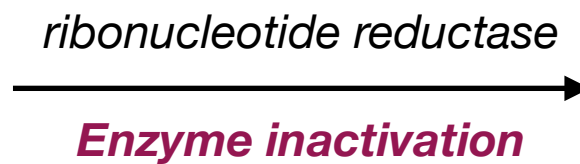
*ribonucleoside
diphosphate*



*deoxyribonucleoside
diphosphate*

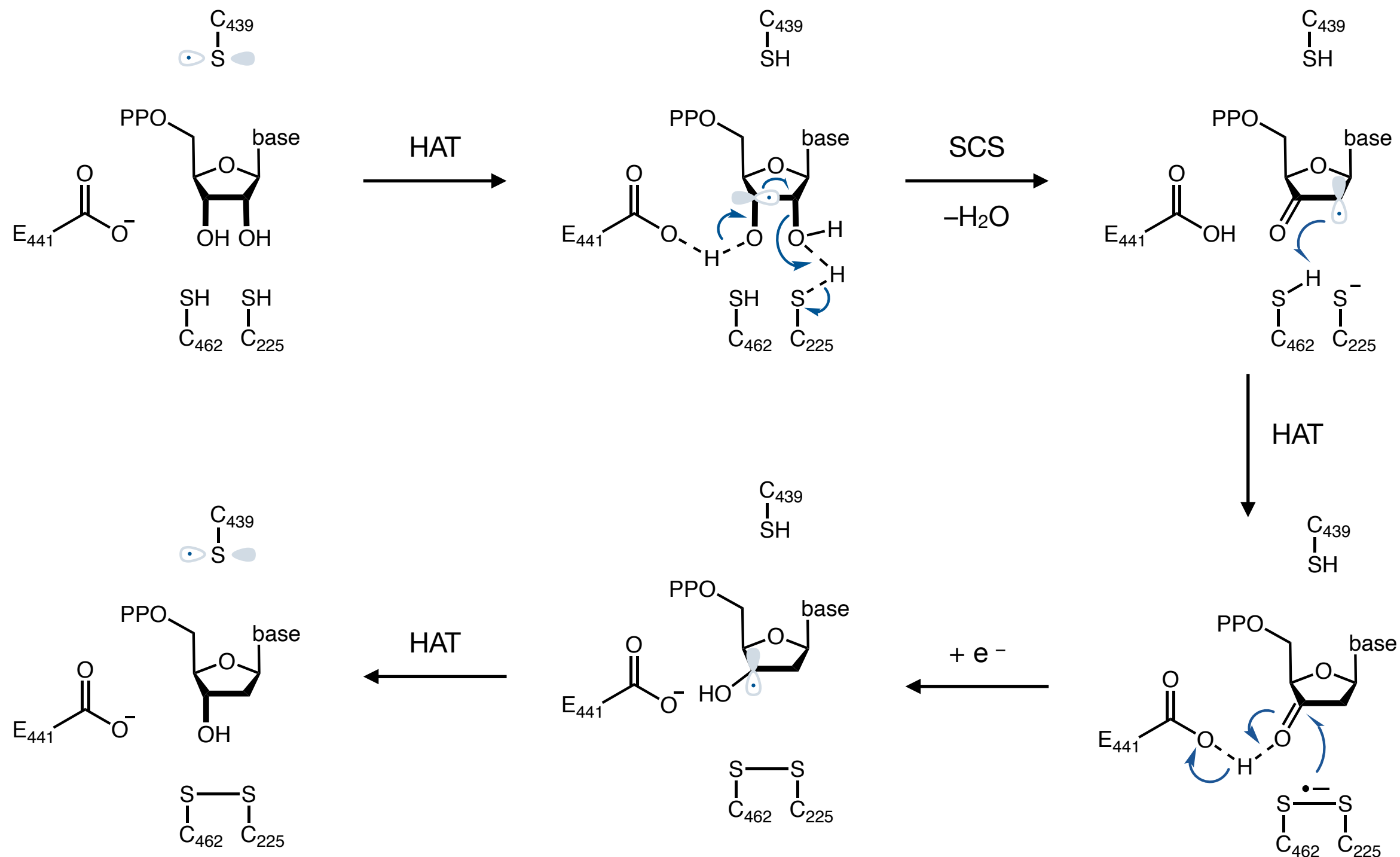


*2-Cl ribonucleoside
diphosphate*

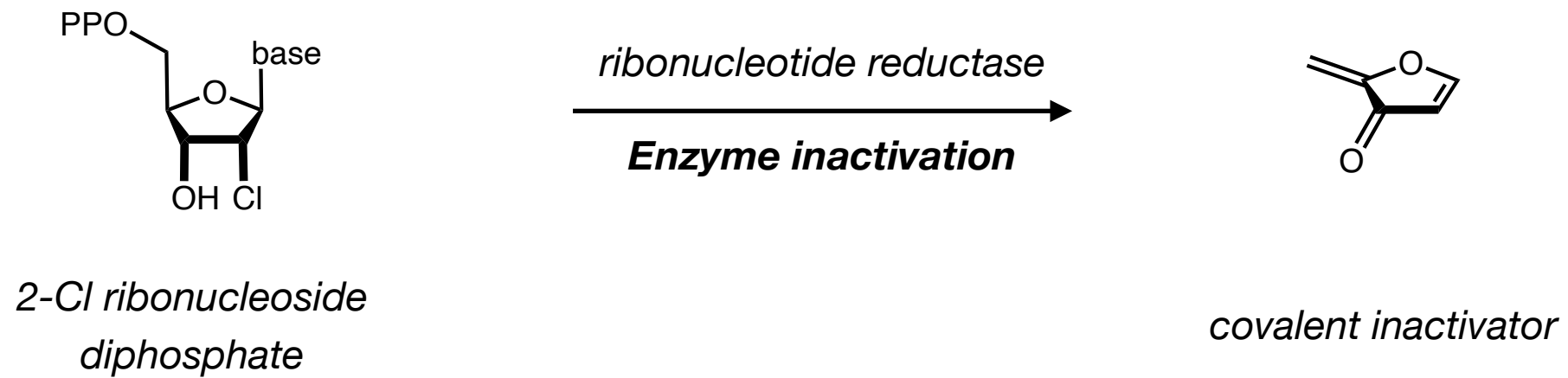


covalent inactivator

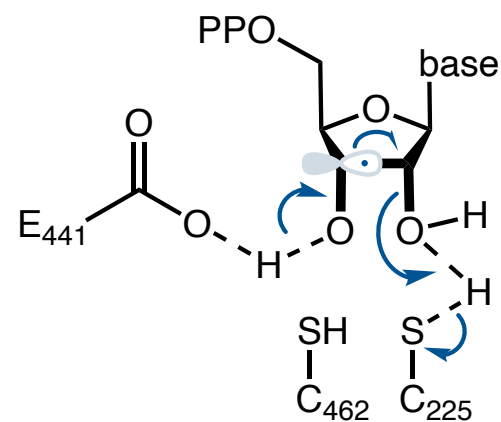
SCS in biological systems: DNA synthesis



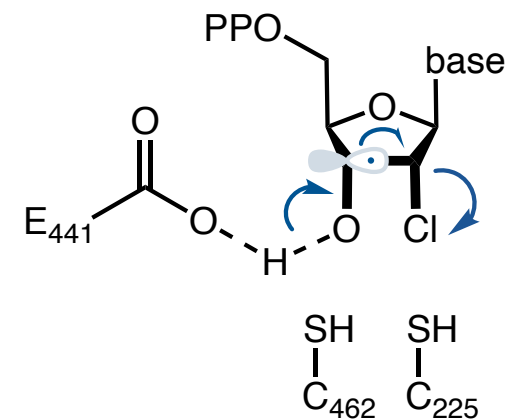
SCS in biological systems: DNA synthesis



Enzyme function directly depends on SCS leaving group

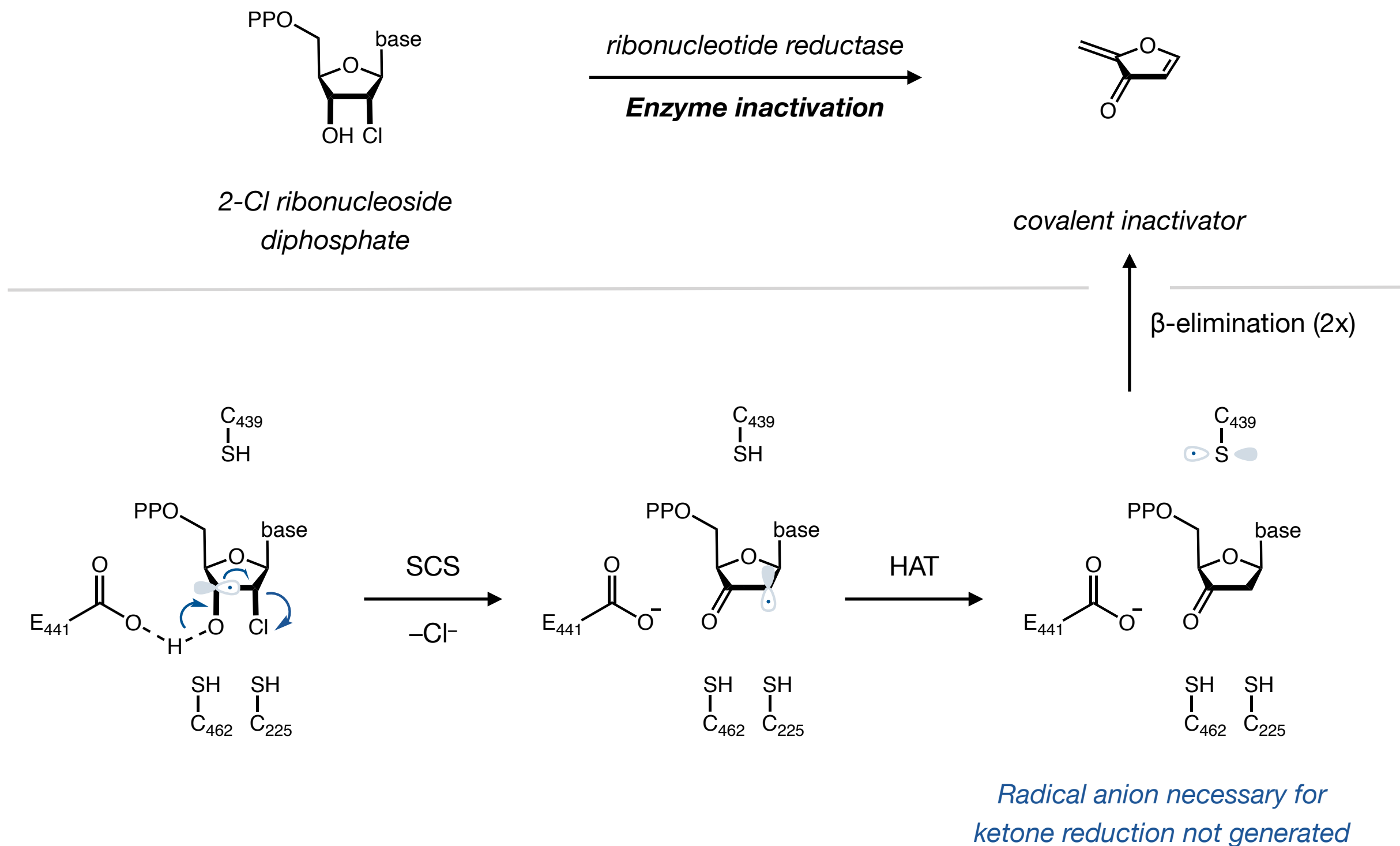


ribonucleoside diphosphate ($-H_2O$)

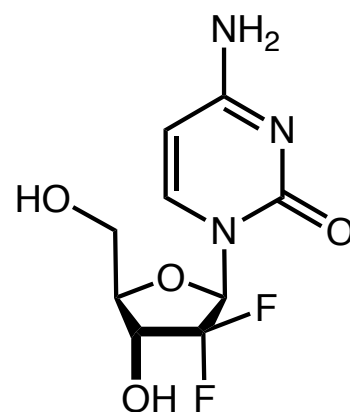
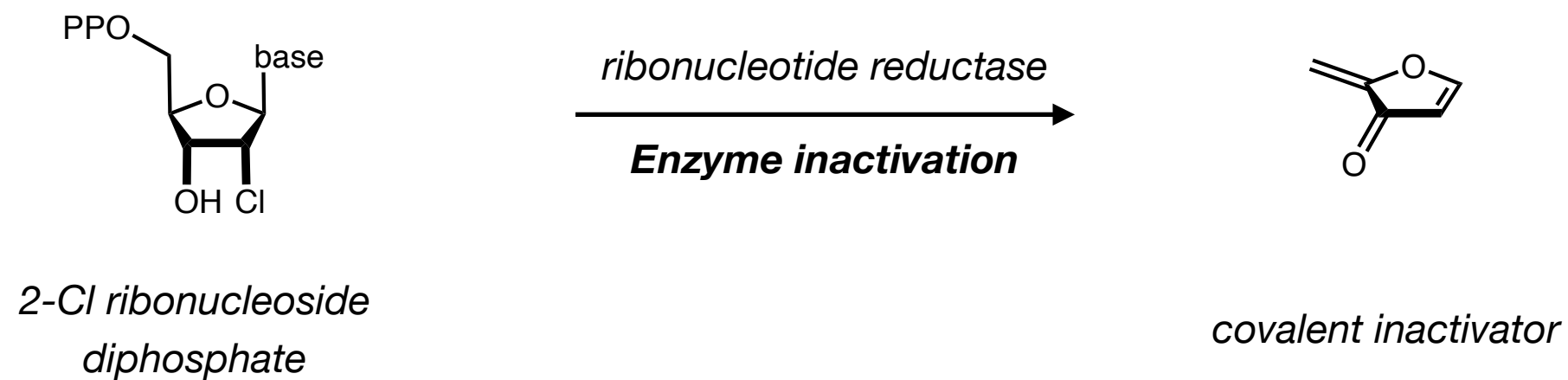


2-Cl ribonucleoside diphosphate ($-Cl^-$)

SCS in biological systems: DNA synthesis



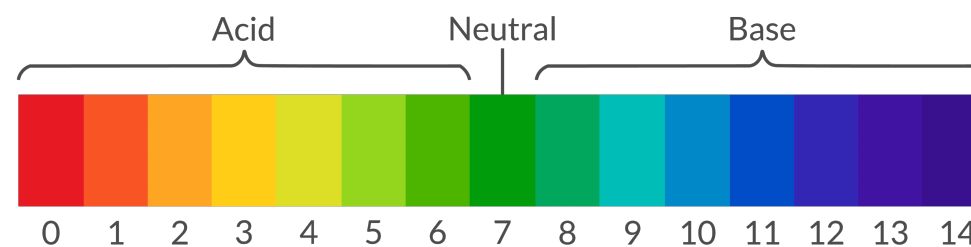
SCS in biological systems: DNA synthesis



gemcitabine - chemotherapy
2024 sales: \$789 million

Mechanistic Considerations of SCS Processes

pH dependance



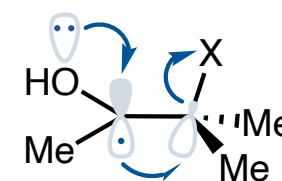
The pH Scale

© ReAgent

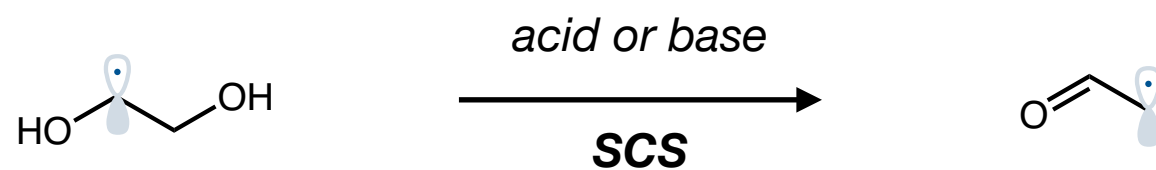
Solvent dependance



Leaving group ability and mechanism

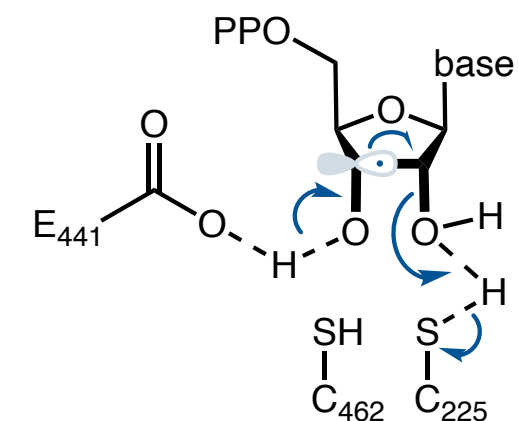


pH dependance

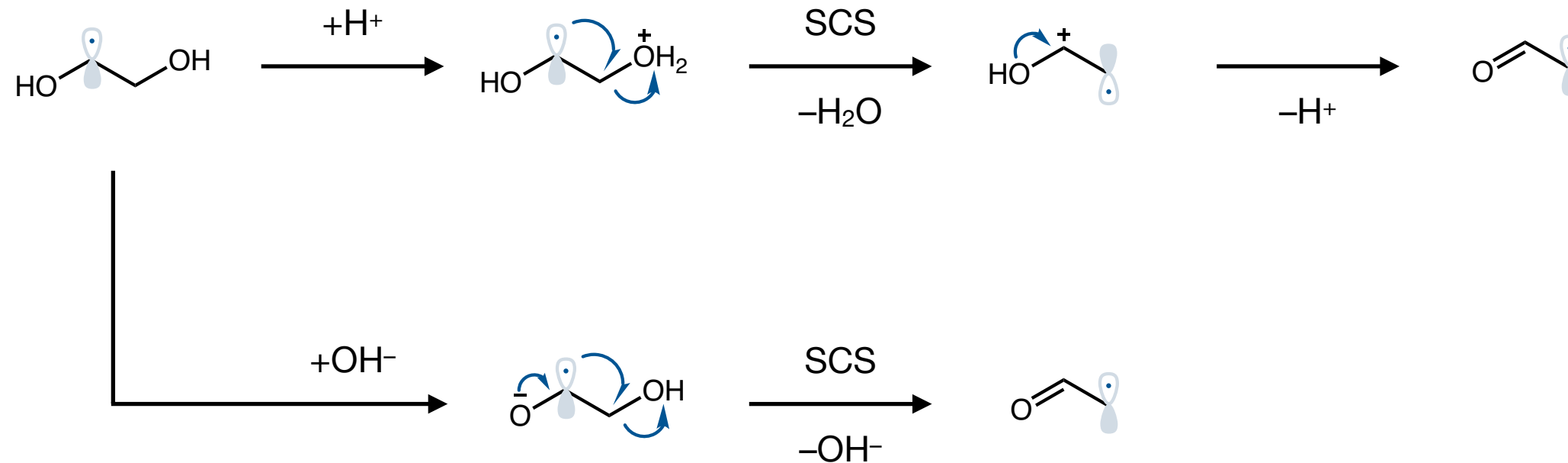


α,β -dihydroxyalkyl radical

formylmethyl radical

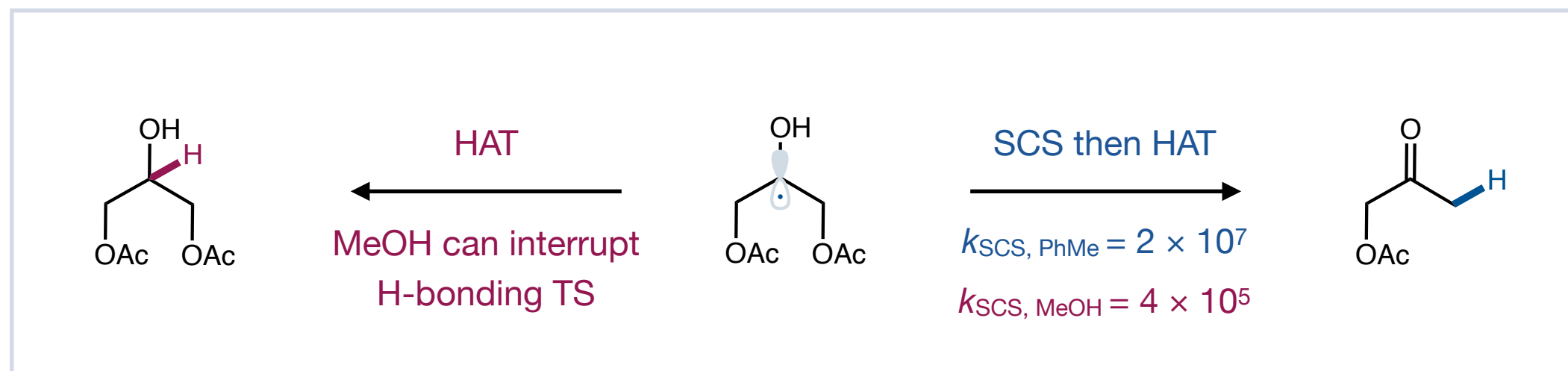
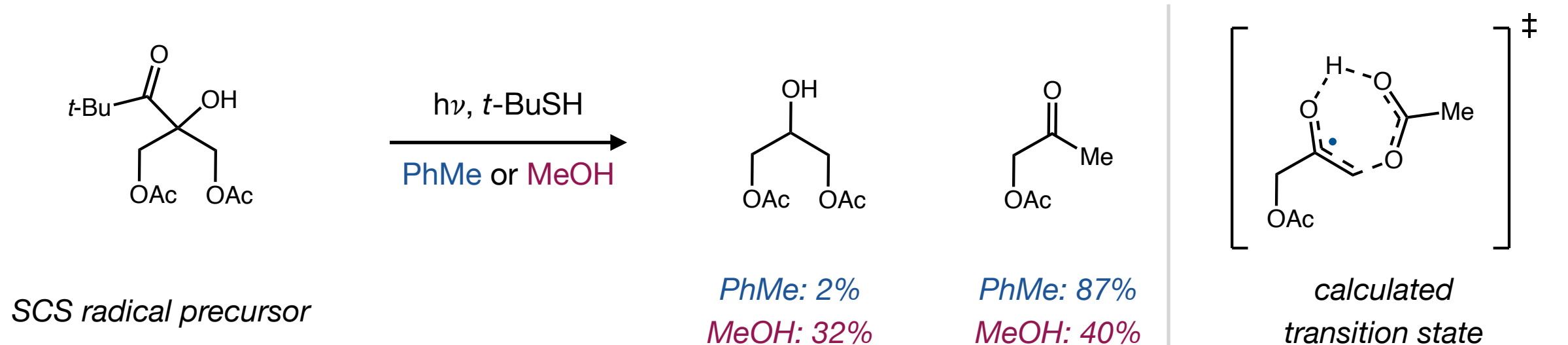


enzymatic SCS activation



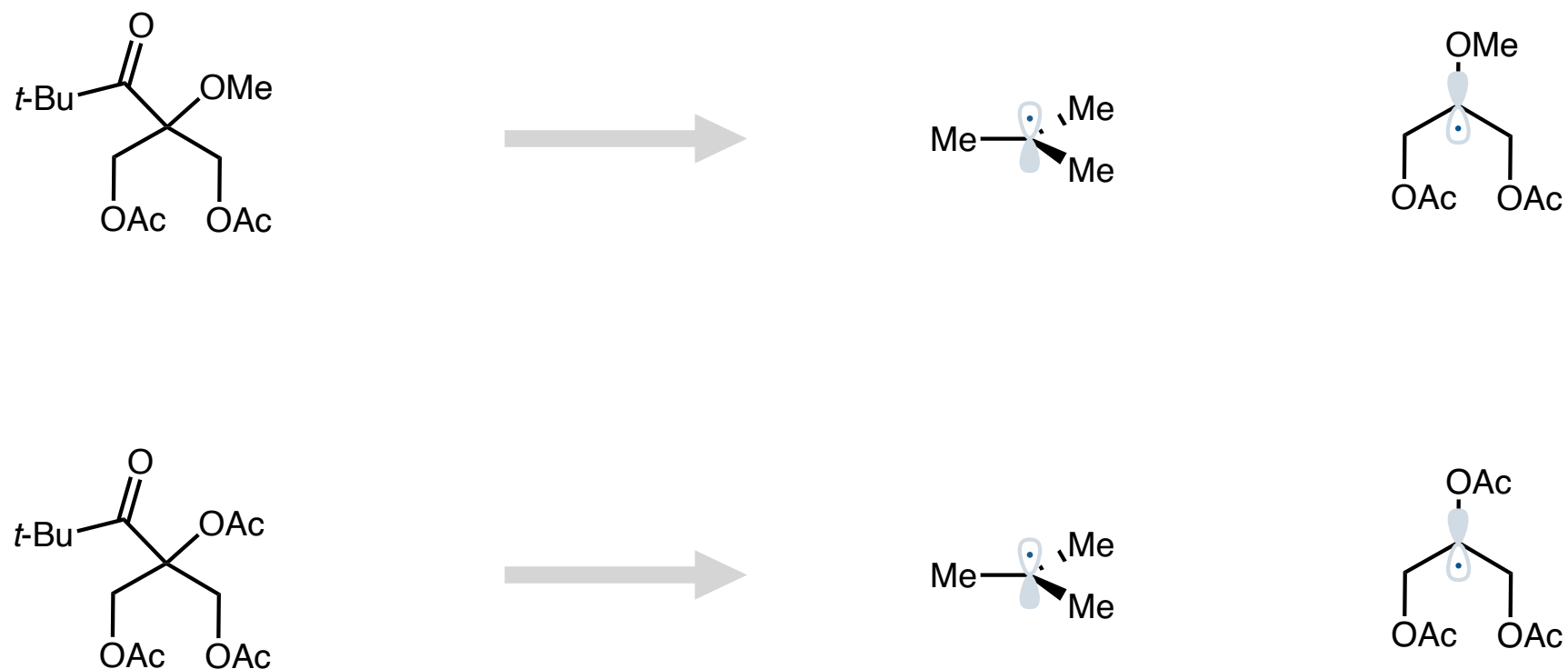
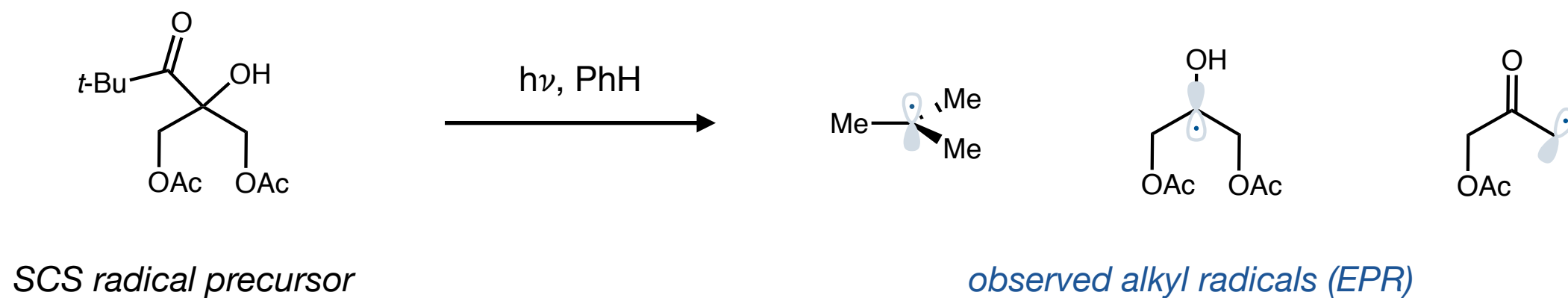
No SCS observed in absence of acid/base

Importance of solvent



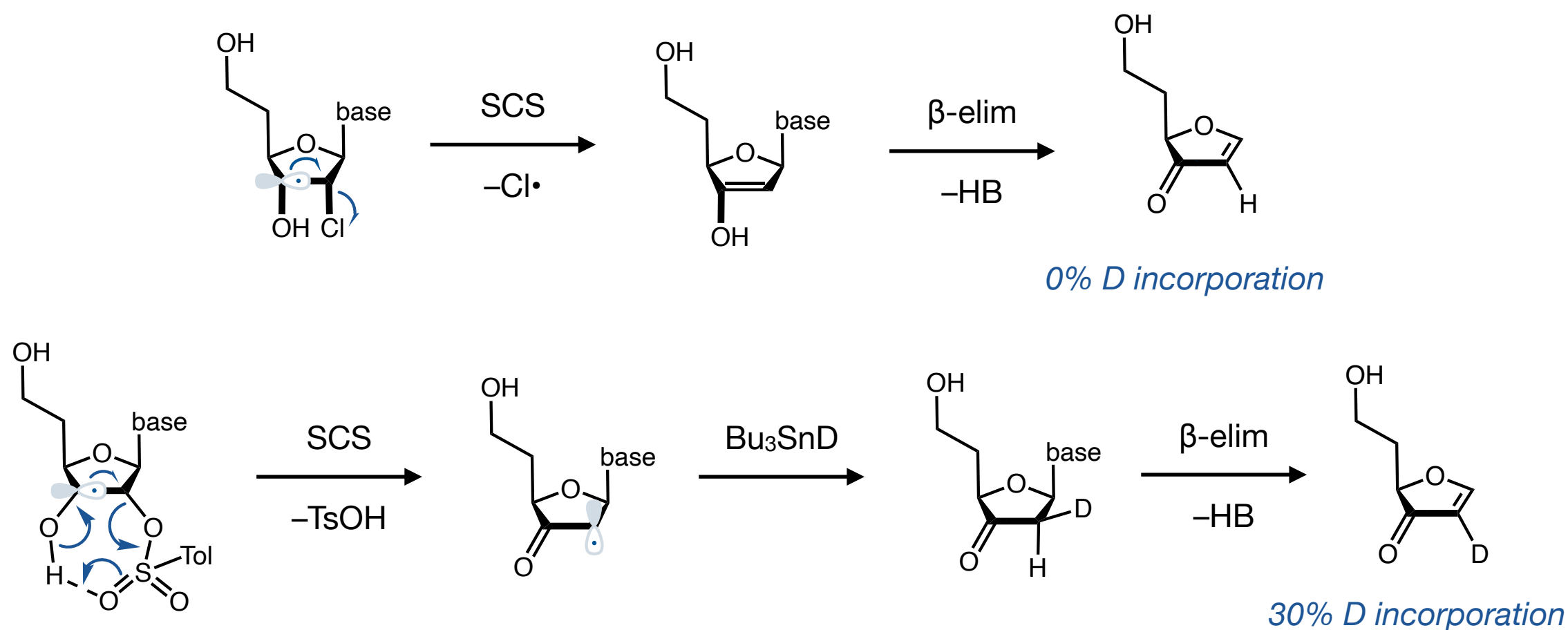
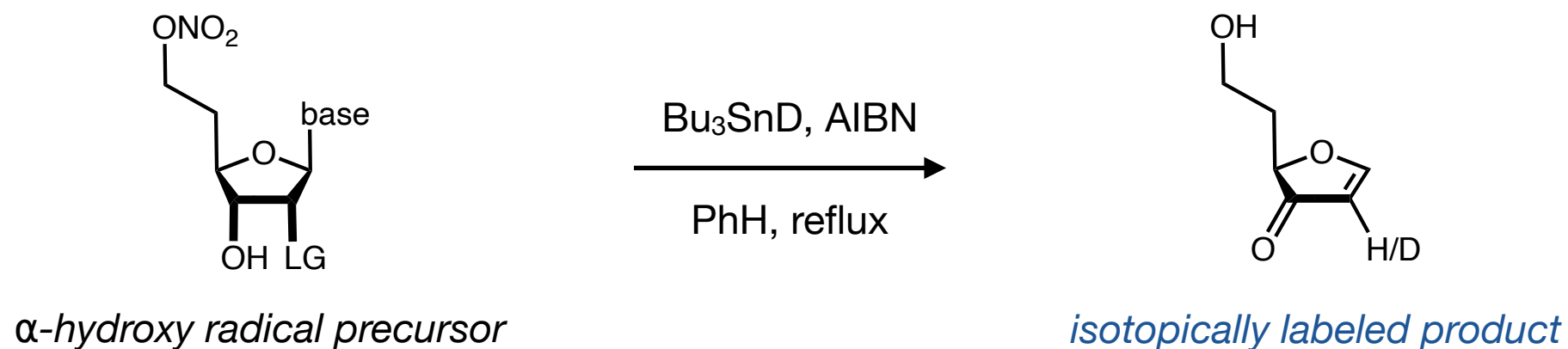
How do non-hydroxyl oxygen nucleophiles perform in SCS?

Importance of nucleophile



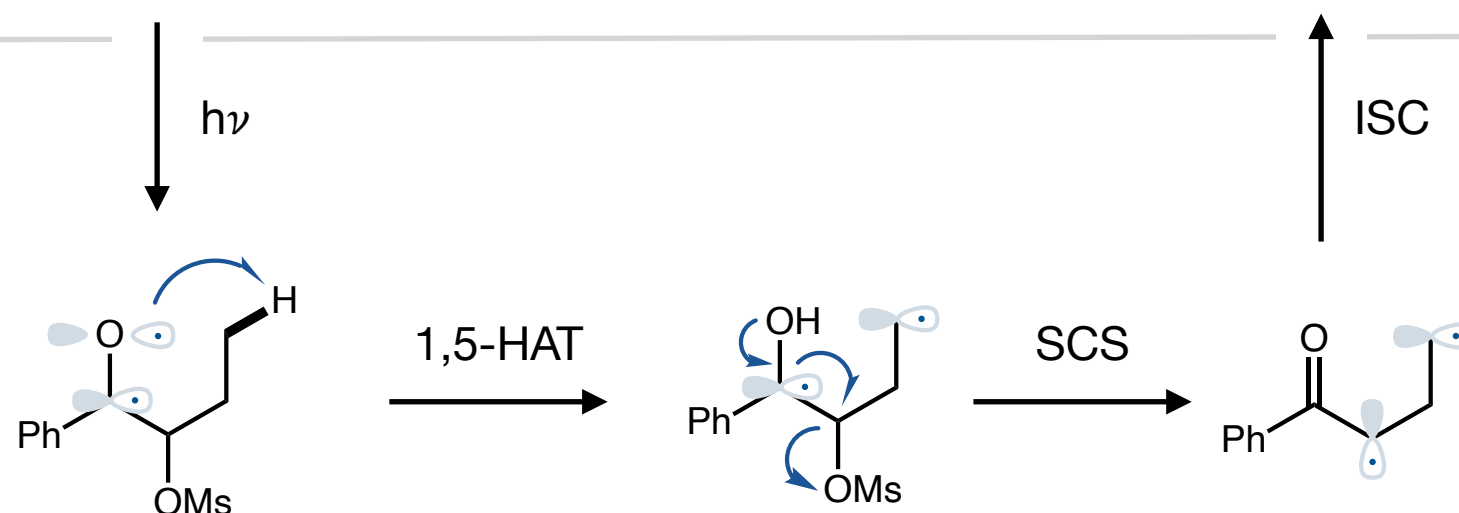
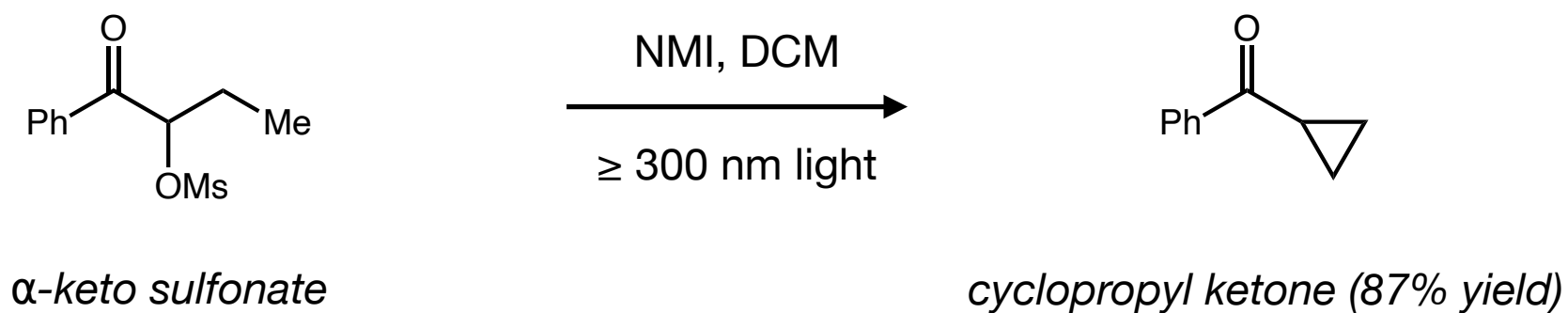
No H-bonding TS possible with OAc or OMe, SCS prohibitively slow

Mechanistic implications based on leaving group



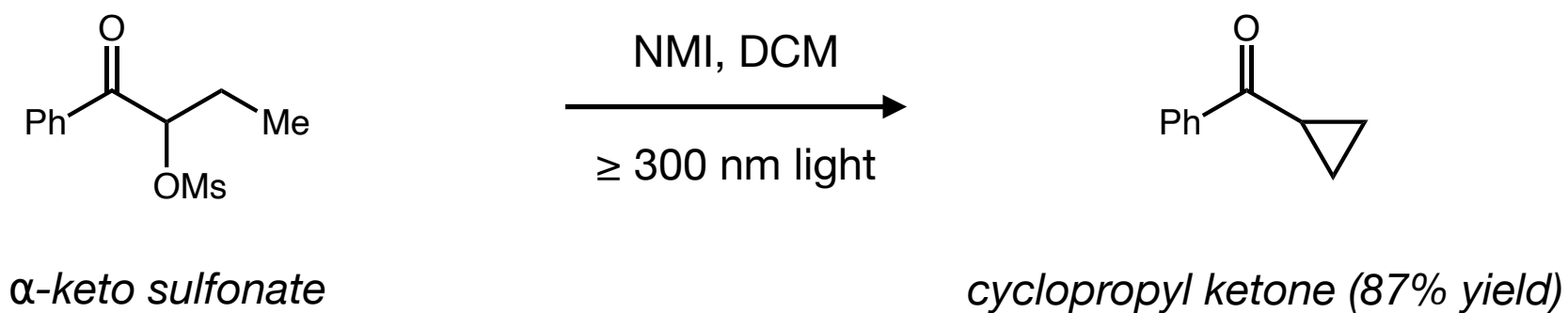
Certain radicals can act as leaving groups if cyclic H-bonding TS not possible

Cyclopropane synthesis through SCS with diradicals

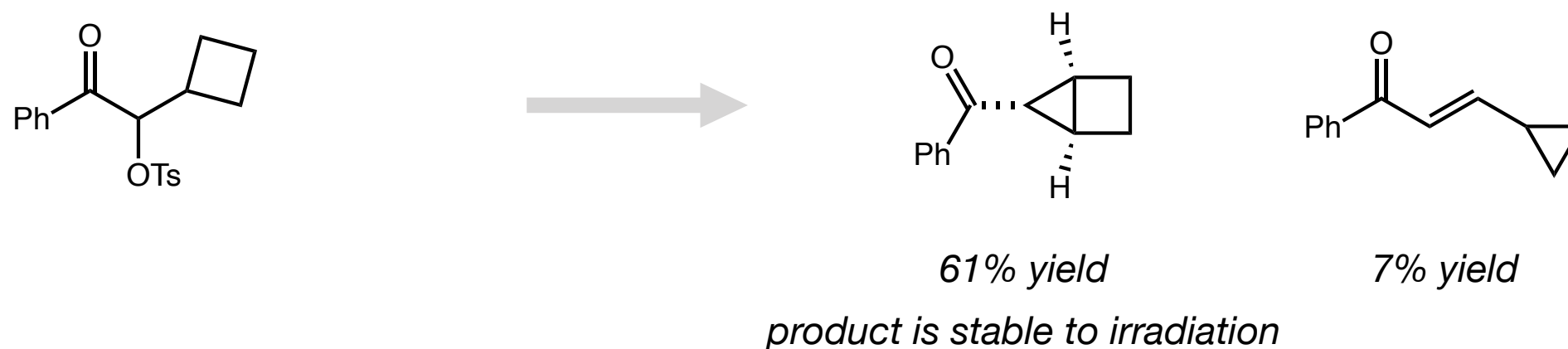
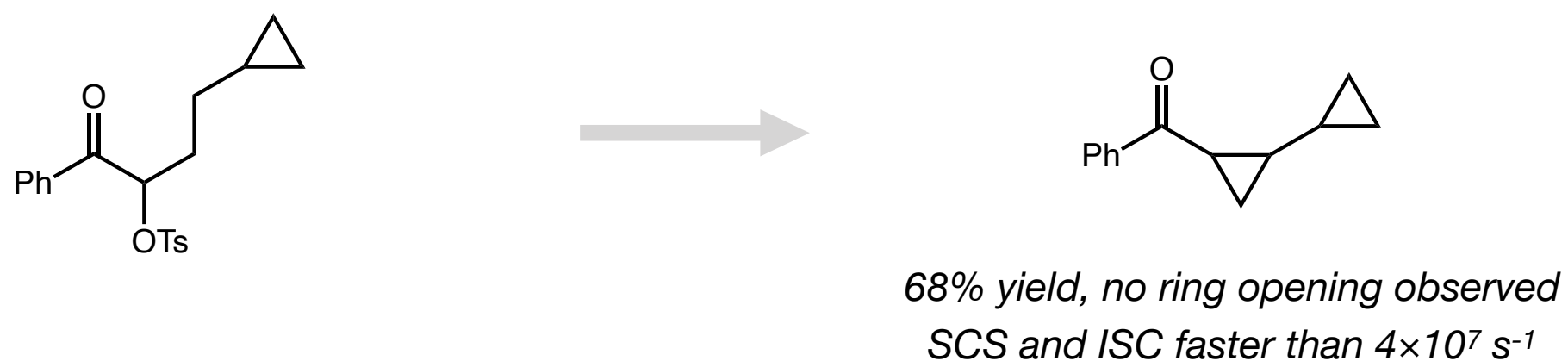


SCS outcompetes Norrish-Yang cyclobutanol synthesis (diradical lifetime ~ 10 ns)

Cyclopropane synthesis through SCS with diradicals



selected scope

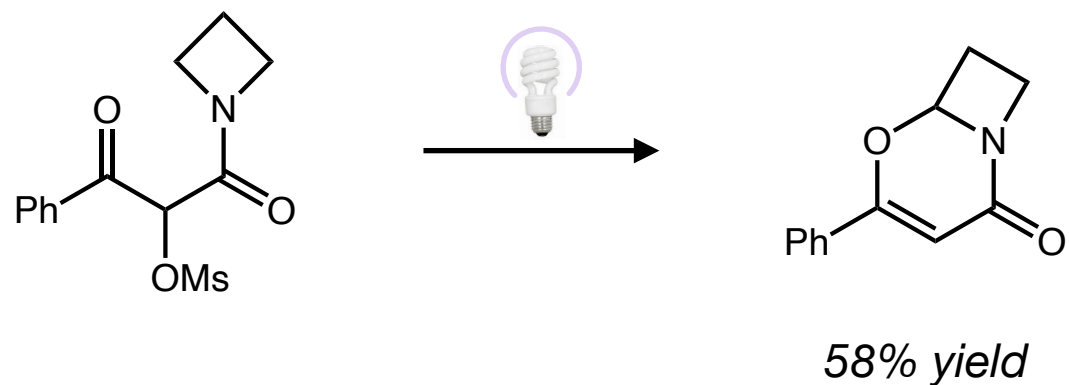


Wessig, P.; Mühling, O. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2001**, 40 (6), 1064–1065.

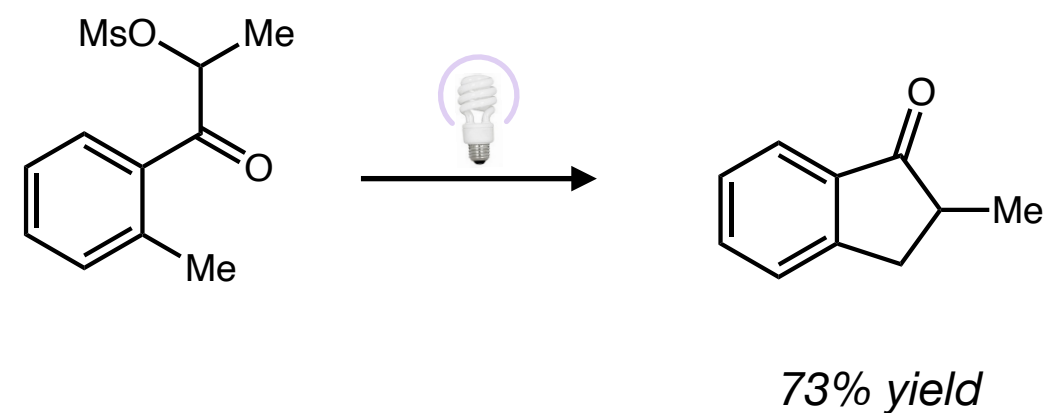
Wessig, P.; Mühling, O. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **2003**, 86 (3), 865–893.

Synthetic Utility: ring synthesis through diradical intermediates

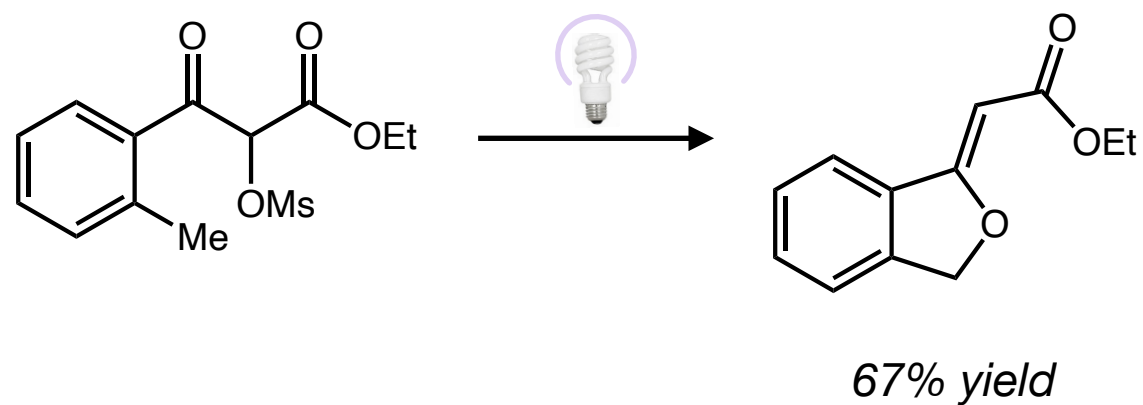
Oxazinones



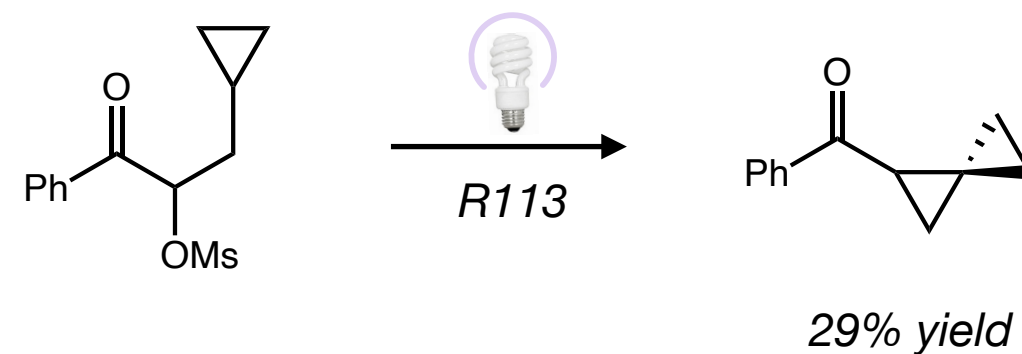
Indanones



Dihydrobenzofurans

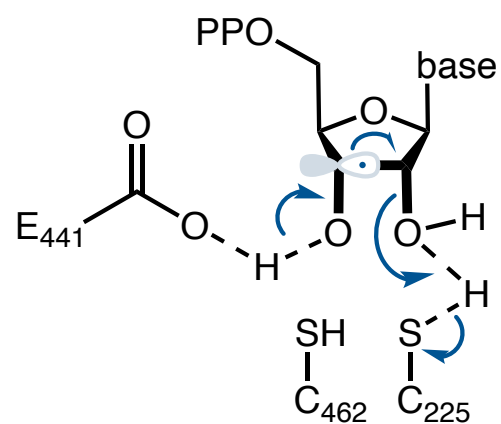


Spiro[2.2]pentanes

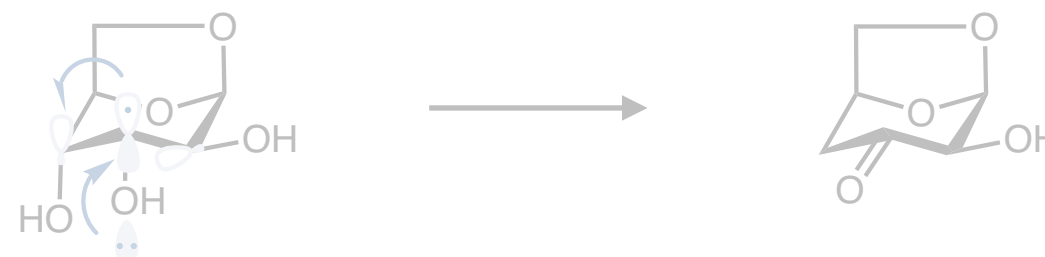


Outline

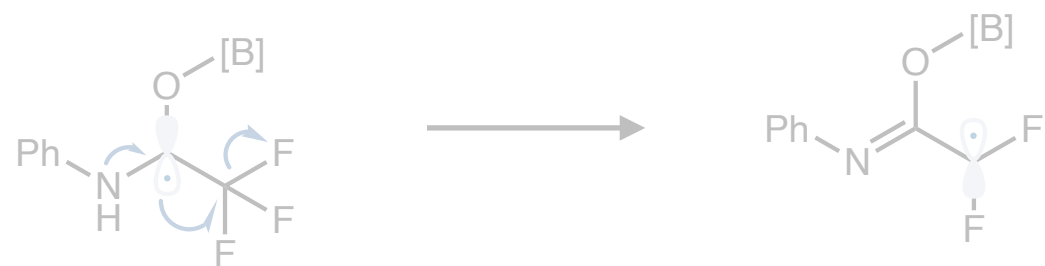
Biochemical and mechanistic background



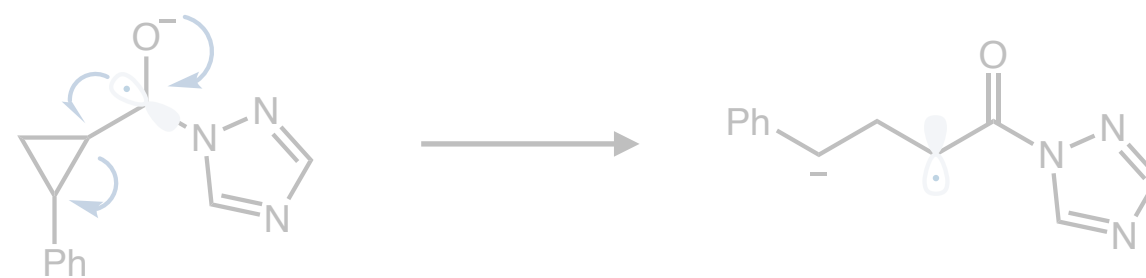
C–O bond activation



C–F bond activation

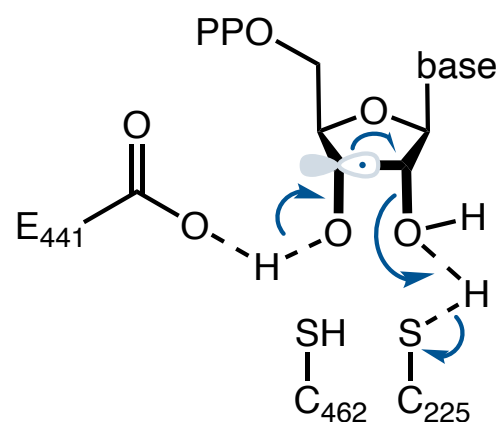


Miscellaneous SCS reactions

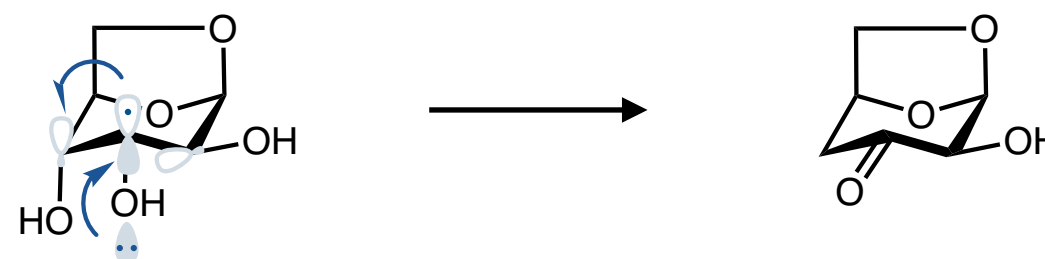


Outline

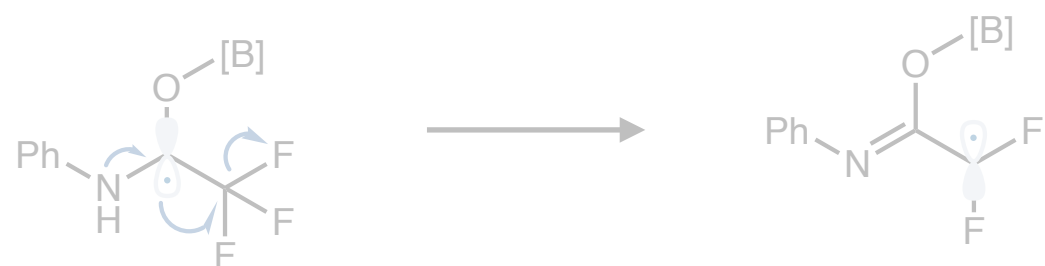
Biochemical and mechanistic background



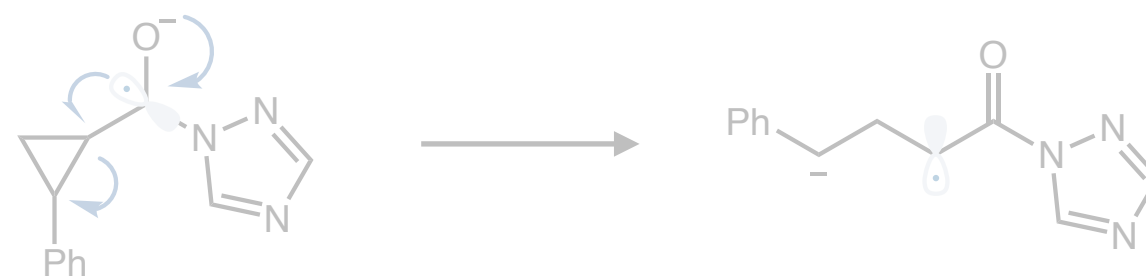
C–O bond activation



C–F bond activation



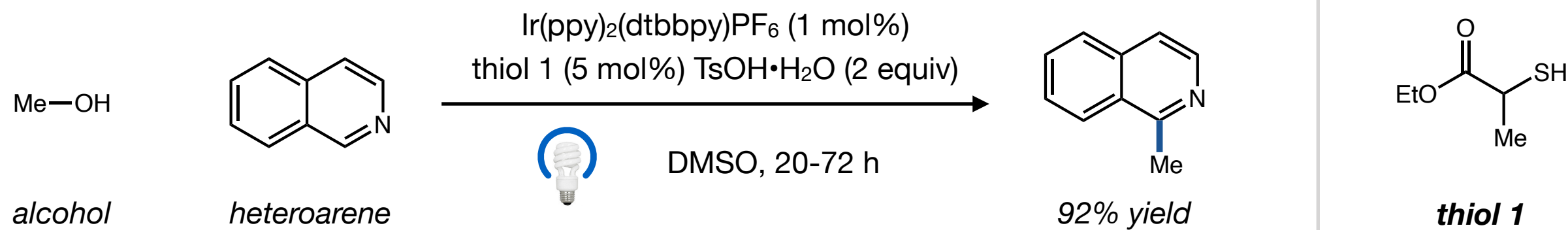
Miscellaneous SCS reactions



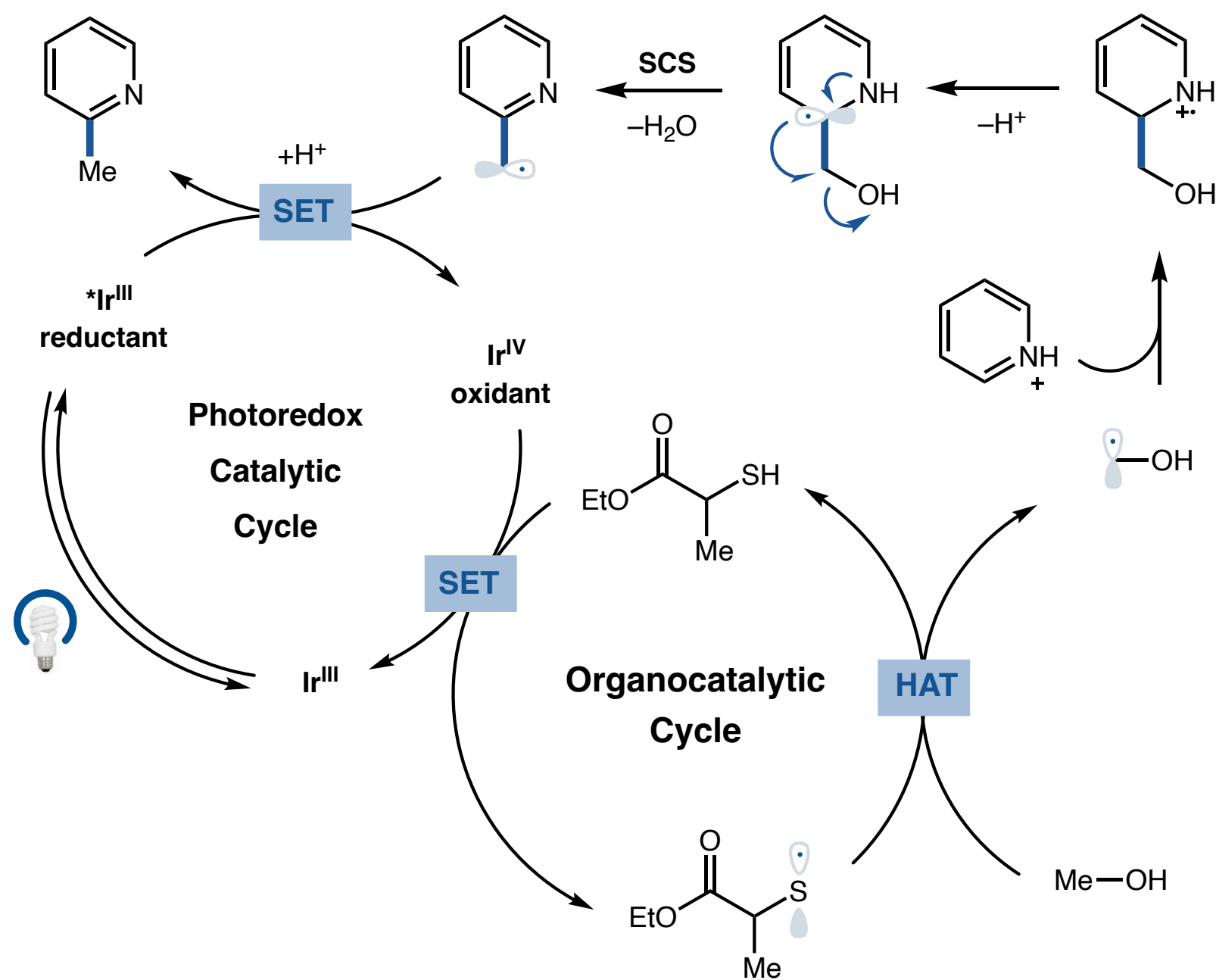
SCS is well preceded for unimolecular systems...

What about bimolecular cross-coupling-type reactions?

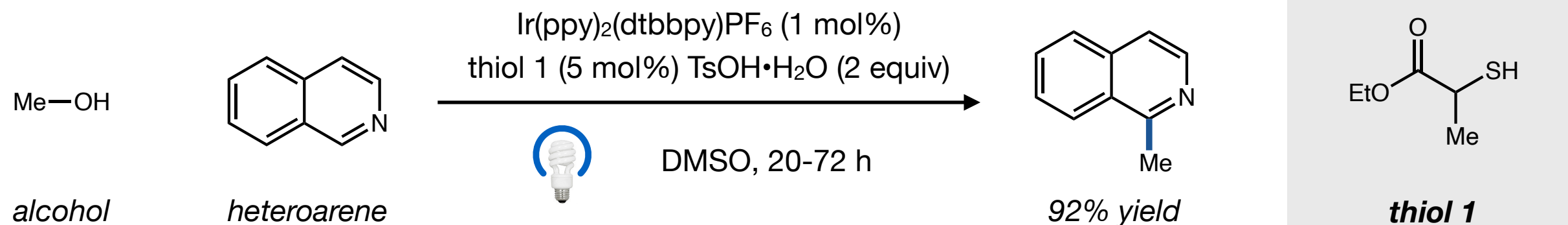
Deoxygenative alkylation of heteroarenes



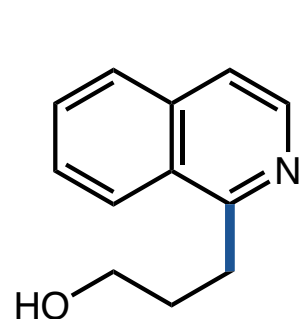
Deoxygenative alkylation of heteroarenes



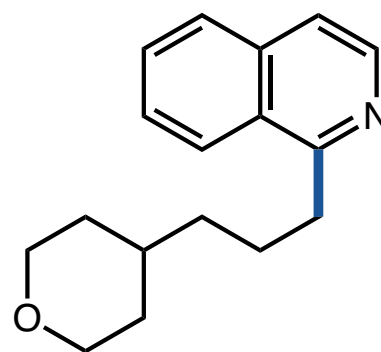
Deoxygenative alkylation of heteroarenes



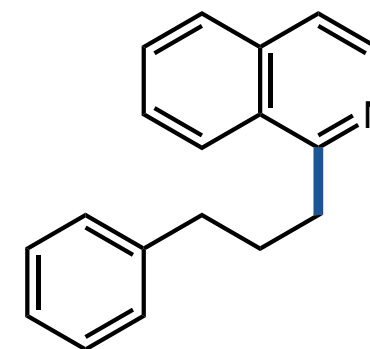
selected scope



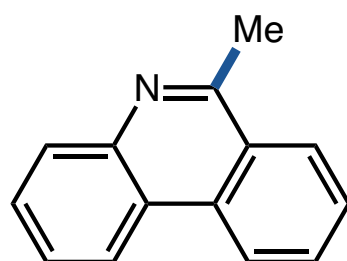
88% yield



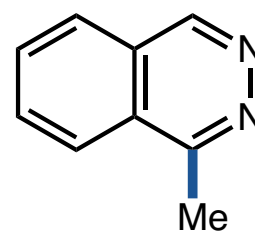
90% yield



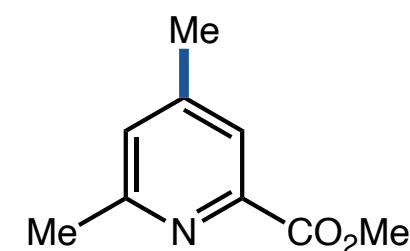
91% yield



93% yield

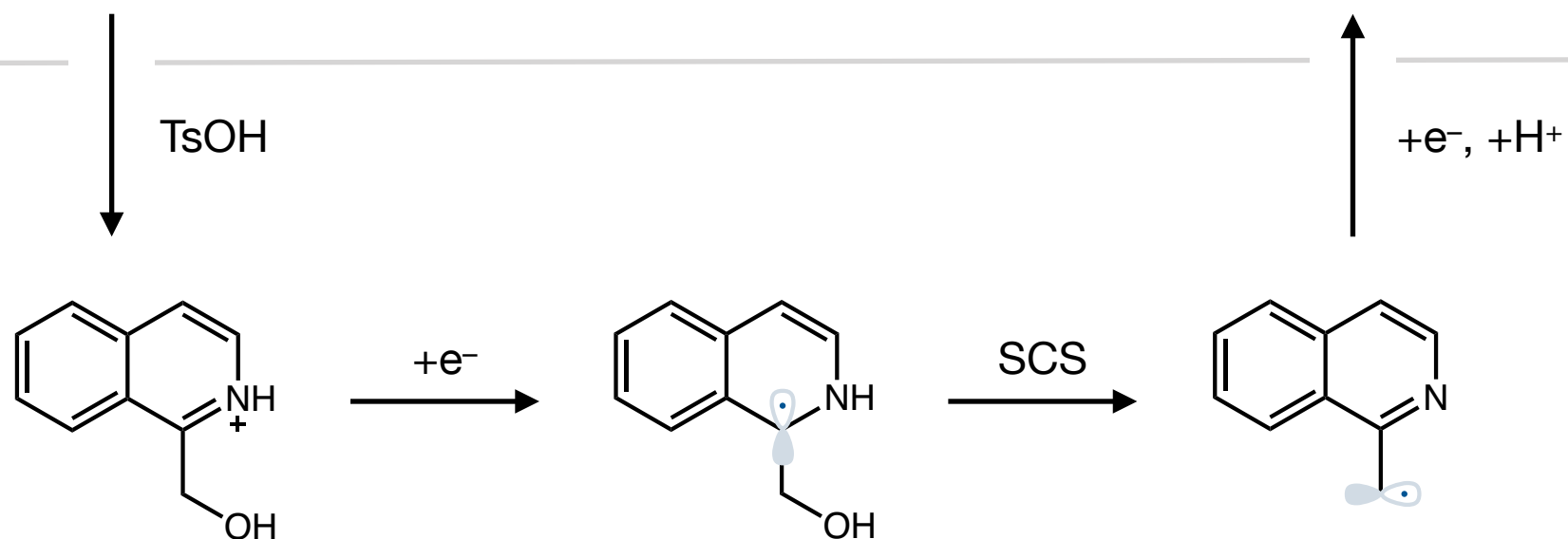
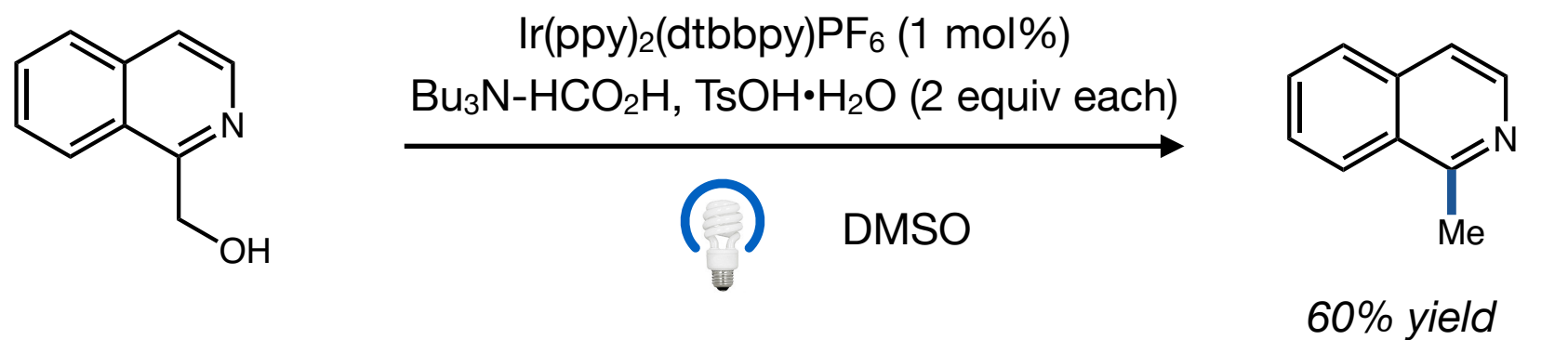


70% yield

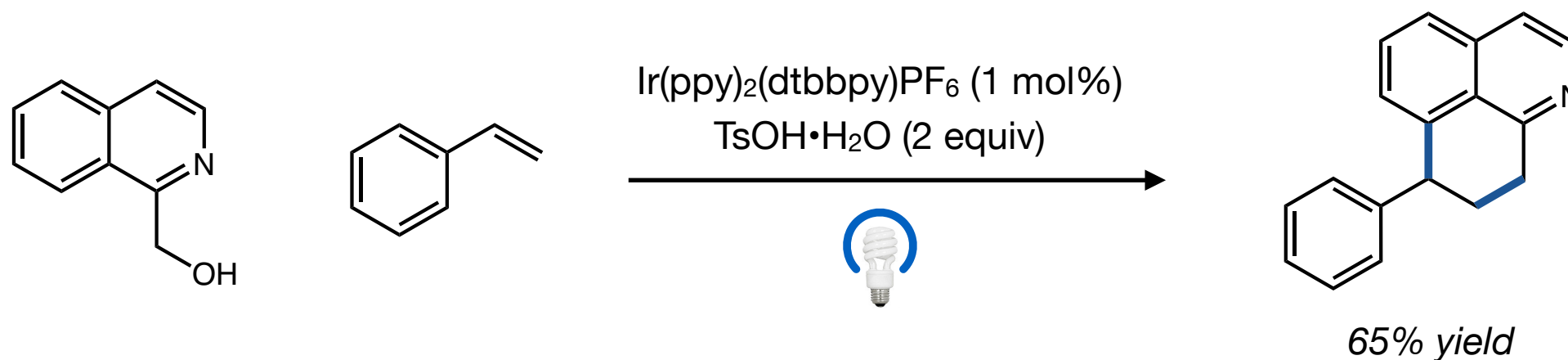


81% yield

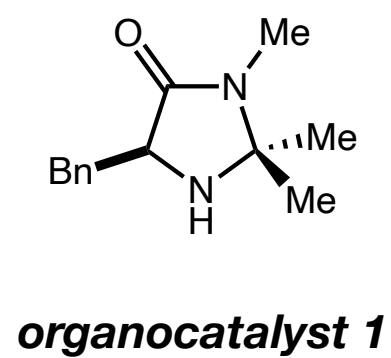
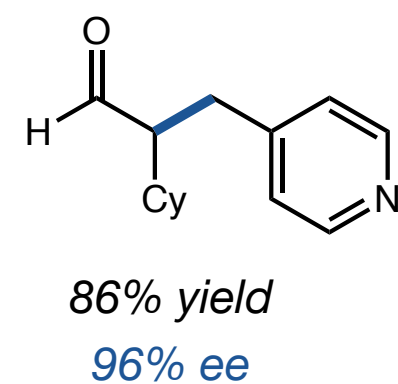
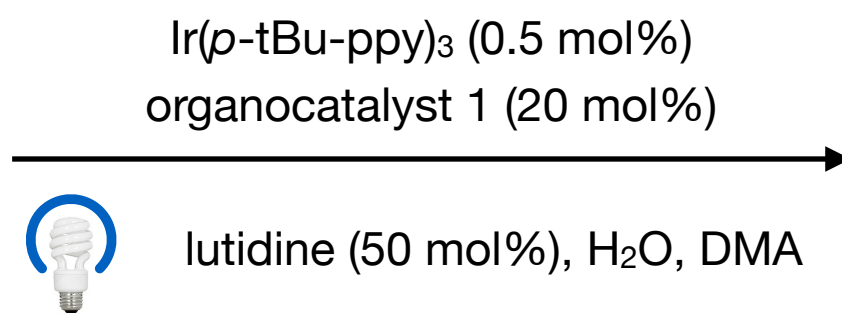
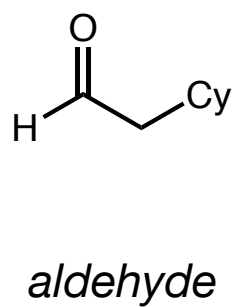
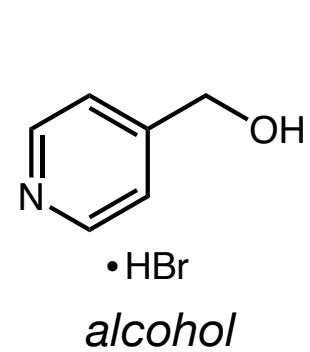
Deoxygenative alkylation of heteroarenes



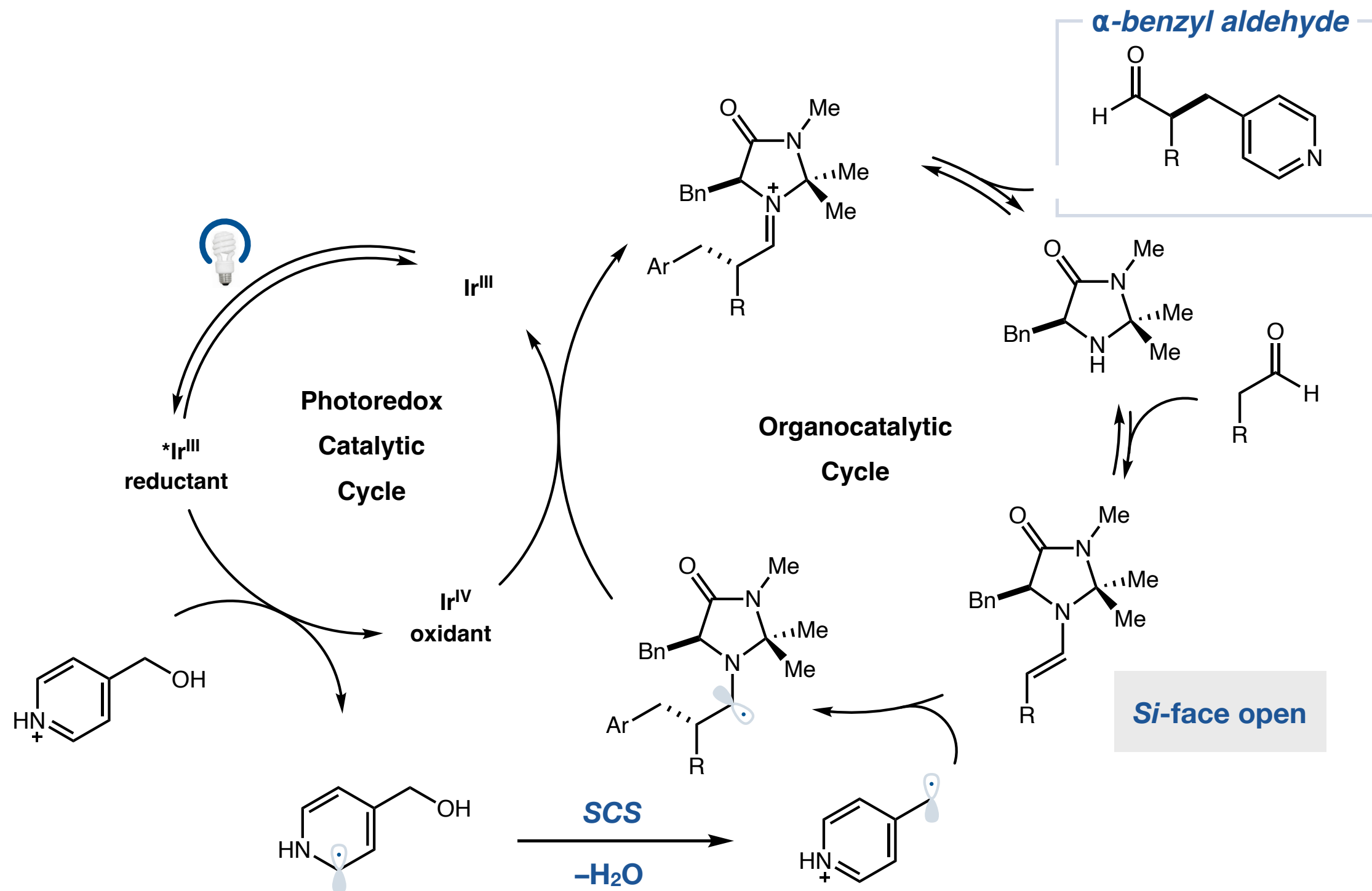
Saturated ring synthesis



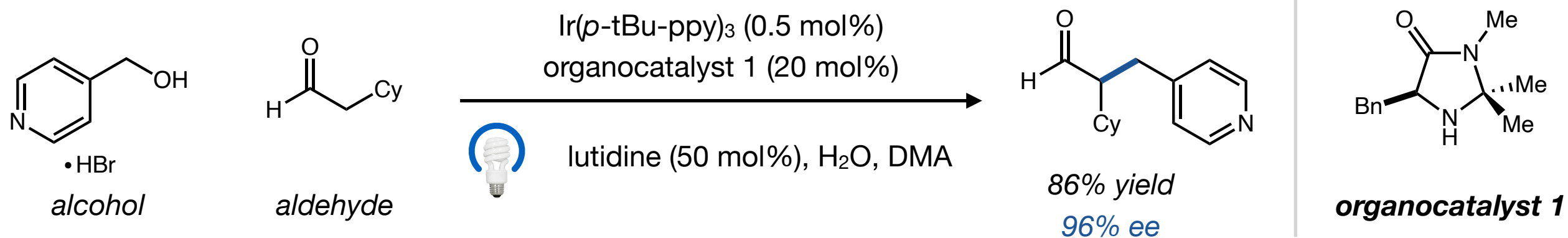
Enantioselective α -benzylation of aldehydes



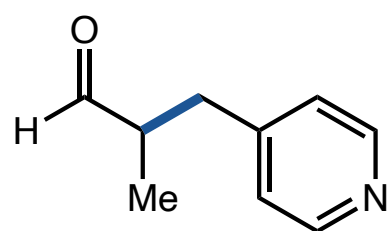
Enantioselective α -benzylation of aldehydes



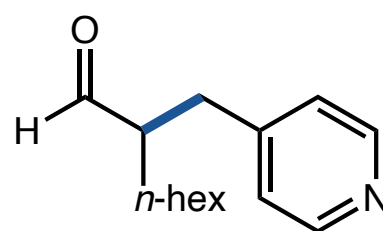
Enantioselective α -benzylation of aldehydes



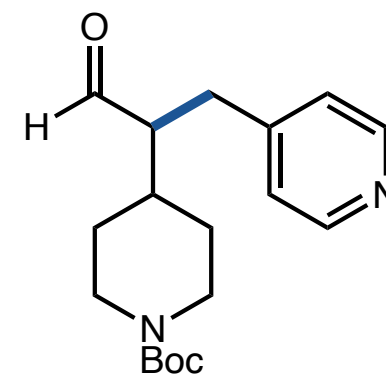
selected scope



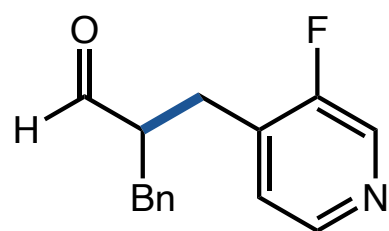
93% yield, 96% ee



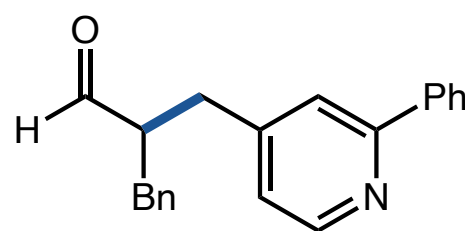
90% yield, 96% ee



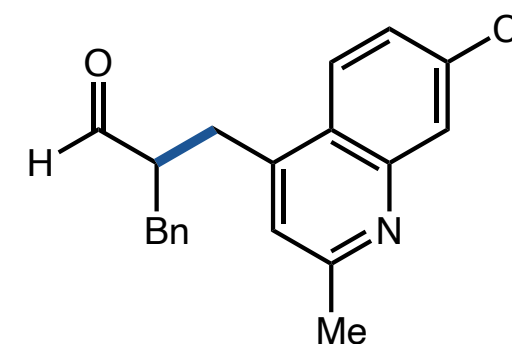
86% yield, 96% ee



78% yield, 96% ee

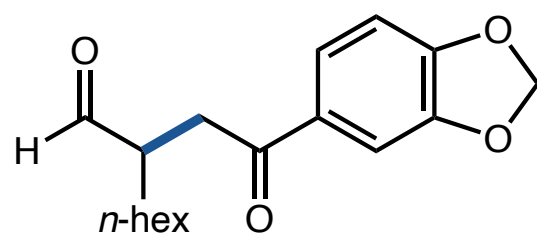
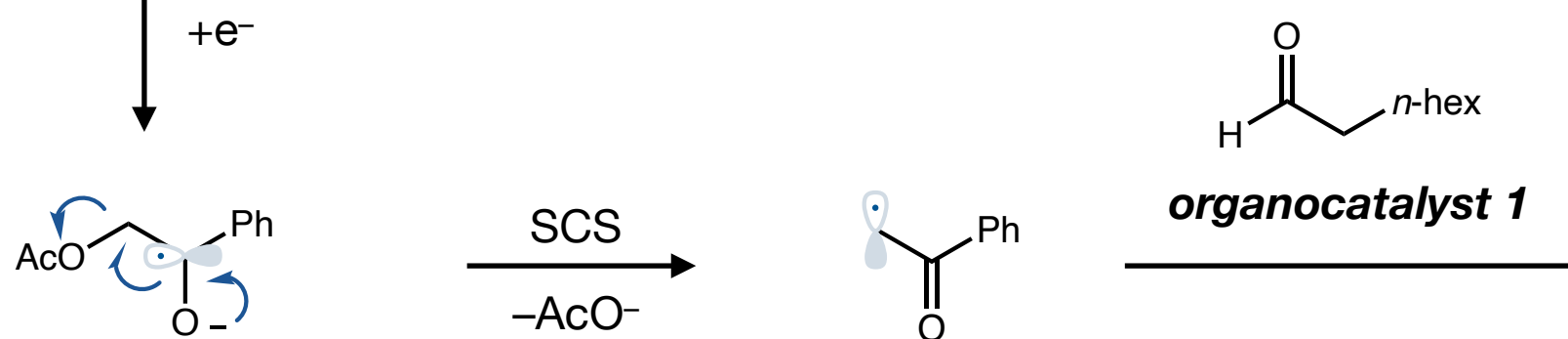
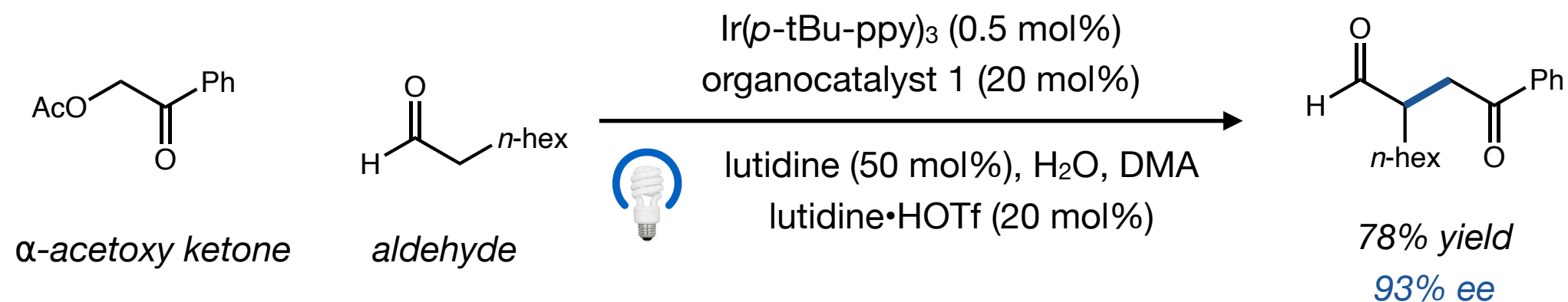


74% yield, 97% ee

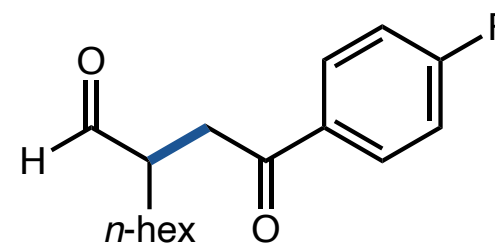


76% yield, 99% ee

Enantioselective α -benzylation of aldehydes

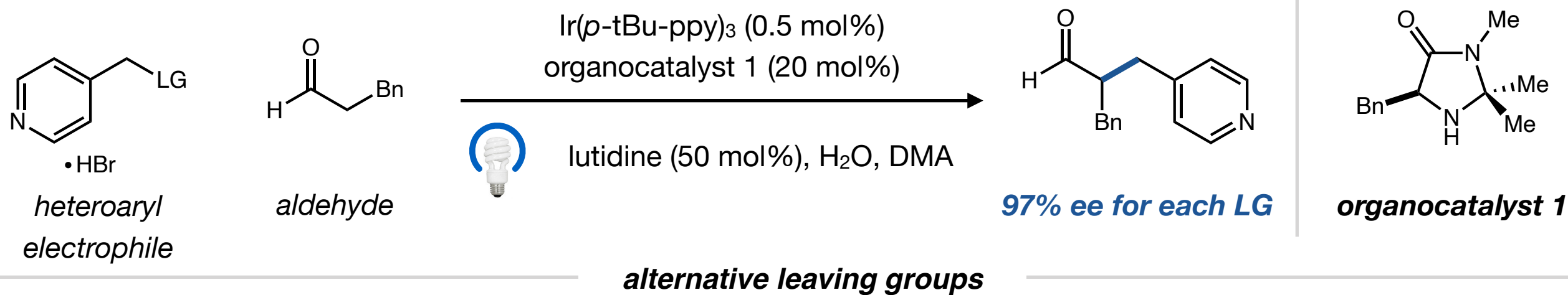


73% yield
92% ee

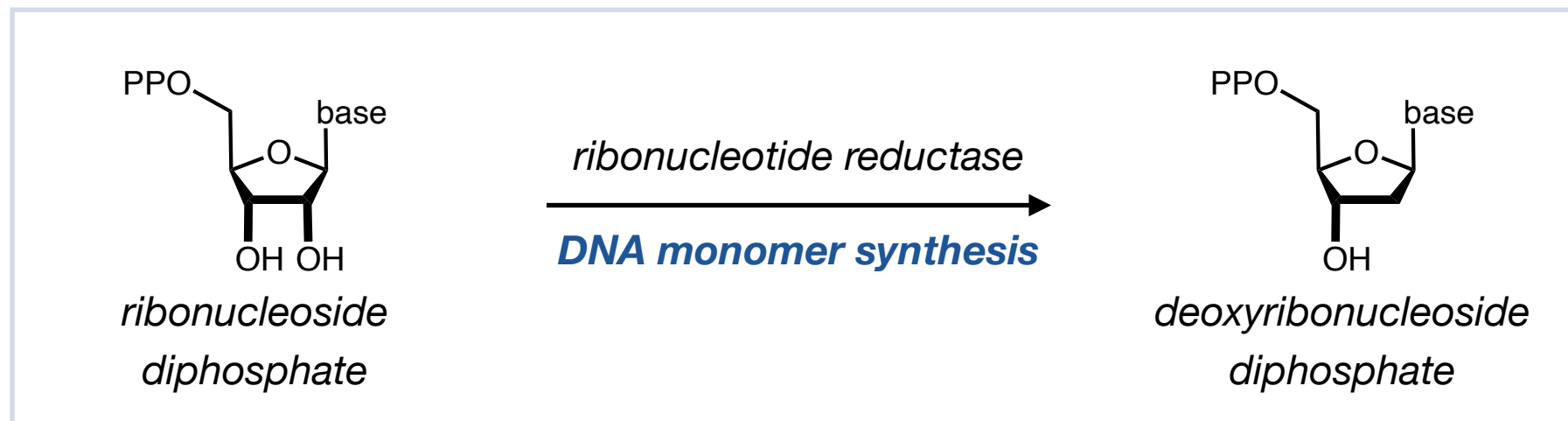


80% yield
87% ee

Enantioselective α -benzylation of aldehydes



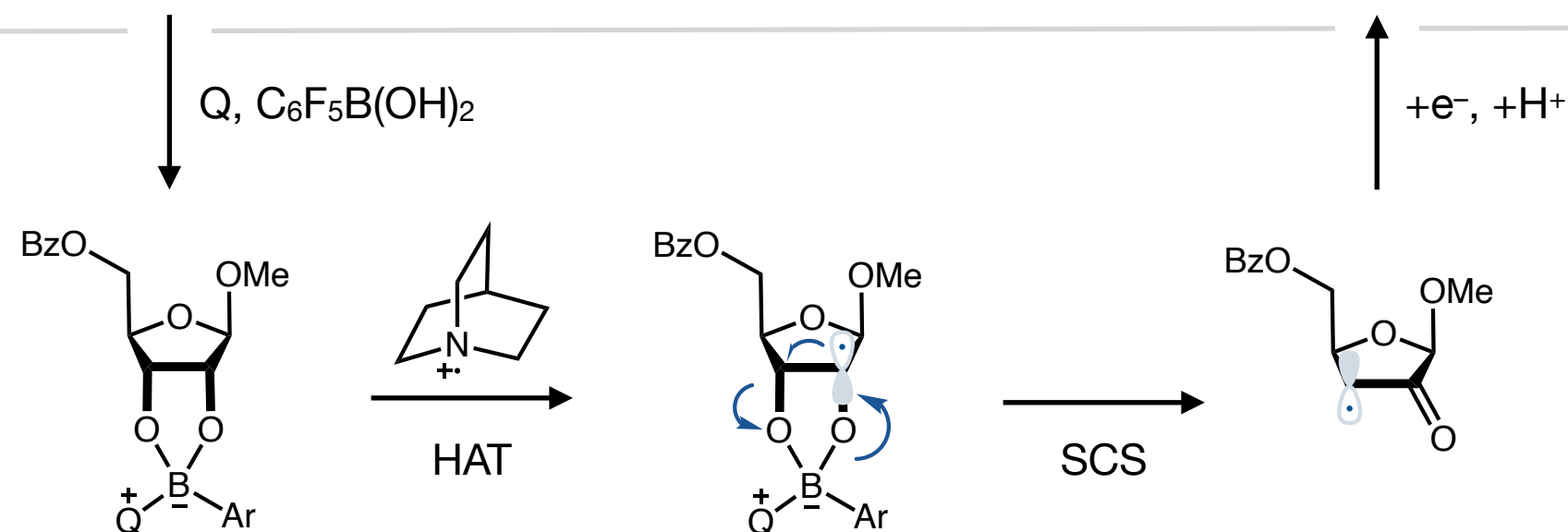
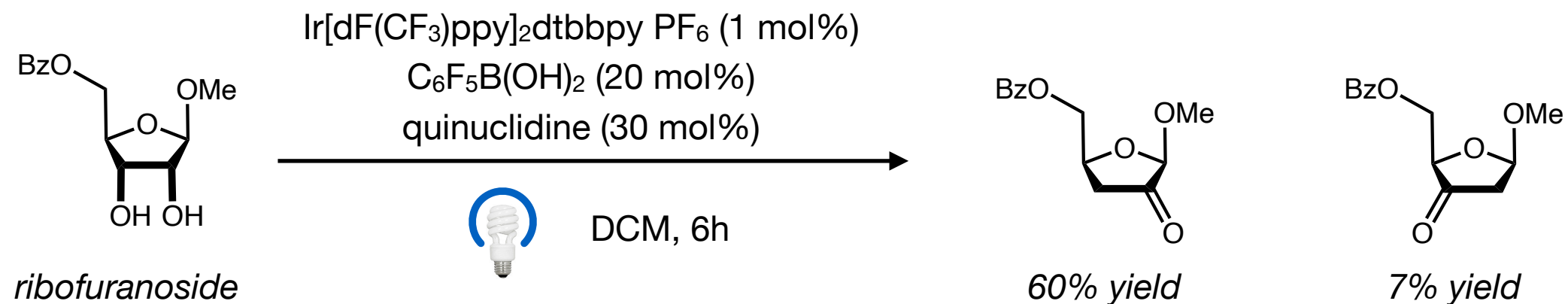
Variety of LGs are competent for transformation - ee is not affected



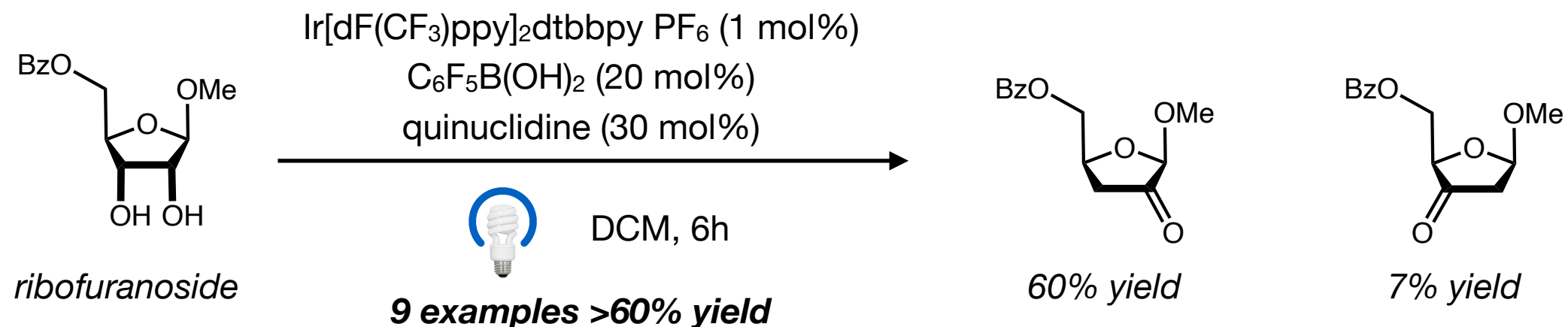
SCS is heavily utilized in biological systems...

What about synthetic methods on bio-relevant molecules?

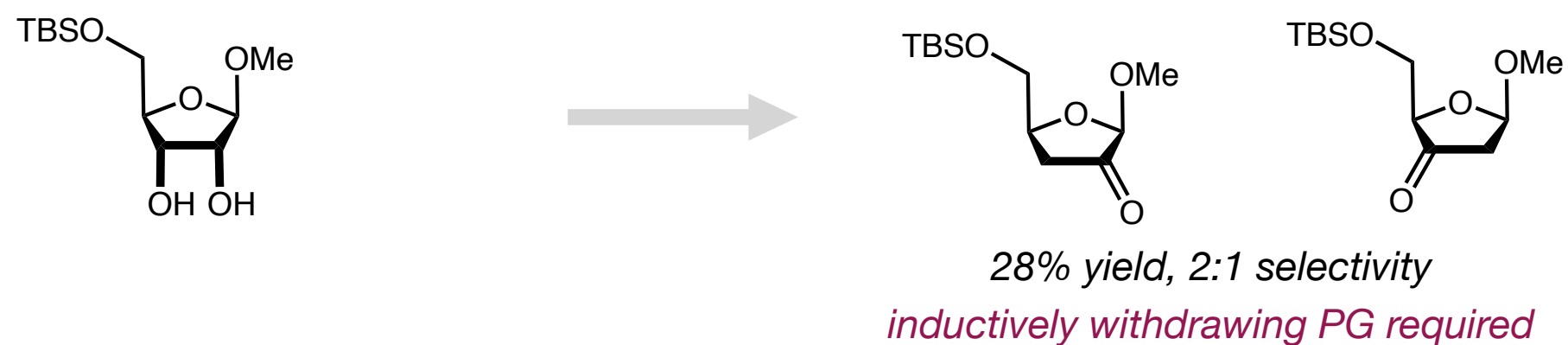
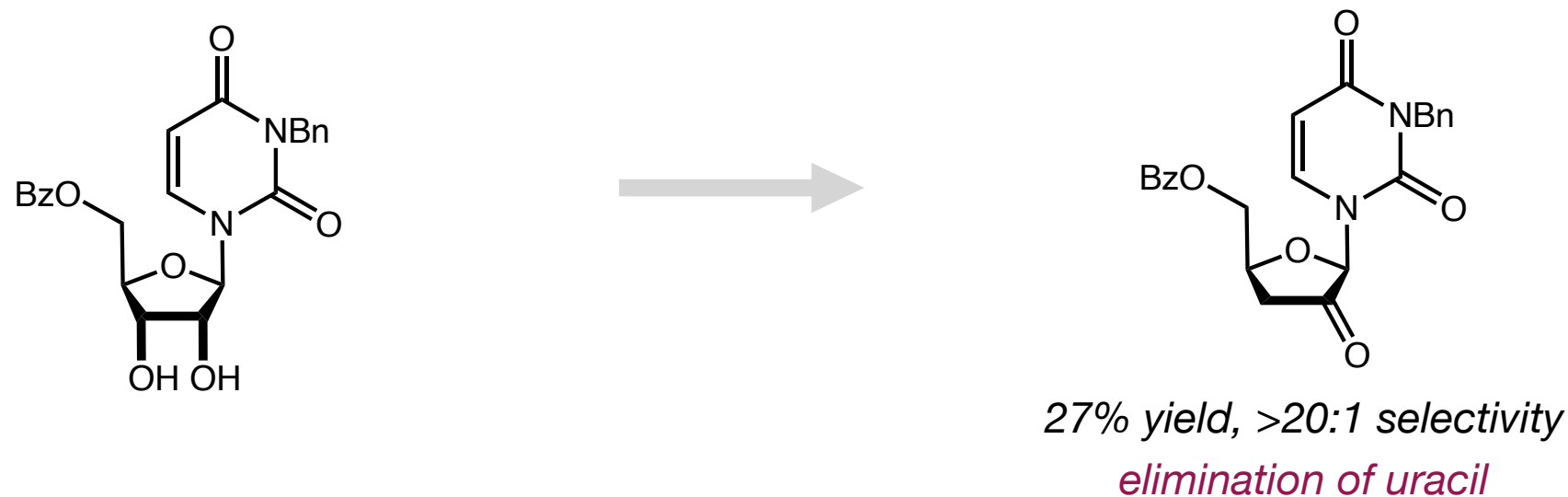
Deoxygenation of furanosides by photoredox catalysis



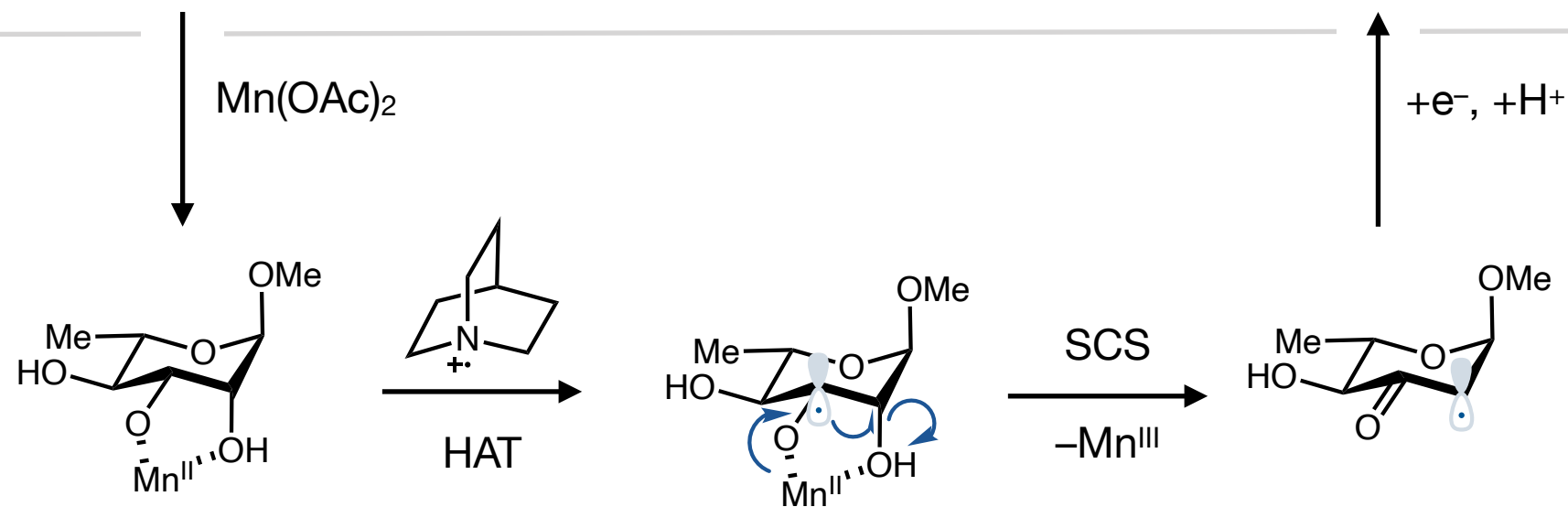
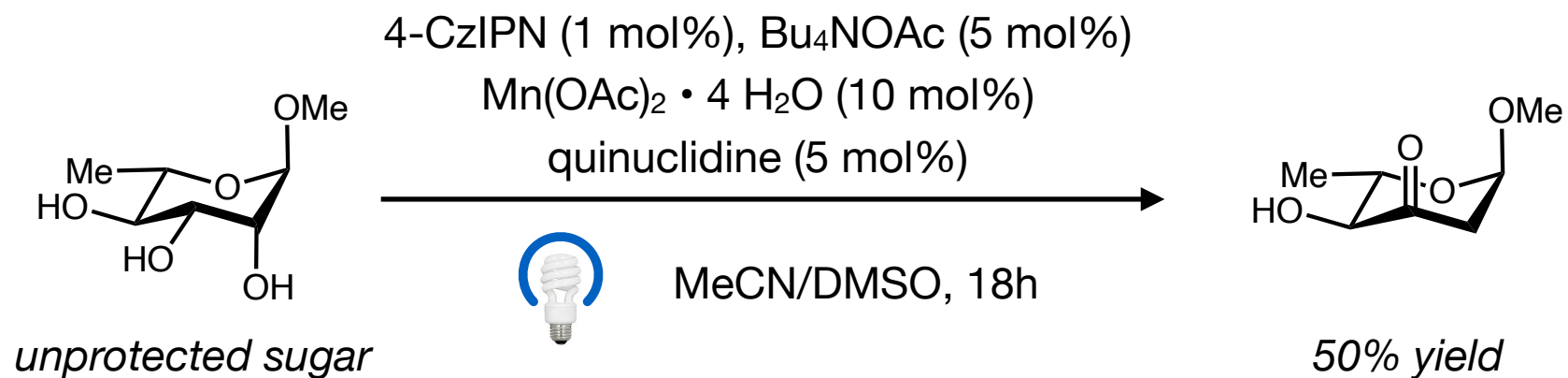
Deoxygenation of furanosides by photoredox catalysis



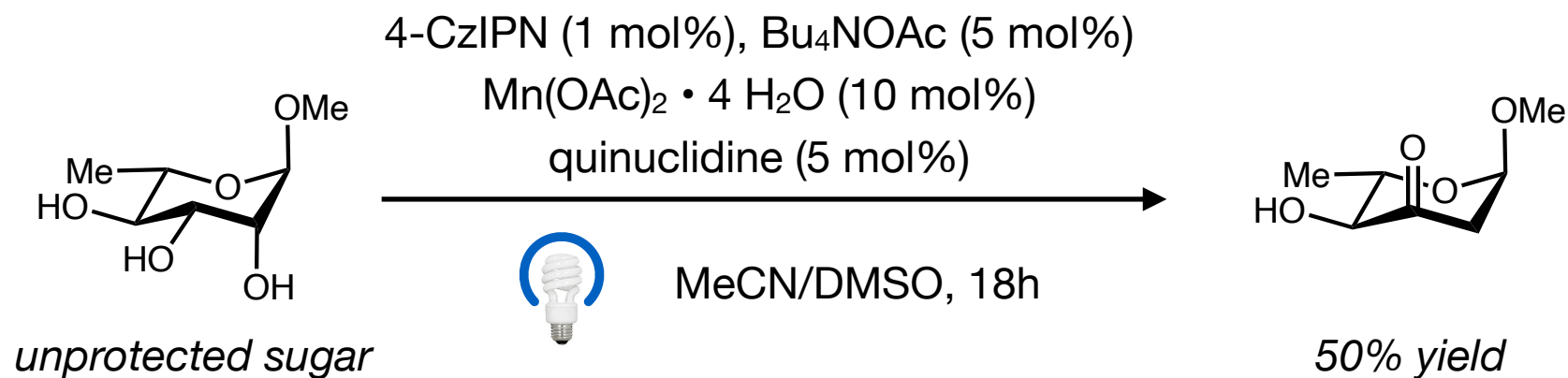
limitations



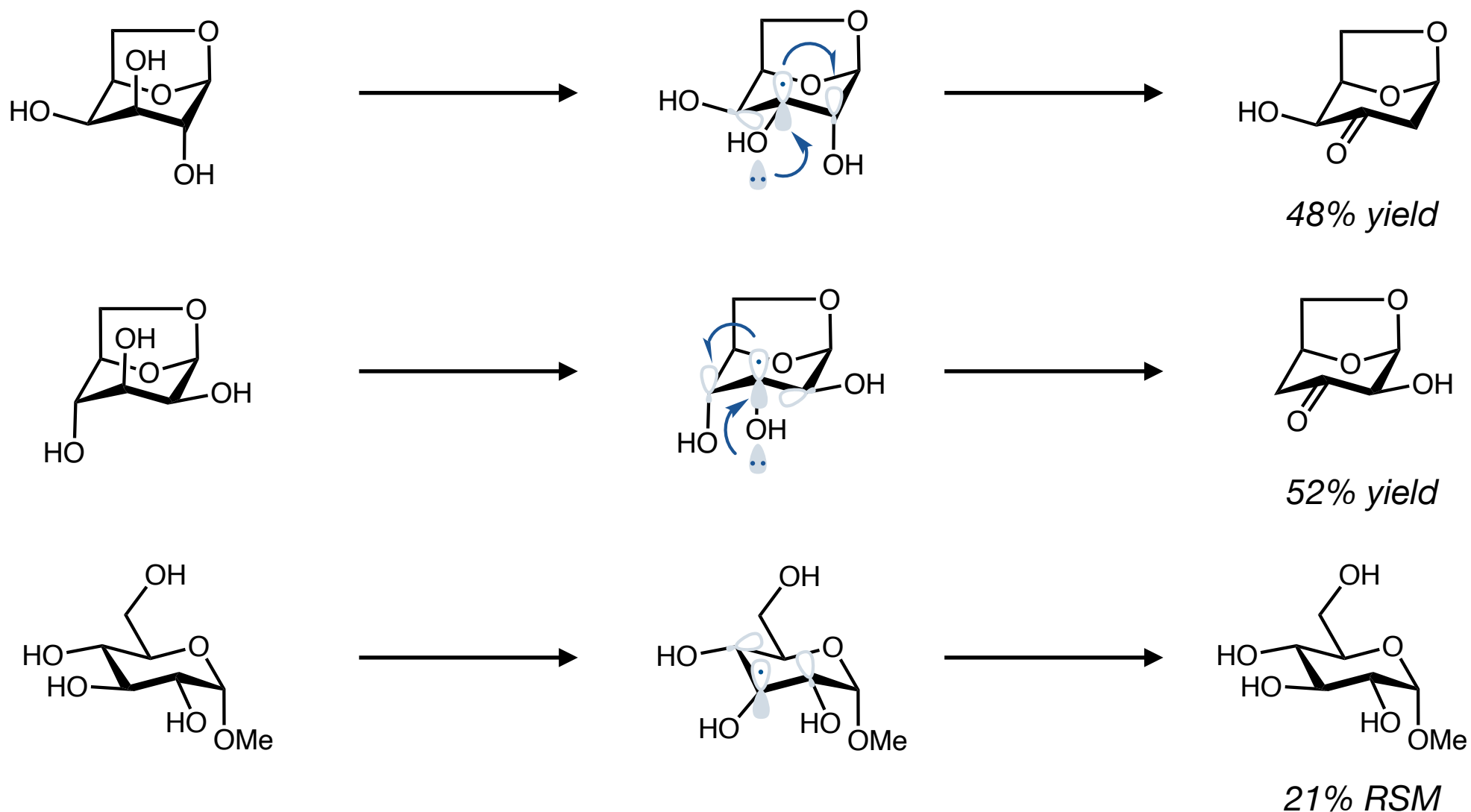
Deoxygenation of unprotected sugars by photoredox catalysis



Deoxygenation of unprotected sugars by photoredox catalysis

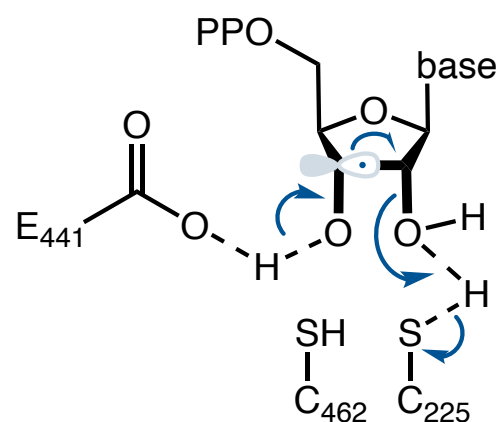


stereoelectronic effects

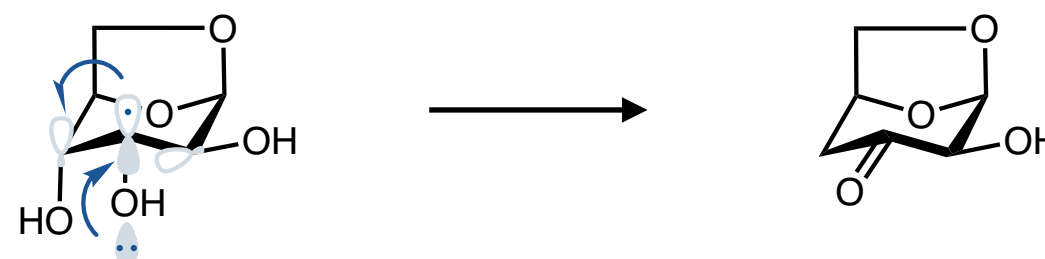


Outline

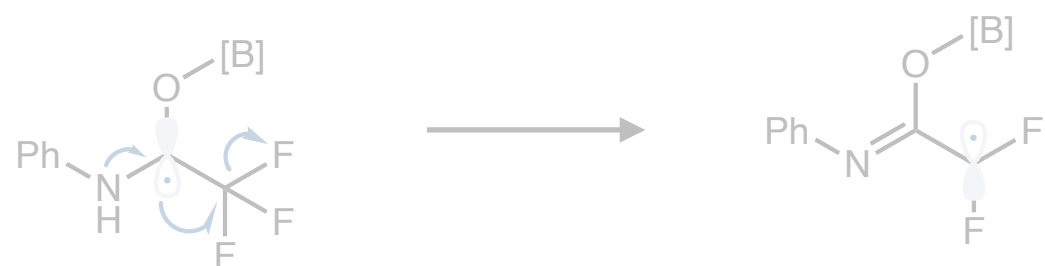
Biochemical and mechanistic background



C–O bond activation



C–F bond activation

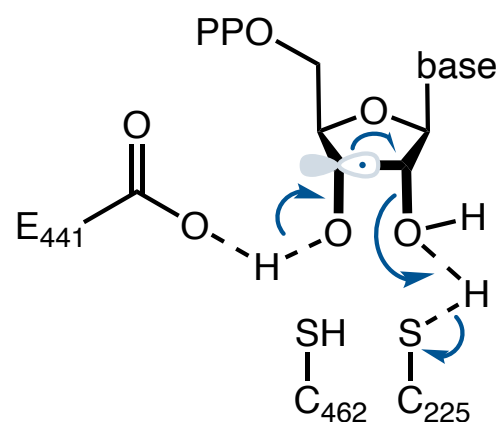


Miscellaneous SCS reactions

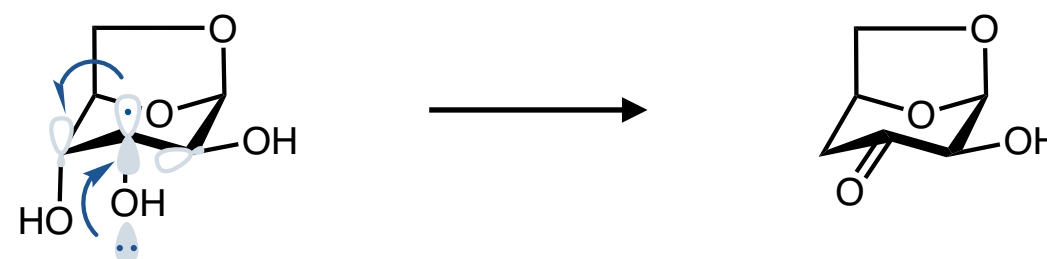


Outline

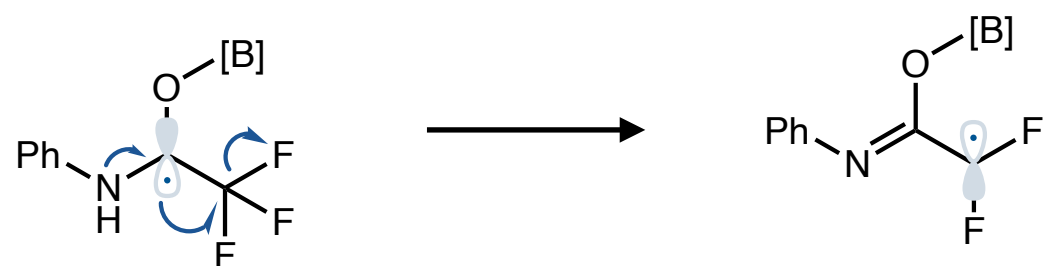
Biochemical and mechanistic background



C–O bond activation



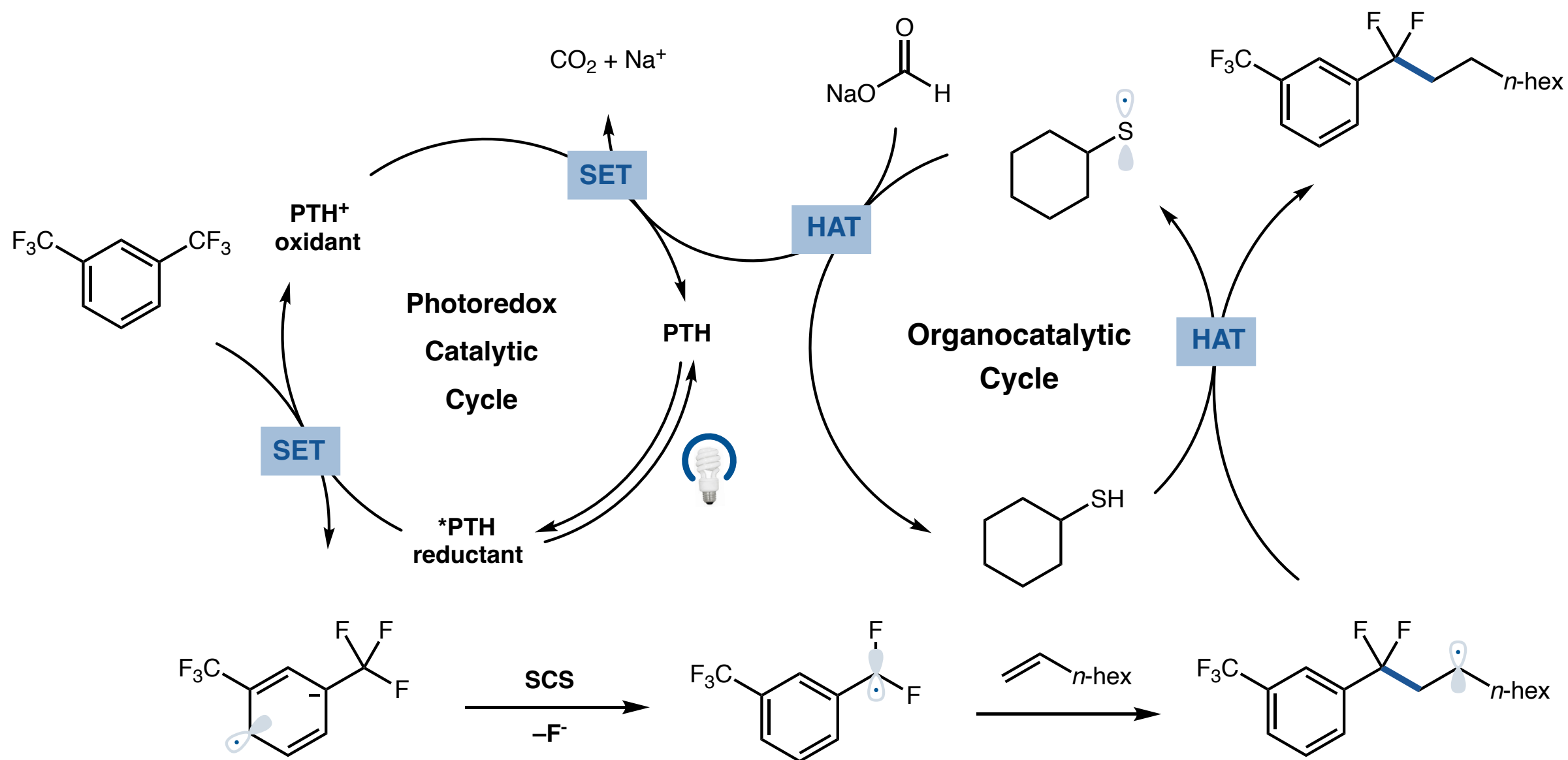
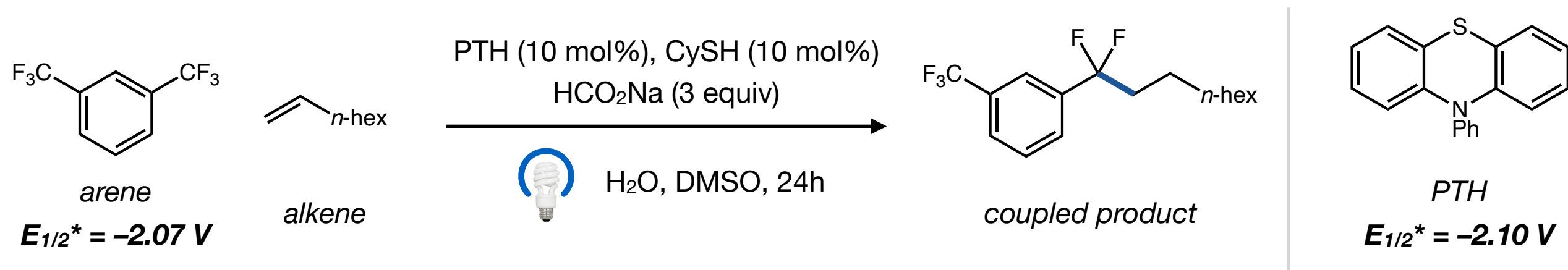
C–F bond activation



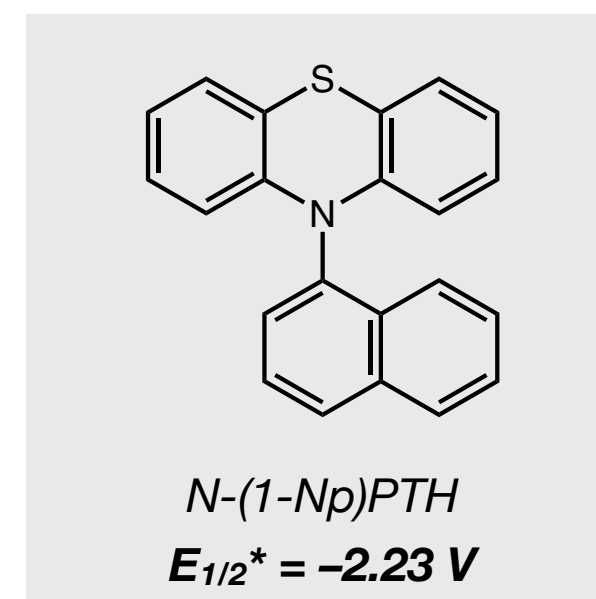
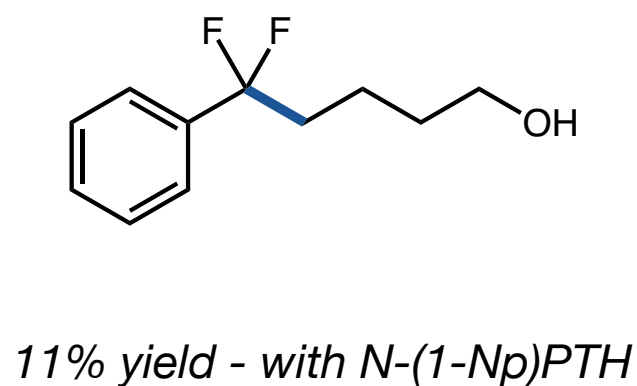
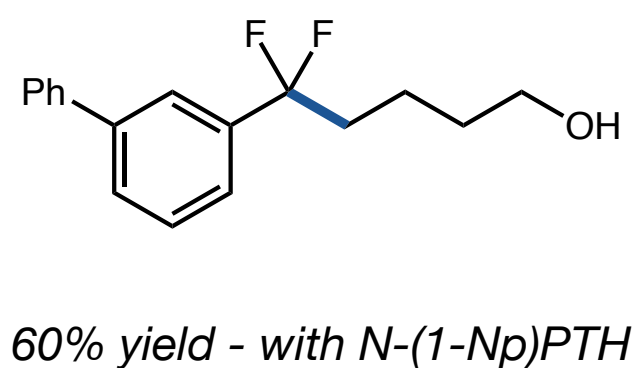
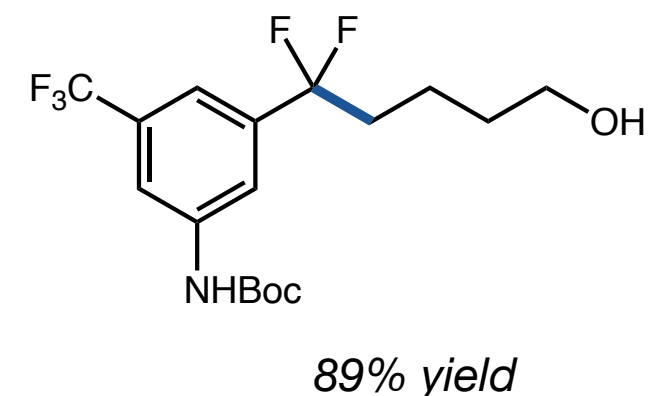
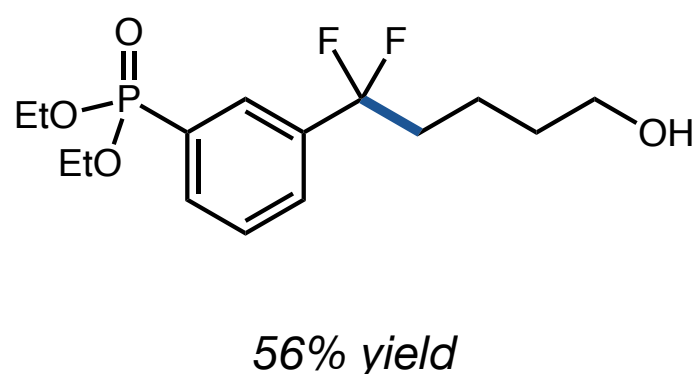
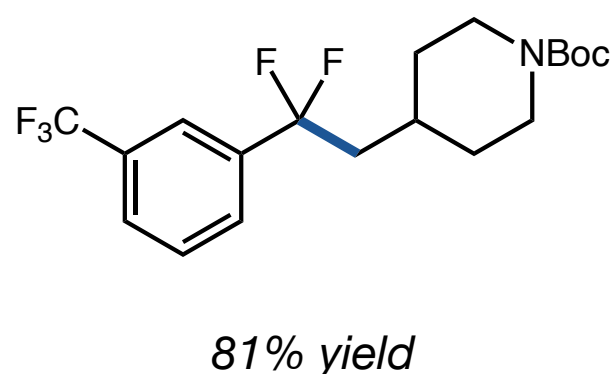
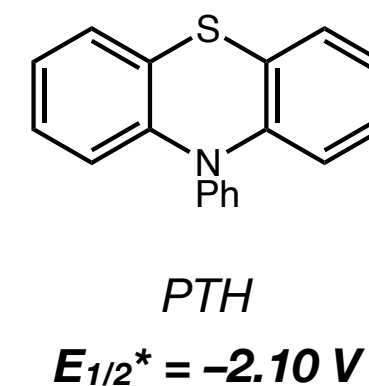
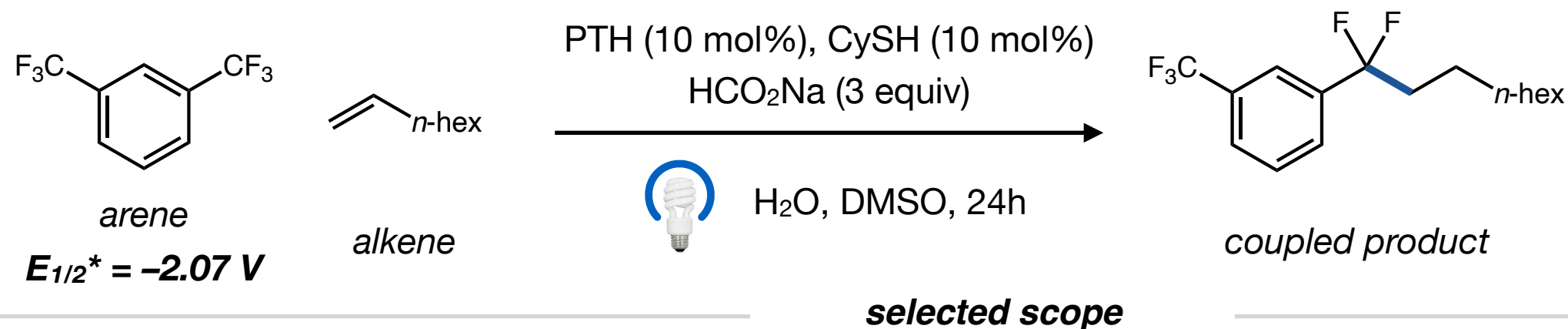
Miscellaneous SCS reactions



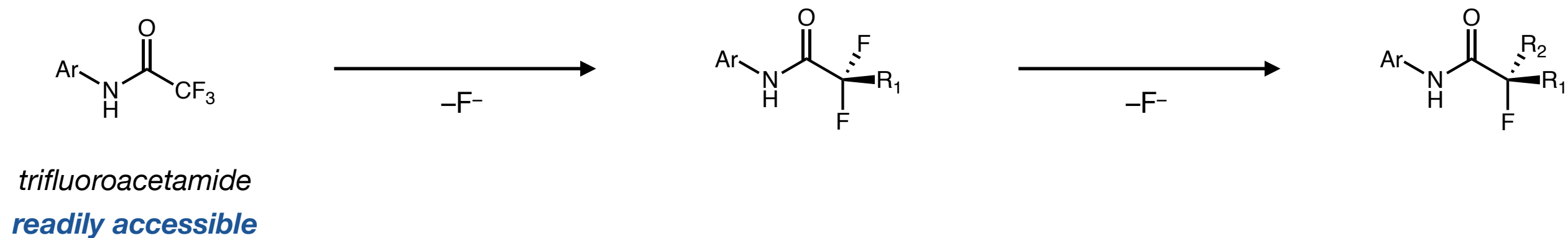
Defluorination of electron-deficient trifluoromethylarenes



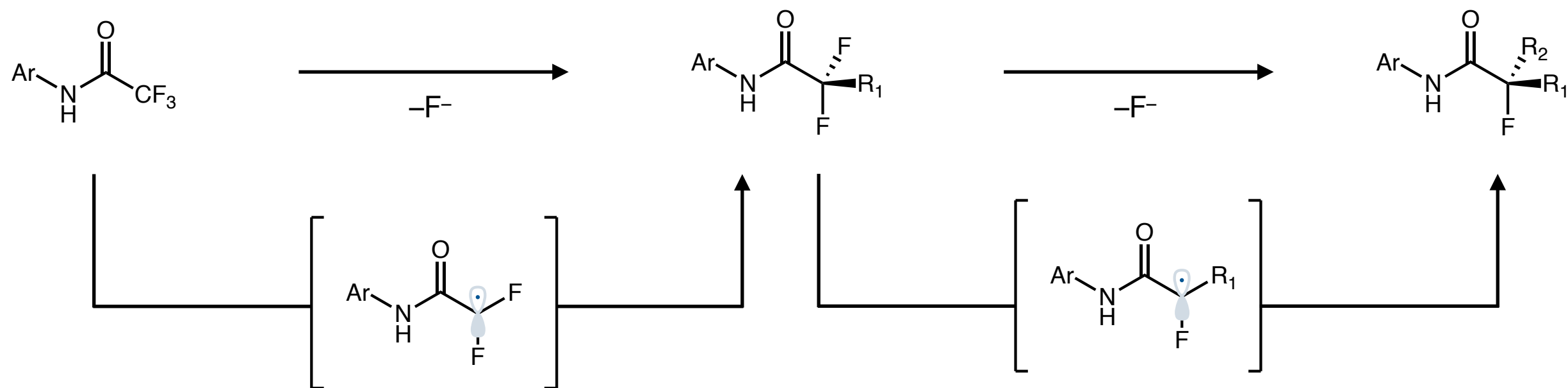
Defluorination of electron-deficient trifluoromethylarenes



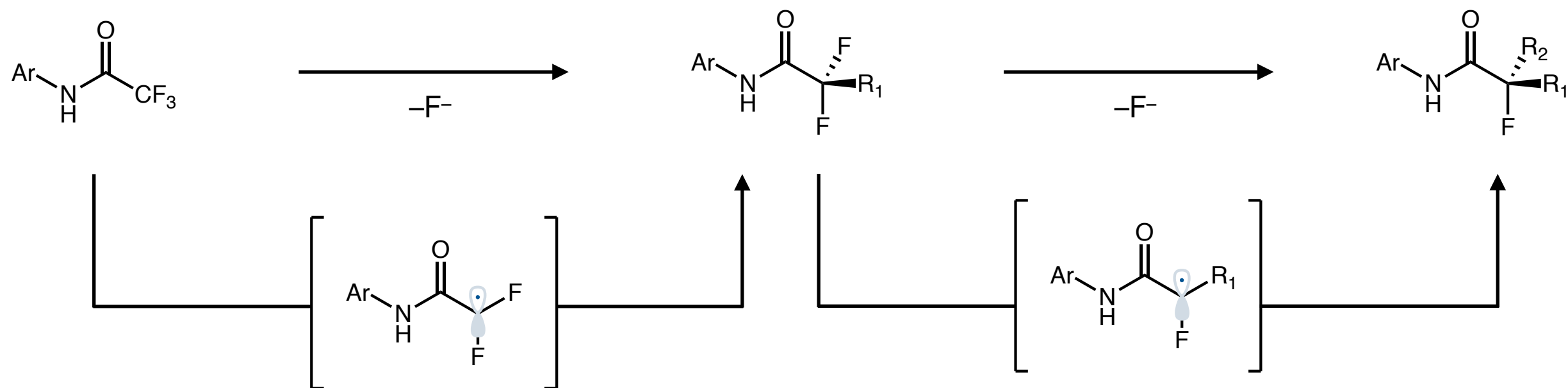
Sequential defluorination of trifluoroacetamides and acetates



Sequential defluorination of trifluoroacetamides and acetates



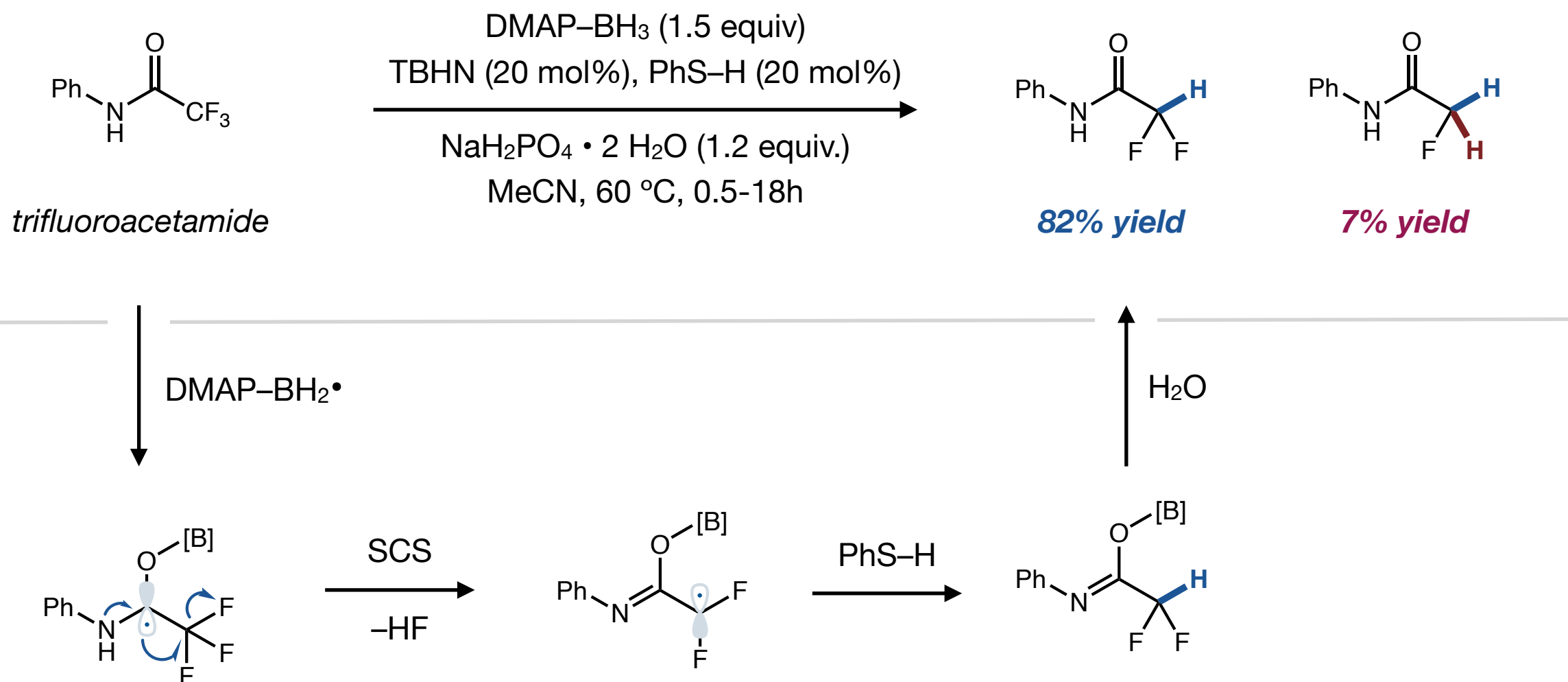
Sequential defluorination of trifluoroacetamides and acetates



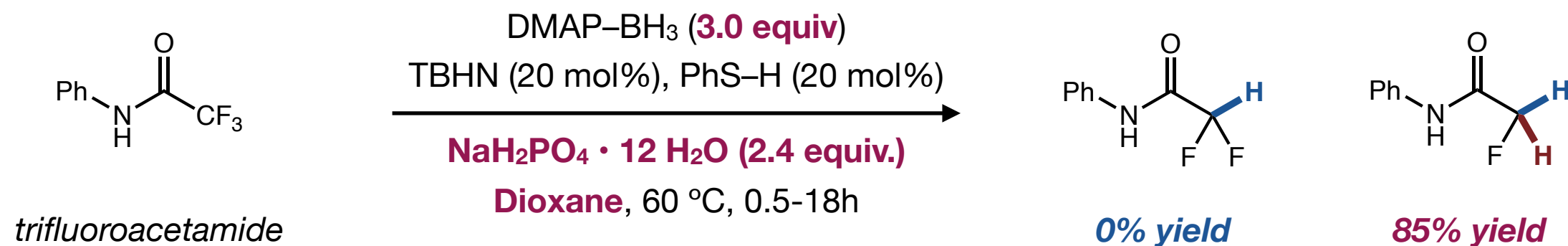
How can a selective and modular defluorination process be achieved?

How can overdefluorination be avoided?

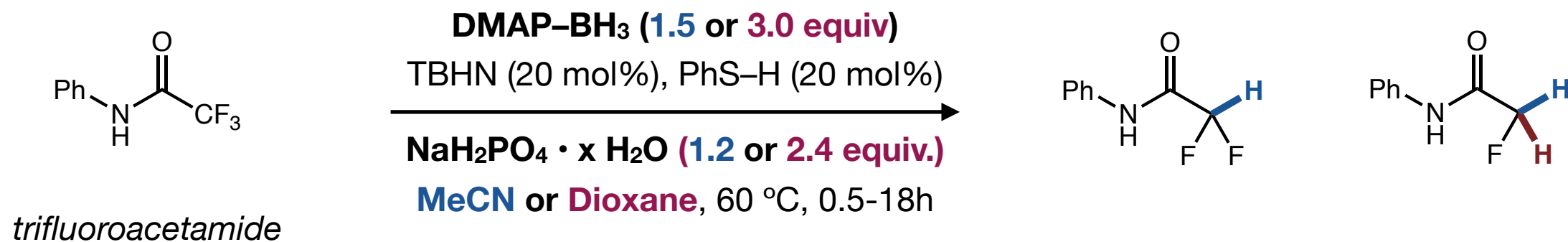
Sequential defluorination of trifluoroacetamides and acetates



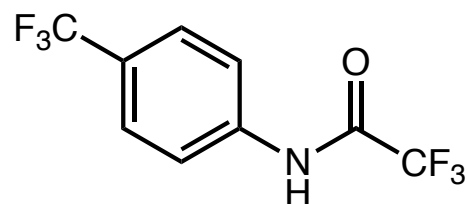
Sequential defluorination of trifluoroacetamides and acetates



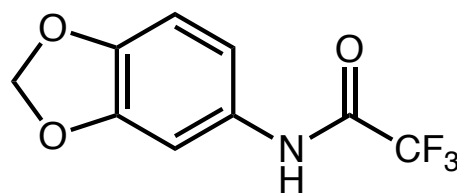
Sequential defluorination of trifluoroacetamides and acetates



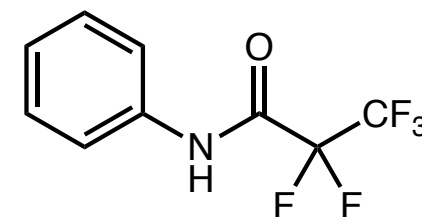
selected scope



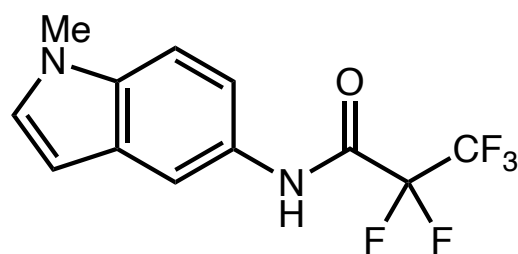
58% CF₂H, 73% CFH₂



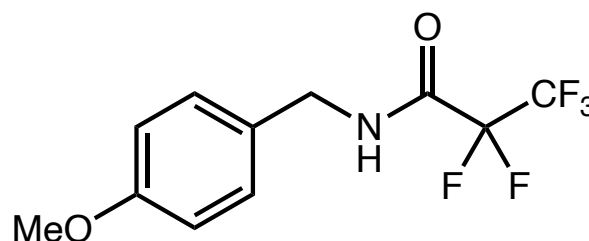
76% CF₂H, 84% CFH₂



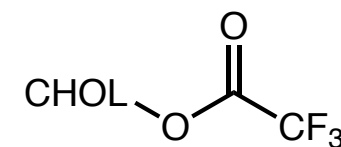
92% CF₂H, 94% CFH₂



84% CF₂H, 55% CFH₂

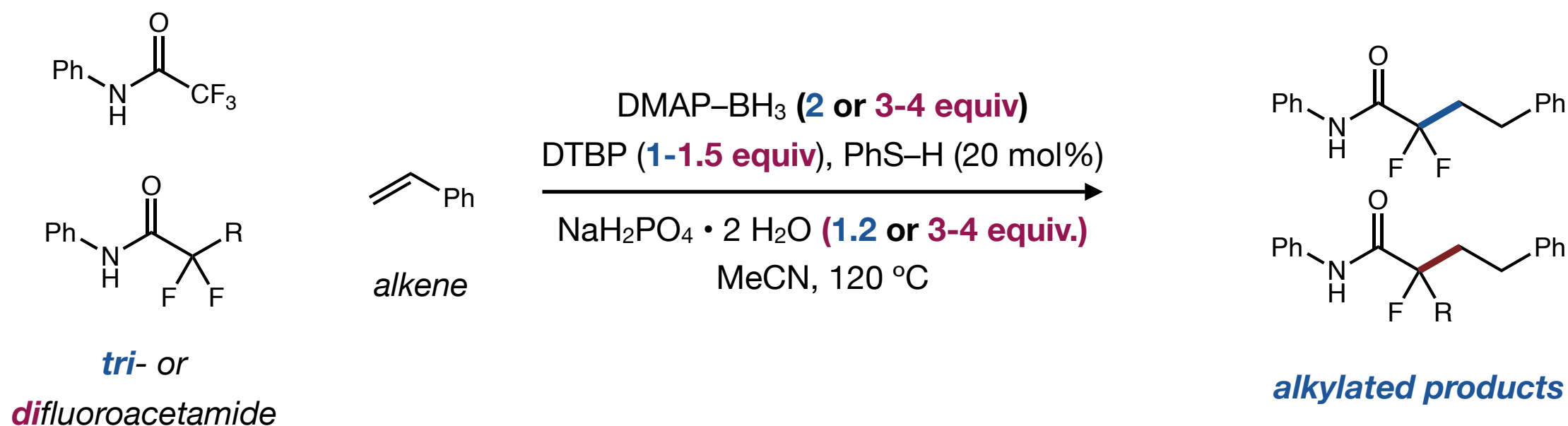


44% CF₂H, trace CFH₂

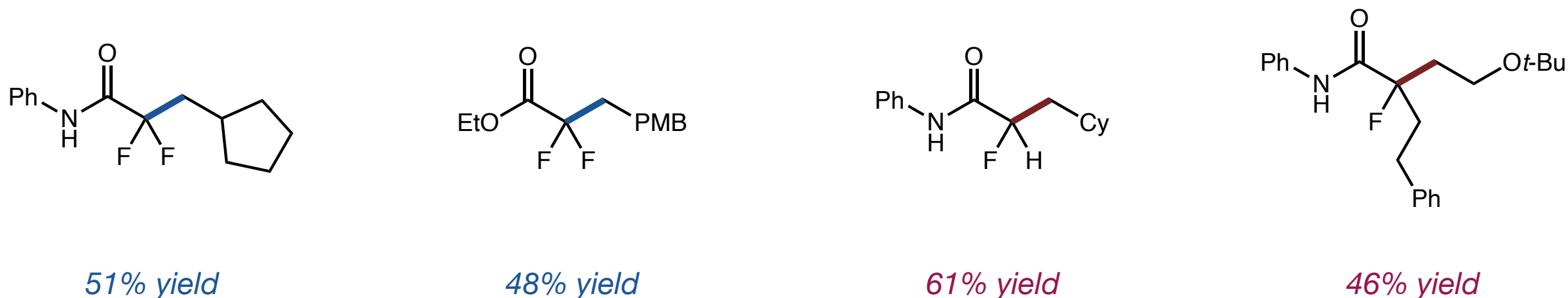


56% CF₂H, trace CFH₂

Sequential defluorination of trifluoroacetamides and acetates

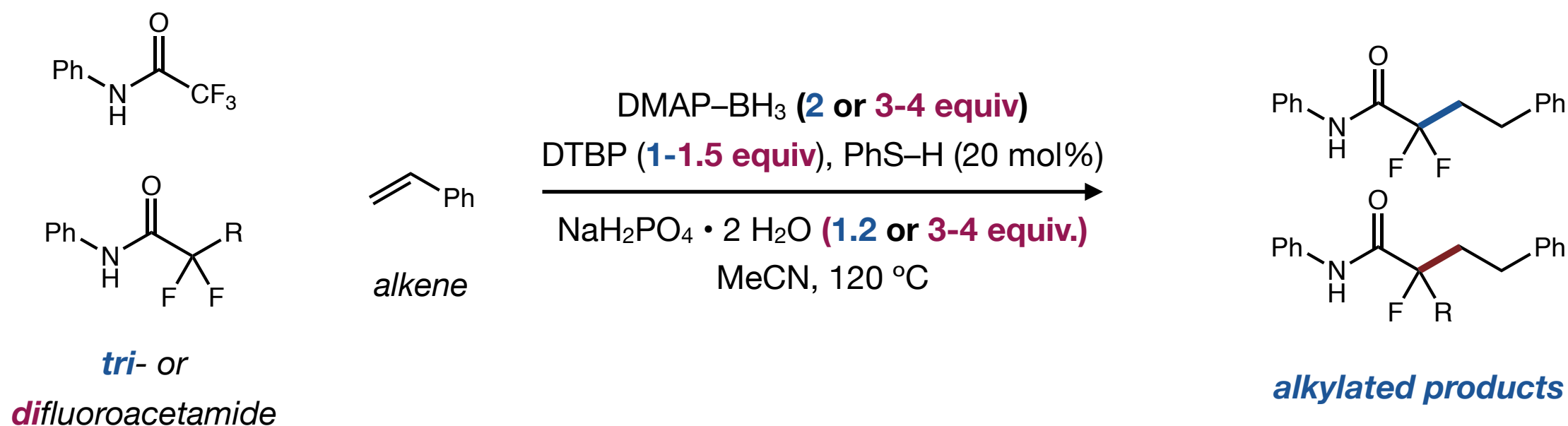


selected scope



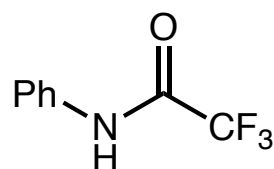
What enables the selective and sequential defluorination process?

Sequential defluorination of trifluoroacetamides and acetates



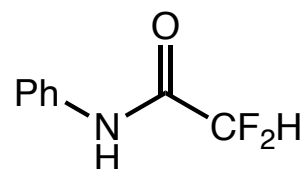
C-F BDE (ease of SCS)

119.5 kcal/mol



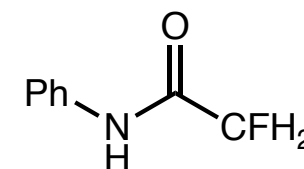
4.03 eV

108.6 kcal/mol



4.14 eV

106.3 kcal/mol



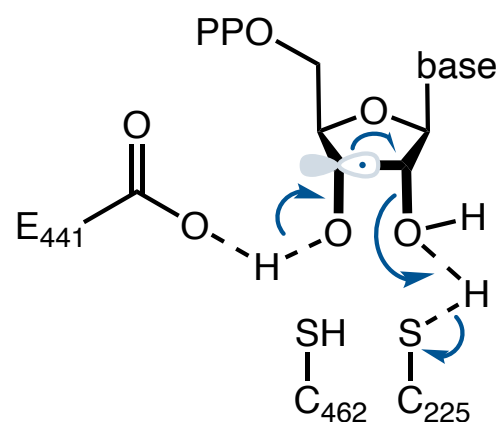
4.45 eV

SOMO/LUMO gap (ease of DMAP-BH₂• addition)

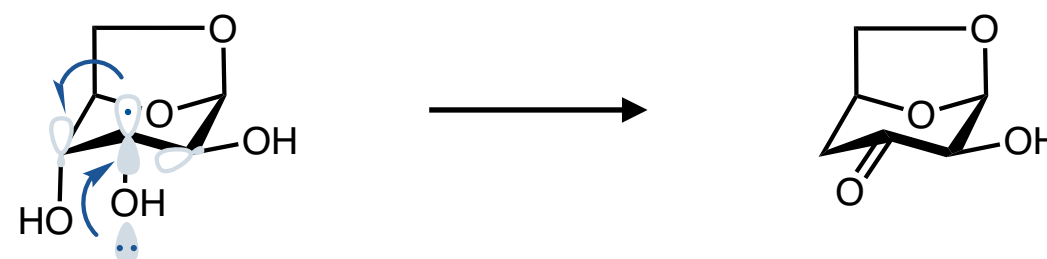
Inductive withdrawal by F atoms lowers the carbonyl LUMO

Outline

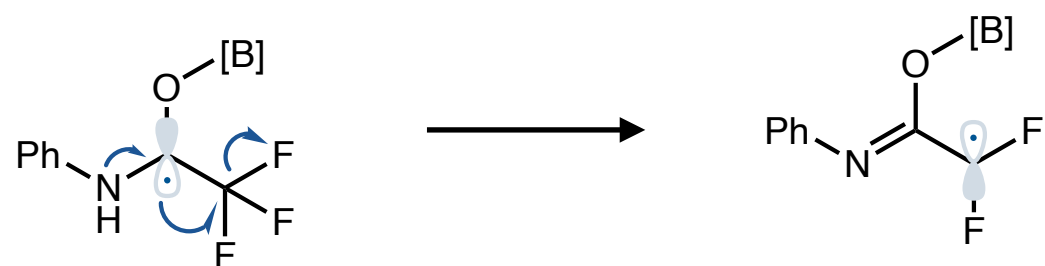
Biochemical and mechanistic background



C-O bond activation



C-F bond activation

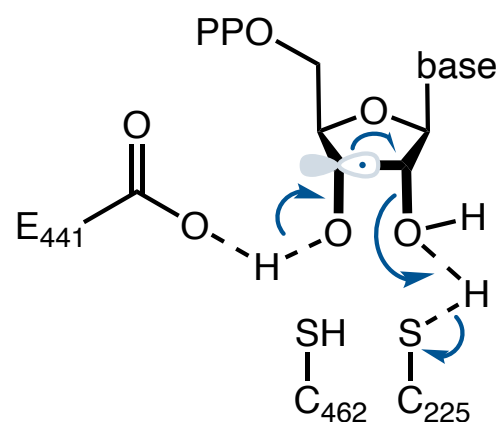


Miscellaneous SCS reactions

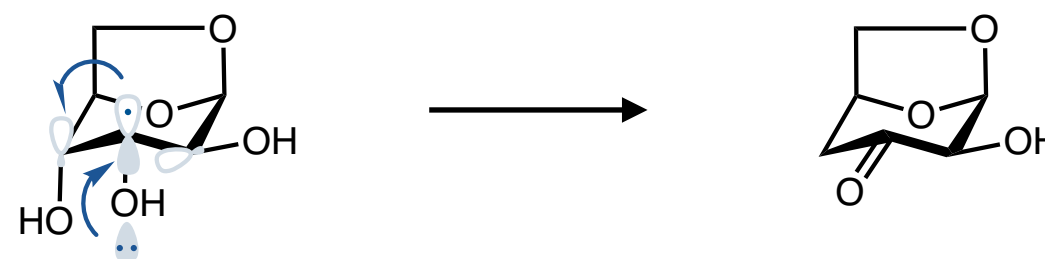


Outline

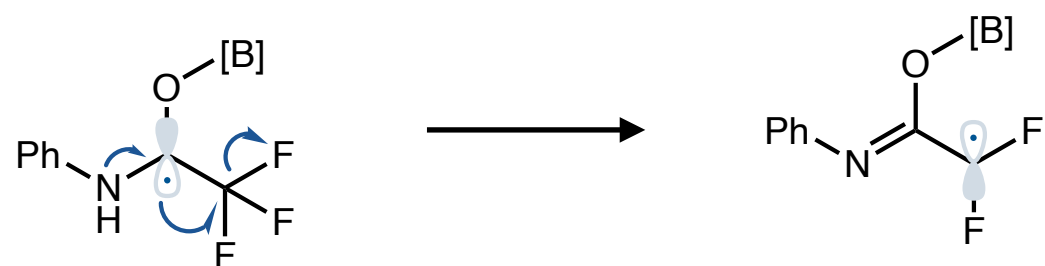
Biochemical and mechanistic background



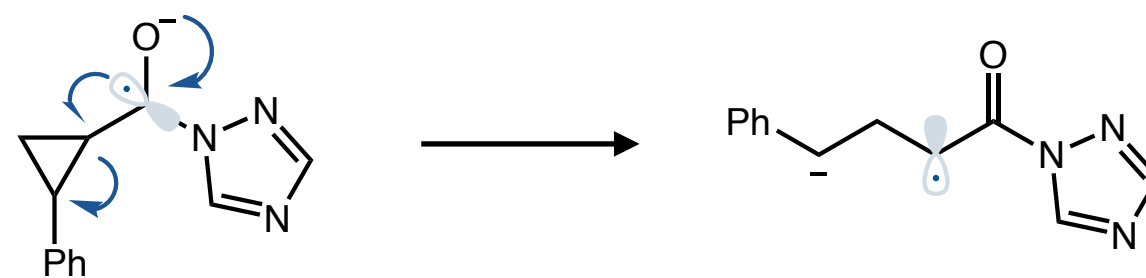
C–O bond activation



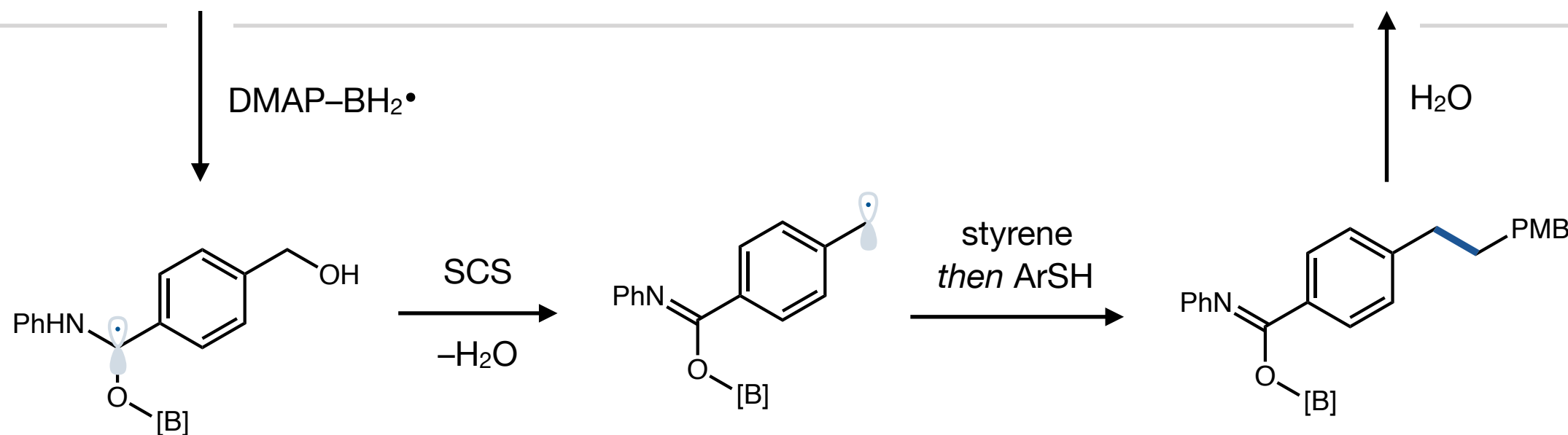
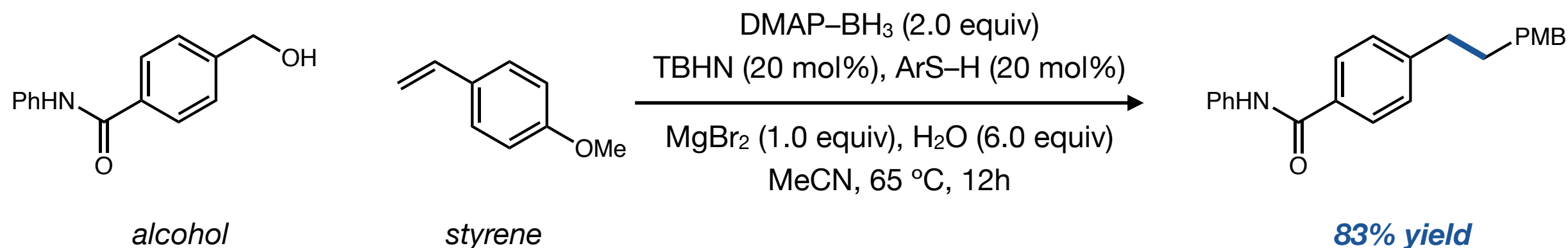
C–F bond activation



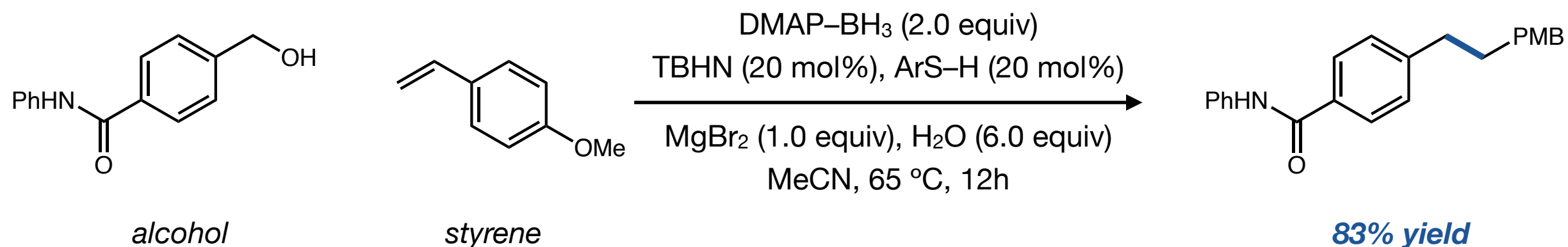
Miscellaneous SCS reactions



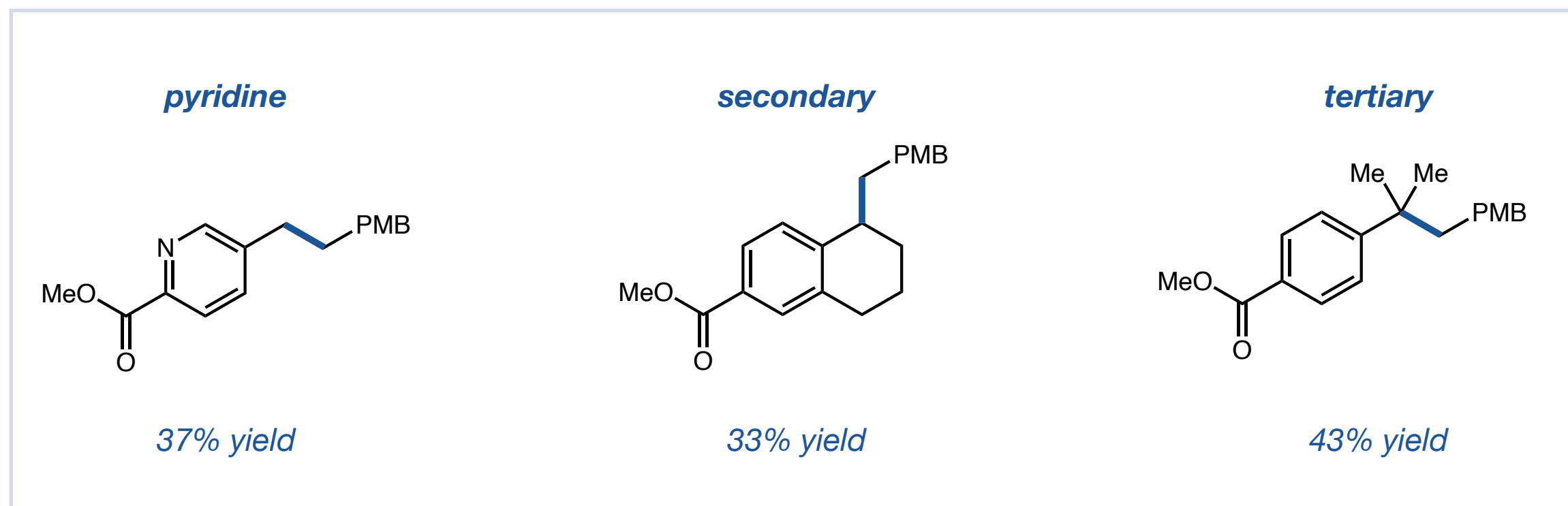
Remote SCS enabled benzylic deoxygenation and deamination



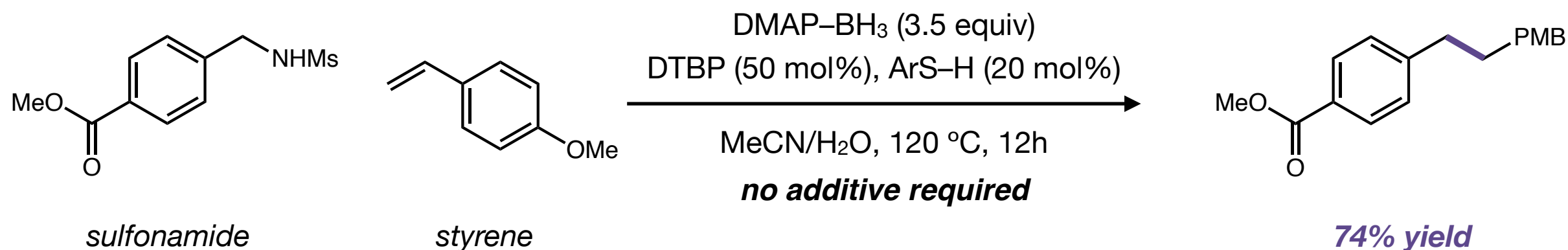
Remote SCS enabled benzylic deoxygenation and deamination



selected scope

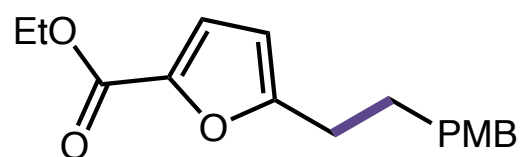


Remote SCS enabled benzylic deoxygenation and deamination



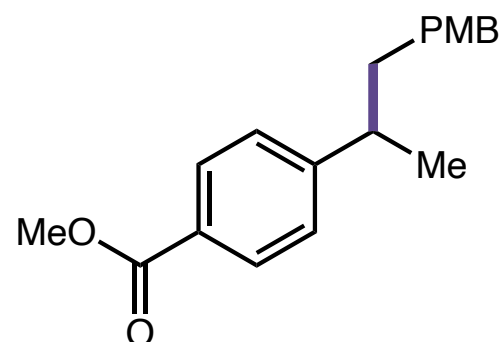
selected scope

furan



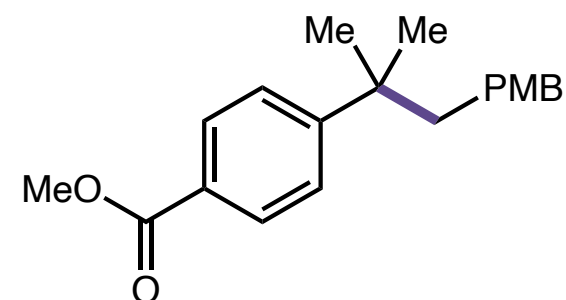
60% yield

secondary



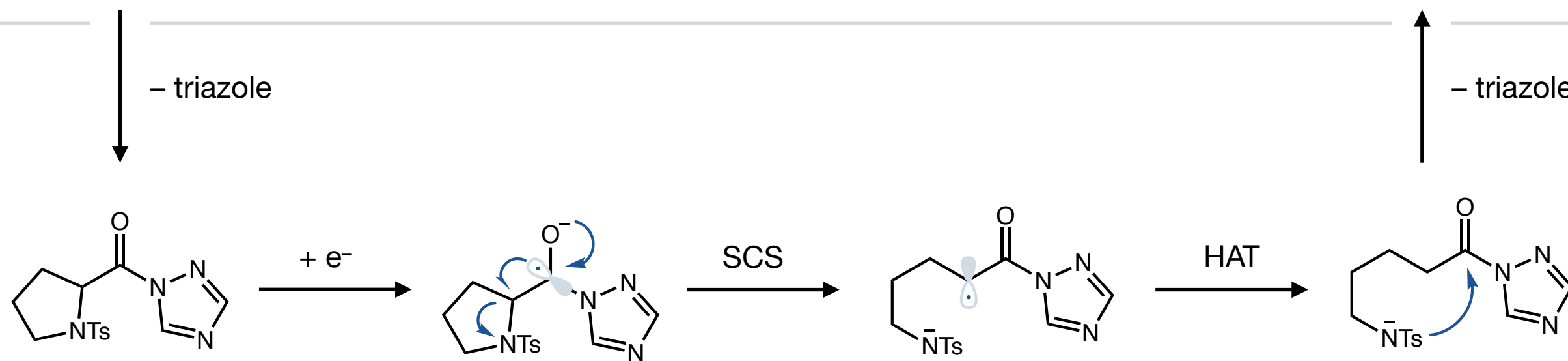
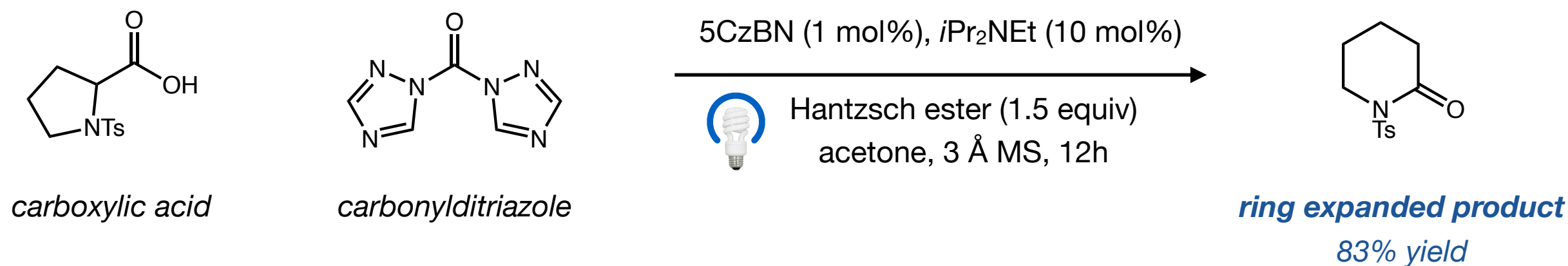
69% yield

tertiary

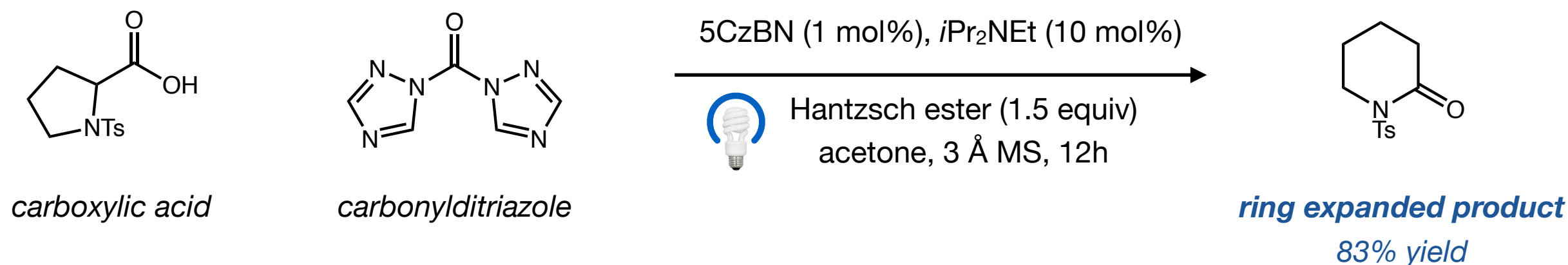


36% yield

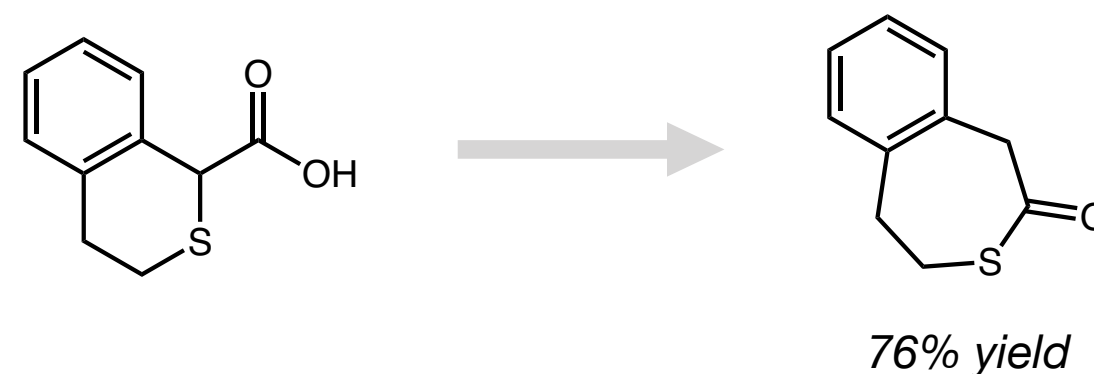
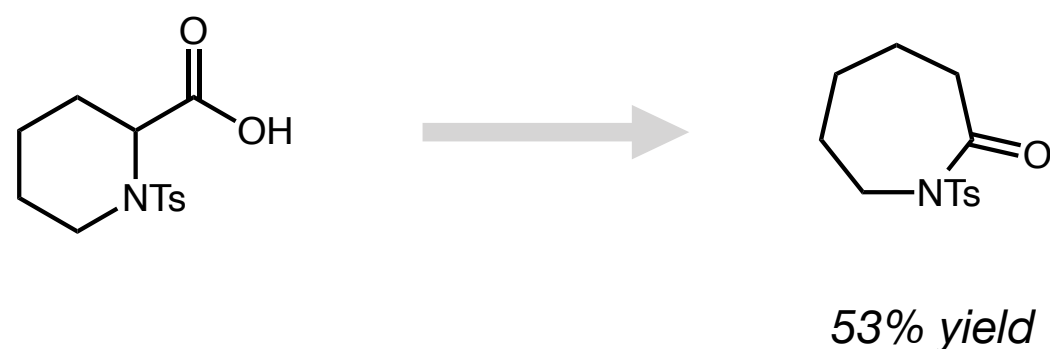
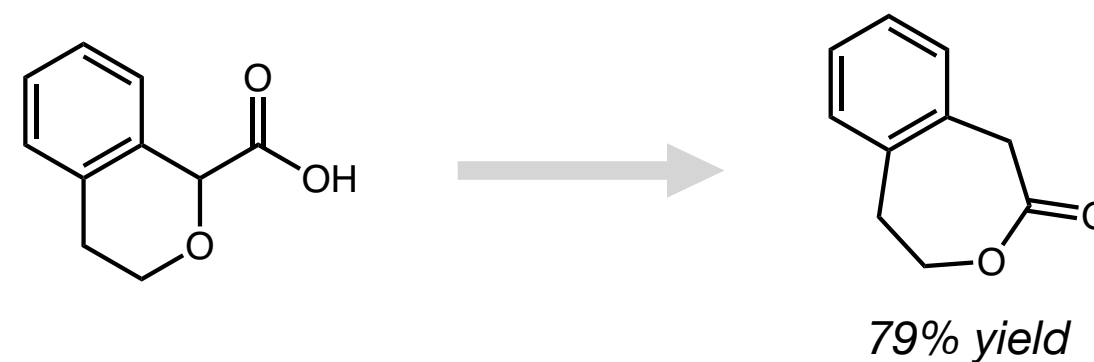
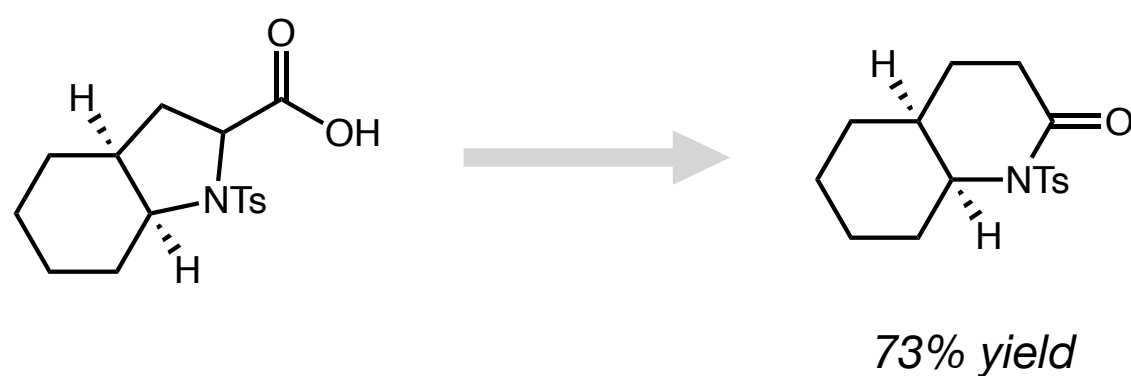
SCS-enabled ring expansion of cyclic carboxylic acids



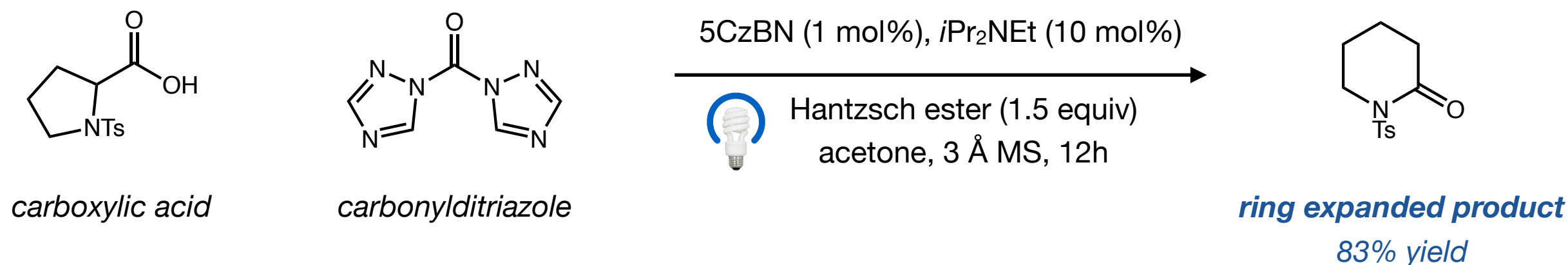
SCS-enabled ring expansion of cyclic carboxylic acids



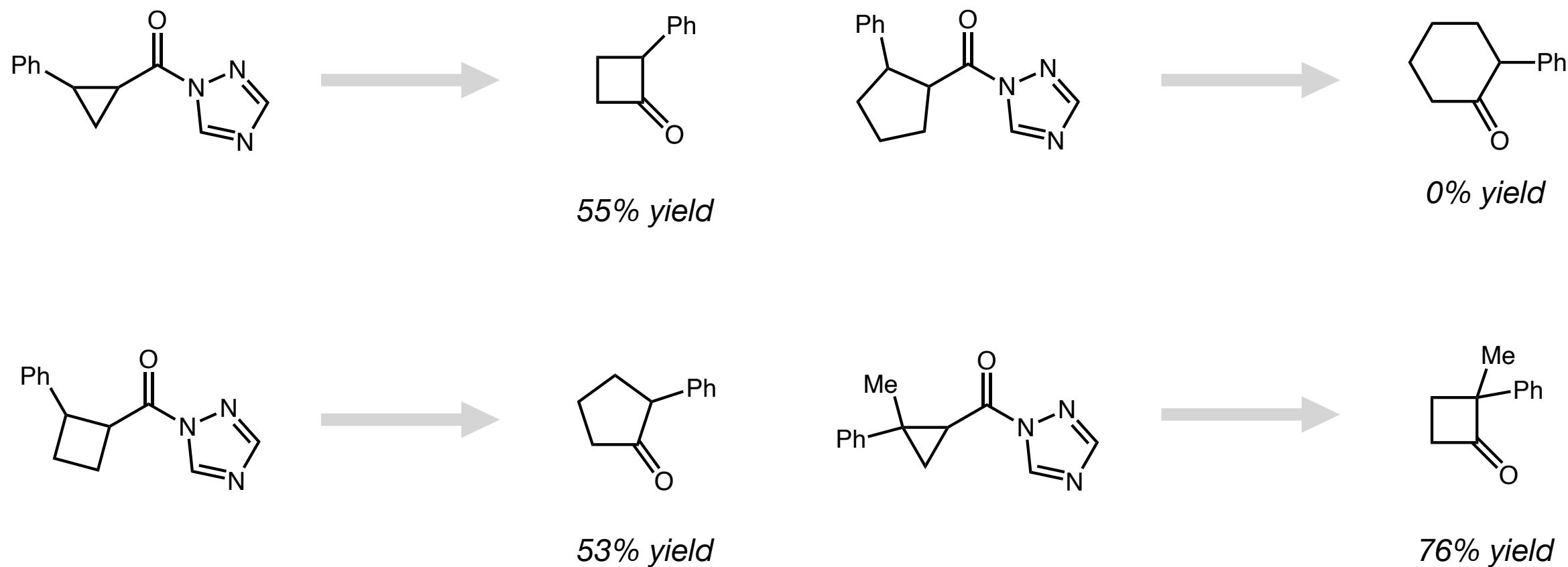
heteroatom leaving groups



SCS-enabled ring expansion of cyclic carboxylic acids

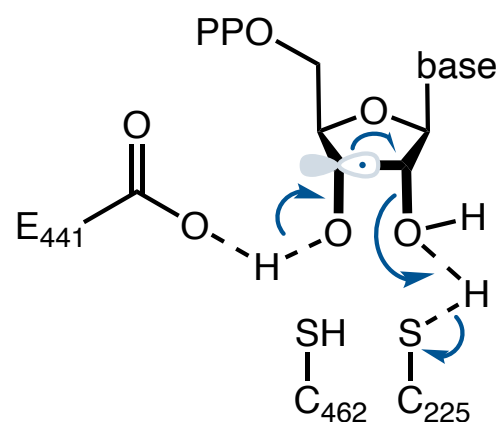


carbon leaving groups

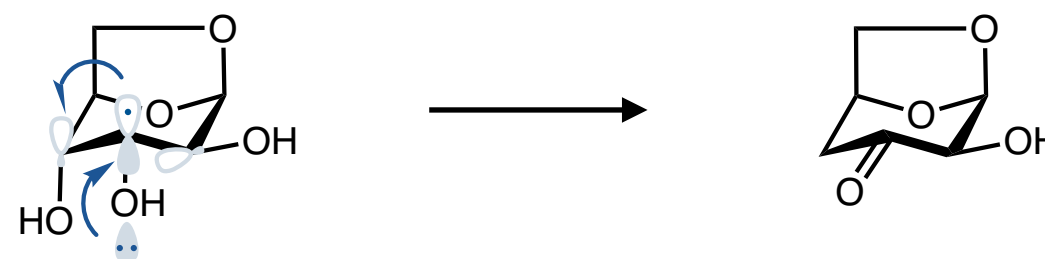


Outline

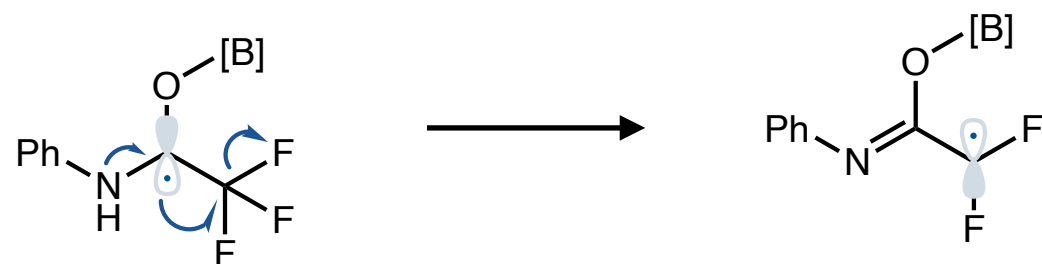
Biochemical and mechanistic background



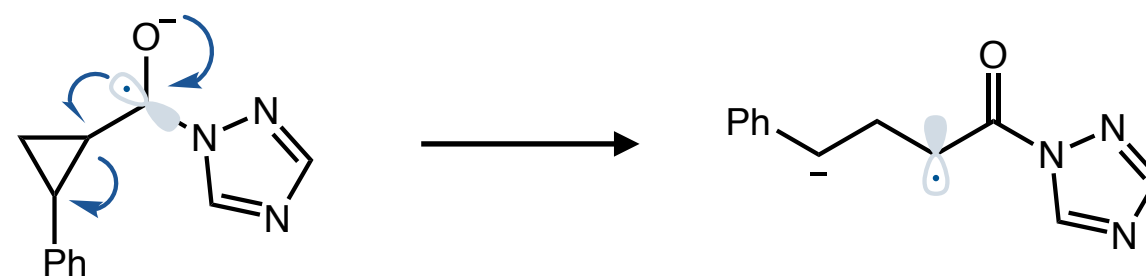
C–O bond activation



C–F bond activation



Miscellaneous SCS reactions



Questions?

