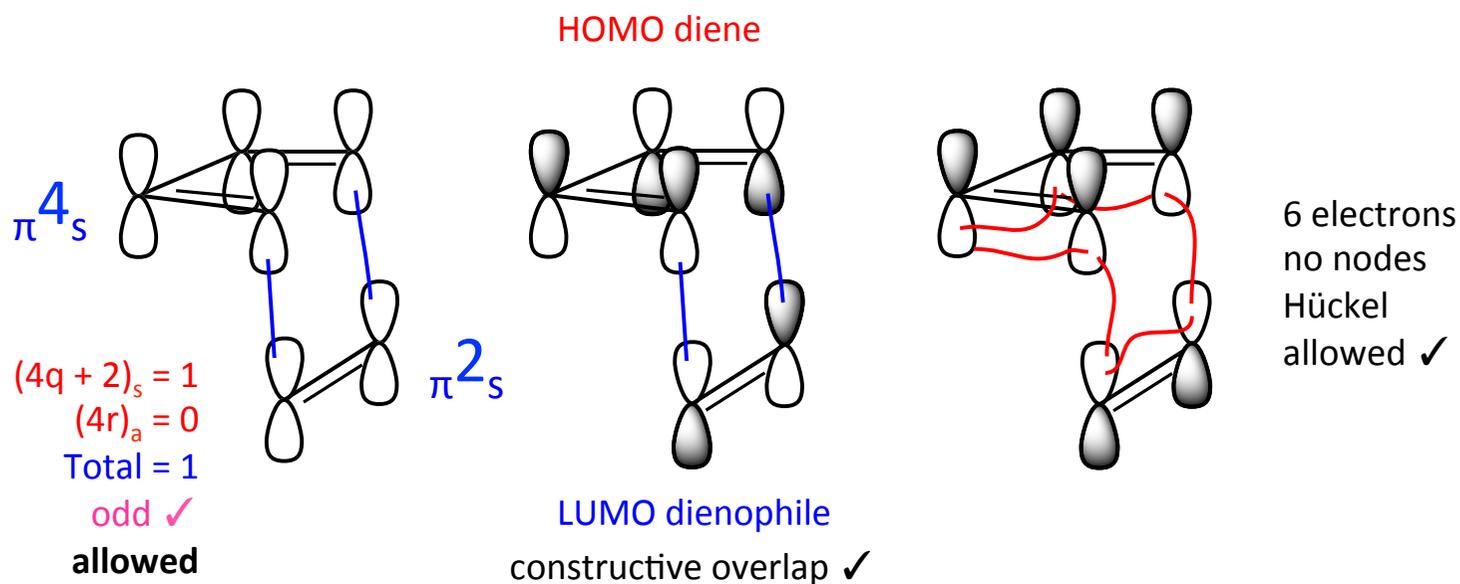
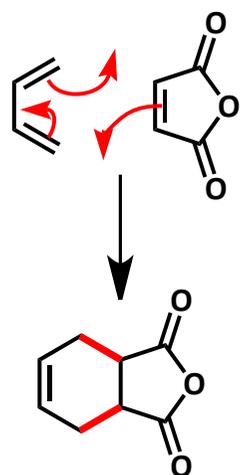


# Pericyclic Reactions

## 6 Lectures, Year 3, Michaelmas 2016

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<http://burton.chem.ox.ac.uk/teaching.html>

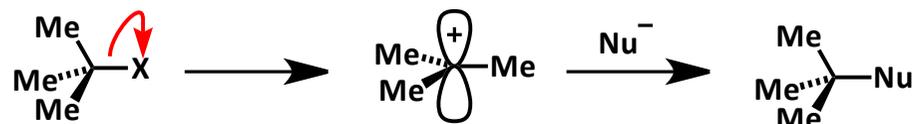
- *Pericyclic Reactions*, Oxford Chemistry Primer no. 67; Ian Fleming
- *Organic Chemistry* Jonathan Clayden, Nick Greeves, Stuart Warren, Peter Wothers
- *Advanced Organic Chemistry: Reactions, Mechanisms and Structures*; Jerry March
- *Frontier Orbitals and Organic Chemical Reactions*; Ian Fleming
- *Molecular Orbitals & Organic Chemical Reactions*; Ian Fleming
- *Modern Physical Organic Chemistry*; Eric Anslyn and Dennis Docherty

## Synopsis

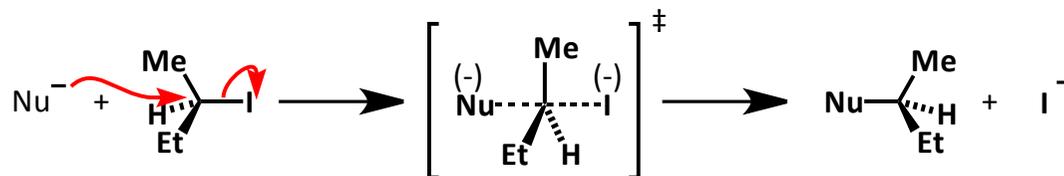
- The nature of pericyclic reactions
- Examples of pericyclic reactions
- Drawing molecular orbitals
- Correlation diagrams
- The Woodward-Hoffmann rule
- Frontier Molecular Orbitals
- Möbius-Hückel Method
- Cycloadditions
- Electrocyclic reactions
- Sigmatropic rearrangements
- Group transfer reactions

## The nature of pericyclic reactions

- Ionic reactions – may or may not have an intermediate



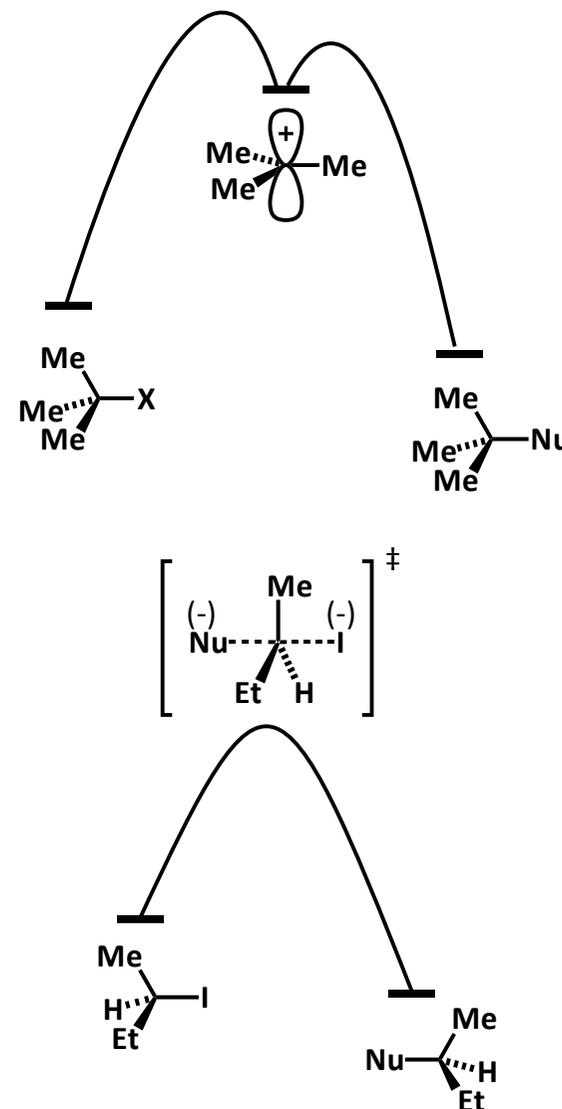
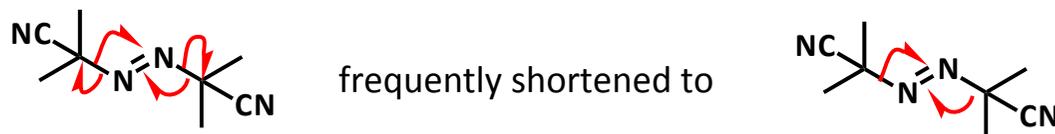
- $S_N1$  reactions are stepwise and have a defined intermediate



- $S_N2$  reactions are *concerted* and have no intermediate

■ In ionic reactions the curly arrows identify where the electrons have come from and where they are going and which bonds have been made and which broken.

- Radical reactions involve the correlated movement of single electrons



## Pericyclic Reactions

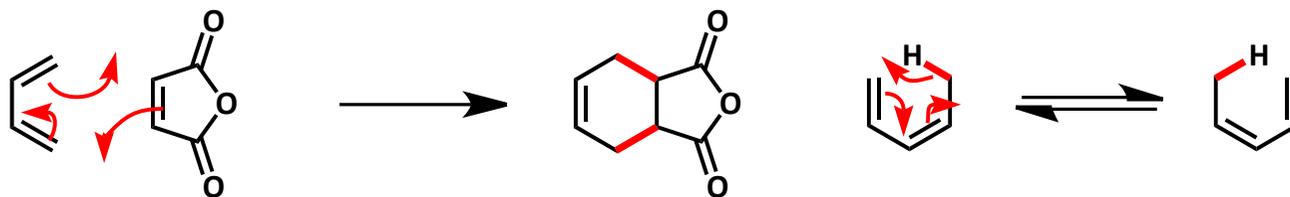
- Third distinct class of reactions

Pericyclic reactions – Reactions in which all first-order changes in bonding relationships take place in concert on a closed curve. *R. B. Woodward and R. Hoffmann 1969.*

i.e. the reactions have cyclic transition states in which all bond-forming and bond-breaking take place in a concerted manner without the formation of an intermediate.

- Pericyclic reactions involve a transition state with a cyclic array of interacting orbitals; a reorganisation of  $\sigma$  and  $\pi$ -bonds occurs within this cyclic array.

- Originally termed ‘no mechanism reactions’ – they could not be explained by standard nucleophile/electrophile mechanisms.



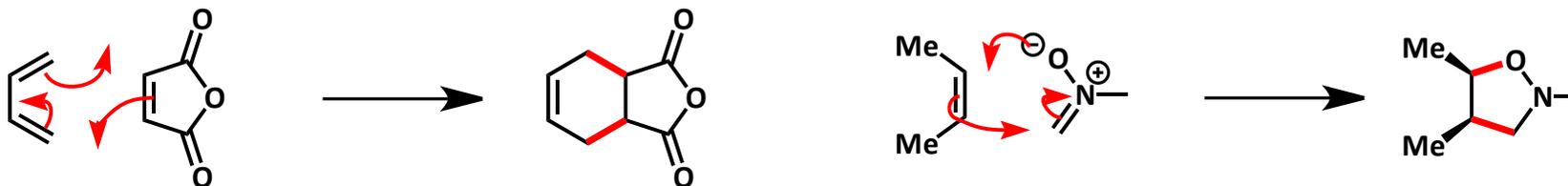
- No absolute sense in which the electrons flow from one component to another; however, sometimes it is more sensible to push the arrows in only one direction.

- Here curly arrows are used to show which bonds are being made/broken rather than the direction of flow of electrons.

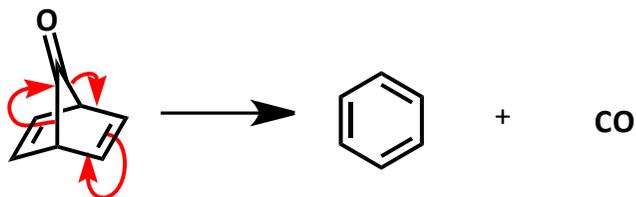


Pericyclic Reactions – four classes.

■ Cycloadditions - **Two components** come together to form two new  $\sigma$ -bonds at the ends of both components and joining them together to form a **ring**.



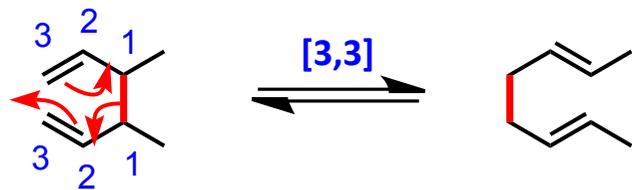
■ Cheletropic reactions are a sub-class of cycloaddition reactions in which the **two  $\sigma$  – bonds** are made or broken to the **same atom**.



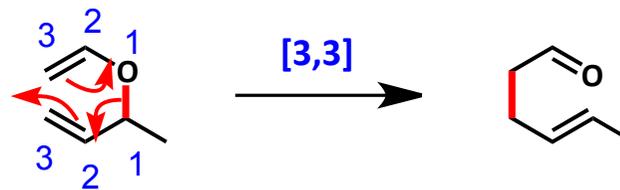
■ Electrocyclic Reactions – **Unimolecular** reactions characterised by the **formation of a ring** from an open chain conjugated system with a  $\sigma$ -bond forming across the ends of the conjugated system.



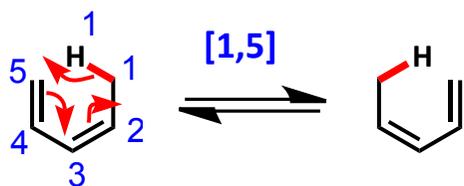
■ Sigmatropic rearrangements – **Unimolecular isomerisations** which formally involve the overall movement of a  $\sigma$ -bond from one position to another.



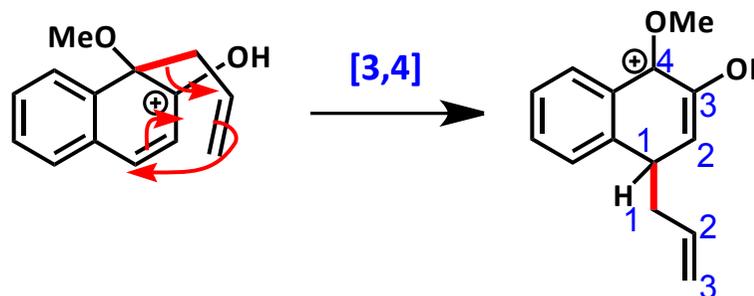
Cope rearrangement



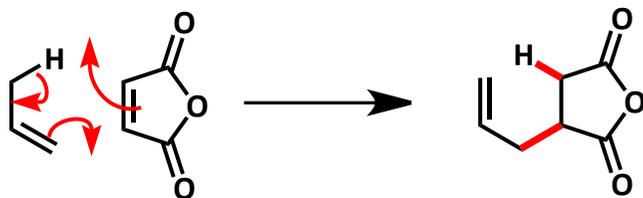
Claisen rearrangement



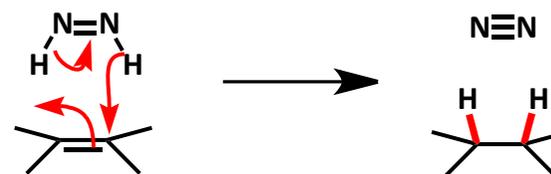
[1,5]-hydride shift



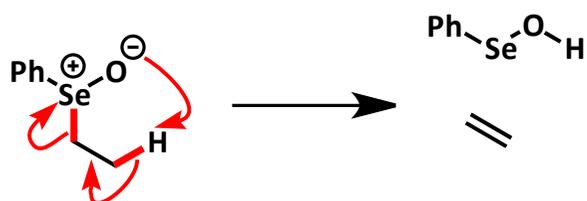
■ Group transfer – appear to be a mix of a sigmatropic rearrangement and a cycloaddition. They are **bimolecular** and so are not sigmatropic rearrangements, and **no ring is formed** so they are not cycloadditions.



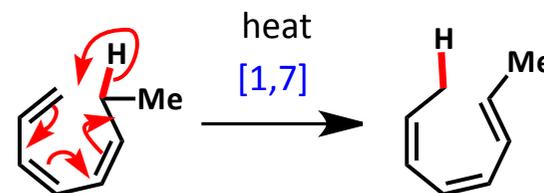
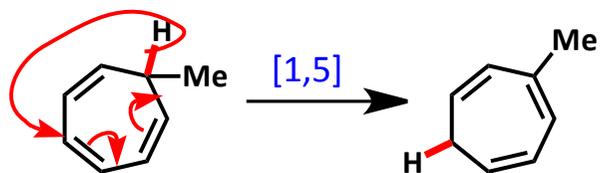
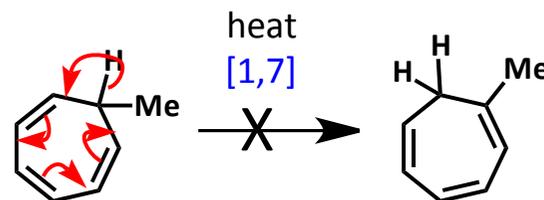
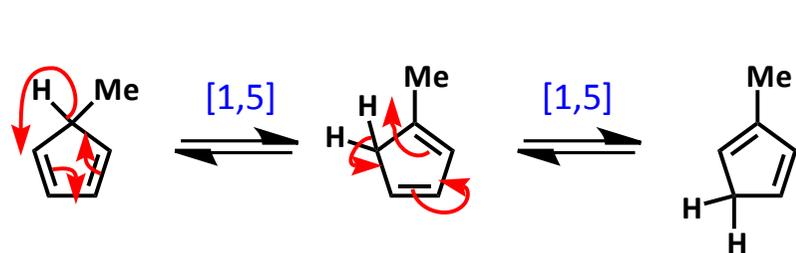
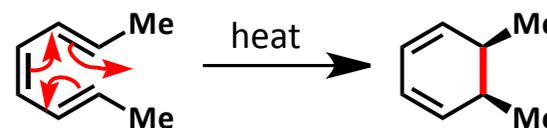
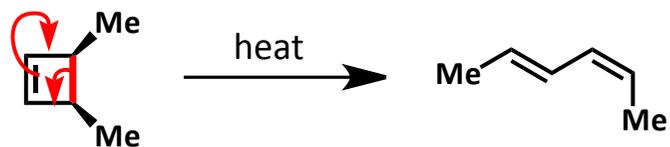
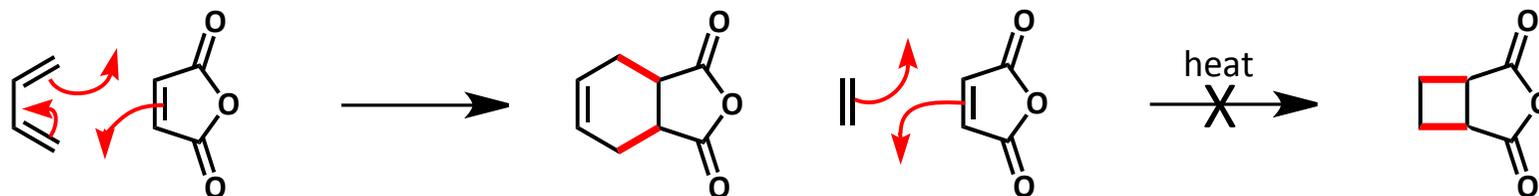
Alder-ene - reactions



diimide reduction

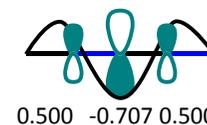


- Require a theory/theories to explain these results

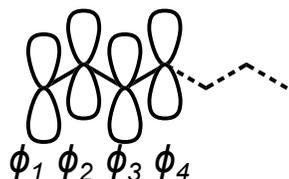


- Hückel Molecular Orbital Theory for Linear  $\pi$ -systems.
- Applicable to conjugated planar cyclic and acyclic systems.
- Only the  $\pi$ -system is included; the  $\sigma$ -framework is ignored (in reality  $\sigma$ -framework affects  $\pi$ -system).
- Used to calculate the wave functions ( $\psi_k$ ) and hence *relative* energies by the LCAO method.

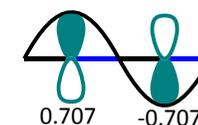
$$\text{MO} = \psi_k, \text{AO} = \phi_i \text{ and } \psi = \sum_{i=1}^n c_{ki} \phi_i \quad \text{i.e. } \psi_k = c_1 \phi_1 + c_2 \phi_2 + c_3 \phi_3 + c_4 \phi_4 + c_5 \phi_5 \dots$$



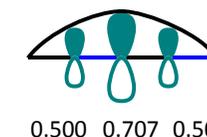
$k$  = MO number ( $1 \rightarrow n$ );  $i$  = atom position in  $\pi$  system ( $1 \rightarrow n$ );  $n$  = number of p-orbitals



For  $n$  contributing p-orbitals there will be  $n$  molecular orbitals  
 $c_{ki} = (2/(n+1))^{1/2} \cdot \sin(\pi ki/(n+1))$



- For each MO  $\psi_k$   $\sum c_i^2 = 1$  (normalisation) i.e. the sum of the squares of the coefficients for any MO must be 1.

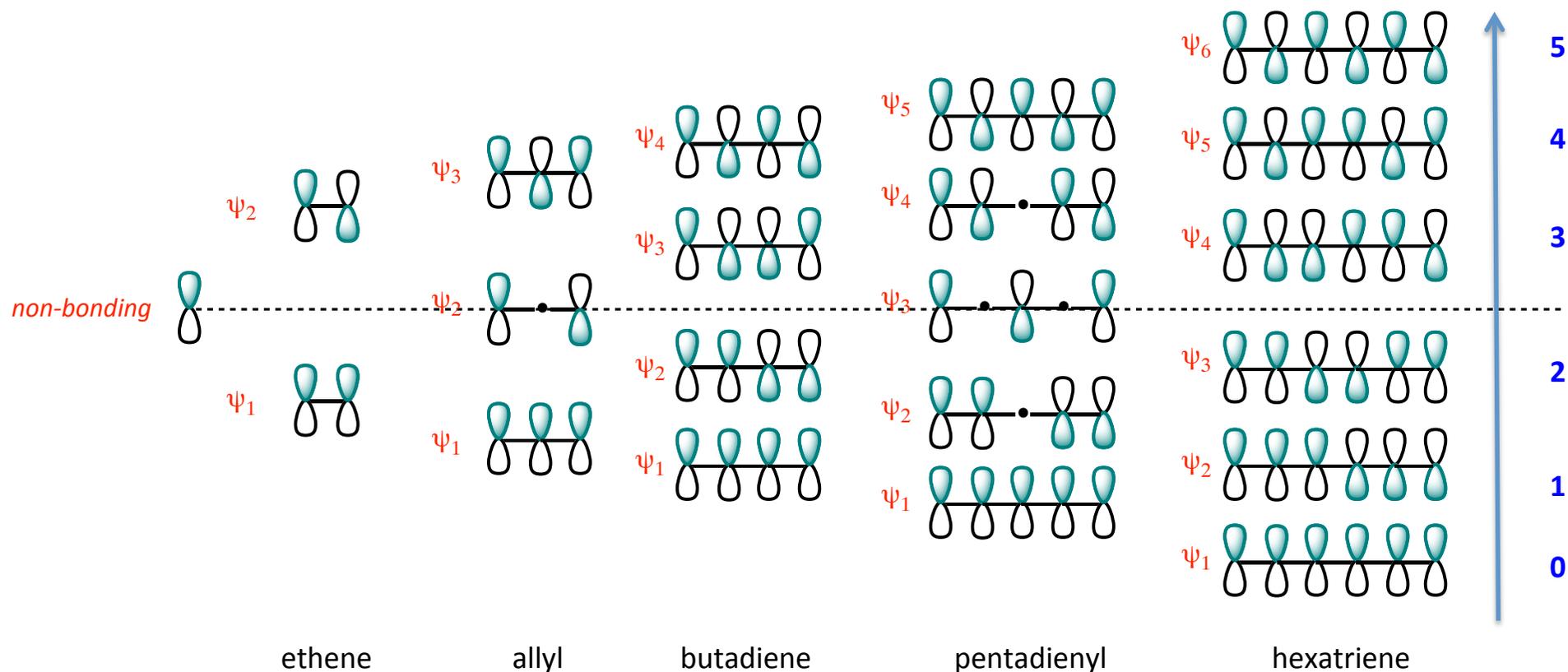


- For each AO  $\phi_i$   $\sum c_k^2 = 1$  i.e. the sum of the squares of the coefficients for any AO over all MOs must be 1.
- Each MO must be symmetric or antisymmetric with respect to any symmetry operation of the molecule.
- Molecular Orbital Energies =  $E_k = \alpha + m_j \beta$        $m_j = 2 \cos[j\pi/(n+1)]$        $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$

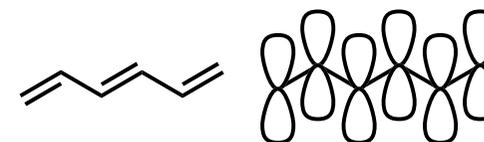
■ To draw a molecular orbital diagram:

- i) count the number of p-orbitals – n
- ii) count the number of electrons –  $\pi$ -bond = 2, unpaired electron = 1, carbanion = 2, carbocation = 0
- iii) draw n horizontal lines stacked on top of one another to represent the MOs
- iv) draw the molecular orbitals as the combination of p-orbitals with an increasing number of nodes from 0 for  $\psi_1$  to n-1 for  $\psi_n$  such that **each MO is symmetric or antisymmetric with respect to any symmetry operation of the molecule.**
- v) if the number of nodes is even then the terminal orbital coefficients will be the same phase
- vi) if the number of nodes is odd then the terminal coefficients will be of opposite phase

increasing  
number of nodes



- 1,3,5-Hexatriene
- six 2p atomic orbitals give 6π molecular orbitals;  $n = 6, j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$



$m_j = 2\cos(\pi/7) = 1.80$

$2\cos(2\pi/7) = 1.25$

$2\cos(3\pi/7) = 0.45\text{.....}$

and the corresponding negative values

energy  $E = \alpha + 1.80\beta$

$\alpha + 1.25\beta$

$\alpha + 0.45\beta$

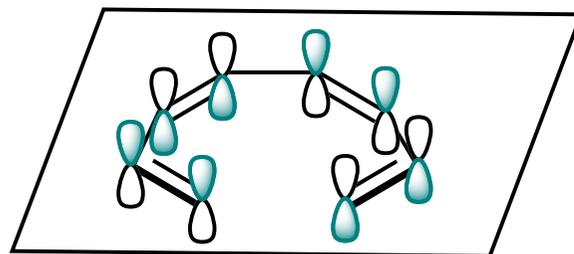
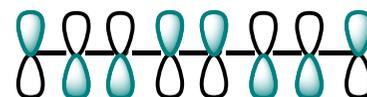
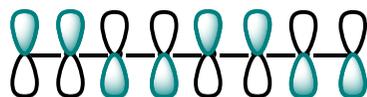
$\alpha - 0.45\beta\text{.....etc}$

MO		no. nodes	energy		HMOT MO (calculated)	
$\psi_6$		5	$\alpha - 1.80\beta$	—		
$\psi_5$		4	$\alpha - 1.25\beta$	—		
$\psi_4$		3	$\alpha - 0.45\beta$	—		
$\psi_3$		2	$\alpha + 0.45\beta$			
$\psi_2$		1	$\alpha + 1.25\beta$			
$\psi_1$		0	$\alpha + 1.80\beta$			

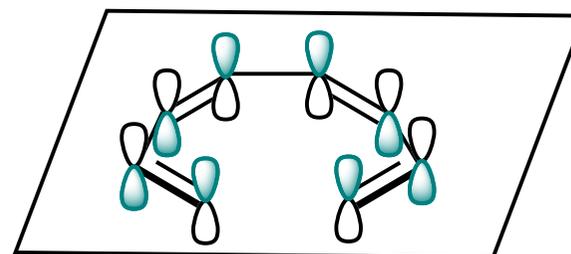
$\alpha$

stabilisation energy =  $E_{\text{stab}} = 2(3\alpha + 3.5\beta) = 6\alpha + 7\beta$  remember  $E_{\text{stab}}(\text{ethene}) = 2\alpha + 2\beta$

- The HOMO of (neutral) polyenes can be readily constructed by putting nodes on the single bonds; hence the HOMO appears to be alternating isolated  $\pi$ -bonding pairs.
- The LUMO of (neutral) polyenes can be constructed by beginning with an 'isolated' p-orbital and then alternating 'isolated'  $\pi$ -bonding pairs and ending with an 'isolated' p-orbital.
- The HOMO and LUMO are termed the Frontier Orbitals.



HOMO

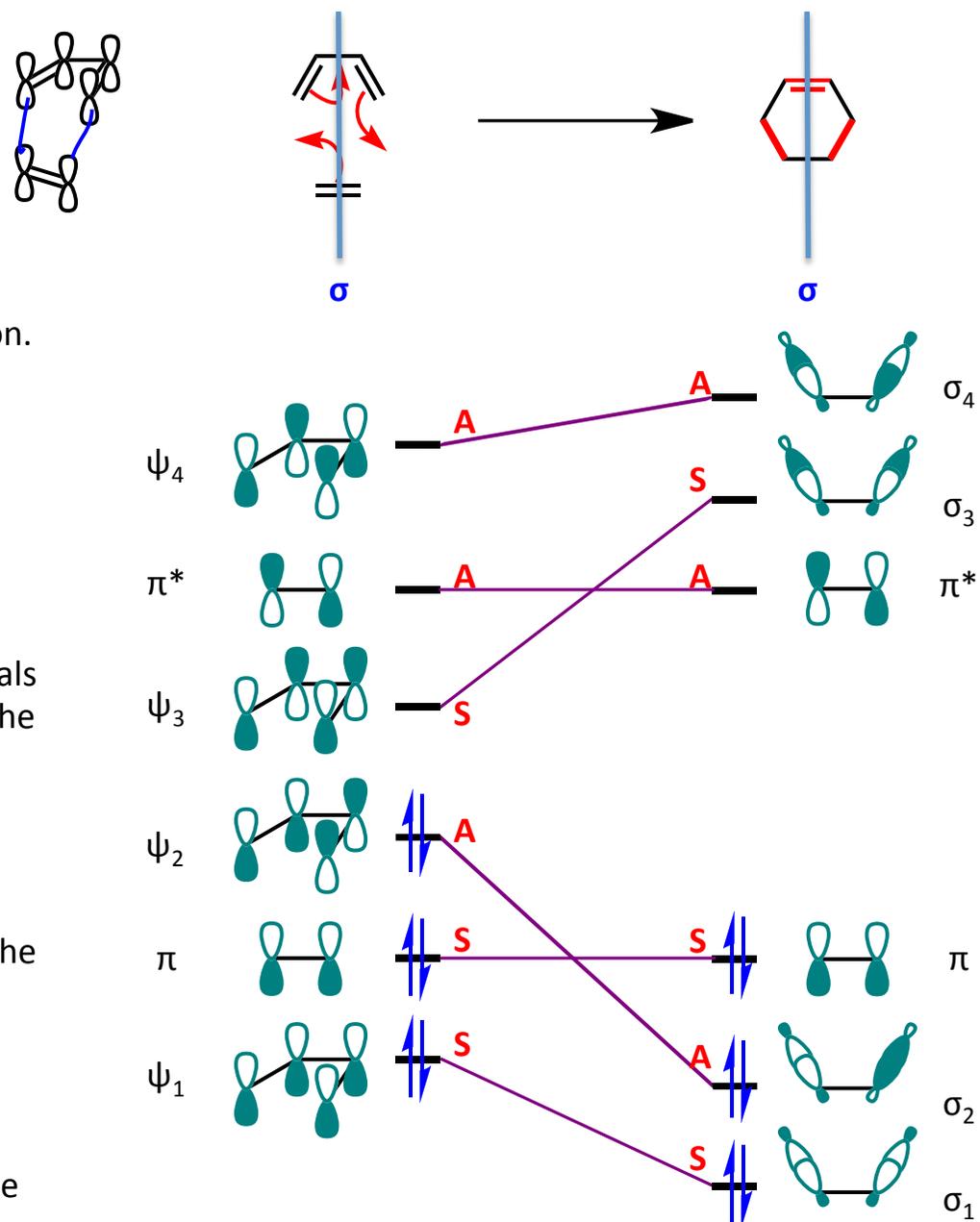


LUMO

### Correlation Diagrams

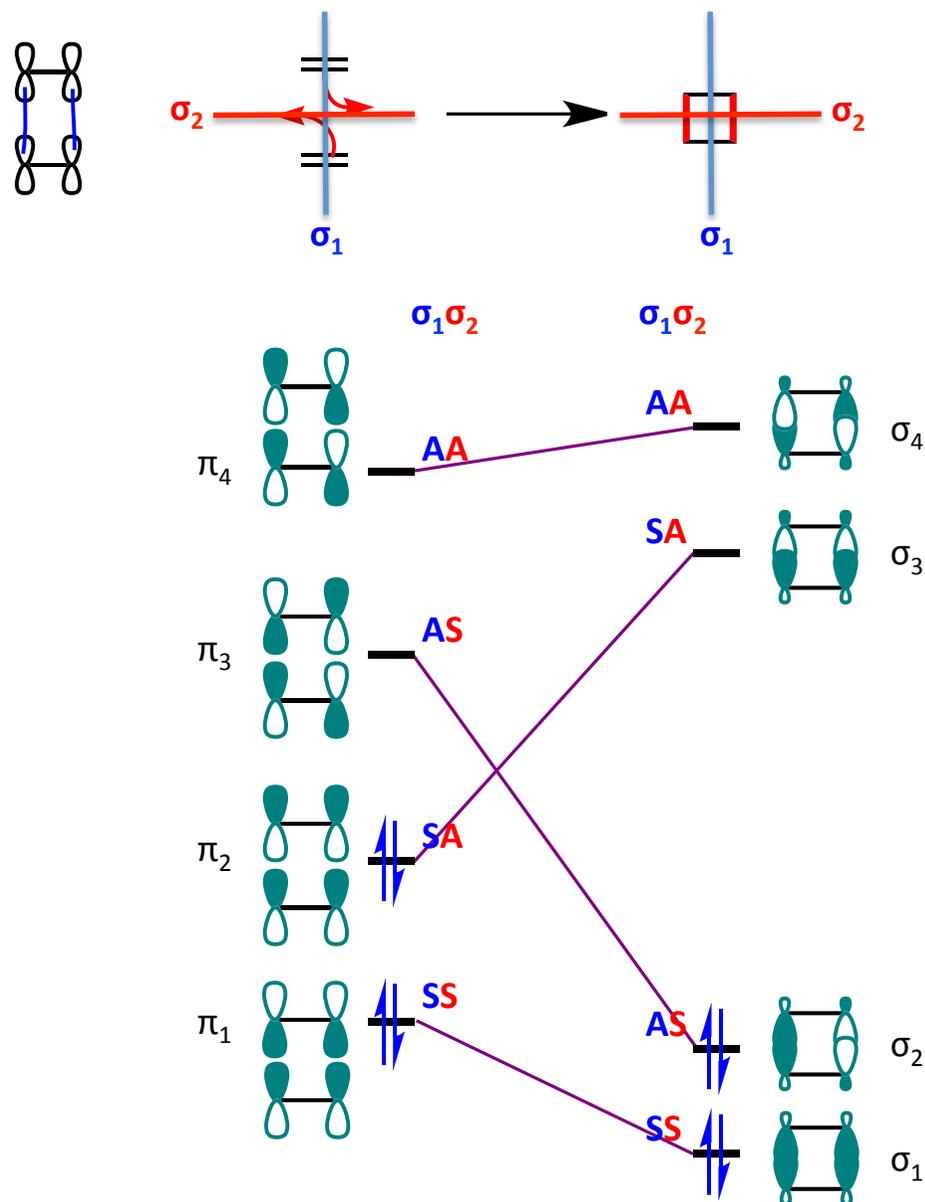
- During a pericyclic reaction the orbitals of the starting material are smoothly converted into the orbitals of the product.
- This means that the symmetry of the orbitals with respect to any symmetry operations of the molecule must be conserved in moving from the starting material(s) to product – this is the 'Conservation of Orbital Symmetry', which is readily depicted in an 'orbital correlation diagram'

- Draw bare bones of reaction.
- Identify orbitals undergoing change.
- Draw sensible approach of substrates.
- Identify symmetry elements maintained during reaction.
- Rank orbitals approximately by energy.
- Classify each orbital with respect to the symmetry element(s) conserved during reaction.
- Construct orbital correlation diagram connecting orbitals of starting materials with those closest in energy and of the same symmetry in the product.
- In the Diels-Alder reaction a plane of symmetry, perpendicular to the molecular planes of both the diene and dienophile and passing through the double bond of the dienophile and the central single bond of the diene.
- In the orbital correlation diagram of the Diels-Alder reaction all interacting bonding orbitals in the diene/dienophile are correlated with new *bonding* orbitals in the product. The reaction is *thermally allowed*.



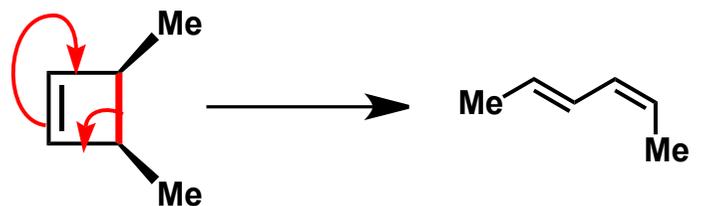
## Correlation diagram for [2+2] cycloaddition of alkenes

- Identify orbitals undergoing change (curly arrows tell us which orbitals these are) –  $\pi$ .
- Draw sensible approach of substrates – in this case face on approach of the two alkenes for maximum orbital overlap.
- Identify symmetry elements maintained during reaction – in this case two planes of symmetry,  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$ .
- Rank orbitals approximately by energy.
- Classify each orbital with respect to symmetry element(s) conserved during reaction.
- Construct orbital correlation diagram connecting orbitals of starting materials with those closest in energy and of the same symmetry in the product.
- Here the ground state  $\pi_1^2\pi_2^2$  does not correlate with the ground state of the product ( $\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2$ ) but with a doubly excited state  $\sigma_1^2\sigma_3^2$  – the thermal [2+2] cycloaddition of alkenes is thermally disallowed.



For more on correlation diagrams see: R. B. Woodward, R. Hoffmann, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **1969**, 8, 781-932.

■ Correlation diagram for electrocyclic reactions

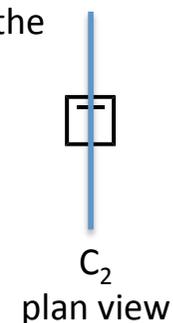
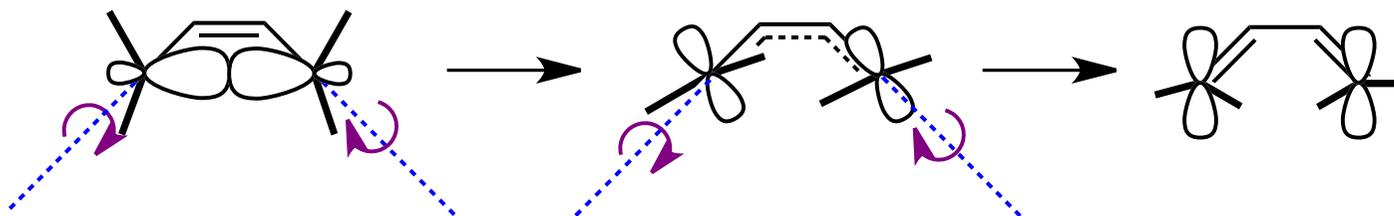


$Z,E : E,E$  20,000:1

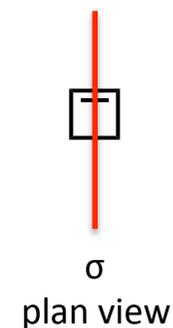
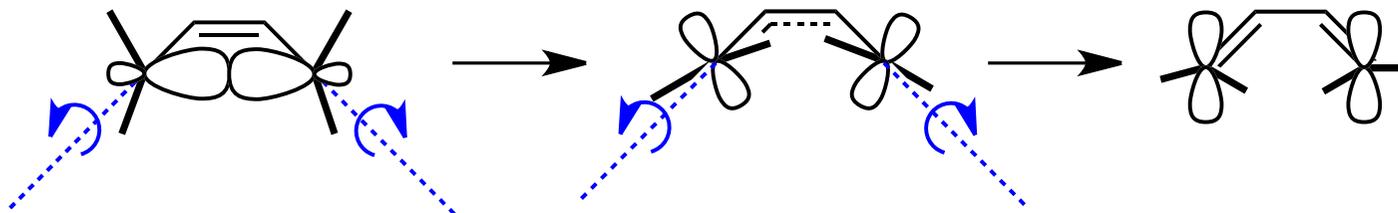
Longuet-Higgins & Abrahamson, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1965**, *87*, 2045.

■ There are two modes of opening – *conrotatory* or *disrotatory*

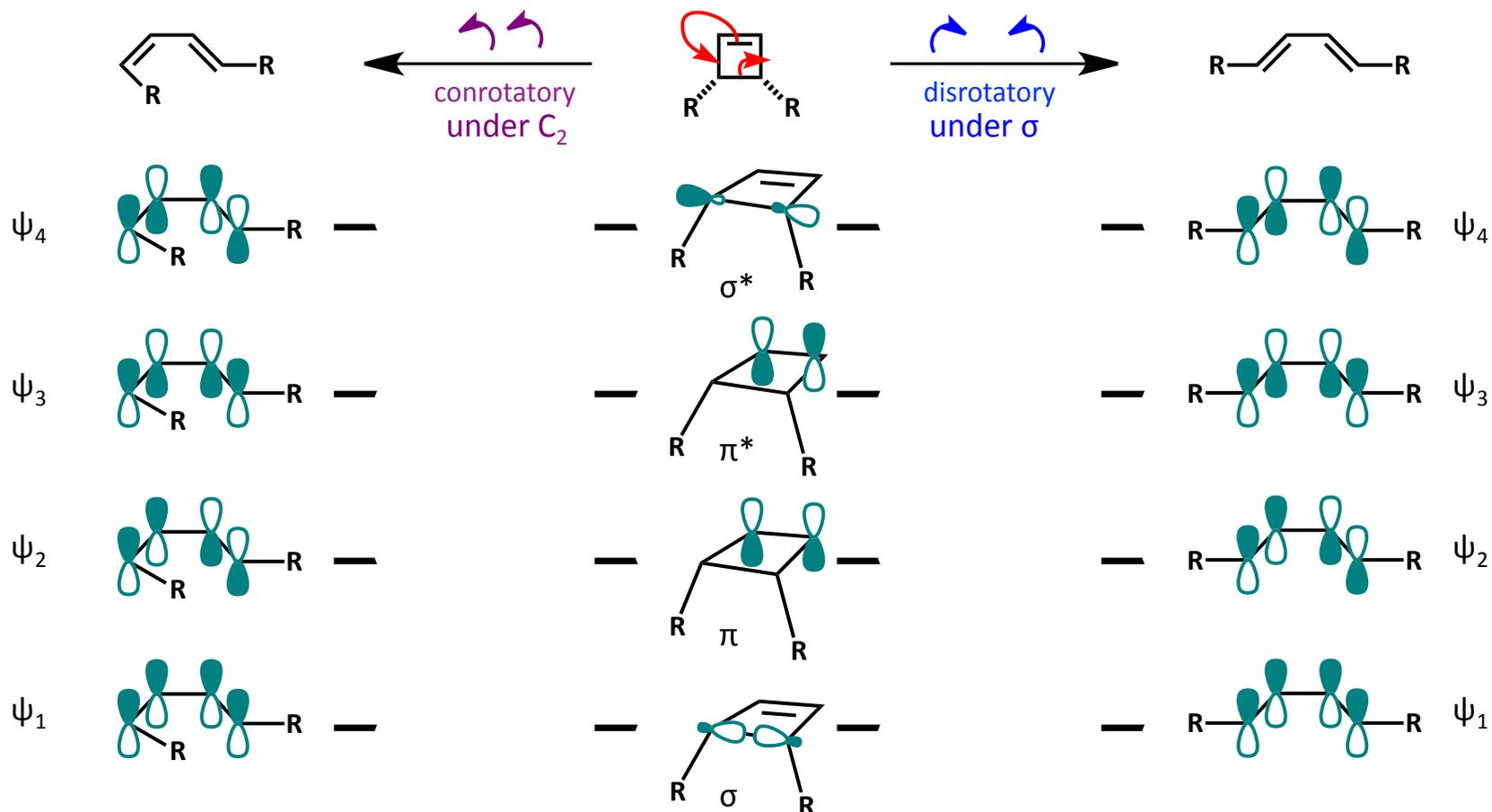
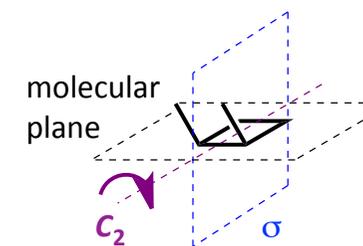
■ *Conrotatory* – rotation around the axes of the  $\sigma$ -bonds (dotted lines) occurs in the same direction - throughout this process the molecule retains a  $C_2$ -axis which passes through the plane of the molecule and the breaking  $\sigma$  bond.

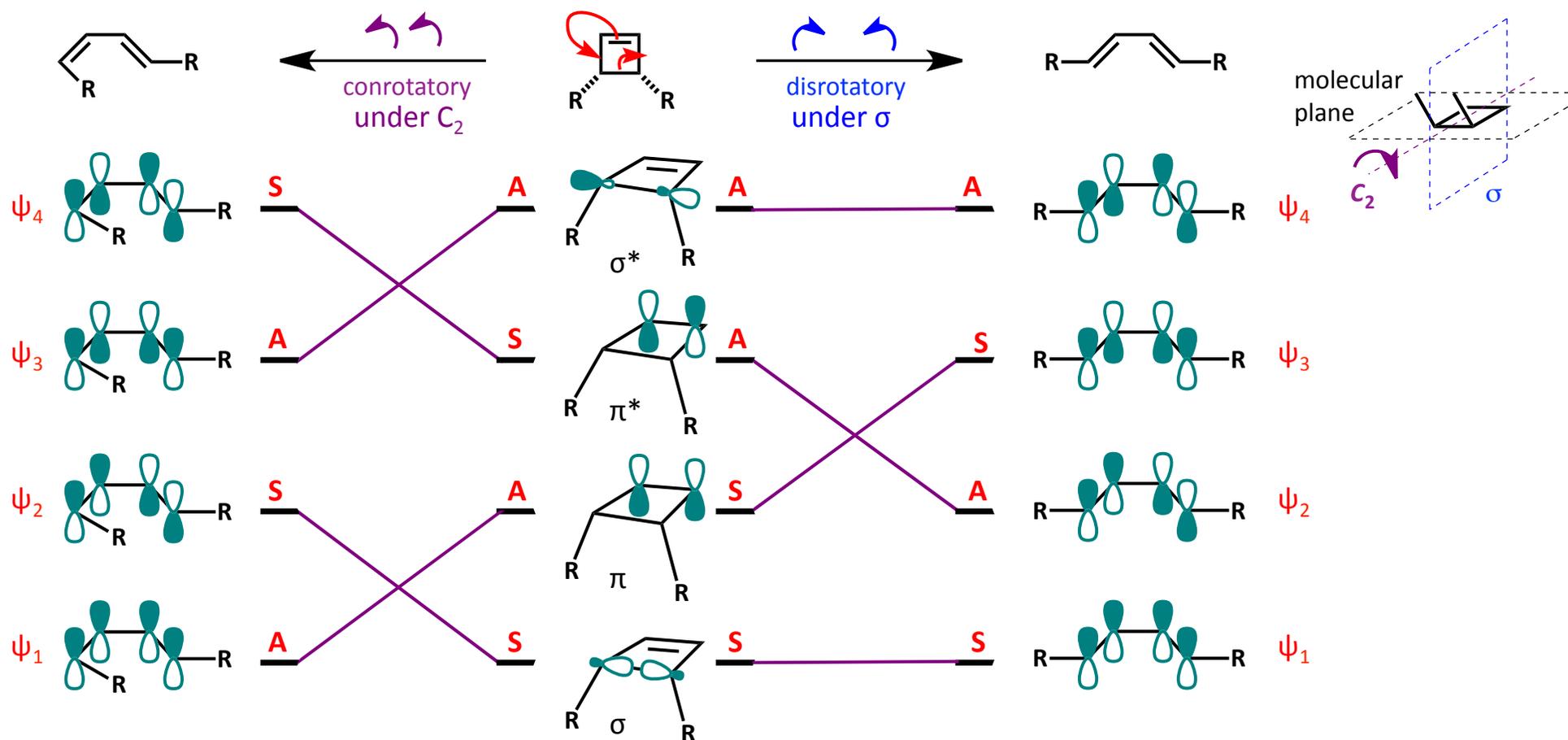


■ *Disrotatory* – rotation around the axes of the  $\sigma$ -bonds (dotted lines) occurs in opposite directions – throughout this process the molecule retains a plane of symmetry which is perpendicular to the plane of the molecule and passes through the breaking  $\sigma$ -bond



- Correlation diagram for electrocyclic reactions.
- Identify orbitals undergoing change (curly arrows) –  $\sigma$  and  $\pi$ .
- The orbitals undergoing change are either symmetric or antisymmetric with respect to the symmetry elements preserved during the reaction.
- Rank orbitals approximately by energy.
- Label orbitals as 'S' or 'A'.
- Construct orbital correlation diagram connecting orbitals of starting materials with those closest in energy and of the same symmetry in the product.



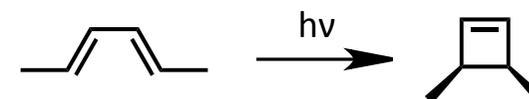


■ In the conrotatory mode, all ground state bonding orbitals in cyclobutene ( $\sigma^2\pi^2$ ) correlate with ground state bonding orbitals in butadiene ( $\psi_1^2\psi_2^2$ ) – the conrotatory opening of butadiene is **thermally** allowed (favoured).

■ In the disrotatory mode, the ground state bonding orbitals in cyclobutene ( $\sigma^2\pi^2$ ) correlate with a doubly excited state of butadiene ( $\psi_1^2\psi_3^2$ ) – the disrotatory opening of butadiene is **thermally** forbidden (disfavoured).

■ The **photochemical** ring closure of butadiene to give cyclobutene is disrotatory.

The 1<sup>st</sup> excited state of butadiene is  $\psi_1^2\psi_2^1\psi_3^1$  which correlates smoothly with the 1<sup>st</sup> excited state of cyclobutene ( $\sigma^2\pi^1\pi^*1$ ); under conrotatory ring closure  $\psi_1^2\psi_2^1\psi_3^1$  correlates with a much high energy state in cyclobutene ( $\sigma^1\pi^2\sigma^*1$ ).



- Correlation diagrams can be distilled into a simple rule for predicting which pericyclic reactions are “allowed”.

The Woodward-Hoffmann Rules:

A ground state pericyclic reaction is symmetry allowed when the total number of  $(4q + 2)_s$  and  $(4r)_a$  components is odd (q and r must be integers).

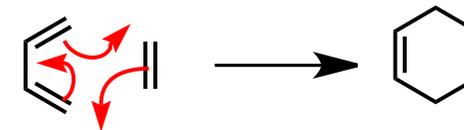
A pericyclic change in the first electronically excited state (i.e. a photochemical reaction) is symmetry-allowed when the total number of  $(4q + 2)_s$  and  $(4r)_a$  components is even.

- We will use the Diels-Alder reaction to exemplify the application of the Woodward-Hoffmann rules.
- Draw a ‘curly arrow’ mechanism to identify the components.
- For the Diels-Alder reaction these are  $4\pi$  (diene) and  $2\pi$  (dienophile).
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components.
- Label the components as supra or antarafacial.
- Sum the components according to the Woodward-Hoffmann rule.

■ Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism – this generally allows identification of the components.

■ For the Diels-Alder reaction these are  $4\pi$  (diene) and  $2\pi$  (dienophile),

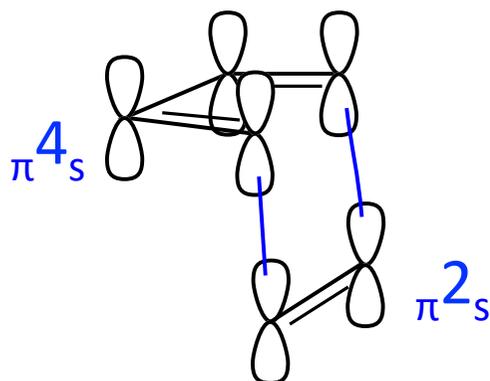
■ Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components.



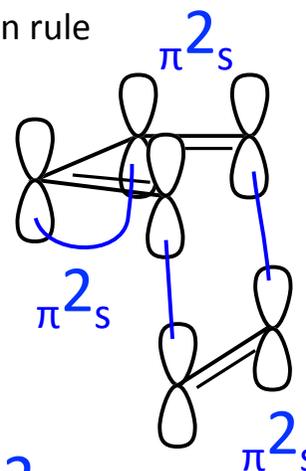
■ Label the components as supra or antarafacial. Here the diene is being used in a suprafacial manner – the two new bonds are being formed on the same face of the diene.

The alkene is also being used in a suprafacial manner being used in a suprafacial manner

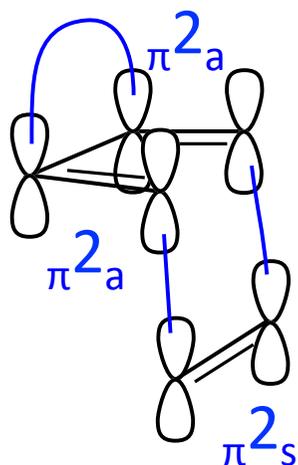
■ Sum the components according to the Woodward-Hoffmann rule



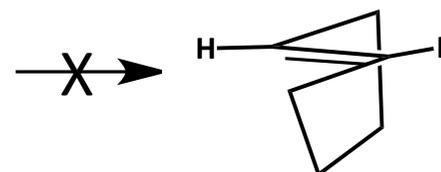
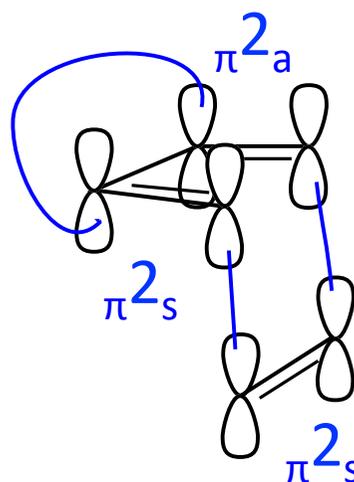
$$\begin{aligned}(4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 1 \\ \text{odd } \checkmark \\ \text{allowed}\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}(4q + 2)_s &= 3 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 3 \\ \text{odd } \checkmark \\ \text{allowed}\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}(4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 1 \\ \text{odd } \checkmark \\ \text{allowed}\end{aligned}$$

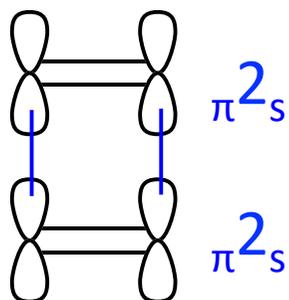
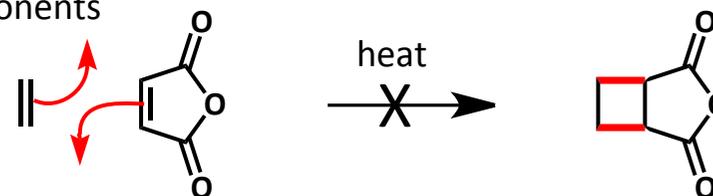


$$\begin{aligned}(4q + 2)_s &= 2 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 2 \\ \text{even } \times \\ \text{forbidden}\end{aligned}$$

■ Generally simplest to maximise suprafacial components and not subdivide conjugated systems.

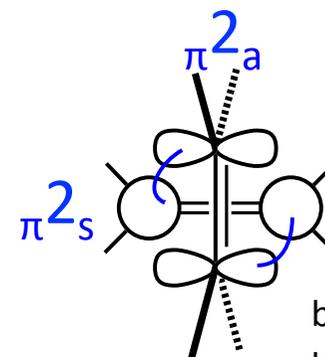
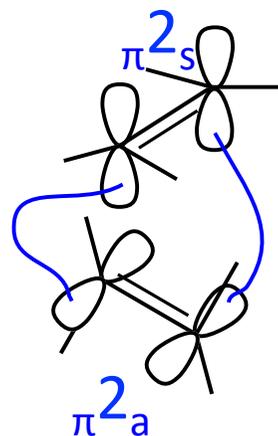
## [2 + 2] cycloadditions

- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components –  $2\pi$ ,  $2\pi$
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Label the components as supra or antarafacial.
- Sum the components according to the Woodward-Hoffmann rule



$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 2 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 2 \\ \text{even } \times \\ \text{forbidden} \\ \text{(thermally)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 2 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 2 \\ \text{even } \checkmark \\ \text{allowed} - \\ \text{photochemically} \end{aligned}$$



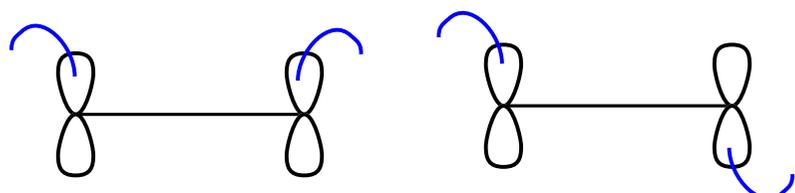
$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 1 \\ \text{odd } \checkmark \\ \text{allowed} \\ \text{(thermally)} \end{aligned}$$

but geometrically unreasonable, therefore does not occur

- Woodward-Hoffmann rule gives you the symmetry allowed orbital overlap but *you* have to decide whether the overlap *you* have drawn is geometrically reasonable.

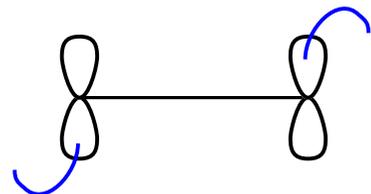
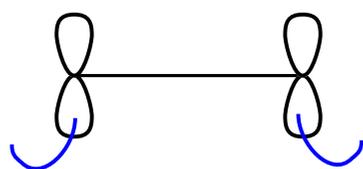
Nomenclature for suprafacial and antarafacial components.

■ Suprafacial and antarafacial refer to modes of bond formation that are respectively on the same face or on opposite faces of a molecular component.



$\pi$ -suprafacial

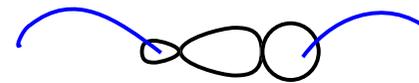
$\pi$ -antarafacial



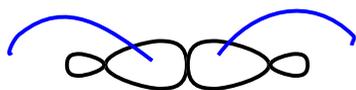
C—H



$\sigma$ -suprafacial



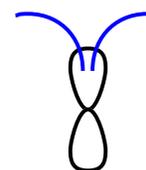
$\sigma$ -antarafacial



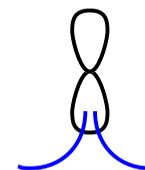
$\sigma$ -suprafacial



$\sigma$ -antarafacial



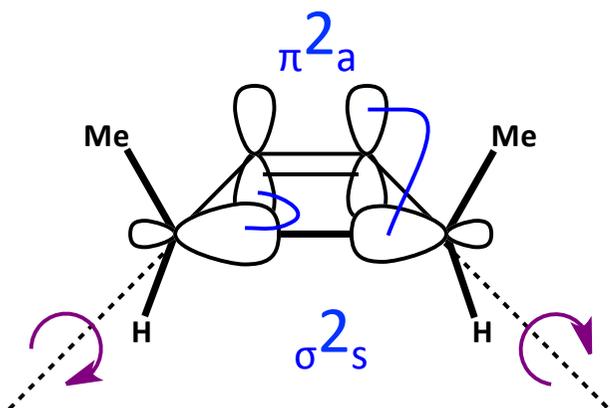
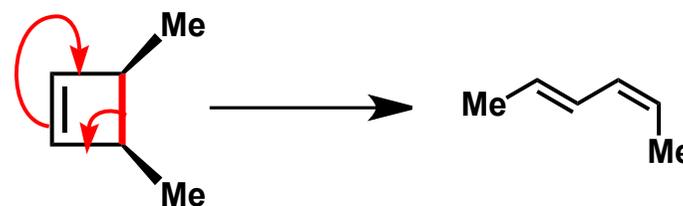
$\omega$ -suprafacial



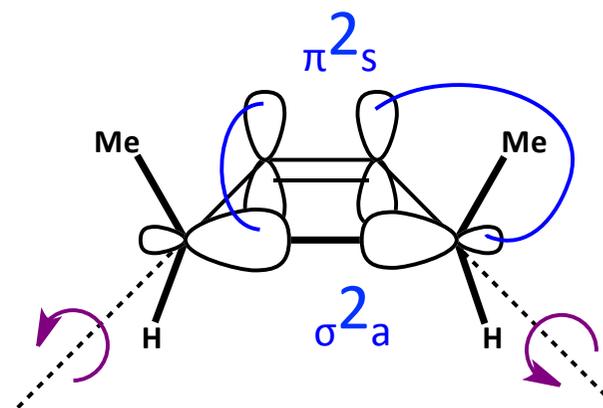
$\omega$ -antarafacial

Woodward-Hoffmann approach for thermal electrocyclic reactions

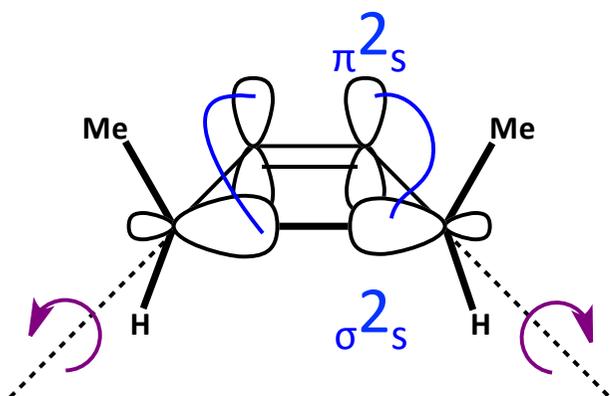
- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components – these are  $2\pi$  (alkene) and  $2\sigma$  (single bond)
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Label the components as supra or antarafacial.
- Sum the components according to the Woodward-Hoffmann rule.



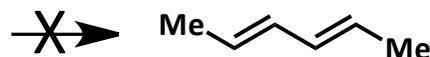
$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 1 \\ &\text{odd } \checkmark \\ &\text{allowed} \\ &\text{(conrotatory)} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 1 \\ &\text{odd } \checkmark \\ &\text{allowed} \\ &\text{(conrotatory)} \end{aligned}$$



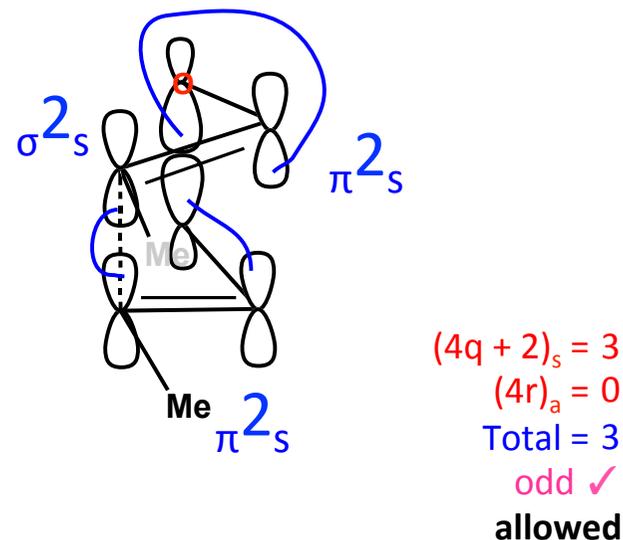
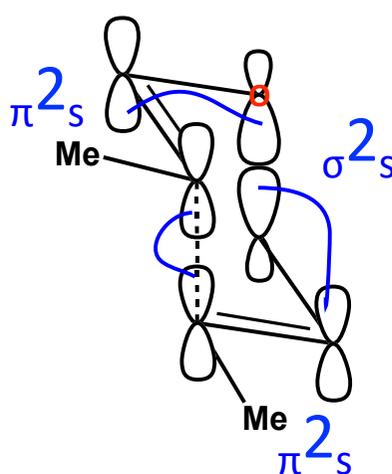
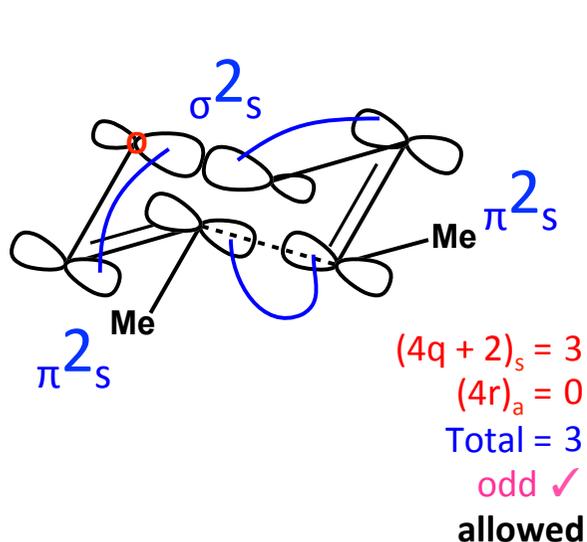
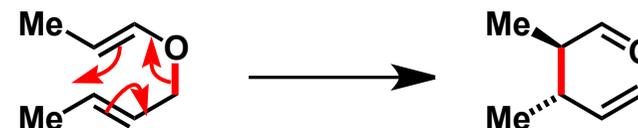
$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 2 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 2 \\ &\text{even } \times \\ &\text{forbidden} \\ &\text{disrotatory} \end{aligned}$$



- Thermal ring opening of cyclobutene is *conrotatory*. Thermal *disrotatory* opening is symmetry forbidden.

## Woodward-Hoffmann approach for sigmatropic rearrangements

- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components –  $2\pi$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $2\pi$
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Label the components as supra or antarafacial.
- Sum the components according to the Woodward-Hoffmann rule.



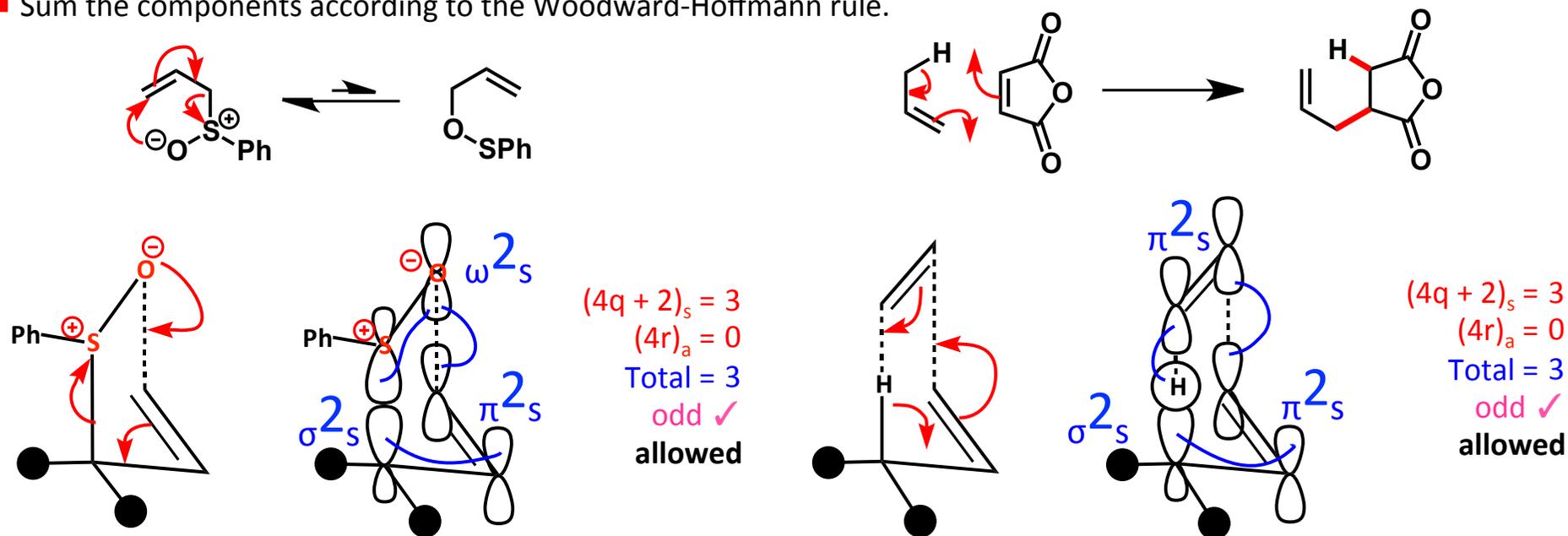
■ Claisen rearrangement *via* chair TS is allowed.

■ Claisen rearrangement *via* boat TS is allowed.

■ Woodward-Hoffmann rule does not tell us that the chair TS is lower in energy than the boat TS. You need to use your chemical knowledge/intuition to decide that a chair is generally lower in energy than the corresponding boat and that it is generally more favourable to have equatorial substituents than axial substituents on a chair.

Woodward-Hoffmann approach for sigmatropic rearrangements and group transfer

- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Label the components as supra or antarafacial.
- Sum the components according to the Woodward-Hoffmann rule.



■ [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement *via* envelope TS.

■ ene-reaction (group transfer) *via* envelope TS.

For thermal cycloadditions and group transfers:

- If the total number of electrons is  $(4n + 2)$  both components can be used in a suprafacial manner.
- If the total number of electrons is  $(4n)$  one of the components is suprafacial and the other antarafacial.

For electrocyclic reactions:

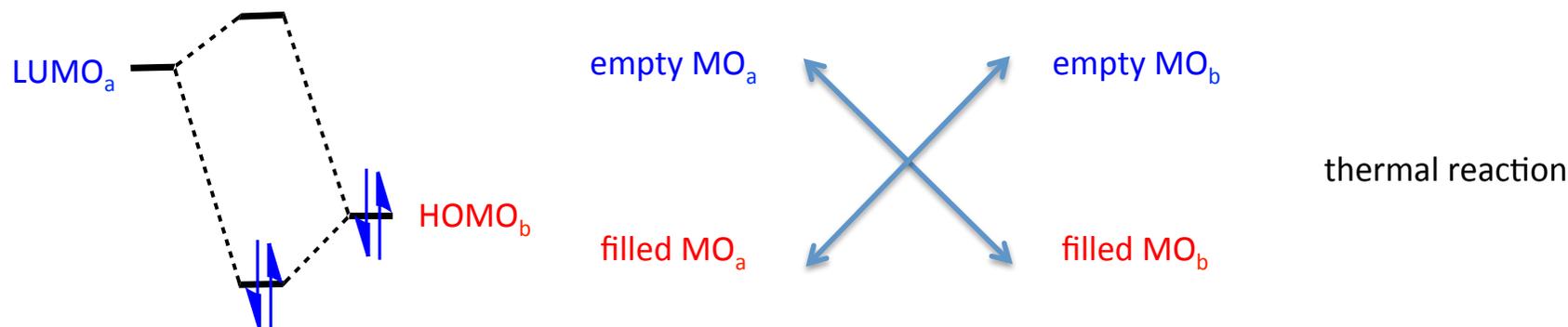
- Thermal electrocyclic processes will be *conrotatory* if the total number of electrons is  $4n$  and *disrotatory* if the total number of electrons is  $(4n + 2)$ .

■ Frontier Molecular Orbital approach – revision

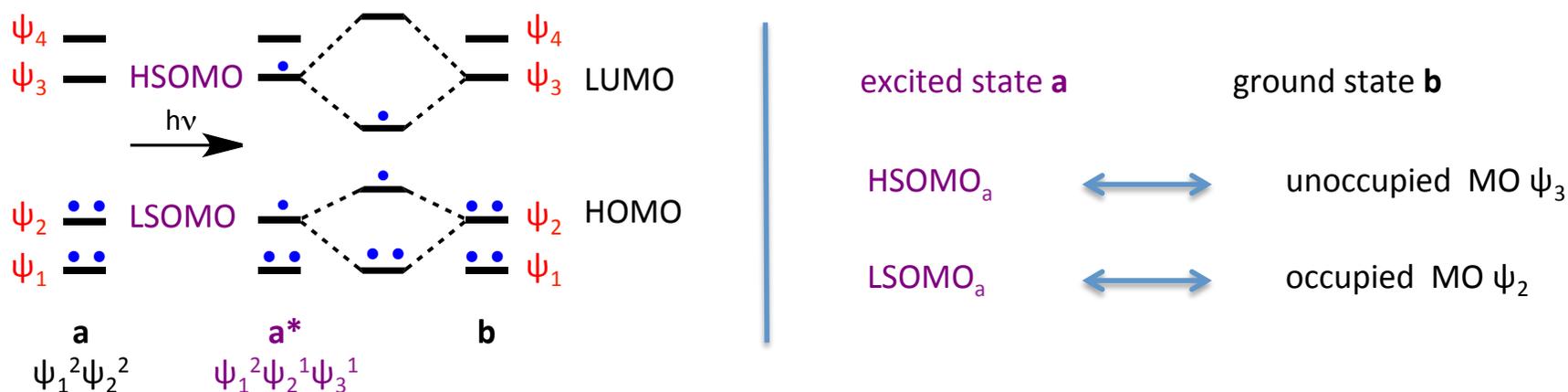
‘As two molecules approach each other, three major forces operate:

- (i) The occupied orbitals of one repel the occupied orbitals of the other.
- (ii) Any positive charge on one attracts any negative charge on the other (and repels any positive)
- (iii) **The occupied orbitals (especially the HOMOs) of each interact with the unoccupied orbitals (especially the LUMOs) of the other, causing an attraction between the molecules.** (from Fleming, Molecular Orbitals and Organic Chemical Reactions)

Frontier Molecular Orbital considers the interaction of the Highest Occupied Molecular Orbital (HOMO) and the Lowest Unoccupied Molecular Orbital (LUMO) to be of overriding importance.

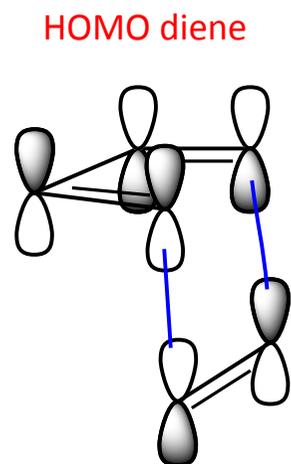
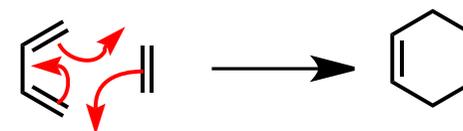


■ For *photochemical* reactions one molecule is in the excited state



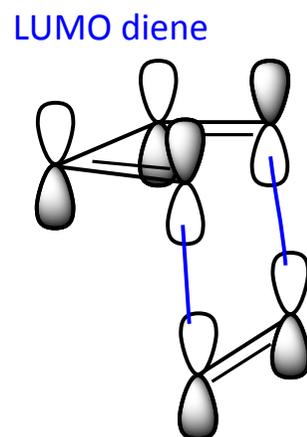
## The FMO approach

- To apply the FMO method one has to assign a single HOMO and a single LUMO to the reaction components and see how they interact.
- The FMO approach is simple to apply to reactions with two components (e.g. cycloadditions, electrocyclic ring opening) but its application to sigmatropic rearrangements and group transfer reactions is somewhat contrived.
- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components
- Assign a single HOMO and a single LUMO to the reaction
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Check to see if there is constructive overlap between the orbitals



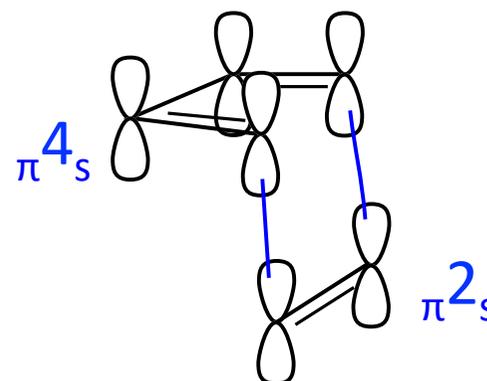
LUMO dienophile

constructive overlap ✓



HOMO dienophile

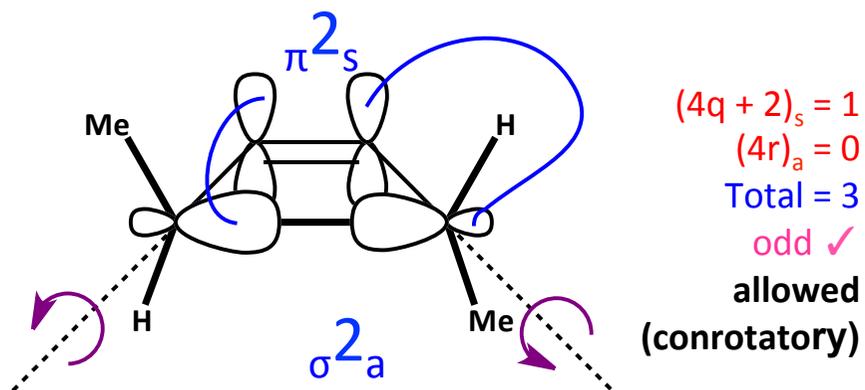
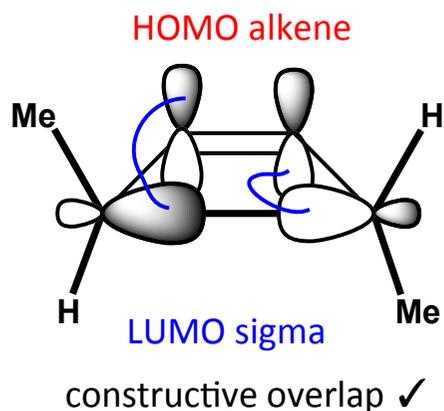
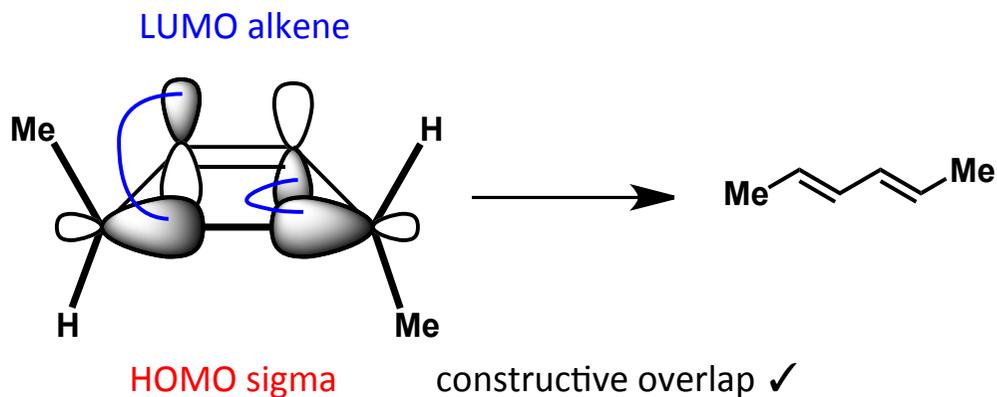
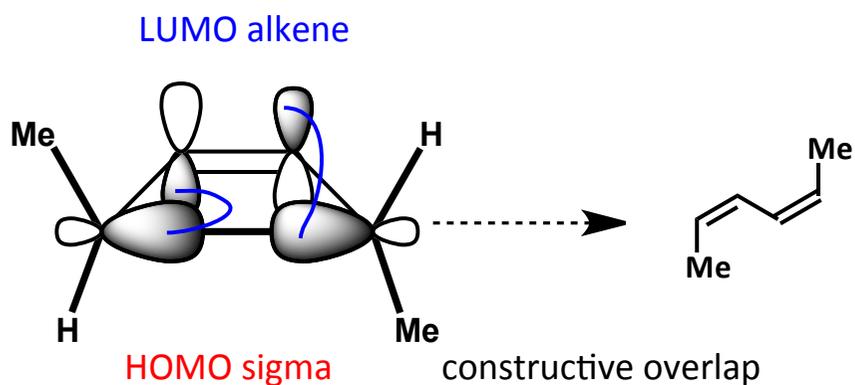
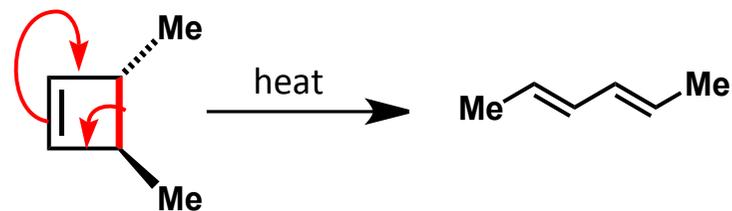
constructive overlap ✓



$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 1 \\ &\text{odd} \checkmark \\ &\text{allowed} \end{aligned}$$

## The FMO approach

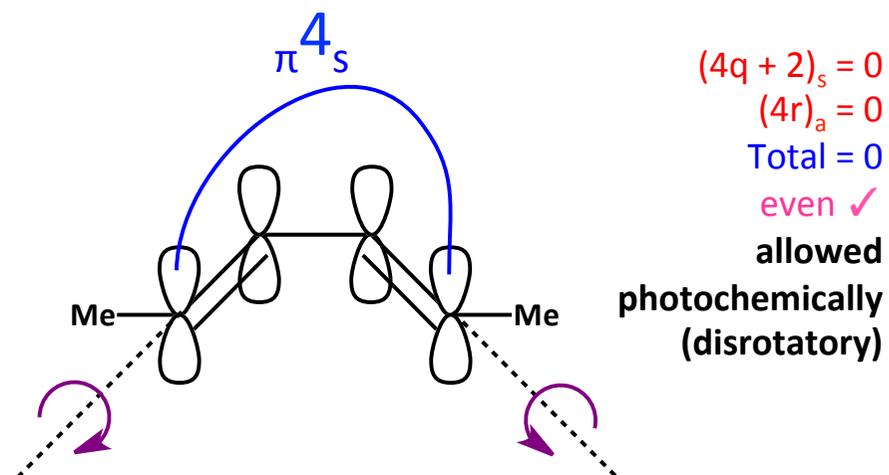
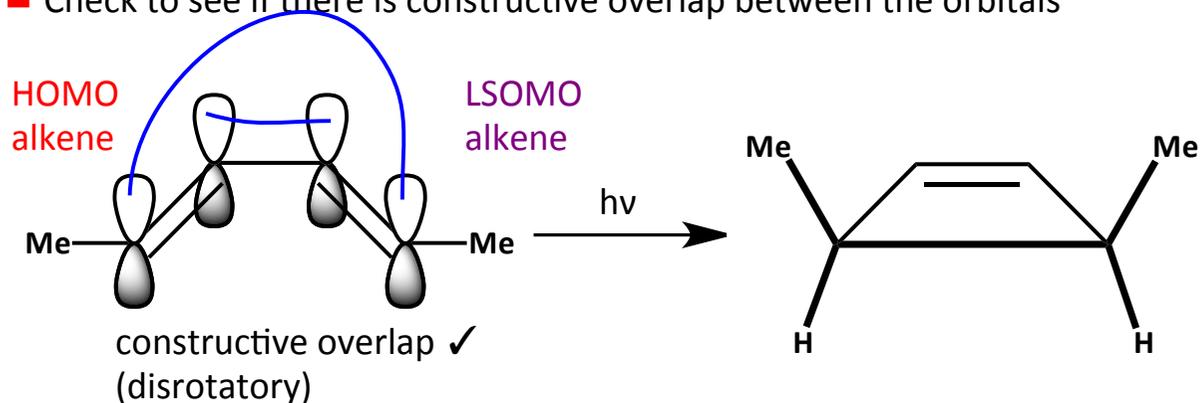
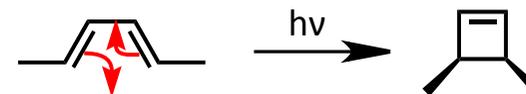
- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components
- Assign a single HOMO and a single LUMO to the reaction
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Check to see if there is constructive overlap between the orbitals



- The preference of one conrotatory (or disrotatory) mode is termed *torquoselectivity* (more later).

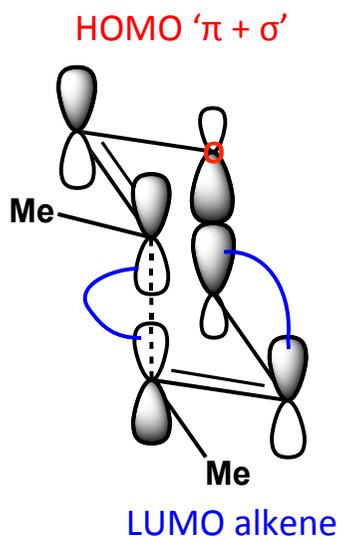
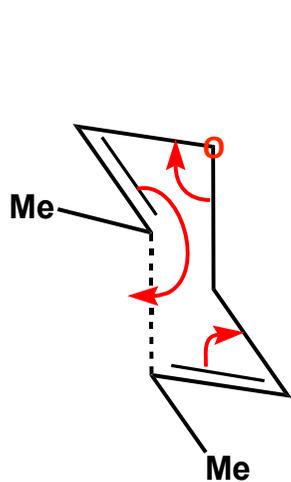
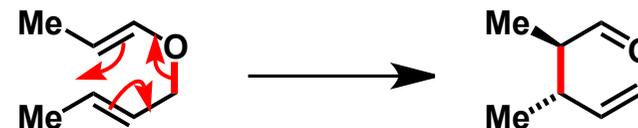
## The FMO approach

- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components
- Assign a single **HSOMO** and a single LUMO to the reaction, (or a single **LSOMO** and HOMO) – note a **HSOMO** has the same phases as the 'LUMO' and a **LSOMO** has the same phases as the HOMO)
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Check to see if there is constructive overlap between the orbitals

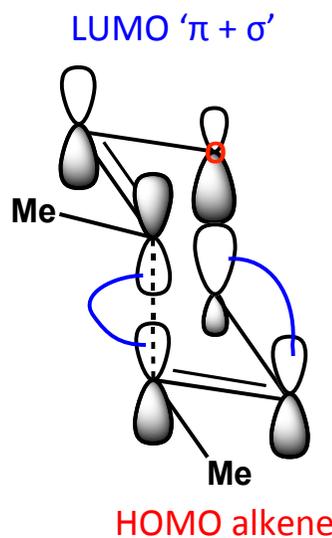


The FMO approach

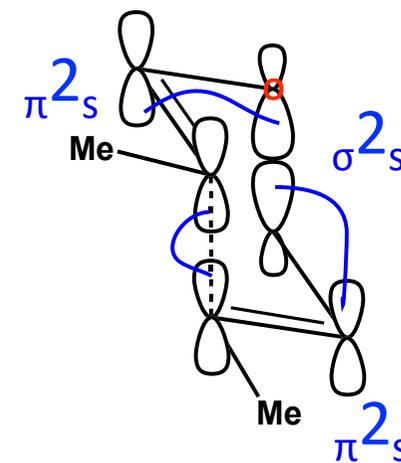
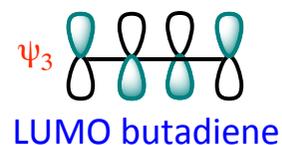
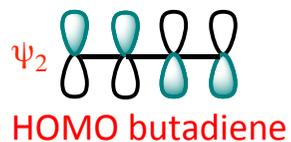
- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components
- Assign a single HOMO and a single LUMO to the reaction
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Check to see if there is constructive overlap between the orbitals



constructive overlap ✓



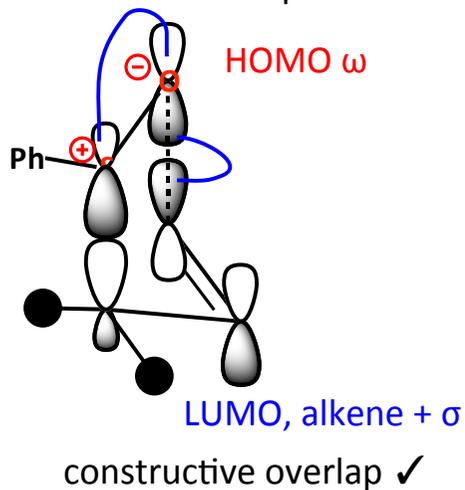
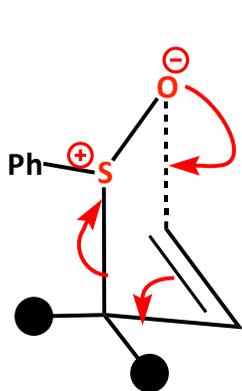
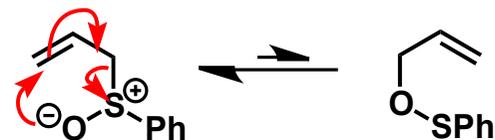
constructive overlap ✓



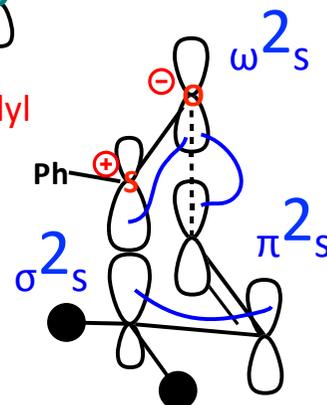
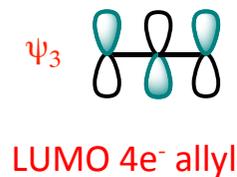
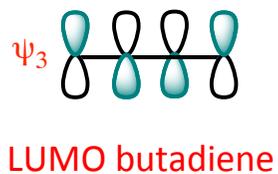
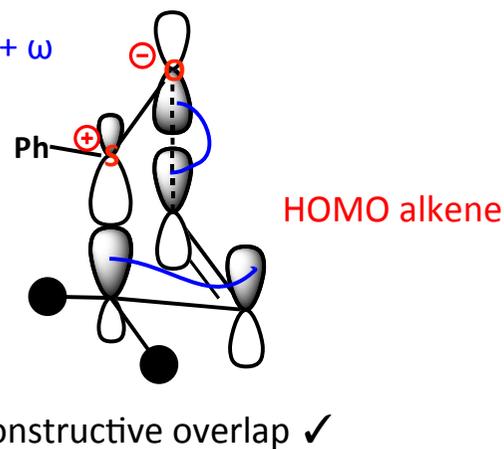
$$\begin{aligned}
 (4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\
 (4r)_a &= 0 \\
 \text{Total} &= 3 \\
 &\text{odd} \checkmark \\
 &\text{allowed}
 \end{aligned}$$

The FMO approach

- Draw a 'curly arrow' mechanism to identify the components
- Assign a single HOMO and a single LUMO to the reaction
- Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components
- Check to see if there is constructive overlap between the orbitals



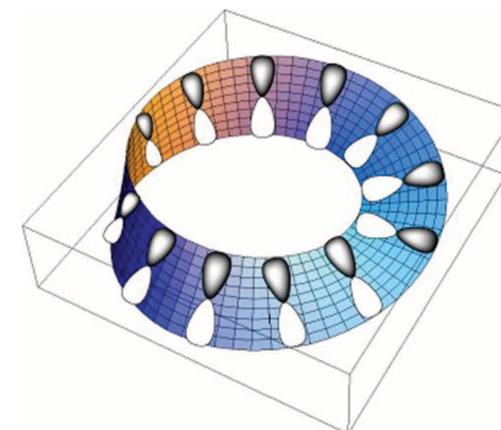
LUMO,  $\sigma + \omega$



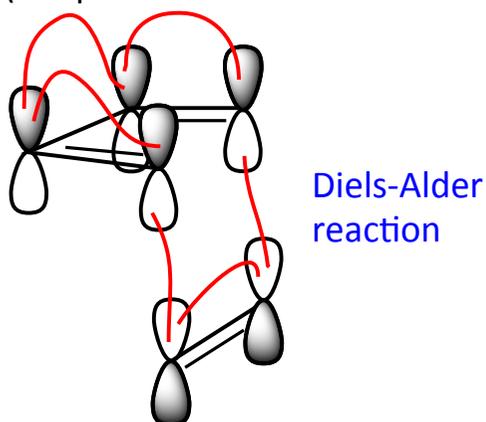
$$\begin{aligned}
 (4q + 2)_s &= 3 \\
 (4r)_a &= 0 \\
 \text{Total} &= 3 \\
 &\text{odd} \checkmark \\
 &\text{allowed}
 \end{aligned}$$

## The Möbius-Hückel Method

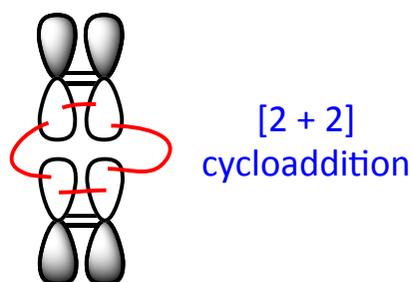
- Draw a curly arrow mechanism to assign components
  - Draw a convincing 3-D orbital diagram to show the overlap of the components (easiest to draw  $\psi_1$  for all components and minimise number of nodes).
  - Count the number of phase inversions in the closed loop of interacting orbitals – as always, phase inversions within an (atomic) orbital are not counted.
  - Even number of phase inversions: Hückel topology
  - Odd number of phase inversions: Möbius topology
  - A thermal pericyclic reaction involving a Hückel topology is allowed when the total number of electrons is  $(4n + 2)$ .
  - A thermal pericyclic reaction involving a Möbius topology is allowed when the total number of electrons is  $4n$ .
- A thermal pericyclic reaction involving a Möbius topology is allowed when the total number of electrons is  $4n$ .  
(For photochemical reactions the rules are reversed.)



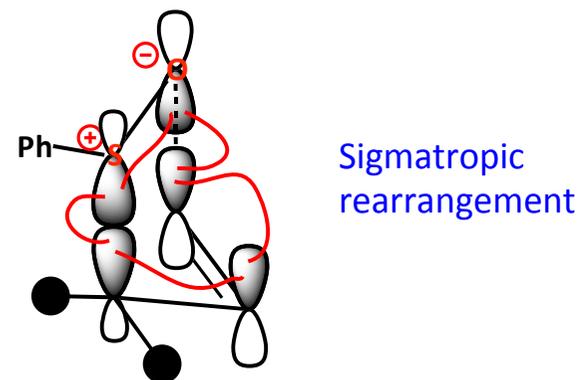
from H. S. Rzepa *J. Chem. Ed.*, **2007**, *84*, 1535



no phase inversions,  
Hückel system  
6 electrons  
allowed ✓



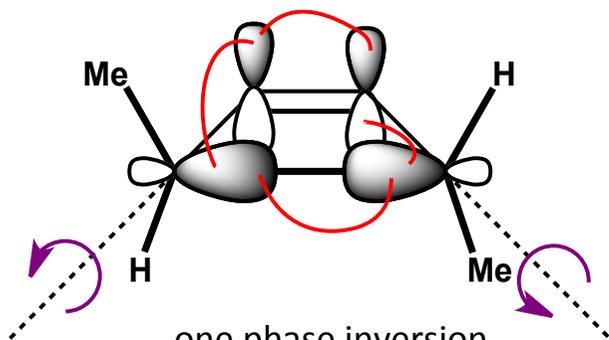
no phase inversions,  
Hückel system  
4 electrons  
forbidden (thermally) ✗



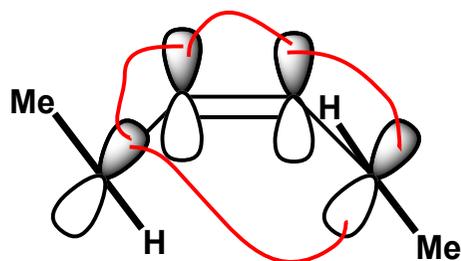
no phase inversion  
Hückel system  
6 electrons  
allowed ✓

## The Möbius-Hückel Method

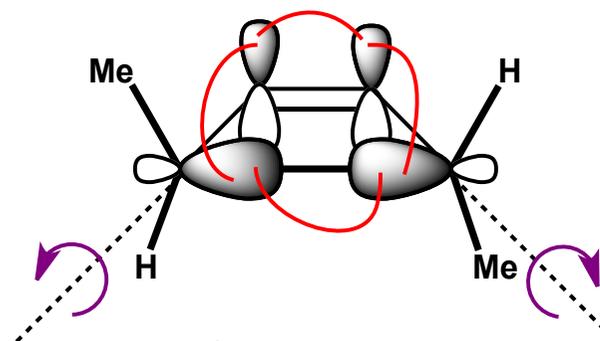
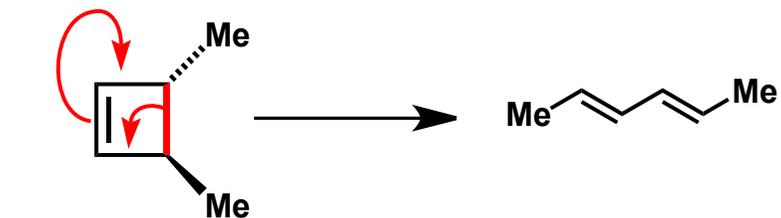
- A thermal pericyclic reaction involving a Hückel topology is allowed when the total number of electrons is  $(4n + 2)$ .
- A thermal pericyclic reaction involving a Möbius topology is allowed when the total number of electrons is  $4n$ .  
(For photochemical reactions the rules are reversed.)



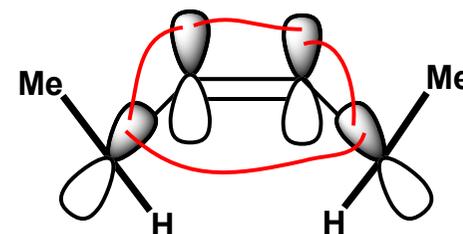
one phase inversion  
Möbius system  
4 electrons  
allowed ✓  
(conrotatory)



electrocyclic  
reactions

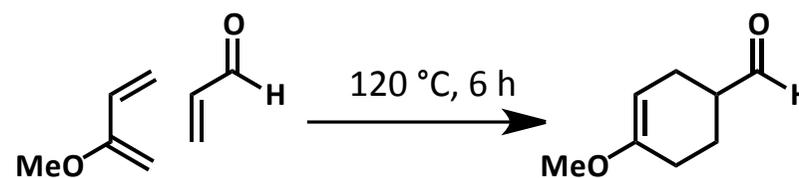
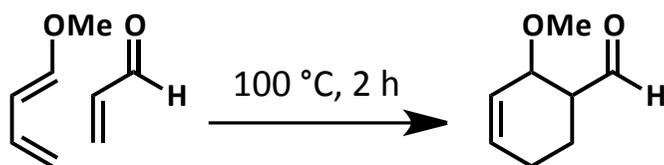
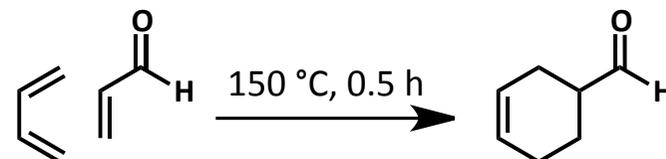
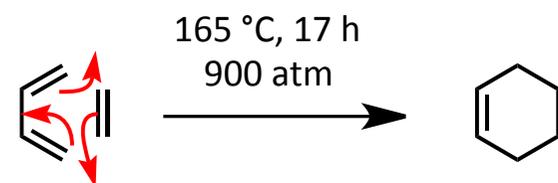


no phase inversions,  
Hückel system  
4 electrons  
forbidden (thermally) ✗  
(disrotatory)

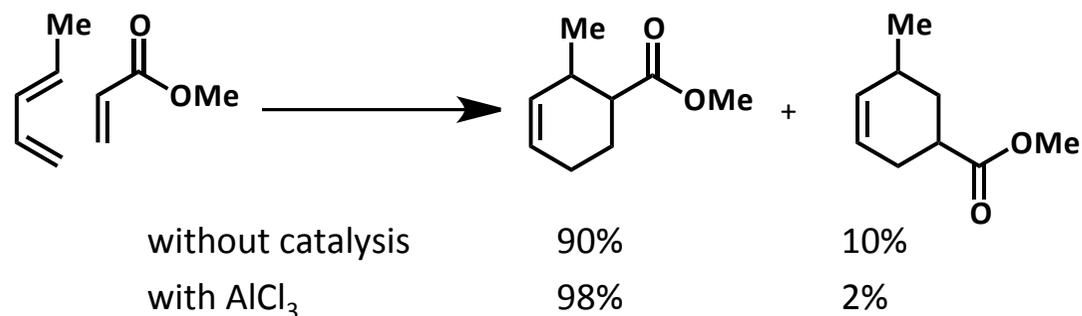
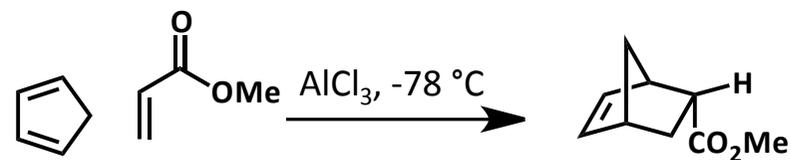


## Cycloadditions

- The Diels-Alder reaction is greatly accelerated by having an EDG on the diene and an EWG on the dienophile.

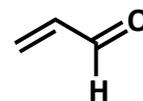


- 'ortho' and 'para' products predominate.
- Lewis acids catalyse the reaction.
- 'endo' products predominate.



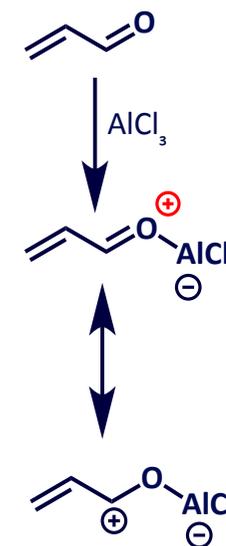
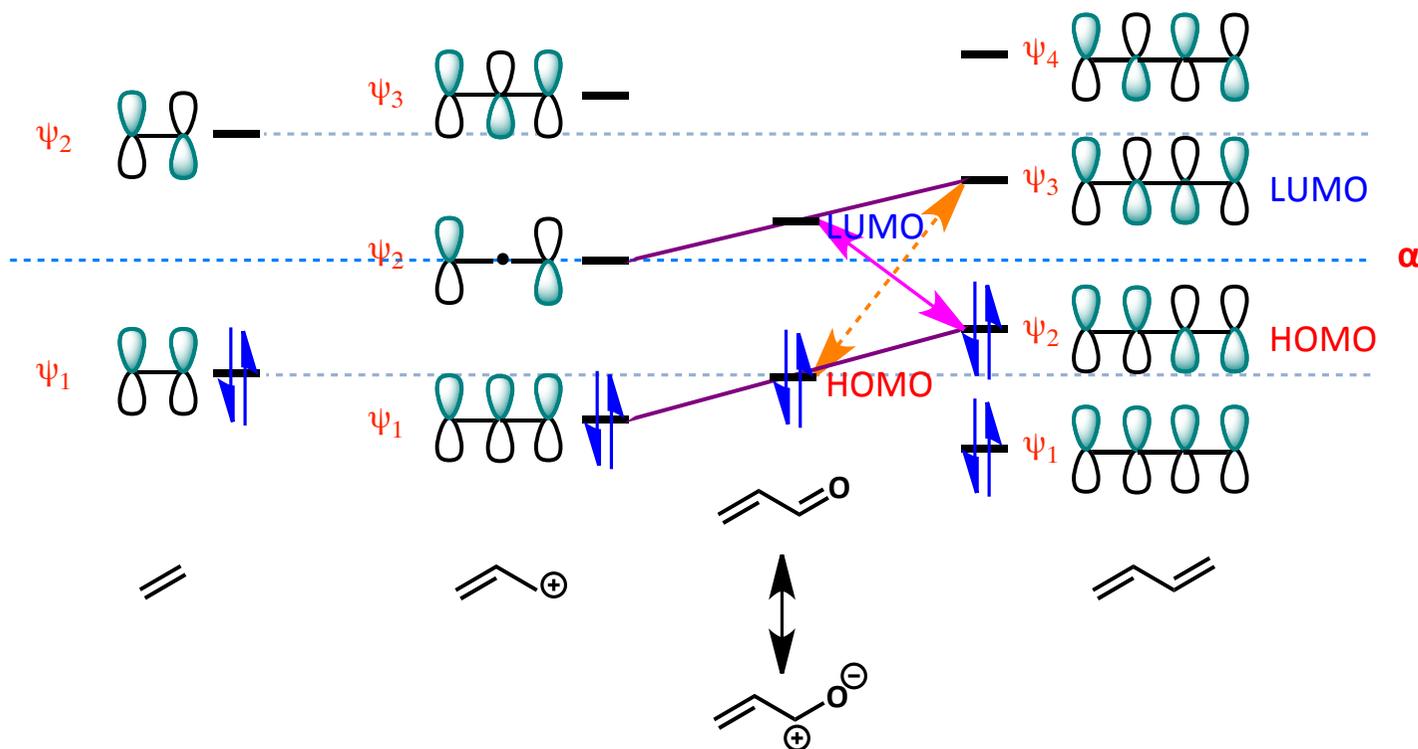
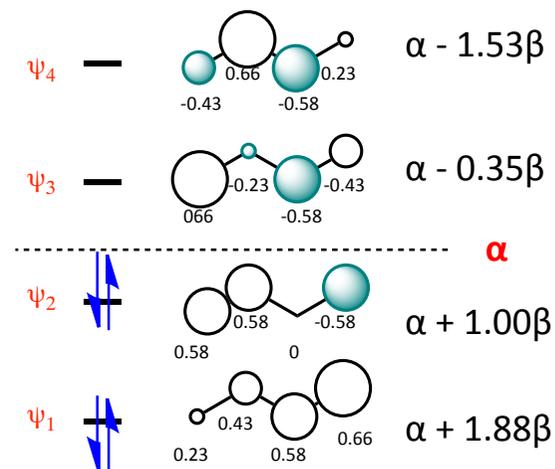
## Cycloadditions

- Increase rate of reaction with EWG on dienophile.
- An EWG ('Z' substituent) on the dienophile lowers the energy of the LUMO (and of all orbitals). (HOMO ethene is  $\alpha + \beta$ , LUMO is  $\alpha - \beta$ ).
- The best energy match is therefore the HOMO of the diene with the LUMO of the dienophile (full double-headed arrow) rather than the HOMO of the dienophile with the LUMO of the diene (dashed double-headed arrow).
- Catalysis by Lewis acids arises from further lowering of the LUMO of the dienophile.



LUMO

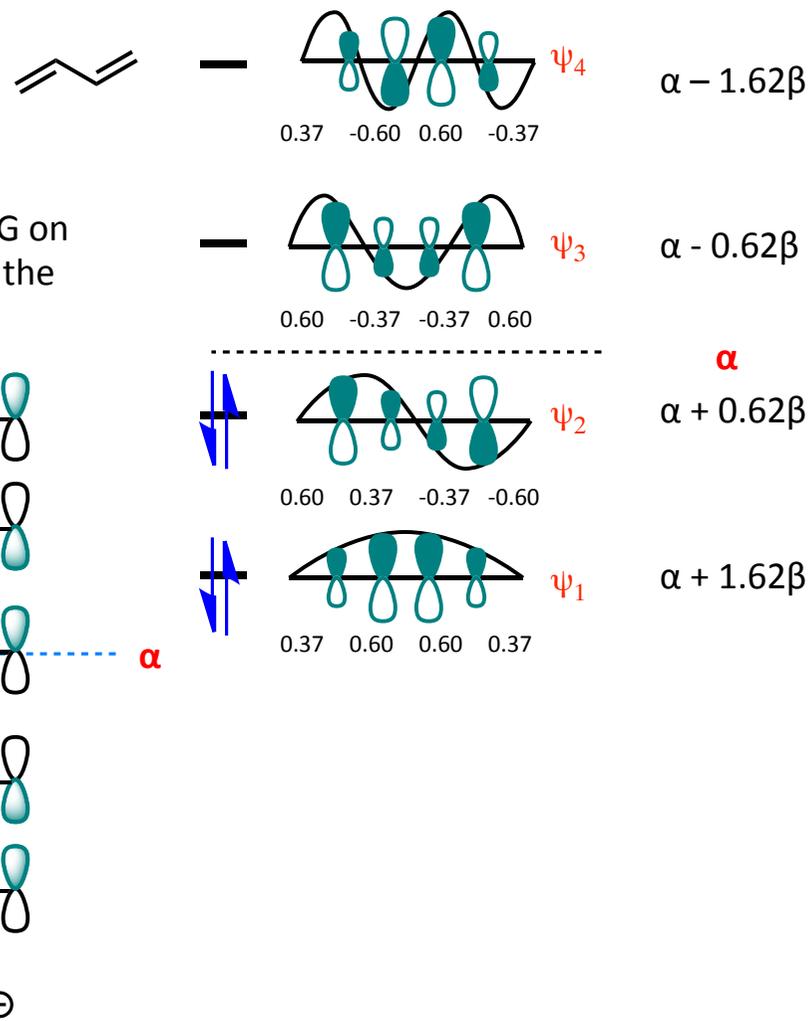
HOMO



## Cycloadditions

■ In a similar manner placing an EDG on the diene raises the energy of the HOMO making it a better energy match for the LUMO of the dienophile.

■ Having an EDG on the dienophile (higher energy HOMO) and an EWG on the diene (lower energy LUMO) is generally less effective at increasing the rate of the Diels-Alder reaction. (Inverse electron demand)



■ In general:

EWG (Z-substituents) lower HOMO & LUMO energies

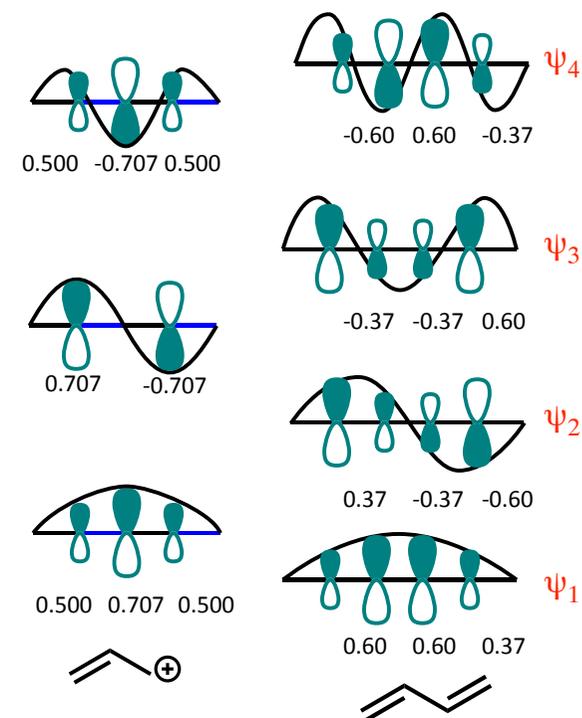
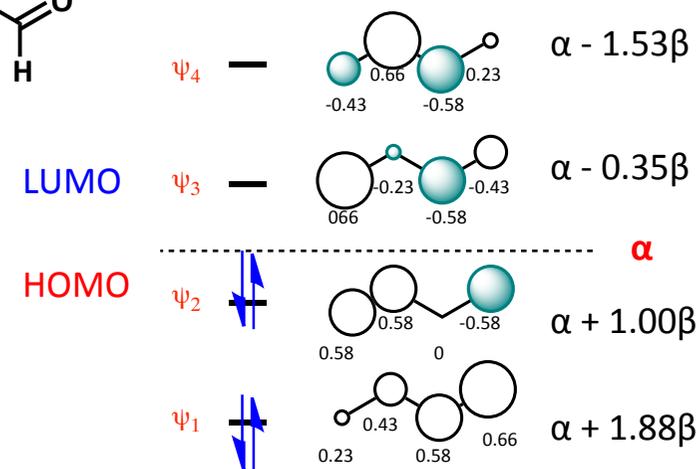
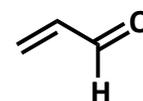
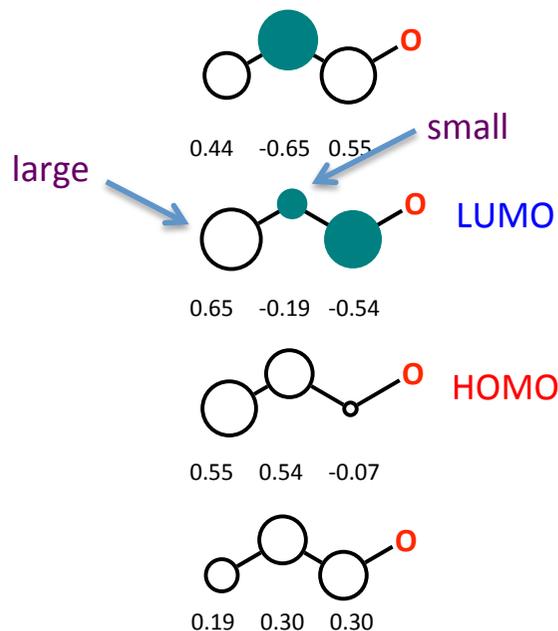
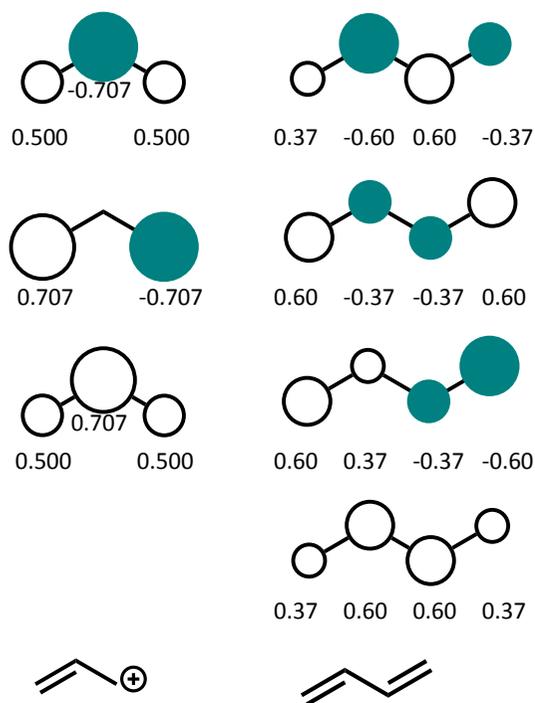
EDG (X-substituents) raise HOMO & LUMO energies

carbon conjugating systems e.g. C=C, raise HOMO & lower LUMO

■ These groups distort orbital coefficients.

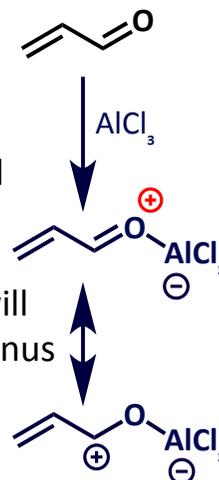
## Cycloadditions

## ■ Diels-Alder reaction regioselectivity



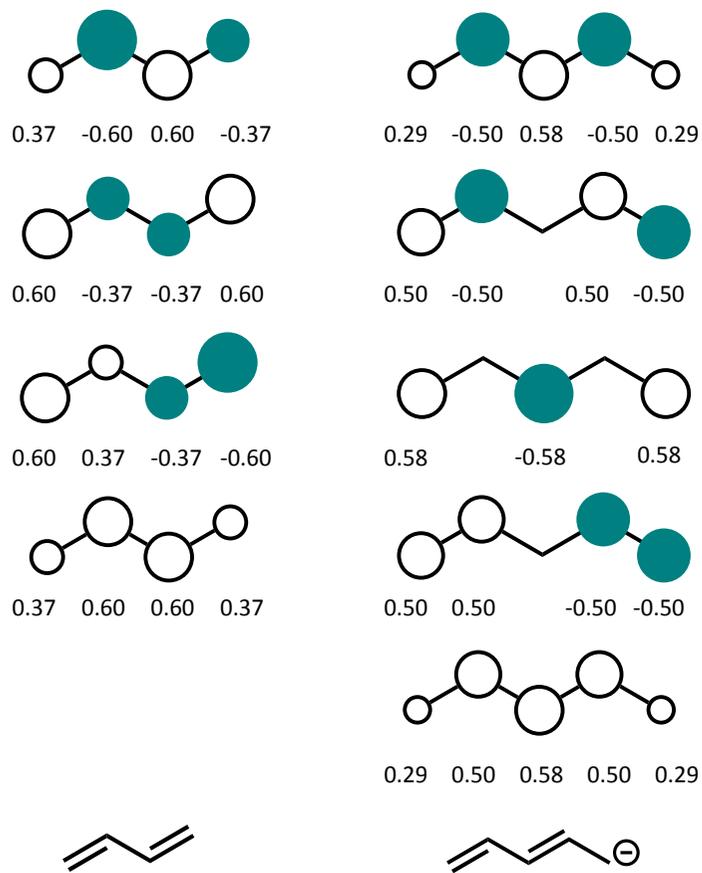
■ Coefficients for acrolein just taken as average of allyl cation and butadiene coefficients – see Fleming.

■ In the presence of a Lewis acid (e.g.  $\text{AlCl}_3$ ) acrolein will have more allyl cation character and hence the C-terminus coefficient of the LUMO will be larger.



Cycloadditions

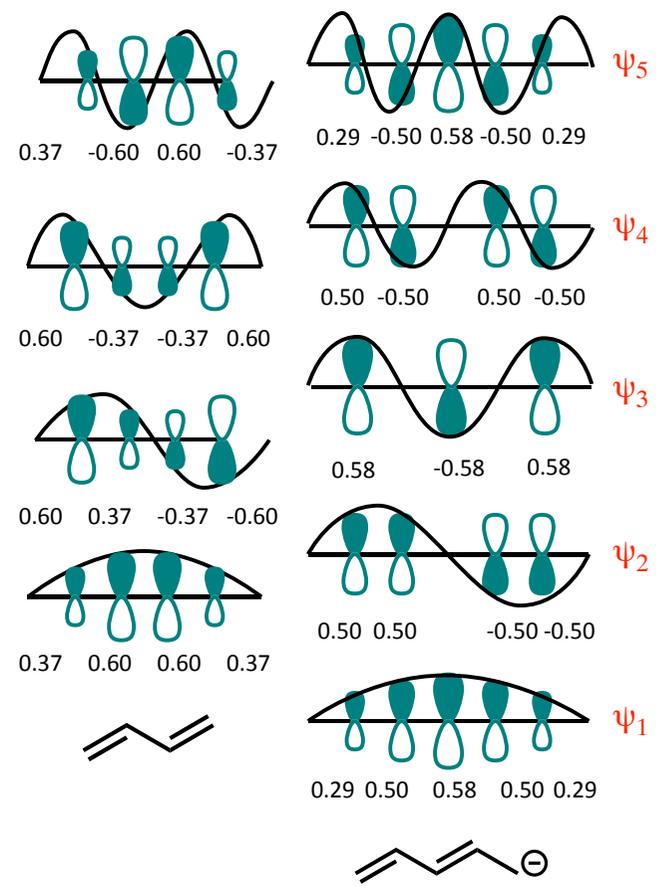
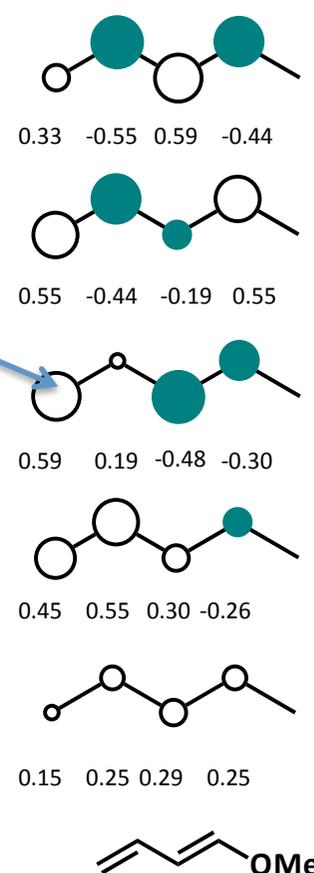
■ Diels-Alder reaction regioselectivity



LUMO

large

HOMO



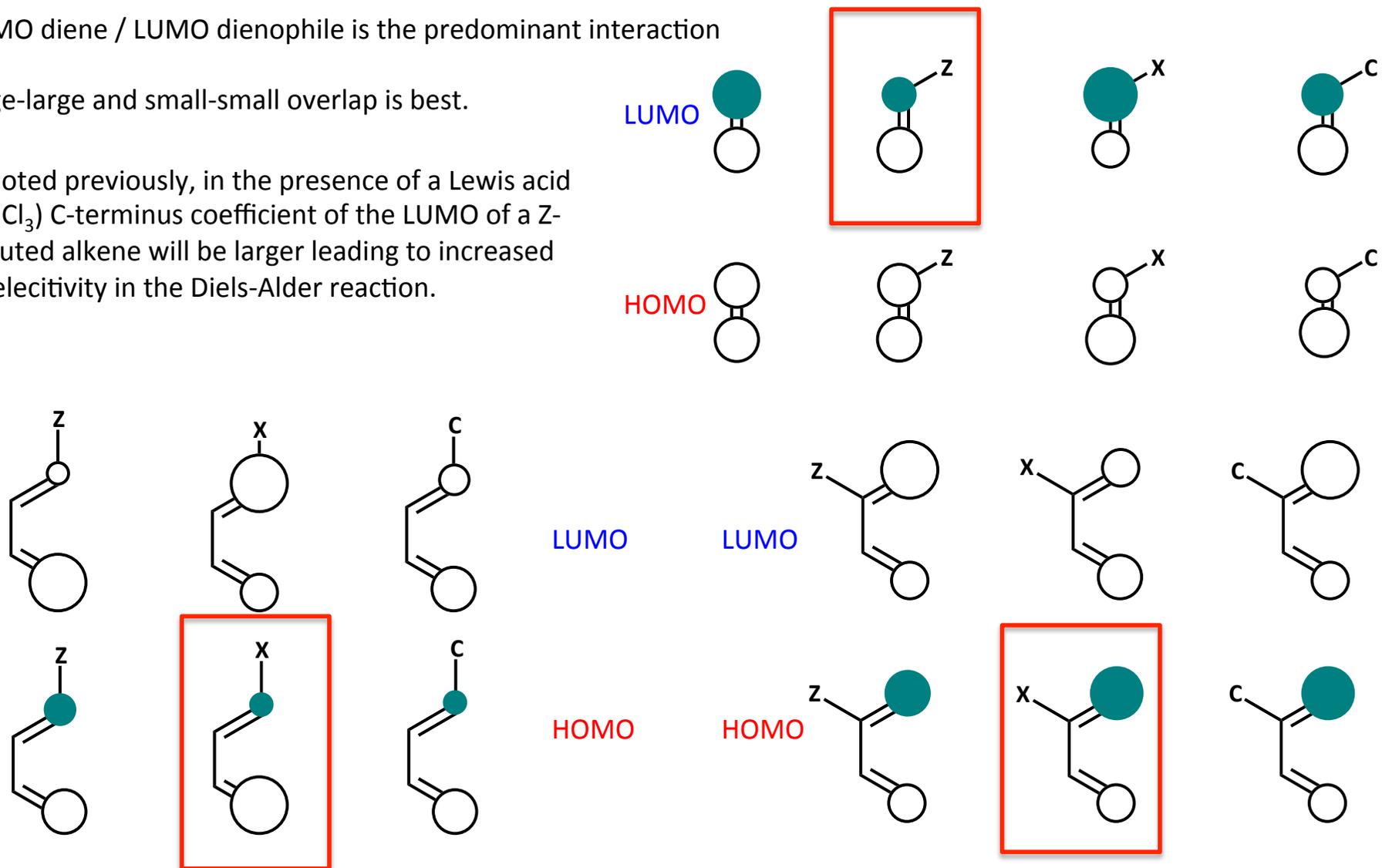
## Cycloadditions

■ Diels-Alder reaction regioselectivity (Z = EWG e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>Me; X = EDG e.g. OMe).

■ HOMO diene / LUMO dienophile is the predominant interaction

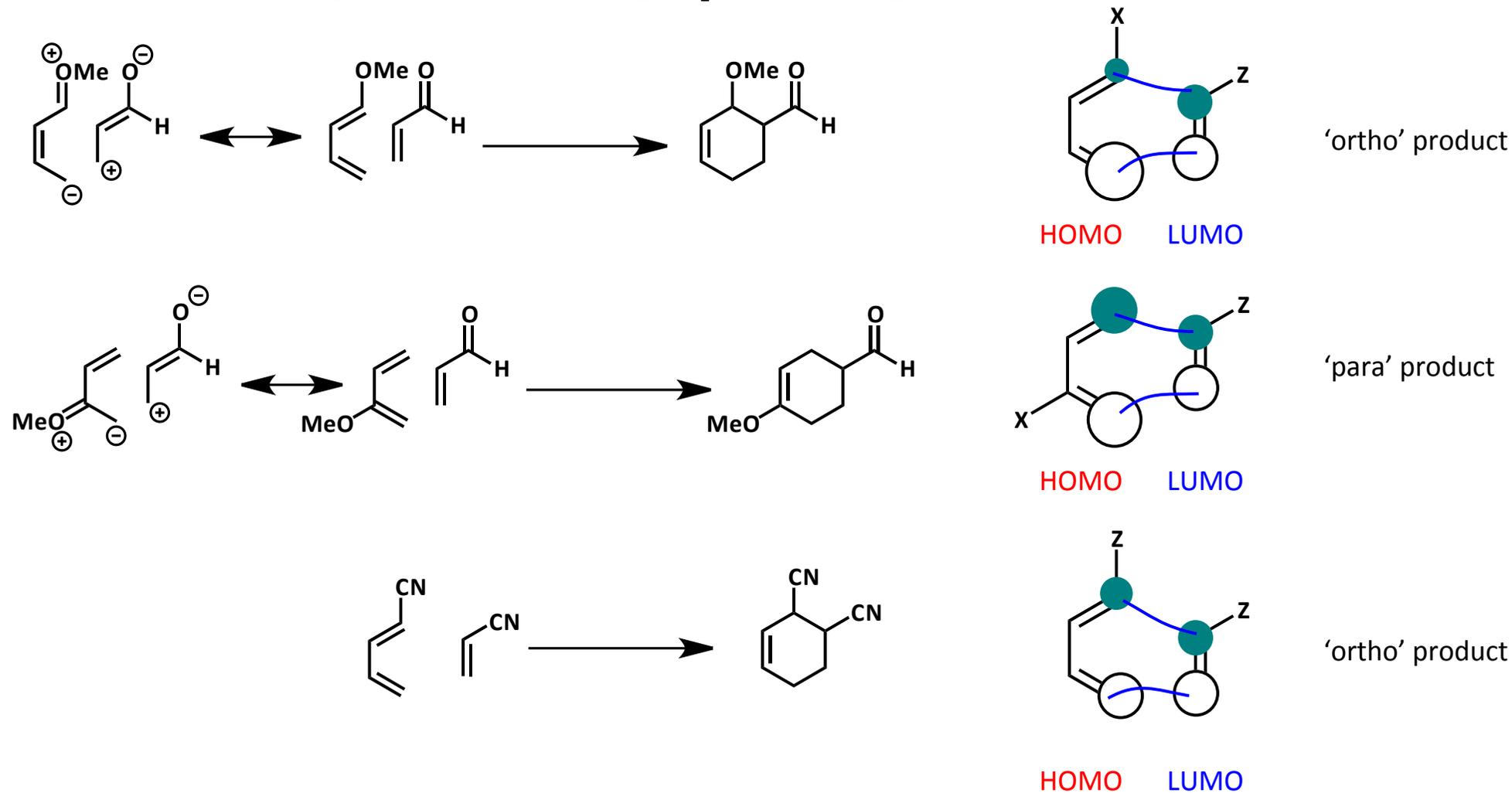
■ Large-large and small-small overlap is best.

■ As noted previously, in the presence of a Lewis acid (e.g. AlCl<sub>3</sub>) C-terminus coefficient of the LUMO of a Z-substituted alkene will be larger leading to increased regioselectivity in the Diels-Alder reaction.



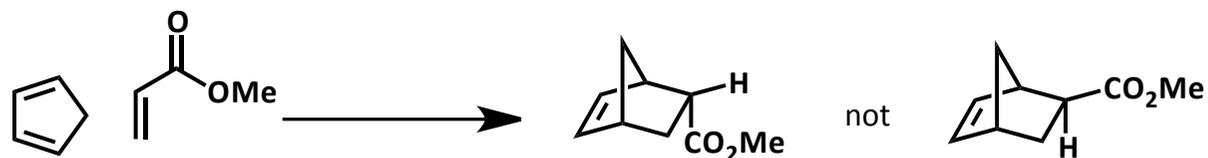
## Cycloadditions

■ Diels-Alder reaction regioselectivity (Z = EWG e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>Me; X = EDG e.g. OMe).

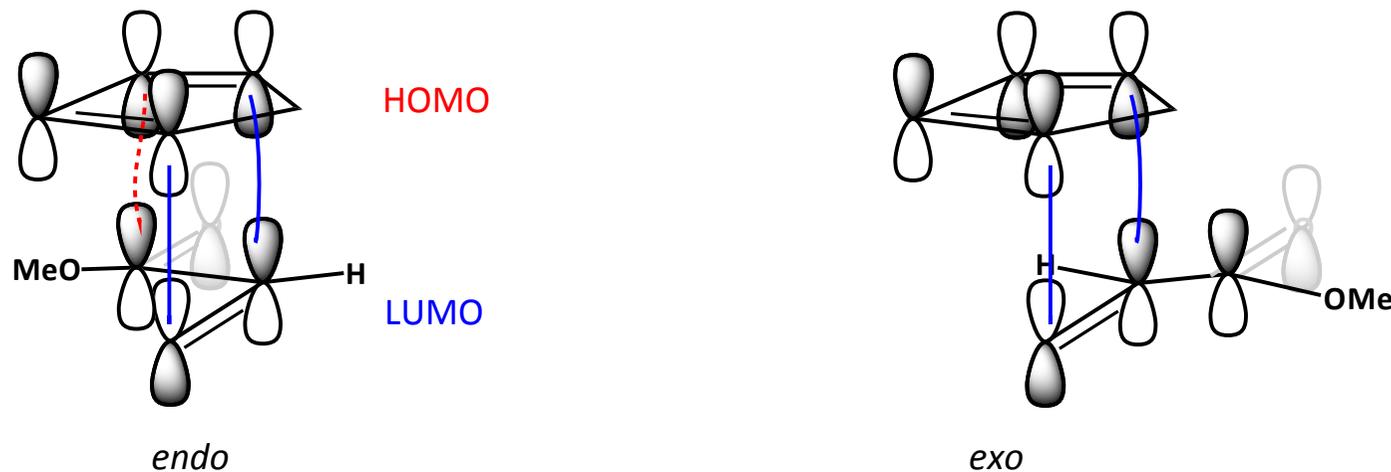


## Cycloadditions

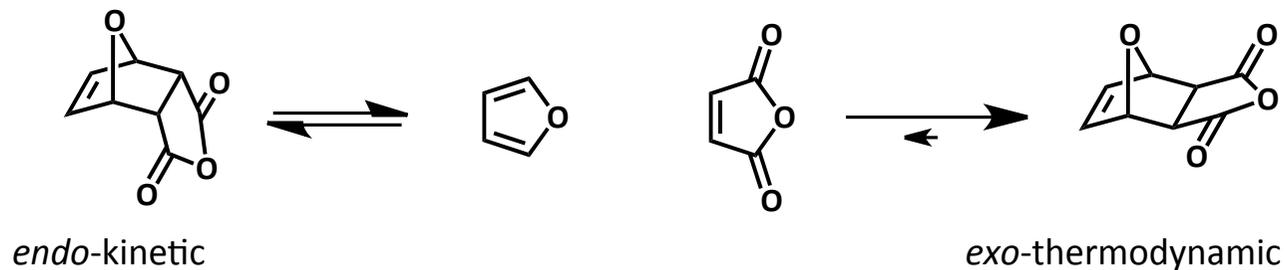
■ Diels-Alder reaction the *endo* rule – *endo*-product is generally the major product with dienophiles containing  $\pi$ -conjugating substituents .



■ Secondary orbital overlap is a simple explanation for the kinetic preference for the *endo*-adduct –

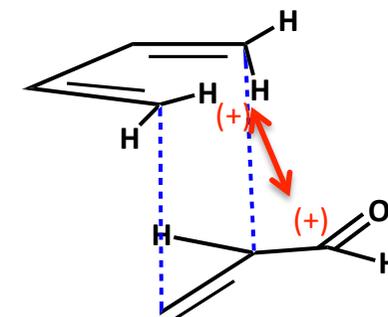
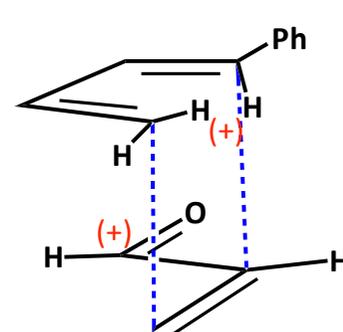
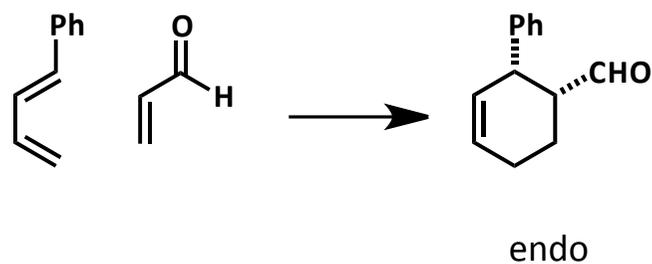
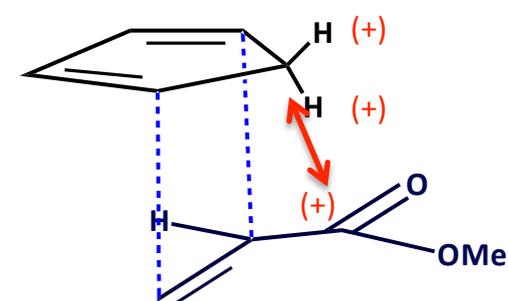
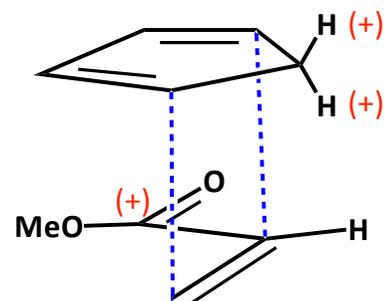
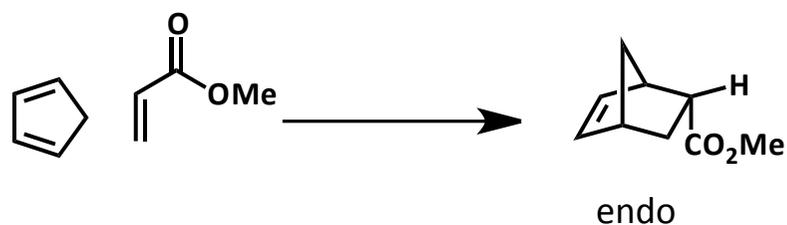


■ In cases where the reaction readily reverses (e.g. Diels Alder reactions with furan) the thermodynamically preferred *exo*-adducts are usually obtained.

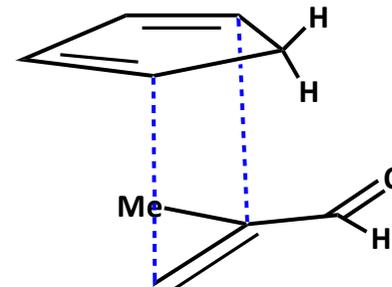
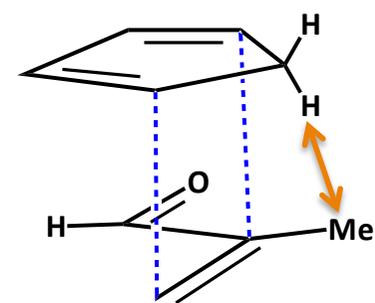
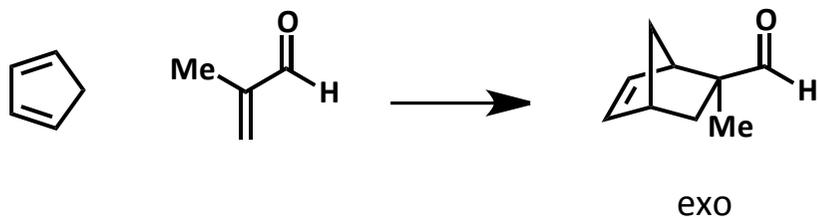


## Cycloadditions

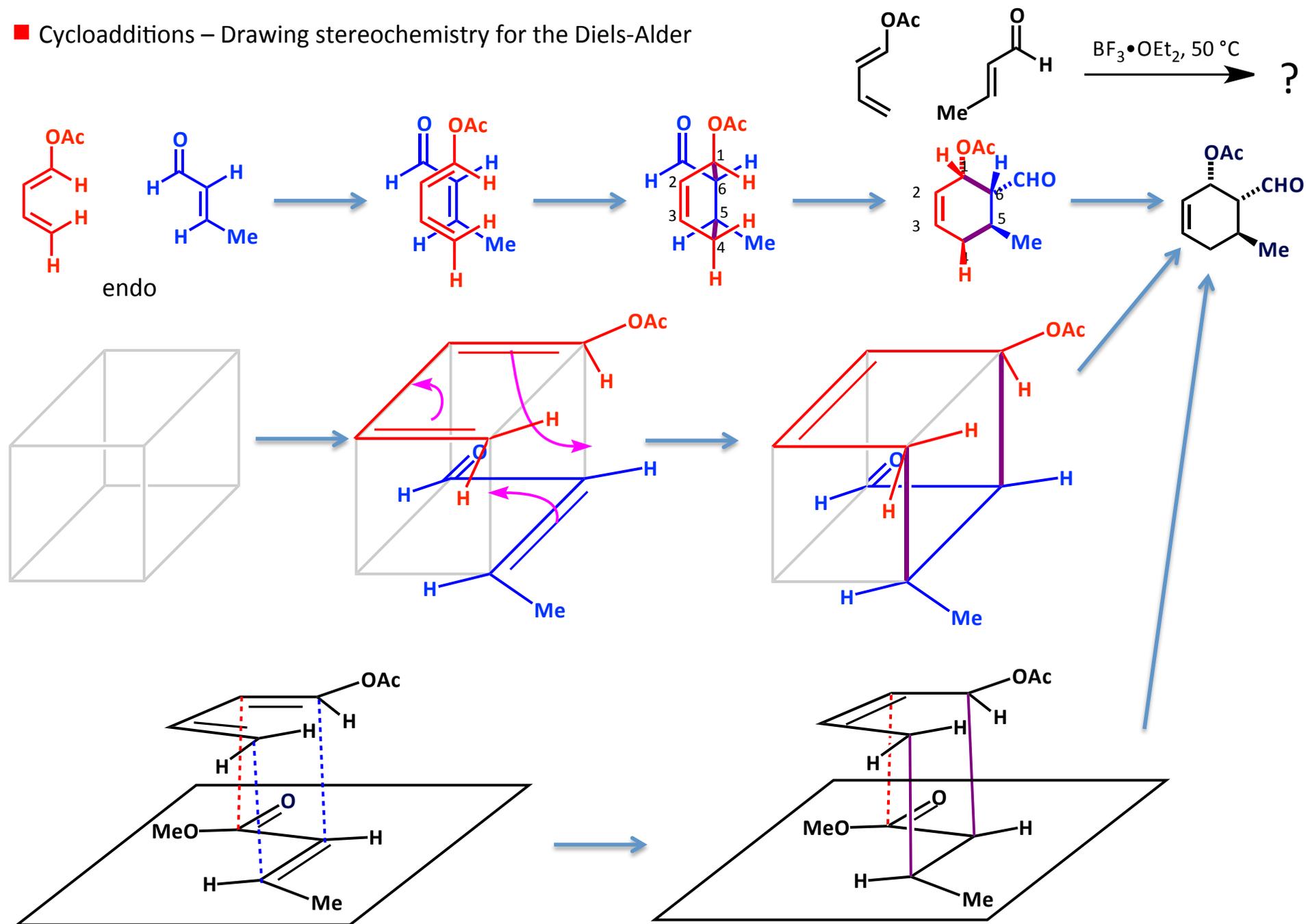
- Electrostatic arguments have also been proposed as a reasonable explanation for 'endo'-selectivity



- Steric effects can favour the exo product.



■ Cycloadditions – Drawing stereochemistry for the Diels-Alder

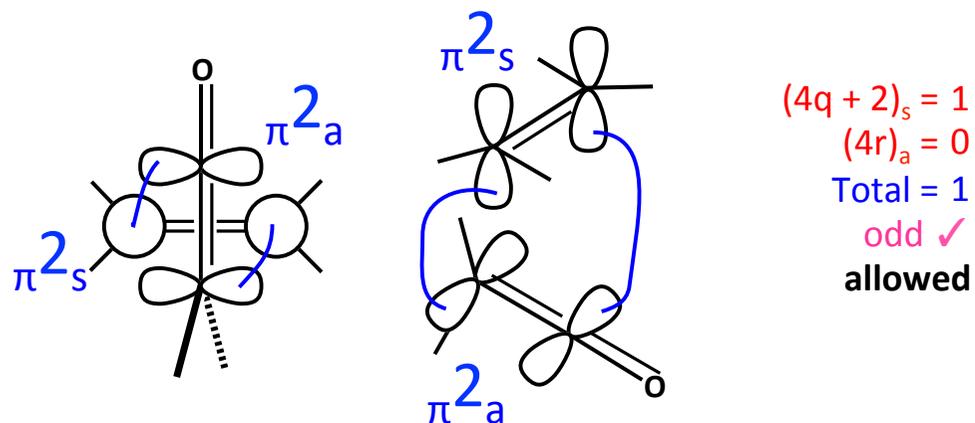


## Cycloadditions

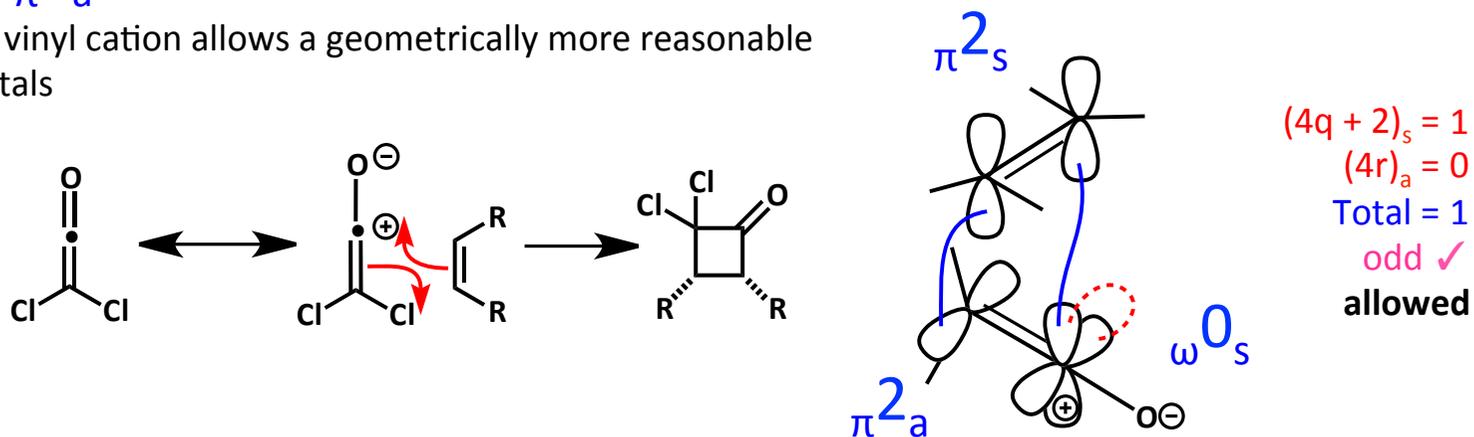
- Ketenes undergo (thermal) [2+2]-cycloadditions with alkenes providing an excellent method for cyclobutane synthesis.



- The simplest explanation for this reaction is that the orbitals of the ketene are used as an antarafacial component.

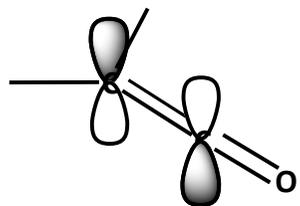
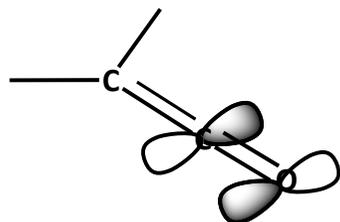
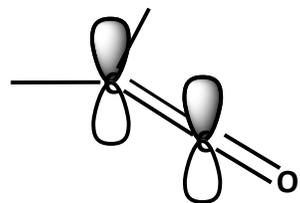
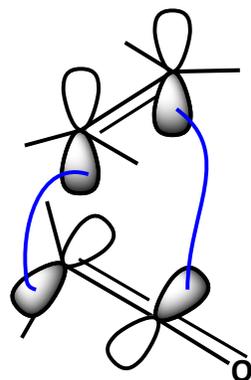


- Treating the ketene as a vinyl cation allows a geometrically more reasonable overlap to orthogonal orbitals



## Cycloadditions

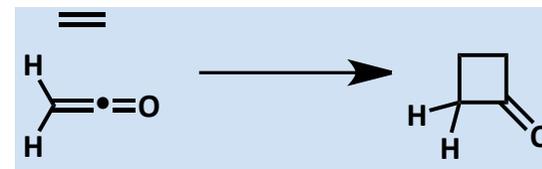
## ■ Ketene Frontier Orbitals

LUMO + 1  
(C=C  $\pi^*$ )LUMO  
(C=O  $\pi^*$ )HOMO  
(C=C  $\pi$ )

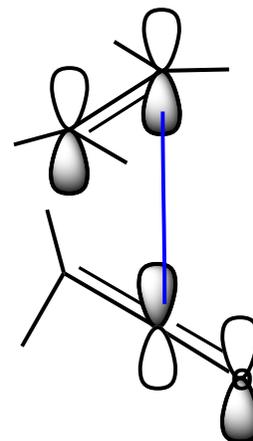
HOMO alkene

LUMO + 1 ketene

constructive overlap ✓

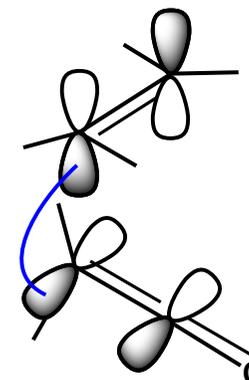


HOMO alkene



LUMO ketene

LUMO alkene

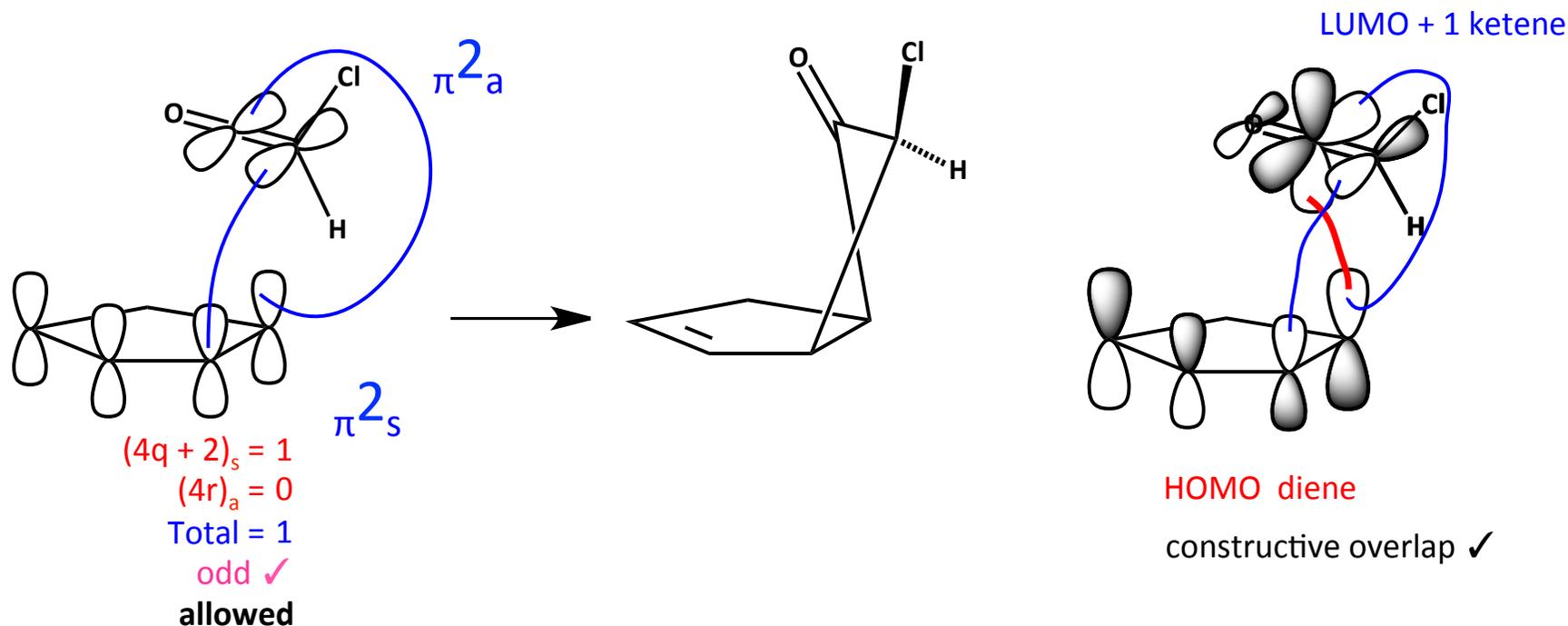
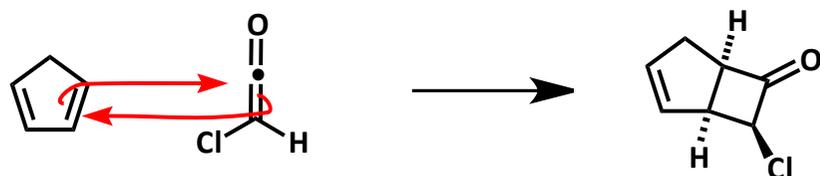


HOMO ketene

- With ketenes it is probable that the low lying C=O  $\pi^*$  orbital is involved in the reaction.
- Other cumulated  $\pi$  systems which contain a central sp-hybridised carbon atom (e.g. allenes, vinyl cations) also readily undergo [2+2] cycloaddition.

## Cycloadditions

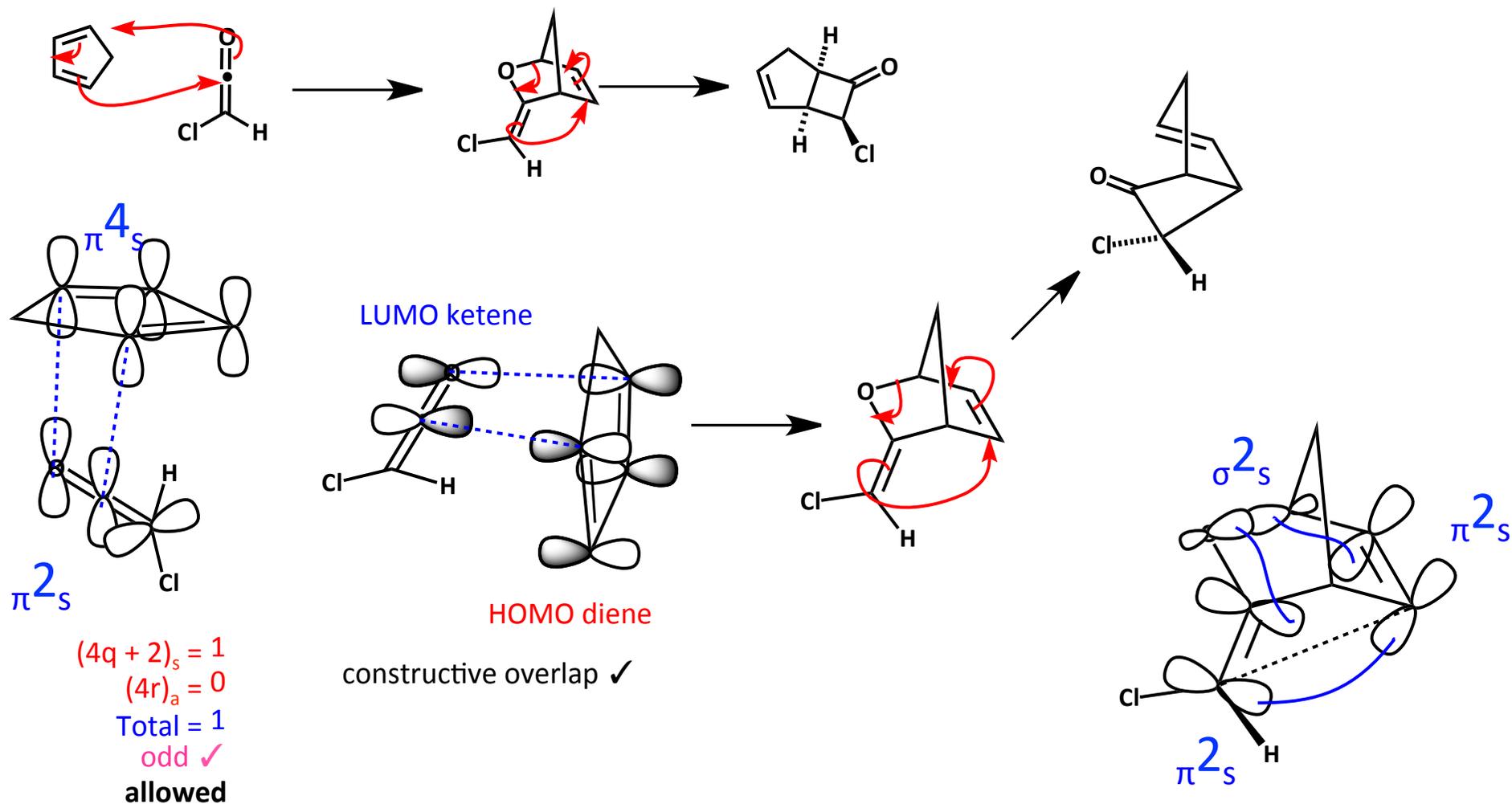
- Ketenes readily react with cyclopentadiene to give cyclobutanes.



- With an unsymmetrical ketene, the larger ketene substituent will point away from the plane of the alkene.
- Regioselectivity can be predicted from simple “arrow-pushing” arguments (the C=O carbon of ketenes is very electrophilic), or from looking at FMO coefficients.
- In reactions of unsymmetrical alkenes the less sterically demanding C=O part of the ketene will be oriented above the larger alkene substituents.

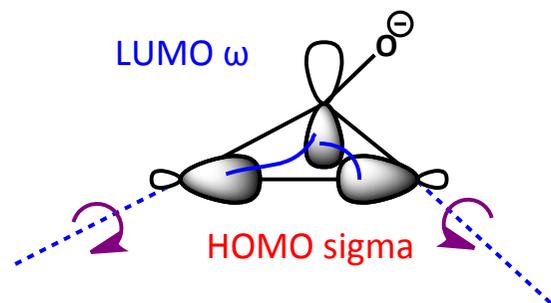
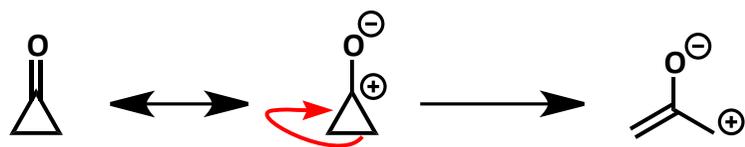
## Cycloadditions

- Another possible mechanism is a hetero Diels-Alder reaction followed by a Claisen rearrangement.

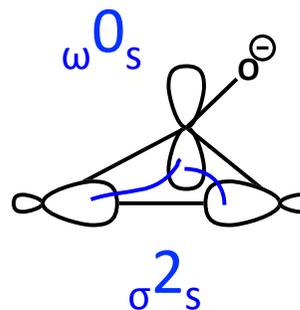


- Certain ketenes appear to react with cyclopentadiene *via* both a [2+2] cycloaddition, and a [4+2] cycloaddition followed by a Claisen rearrangement mechanism.

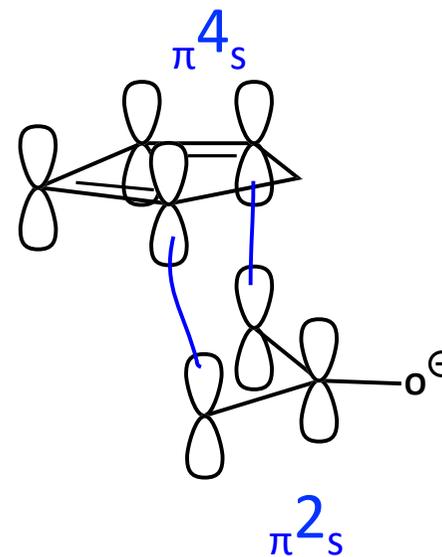
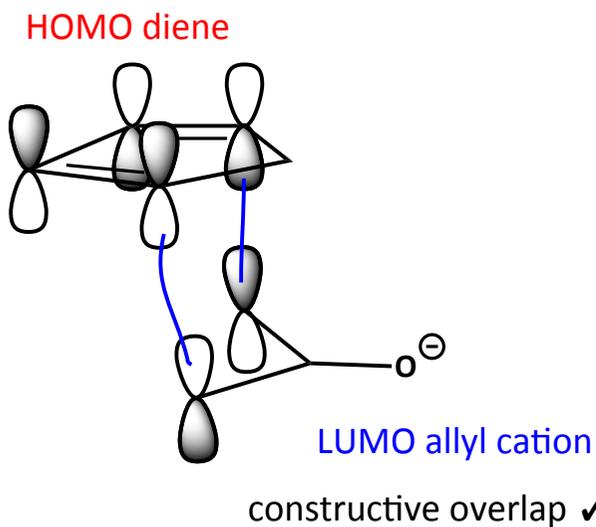
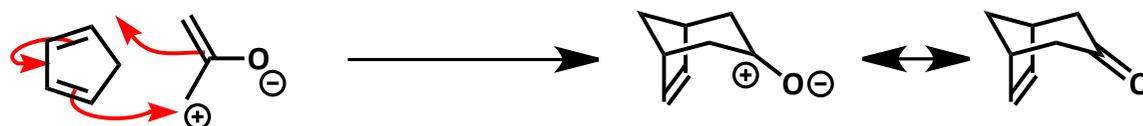
■ Oxyallyl-diene



constructive overlap ✓  
disrotatory

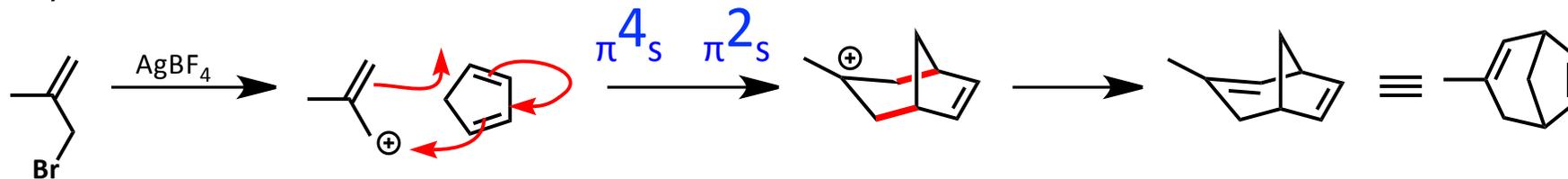


$(4q + 2)_s = 1$   
 $(4r)_a = 0$   
Total = 1  
odd ✓  
**allowed**  
**disrotatory**

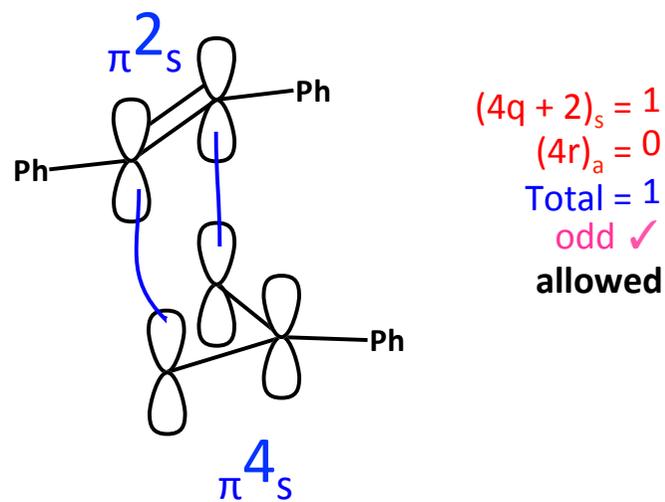
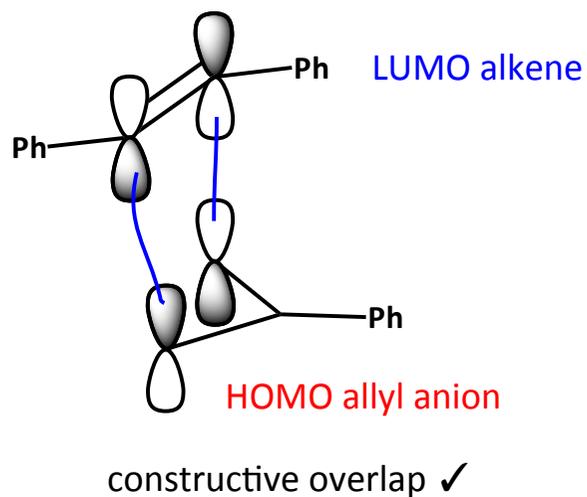
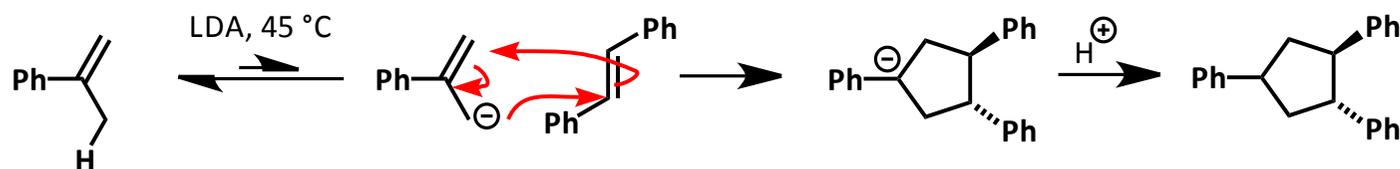


$(4q + 2)_s = 1$   
 $(4r)_a = 0$   
Total = 1  
odd ✓  
**allowed**

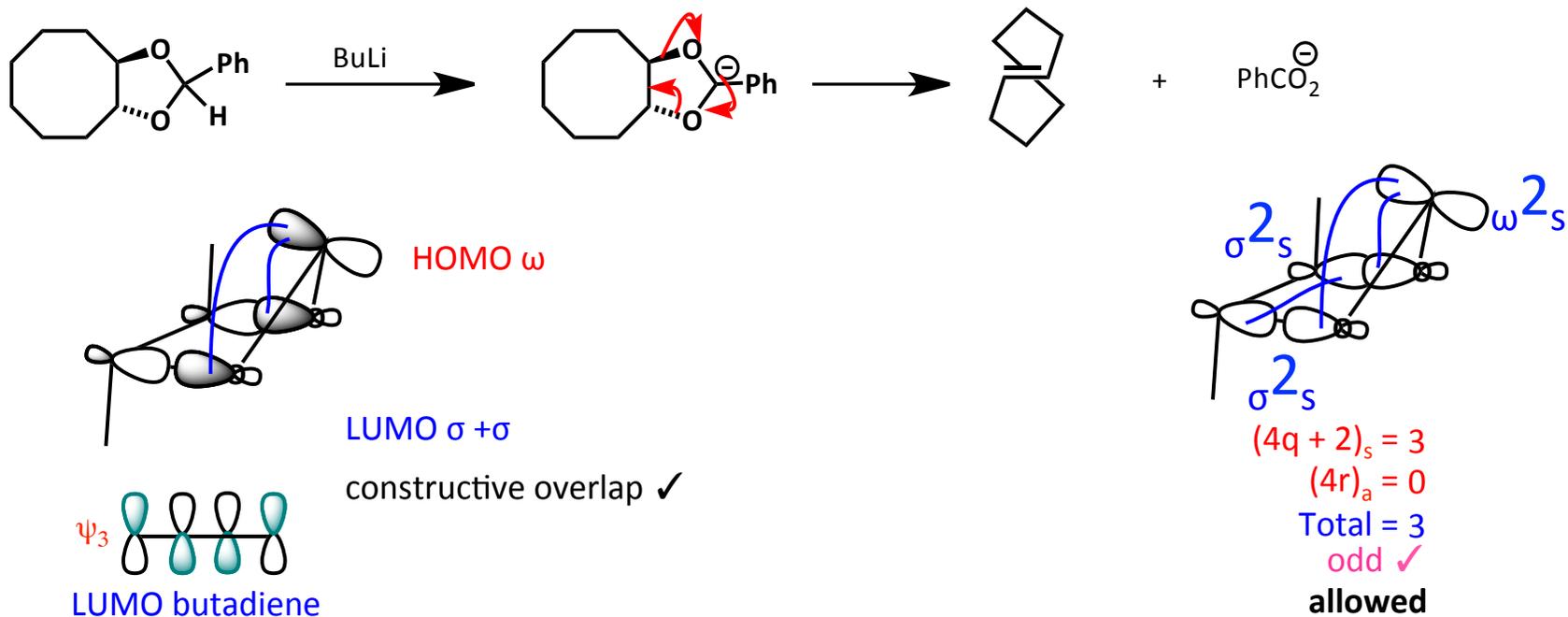
■ Allyl cation-diene



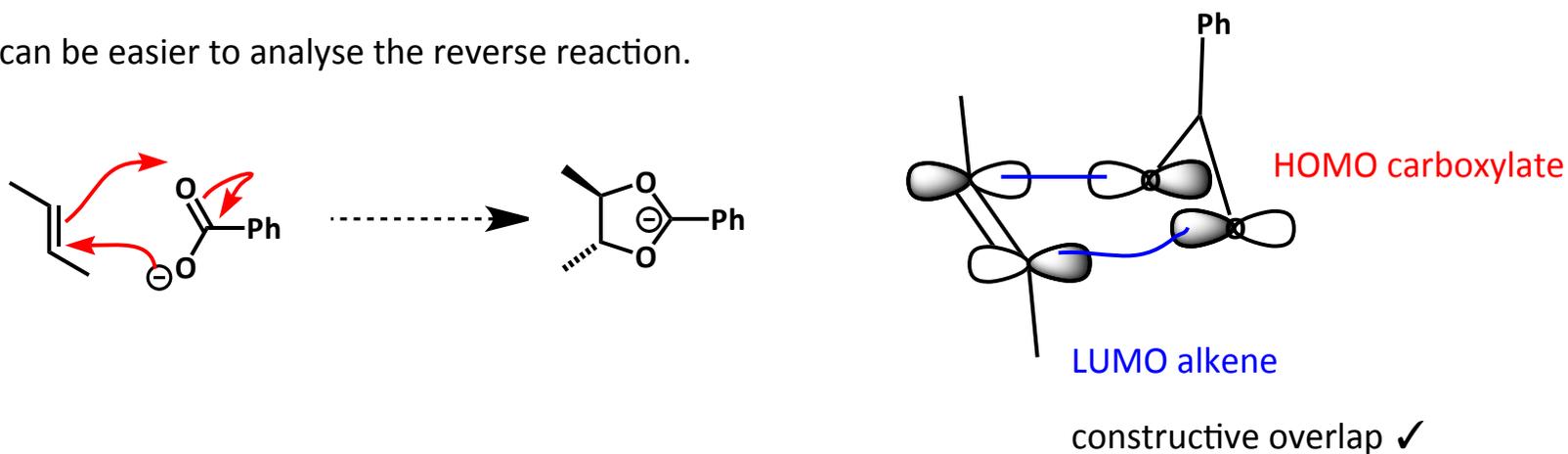
■ Allyl anion-alkene and reverse process



■ Allyl anion-alkene (reverse process)

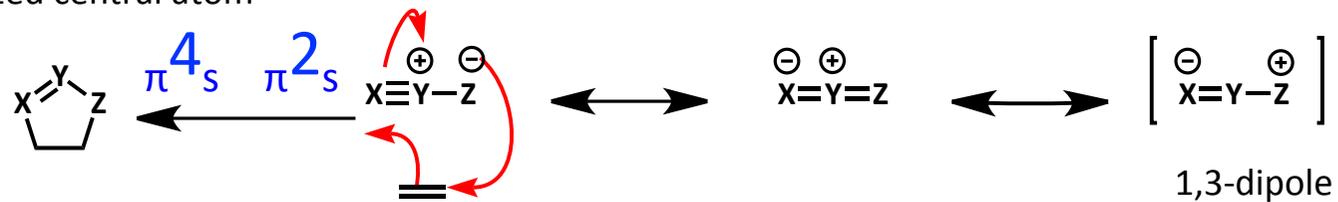


■ It can be easier to analyse the reverse reaction.

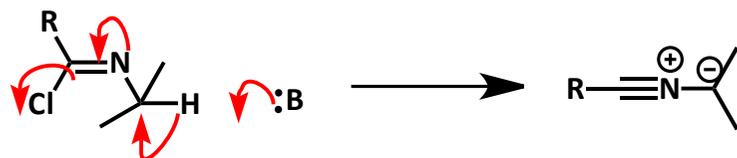


■ 1,3-Dipolar cycloadditions.

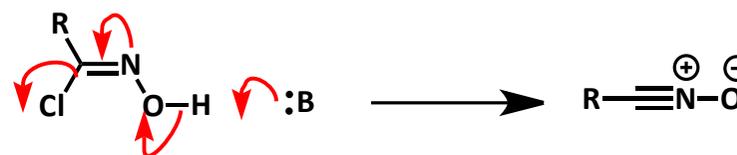
■ sp-hybridized central atom



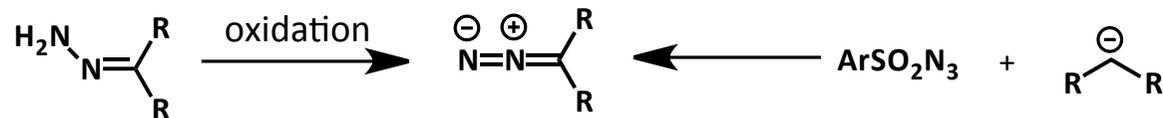
■ nitrile ylids



■ nitrile oxides

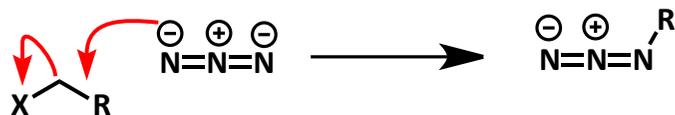


■ nitrile imines



■ diazoalkanes

■ alkyl azides

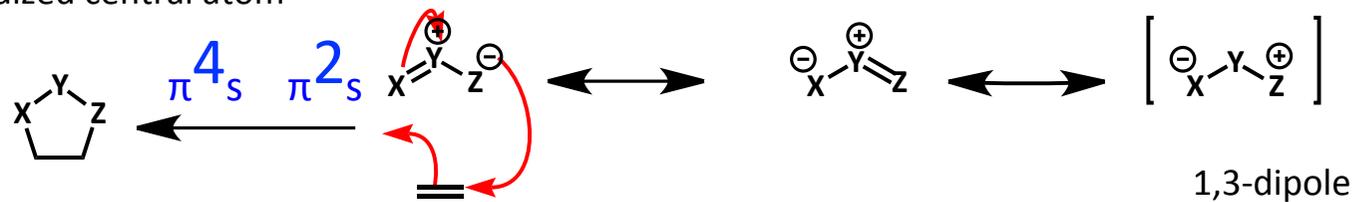


■ nitrous oxide

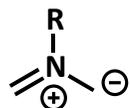


■ 1,3-Dipolar cycloadditions.

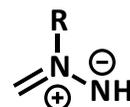
■  $sp^2$ -hybridized central atom



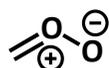
■ azomethine ylids



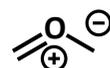
■ azomethine imines



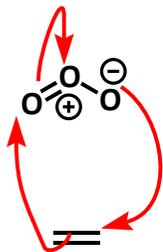
■ carbonyl oxides



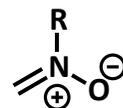
■ carbonyl ylids



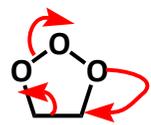
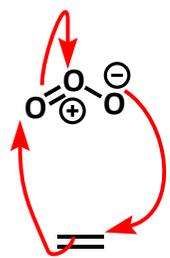
■ ozone



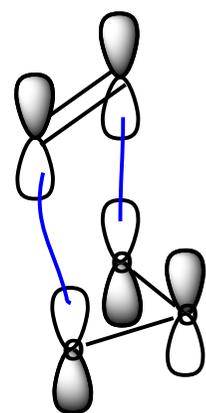
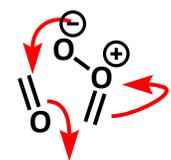
■ nitrones



■ Ozonolysis



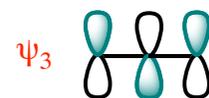
$\omega^2_s \sigma^2_s \sigma^2_s$



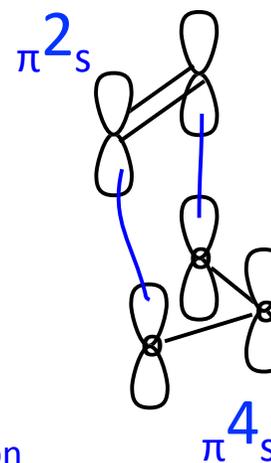
HOMO alkene

constructive overlap ✓

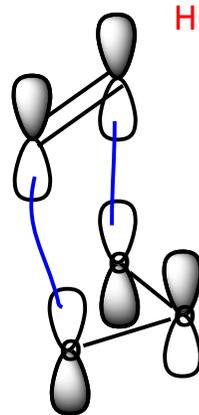
LUMO ozone



LUMO allyl anion



$(4q + 2)_s = 1$   
 $(4r)_a = 0$   
 Total = 1  
 odd ✓  
 allowed



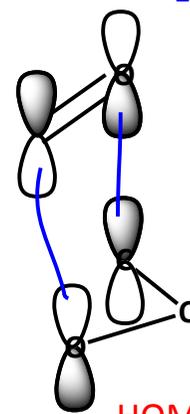
HOMO carbonyl

constructive overlap ✓

LUMO carbonyl ylid



HOMO allyl anion

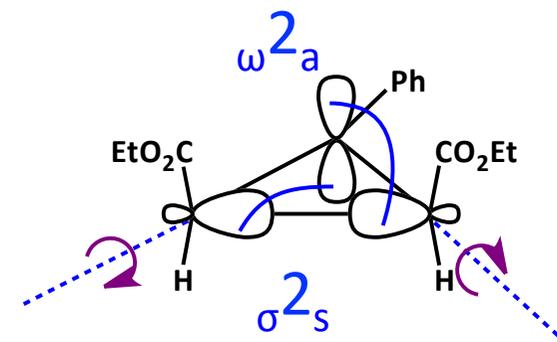
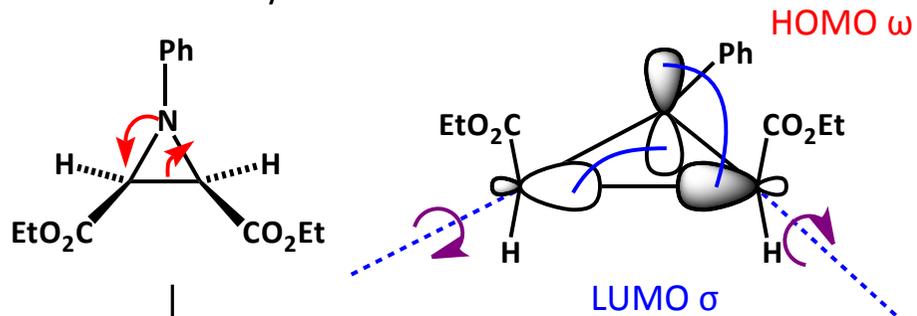


LUMO carbonyl

constructive overlap ✓

HOMO carbonyl ylid

■ Azomethine ylids.

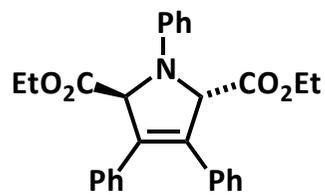
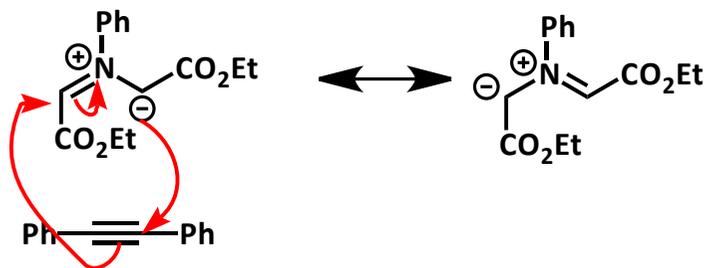
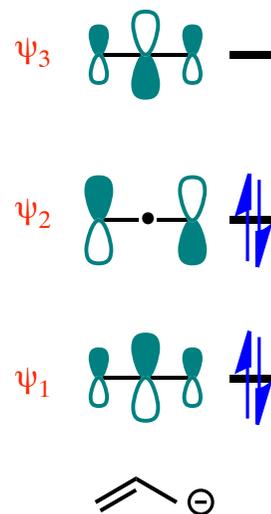


$$(4q + 2)_s = 1$$

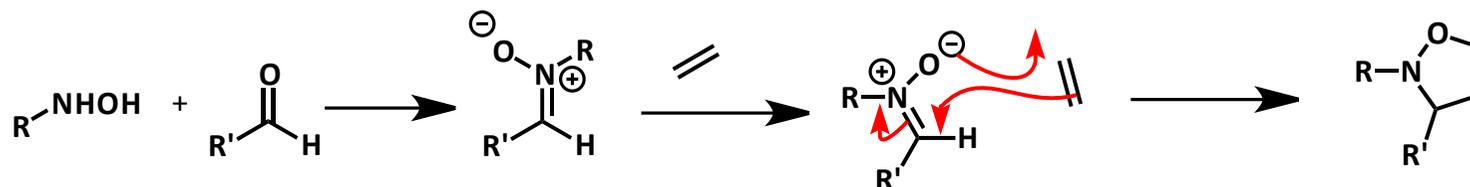
$$(4r)_a = 0$$

$$\text{Total} = 1$$

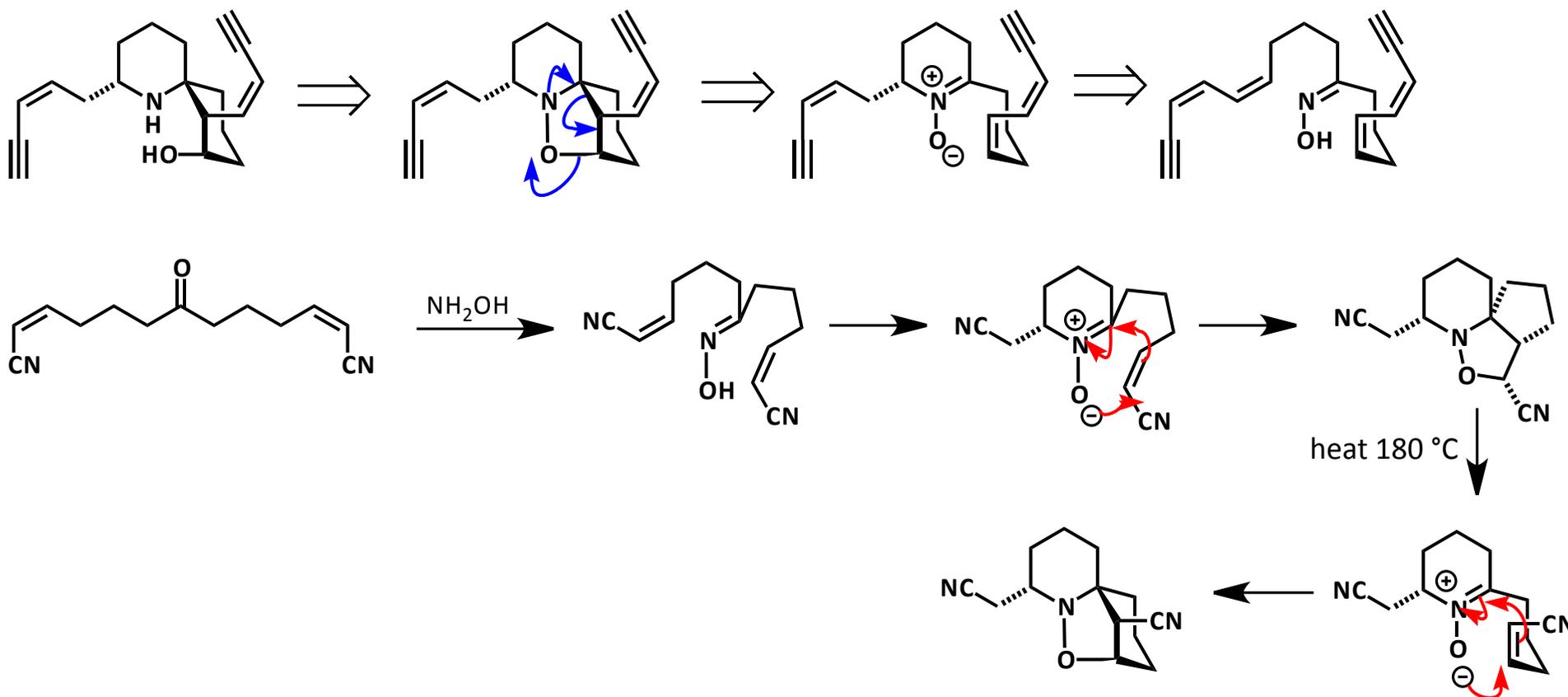
odd ✓  
allowed  
conrotatory



- Nitronc cycloadditions.
- Nitrones are readily formed between aldehydes and substituted hydroxylamines.
- The nitronc cycloaddition can predominantly HOMO<sub>nitronc</sub> LUMO<sub>dipolarophile</sub> or LUMO<sub>nitronc</sub> HOMO<sub>dipolarophile</sub> depending on the substituents on the dipolarophile.

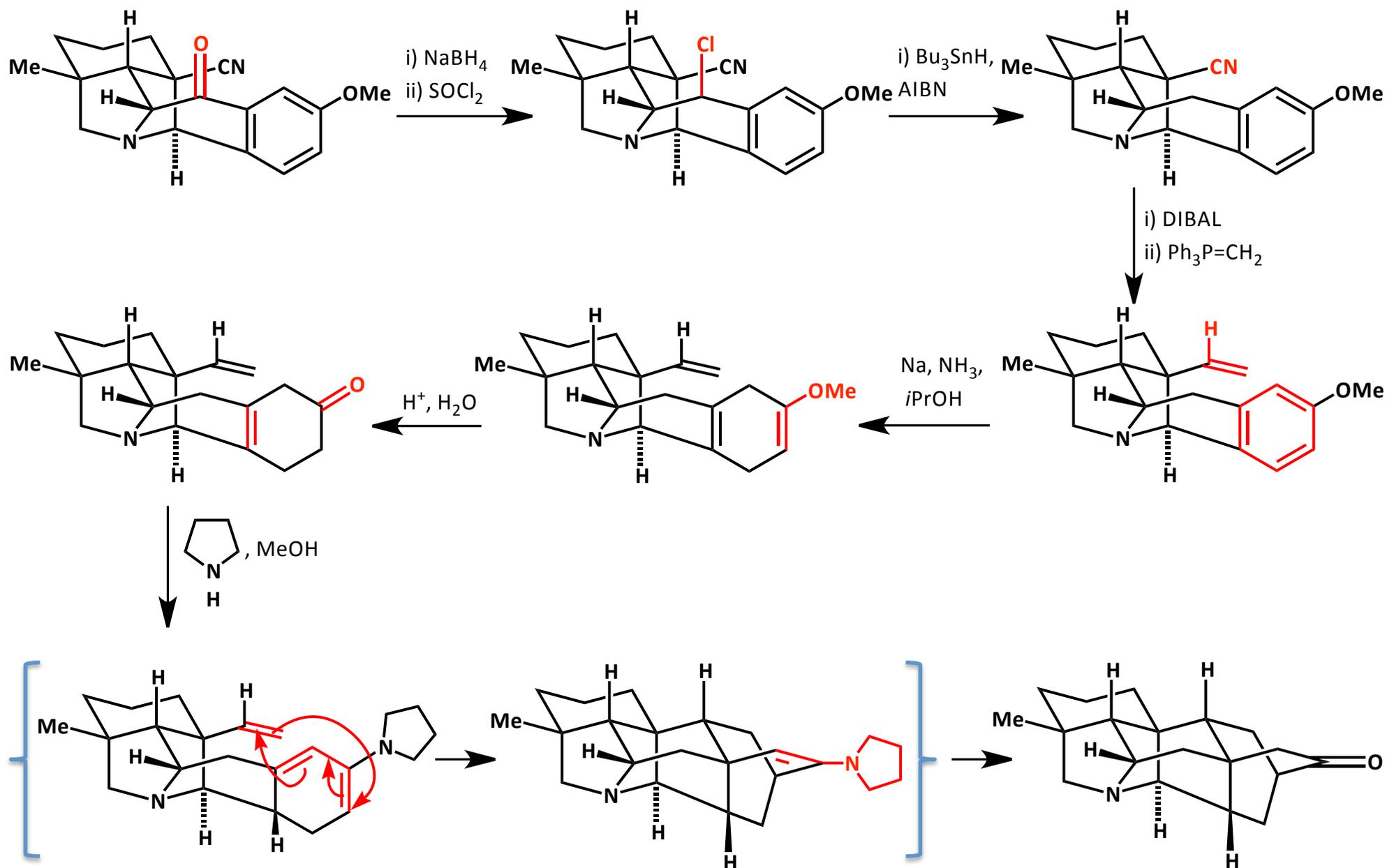


- Stockman synthesis of histrionicotoxin; *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2006**, *128*, 12656.



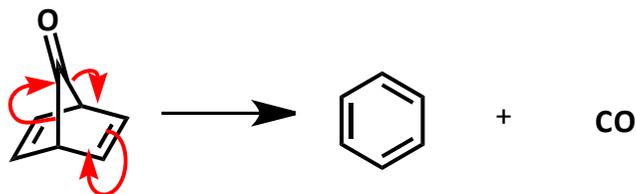


■ Gin's Nominine synthesis – *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2006, 128, 8734.



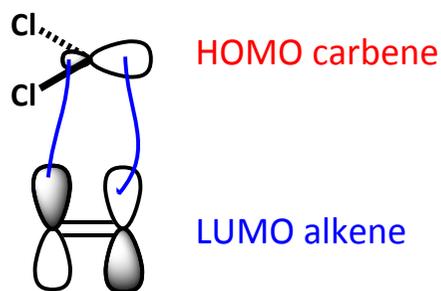
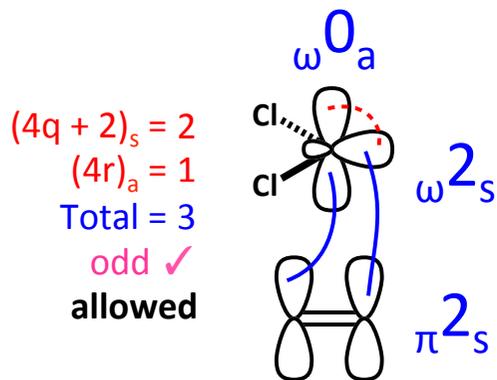
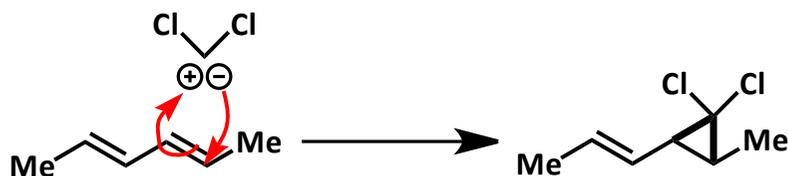
■ Cheletropic Reactions

■ A sub-class of cycloaddition/cycloreversion reactions in which the **two  $\sigma$  – bonds** are made or broken to the **same atom**.

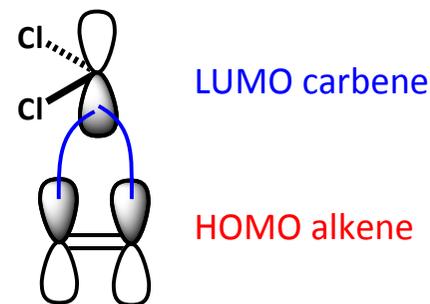


■ More important are the reactions of singlet carbenes with alkenes which are stereospecific.

■ Side on approach of the carbene is required for conservation of orbital symmetry.

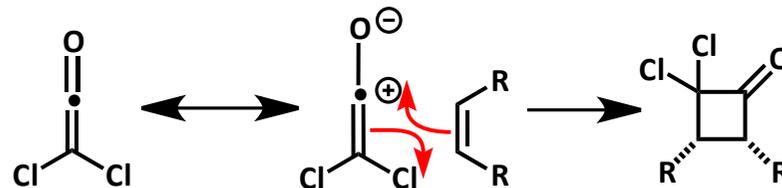


constructive overlap ✓

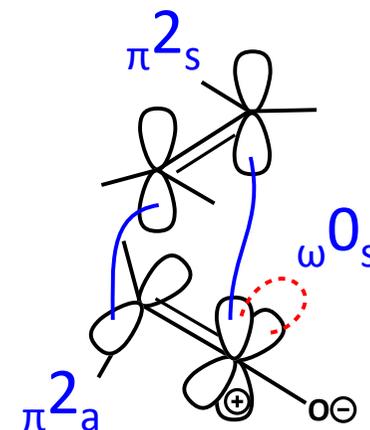


constructive overlap ✓

■ c.f. ketenes as vinyl cations

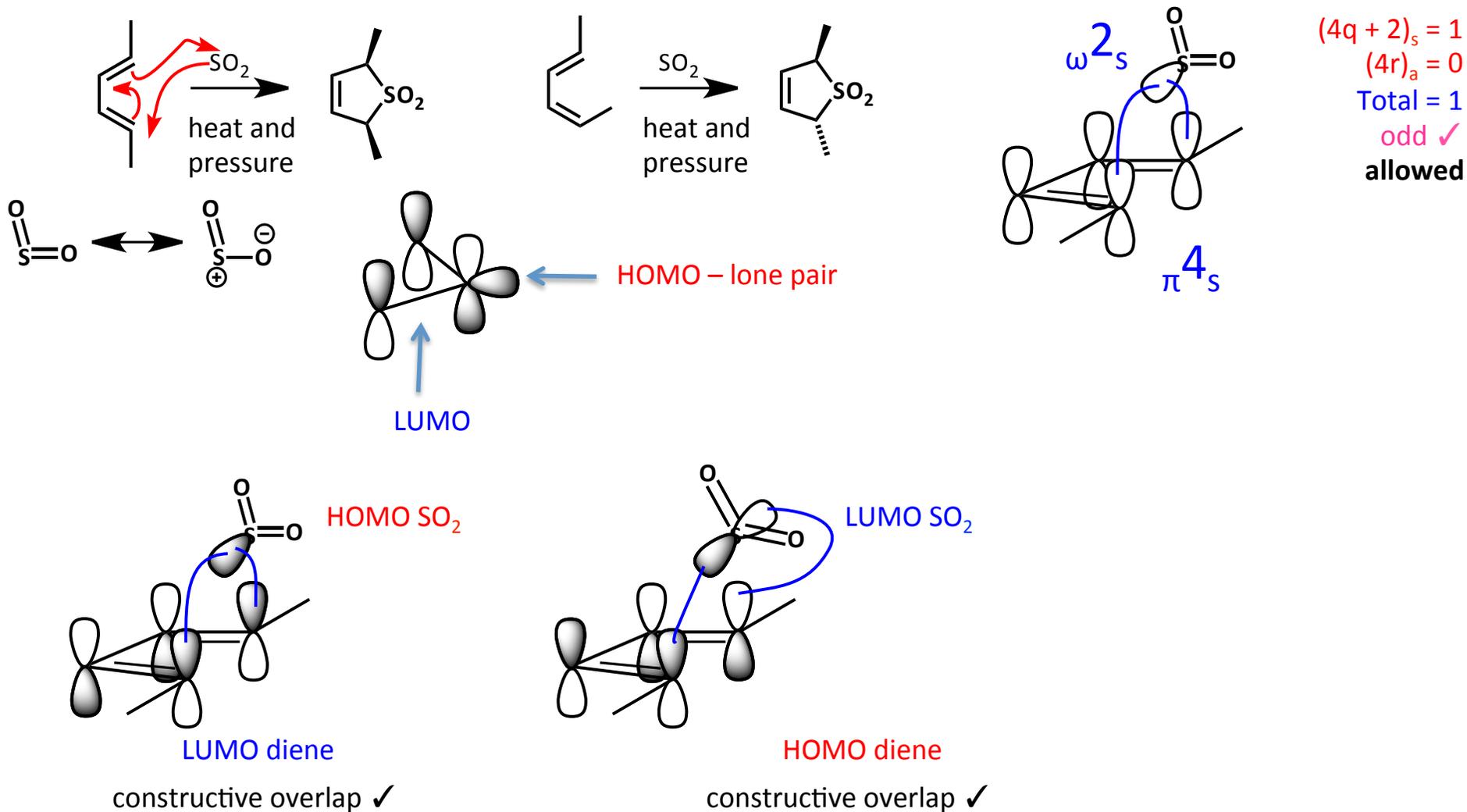


$(4q + 2)_s = 1$   
 $(4r)_a = 0$   
 Total = 1  
 odd ✓  
 allowed



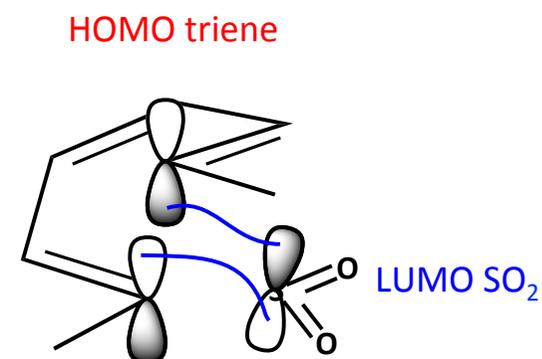
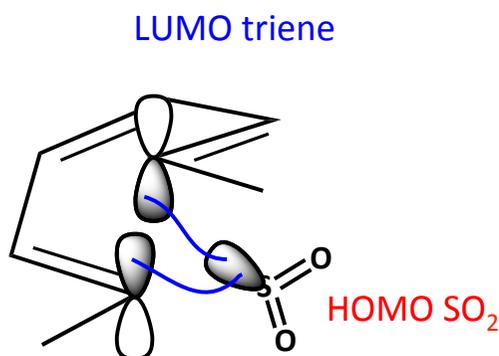
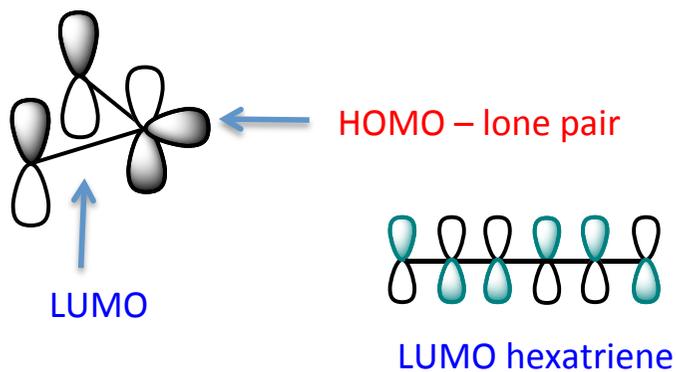
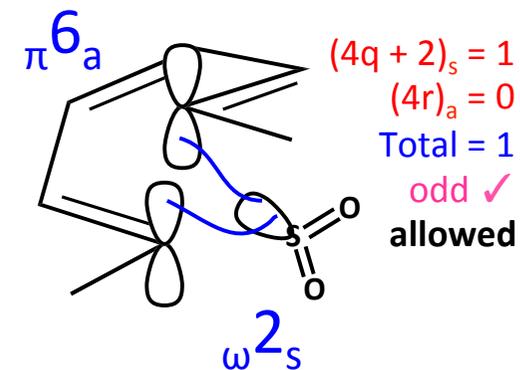
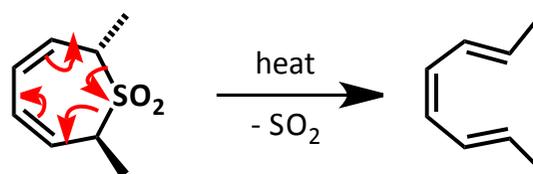
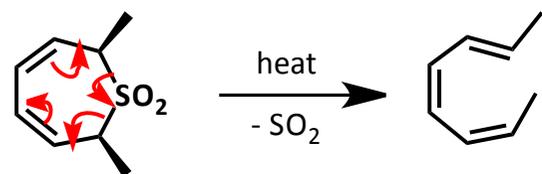
■ Cheletropic Reactions

■ The other important cheletropic reactions involve the reversible addition of sulfur dioxide to polyenes.



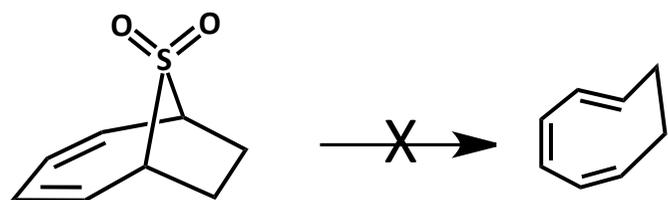
■ Cheletropic Reactions

■ With trienes the extrusion process dominates but considering the reverse process the reaction must be antarafacial with respect to the triene component.



constructive overlap ✓

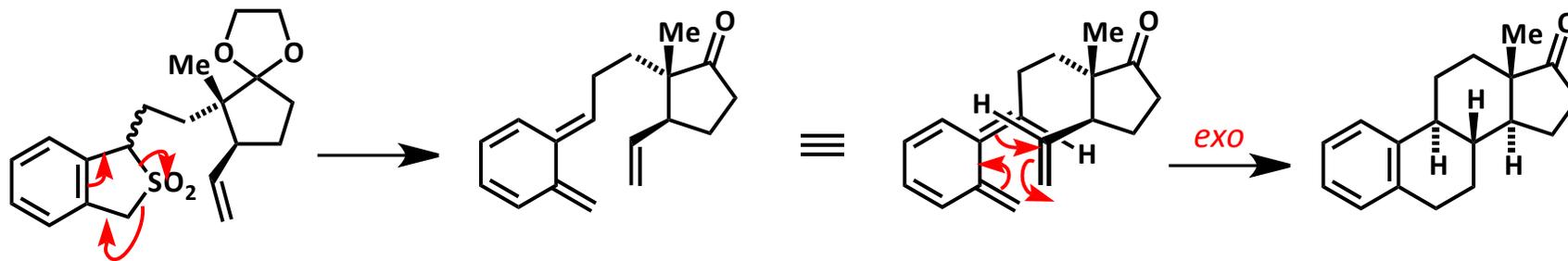
constructive overlap ✓



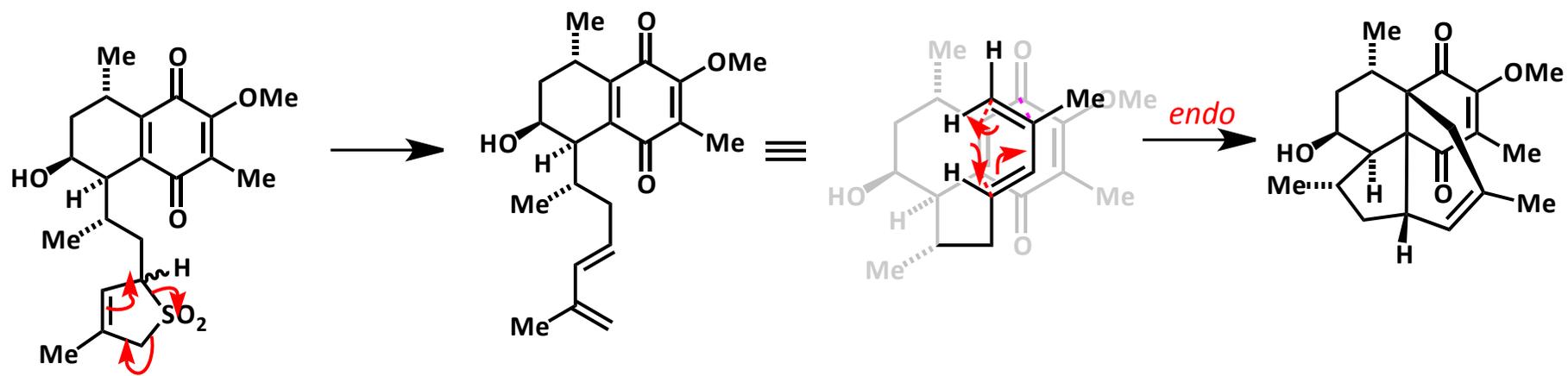
too strained; *ca.* 10<sup>4</sup> times less reactive than SO<sub>2</sub>

## ■ Cheletropic Reactions in Synthesis

## ■ Steroid synthesis



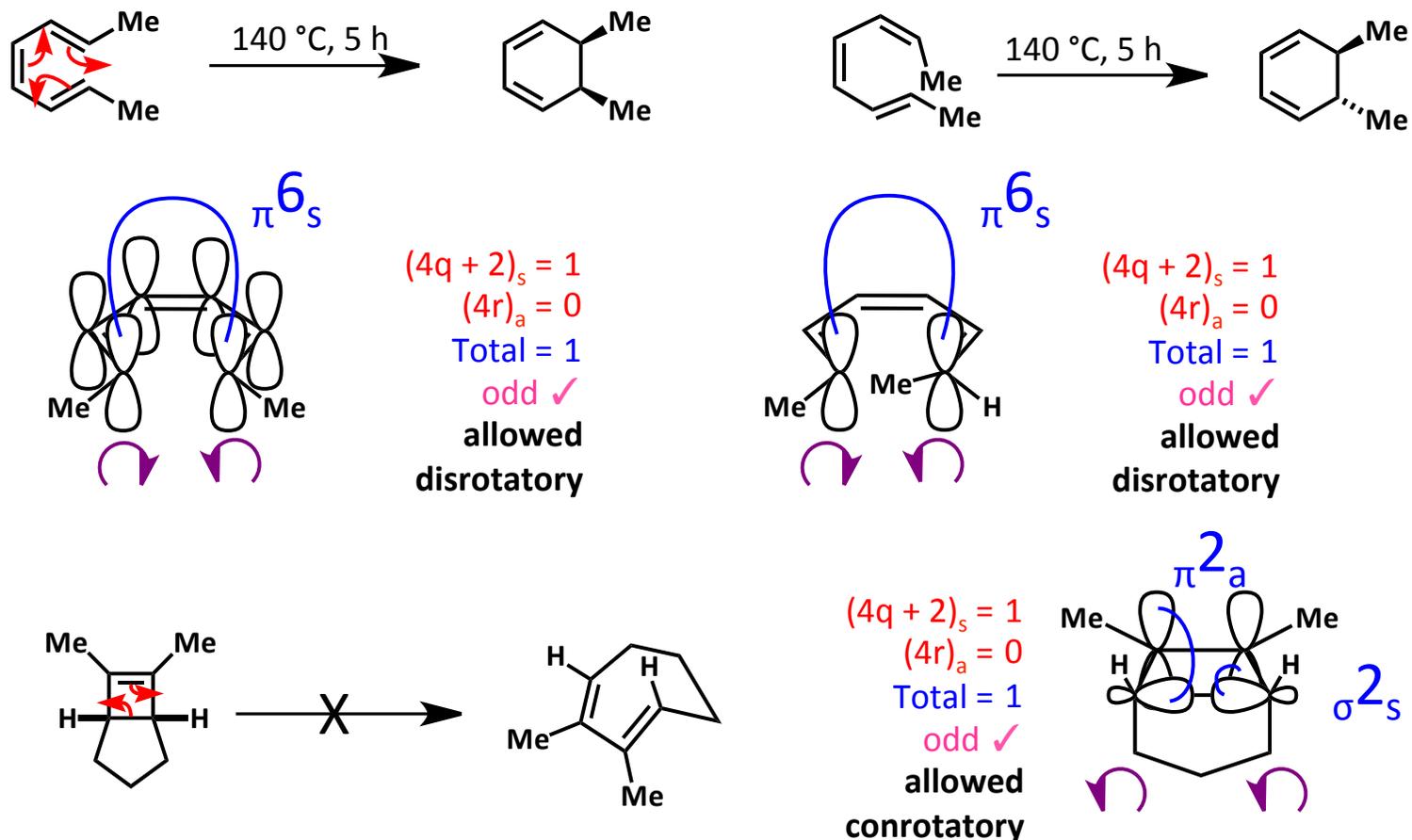
## ■ Colombiasin



■ Electrocyclic reactions

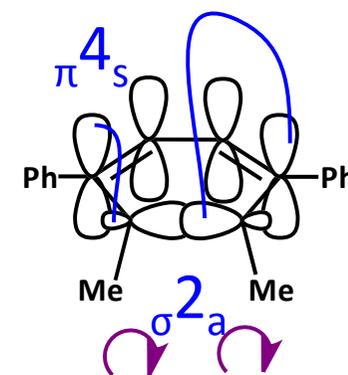
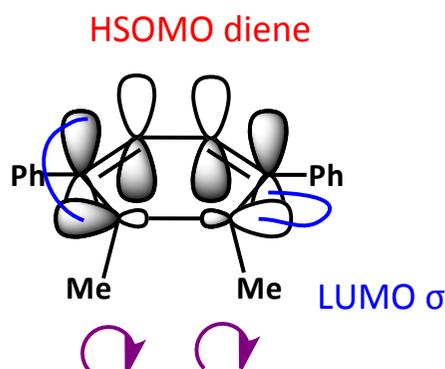
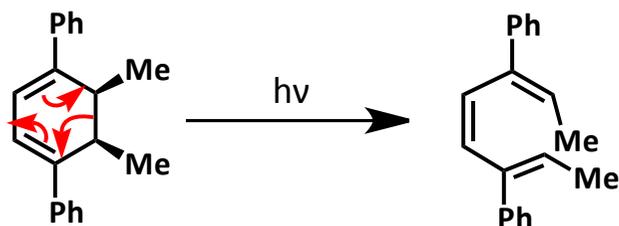
■ Thermal electrocyclic processes will be *conrotatory* if the total number of electrons is  $4n$  and *disrotatory* if the total number of electrons is  $(4n + 2)$  – this is reversed for photochemical reactions.

■ All electrocyclic reactions are allowed (provided they are not constrained by the geometry of the product).



but geometrically constrained  
therefore does not occur.

■ Electrocyclic reactions



$$(4q + 2)_s = 0$$

$$(4r)_a = 0$$

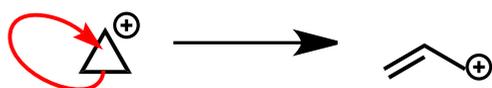
$$\text{Total} = 0$$

even ✓

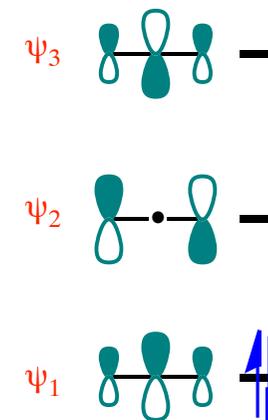
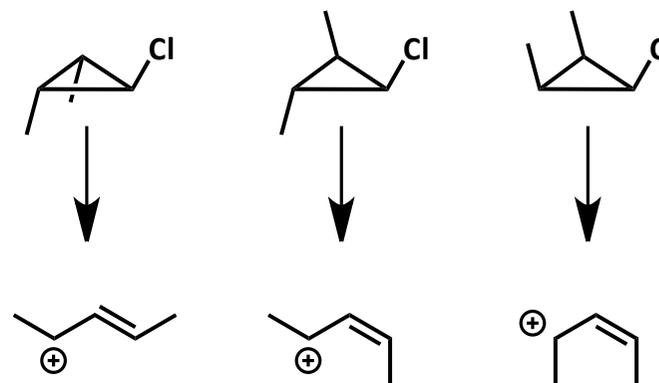
allowed  
conrotatory

constructive overlap ✓  
conrotatory

■ Cyclopropyl cation / allyl cation interconversion



Lewis acid  
low temperature

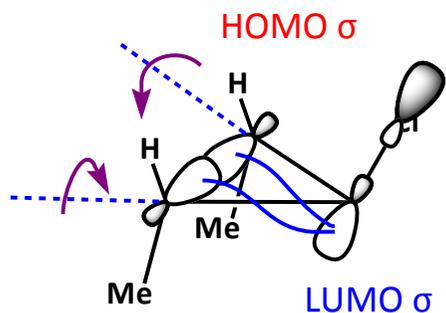
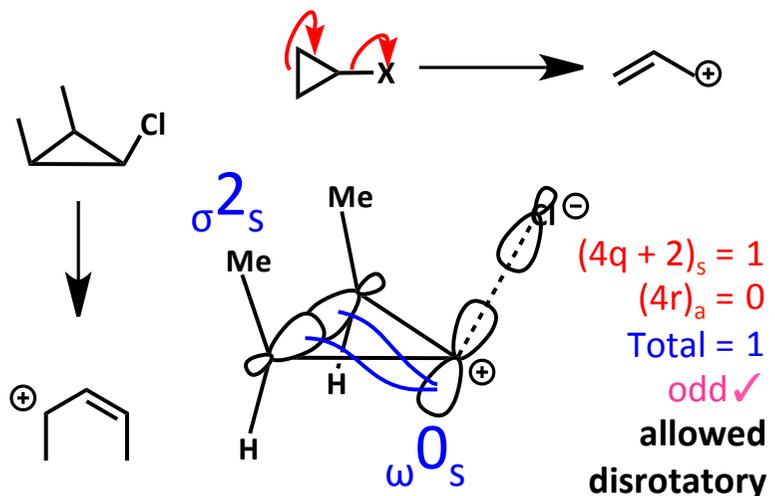
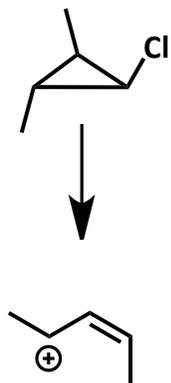
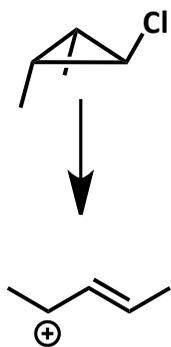


■ The ionisation of cyclopropyl halides and tosylates is a concerted process to give allyl cations (i.e. discrete cyclopropyl cations are not formed).

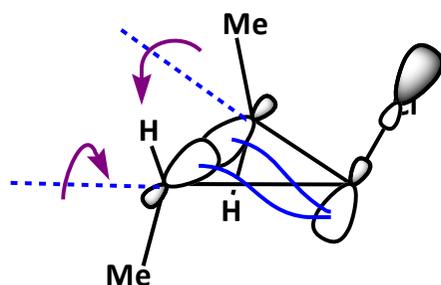
■ The reaction can be viewed as an internal substitution in which the electrons in a  $\sigma$ -bond (HOMO) feed into the C-X  $\sigma^*$  (LUMO).

■ The reaction is disrotatory and the sense of rotation (torquoselectivity) is specified – this dictates the geometry of the allyl cation and can have a large influence on reaction rate.

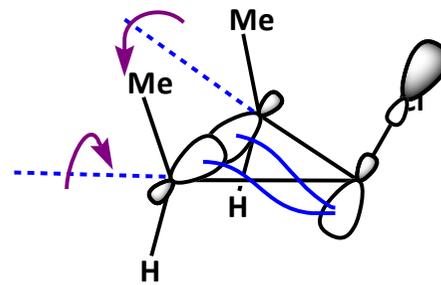
■ Electrocyclic reactions



constructive overlap ✓  
disrotatory

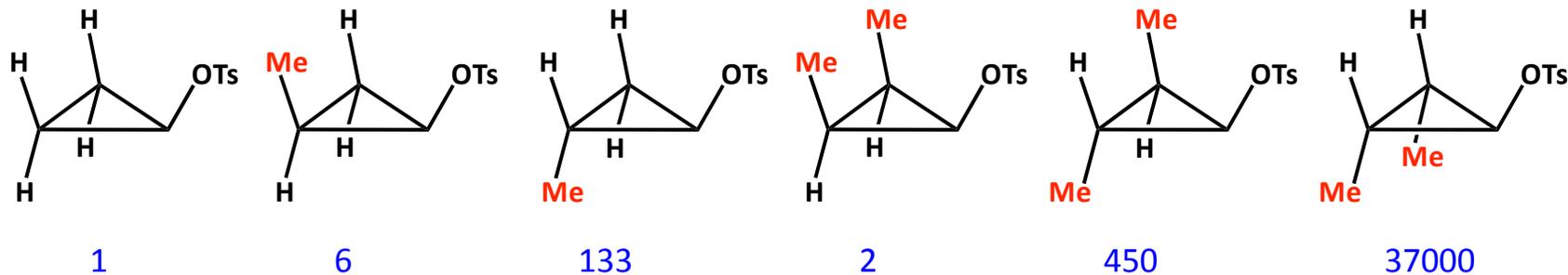


constructive overlap ✓  
disrotatory



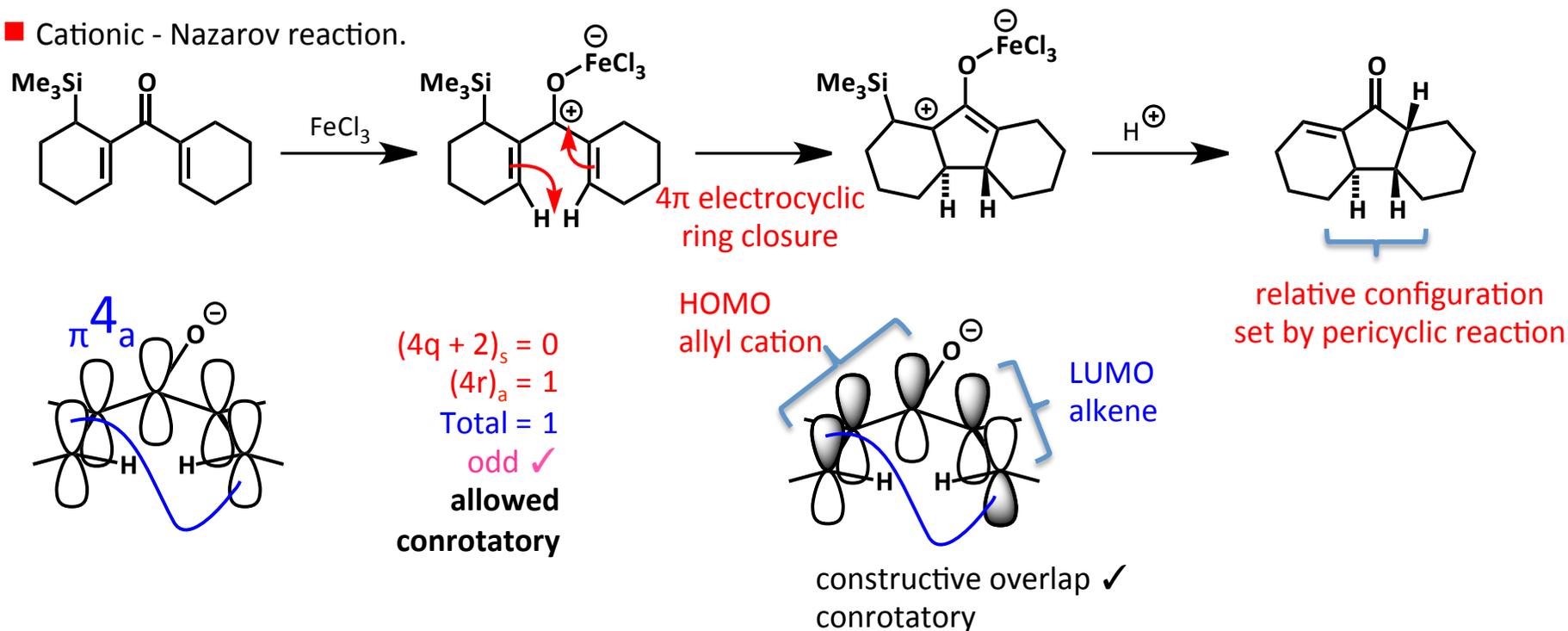
constructive overlap ✓  
disrotatory

■ Influence on rates – solvolysis in acetic acid



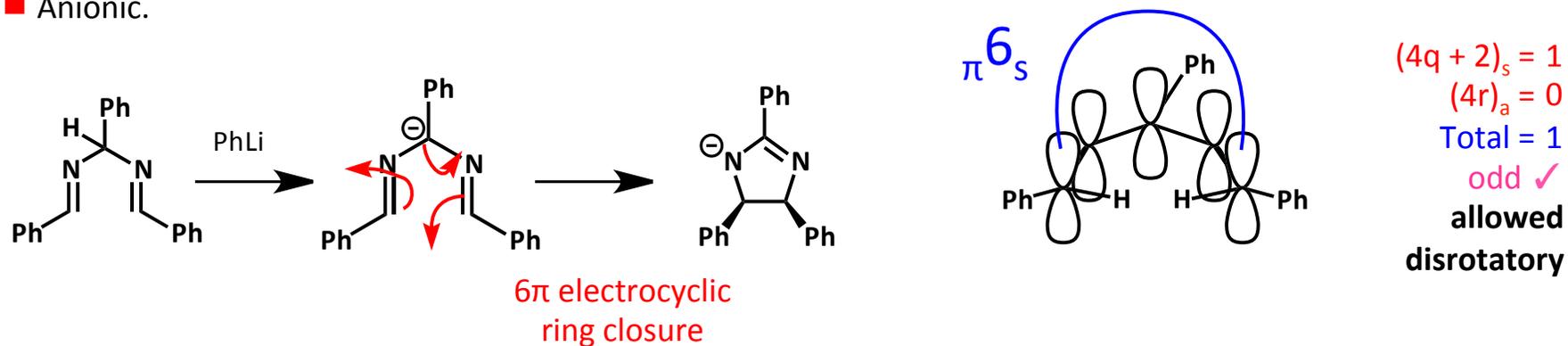
■ Electrocyclic reactions - pentadienyl systems.

■ Cationic - Nazarov reaction.

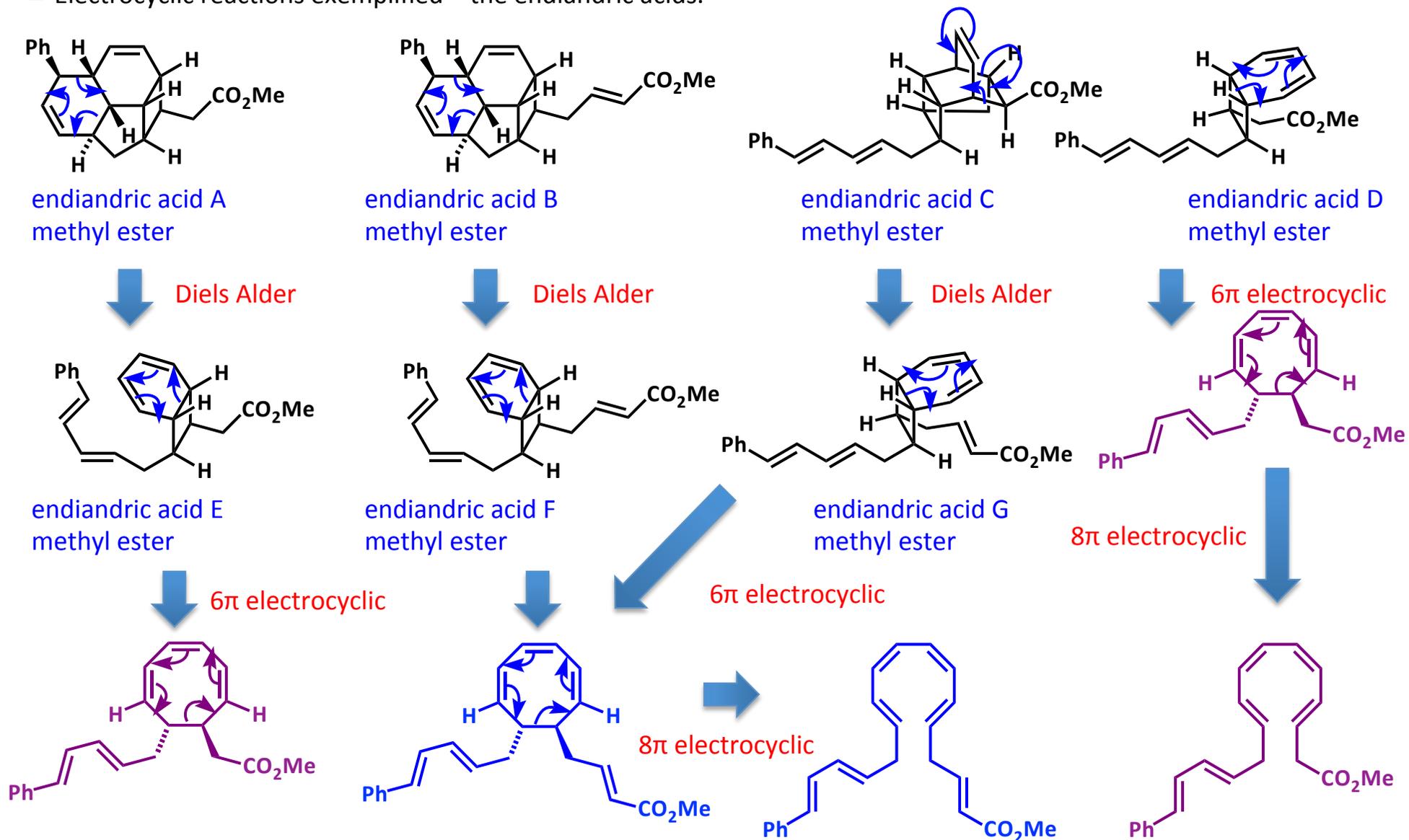


■ Thermal Nazarov cyclisation is conrotatory; photochemical Nazarov reaction is disrotatory.

■ Anionic.



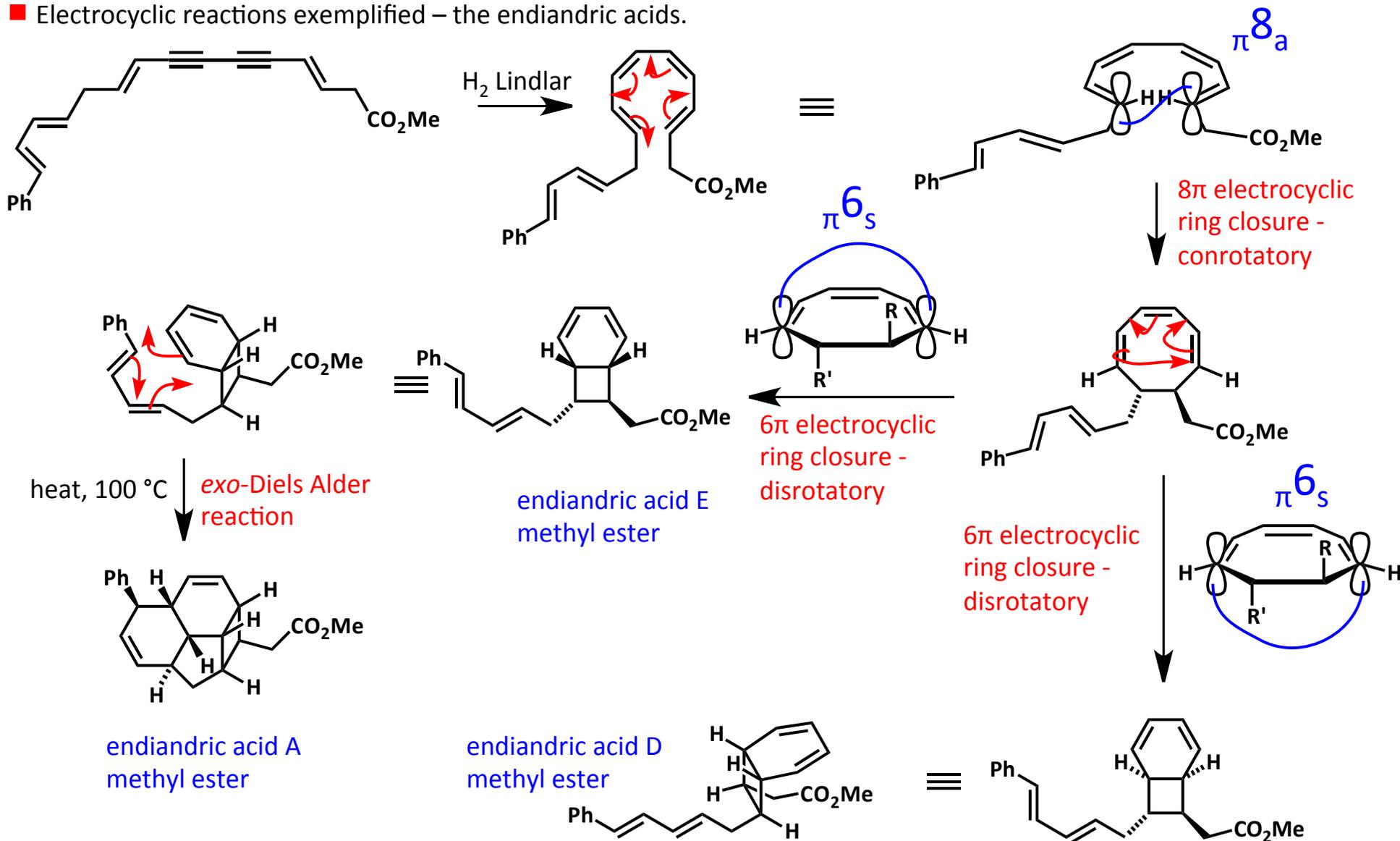
■ Electrocyclic reactions exemplified – the endiandric acids.



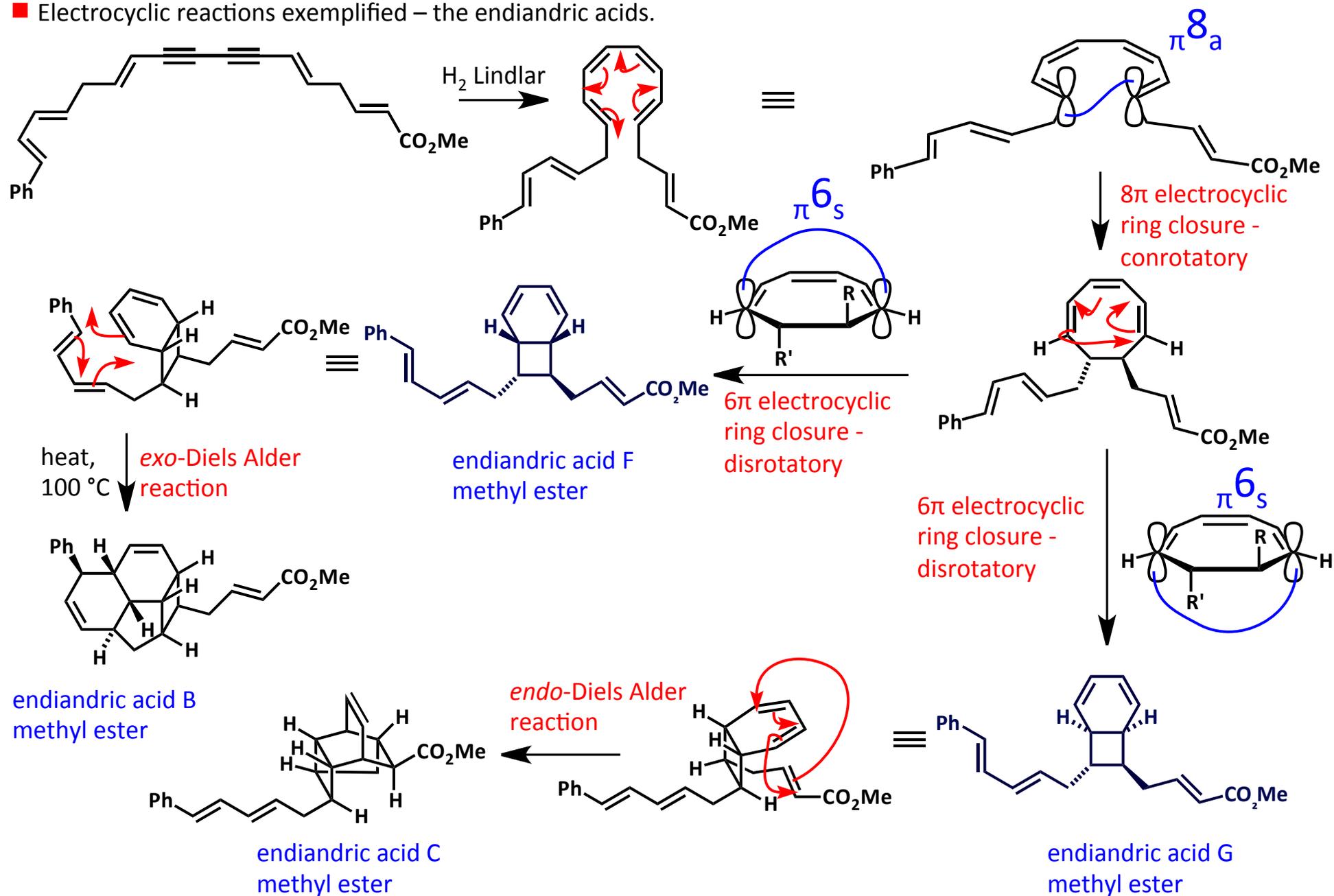
■ Biosynthesis proposed by Black *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, **1980**, 902.

■ Biomimetic synthesis by K. C. Nicolaou, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1982**, 104, 5558.

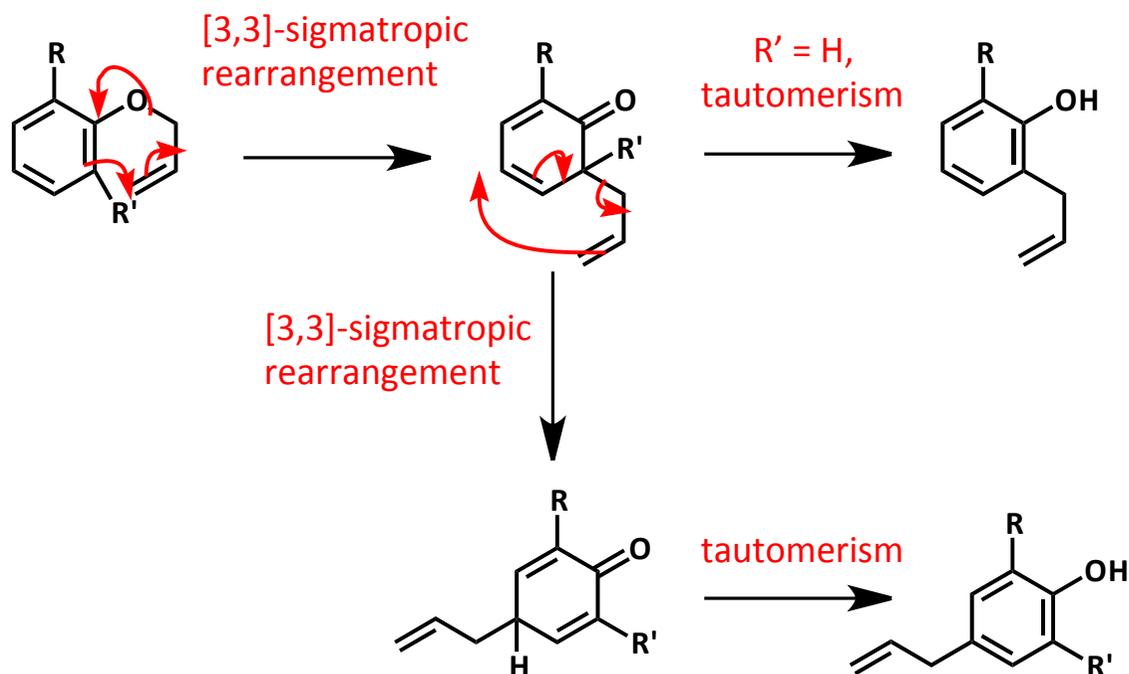
■ Electrocyclic reactions exemplified – the endiandric acids.



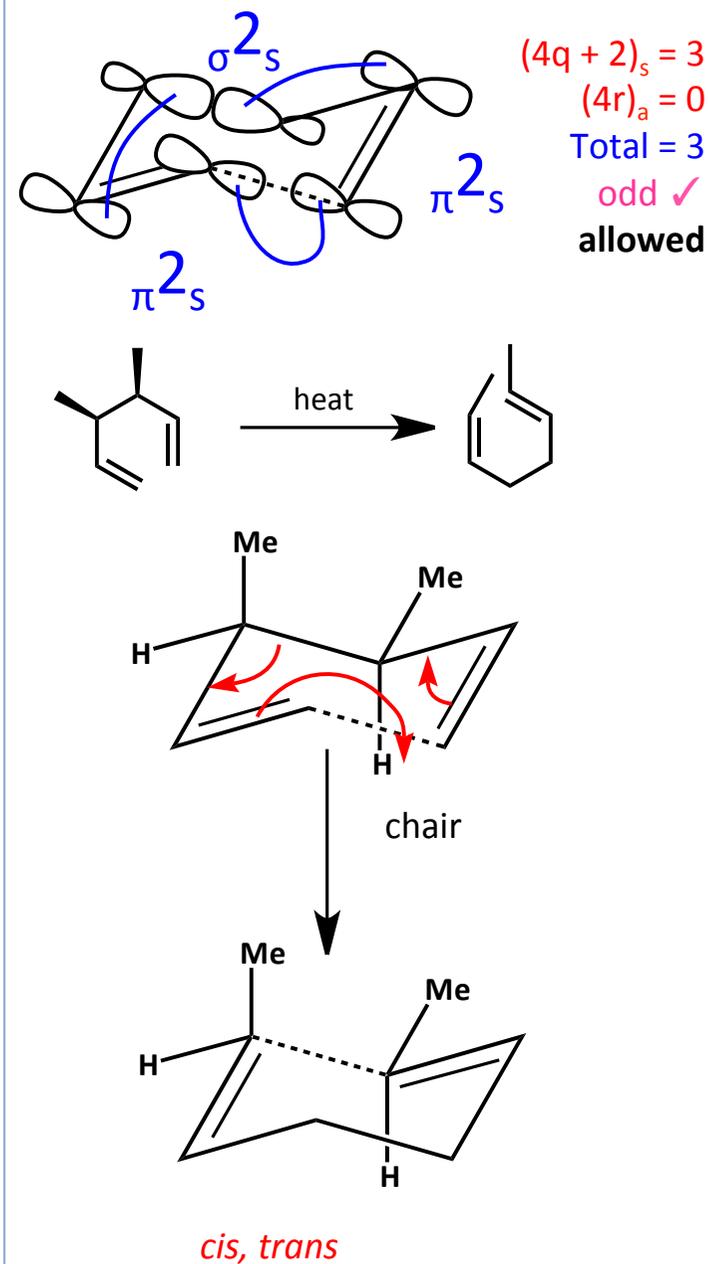
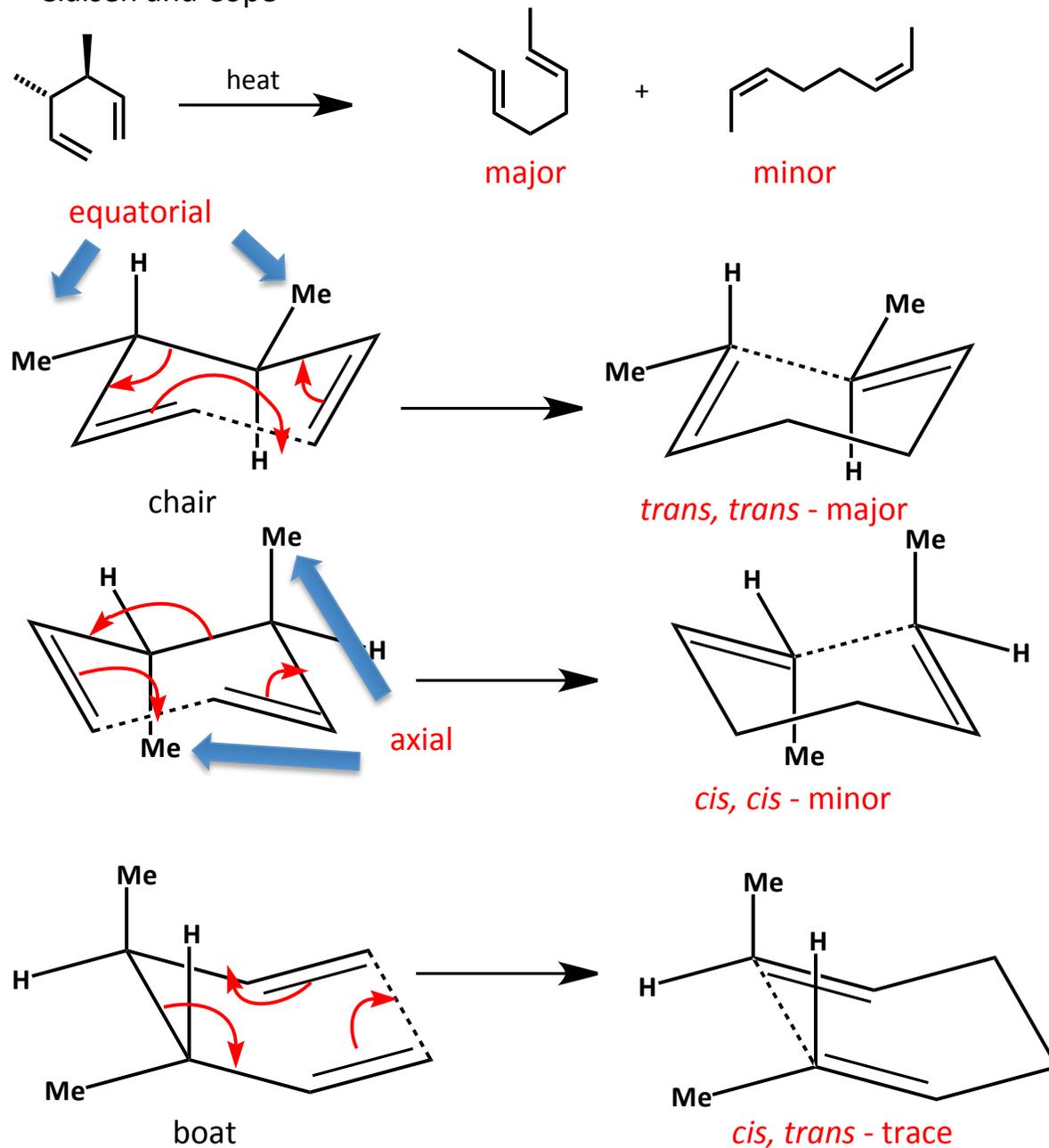
■ Electrocyclic reactions exemplified – the endiandric acids.



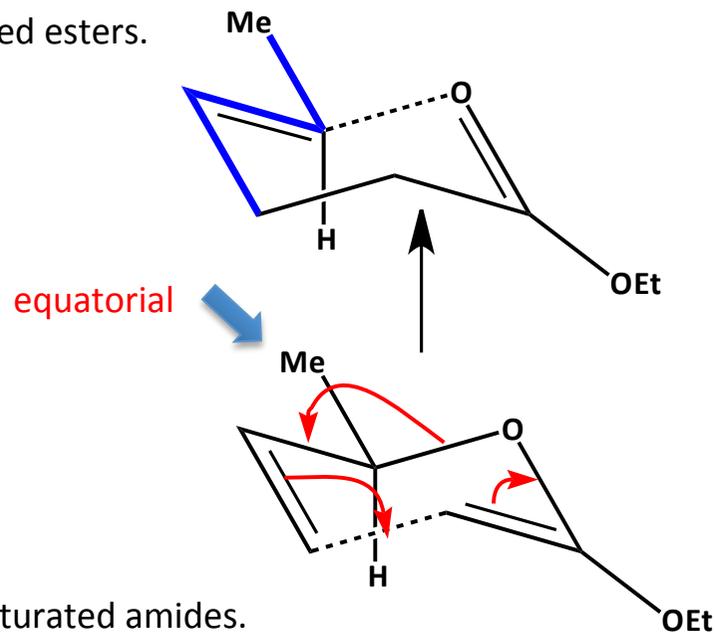
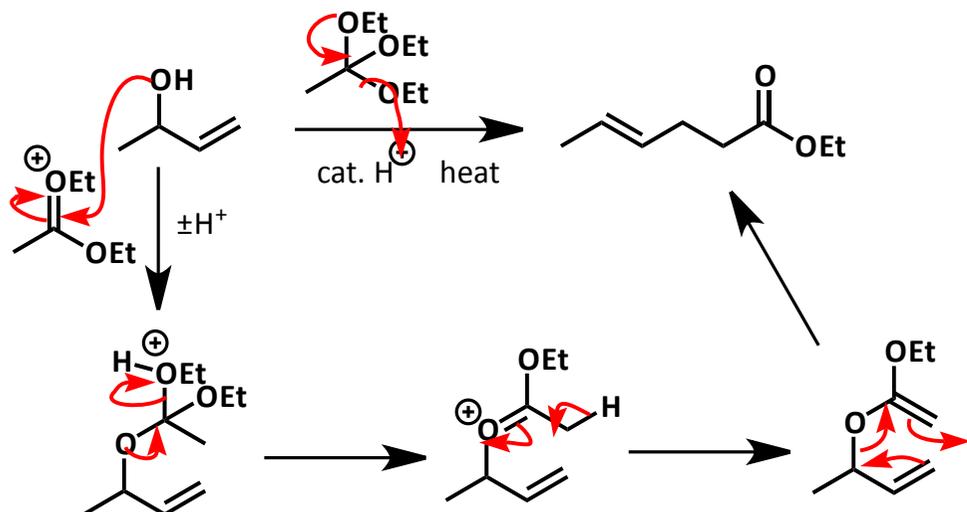
- Sigmatropic rearrangements.
  - Synthetically the most important sigmatropic rearrangements are the Cope and Claisen rearrangements and variants thereof.
  - The Claisen/Cope rearrangements can proceed *via* chair-like or boat-like transition states – the chair-like transition state is strongly favoured unless there are steric constraints that force a boat-like transition state.
  - Where possible, substituents generally adopt equatorial sites in the chair-like transition state.
- 
- Classical Claisen rearrangement.



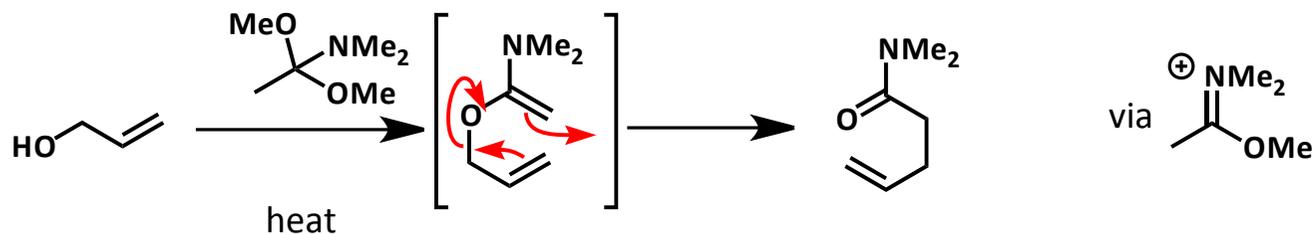
■ Claisen and Cope



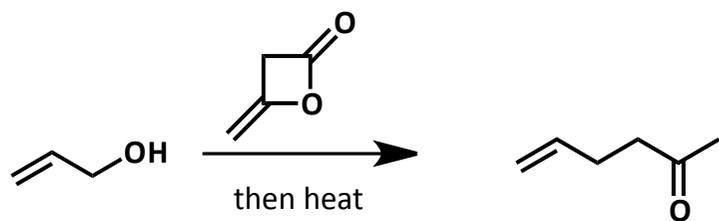
- Claisen rearrangement - variants.
- Johnson-Claisen rearrangement - synthesis of  $\gamma,\delta$ -unsaturated esters.



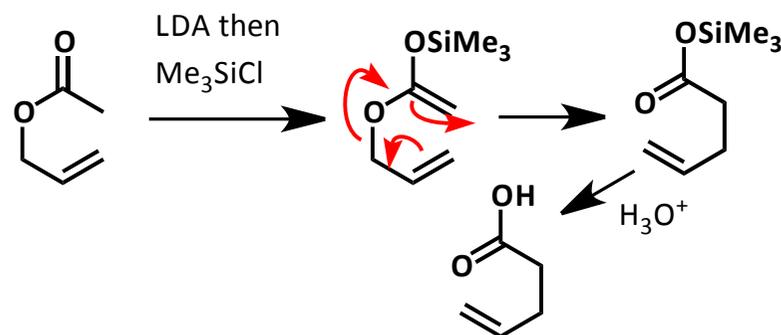
- Eschenmoser-Claisen rearrangement - synthesis of  $\gamma,\delta$ -unsaturated amides.



- Carroll rearrangement - synthesis of  $\gamma,\delta$ -unsaturated methyl ketones.

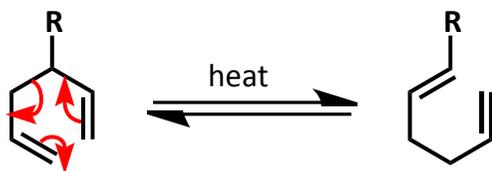


- Ireland Claisen rearrangement.

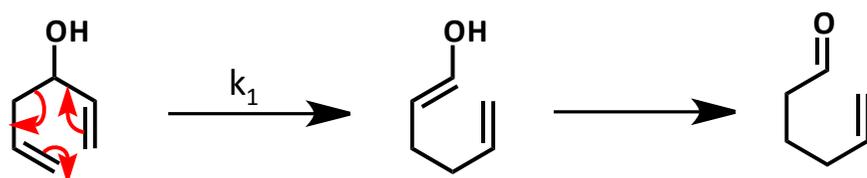


■ Oxy-Cope rearrangement.

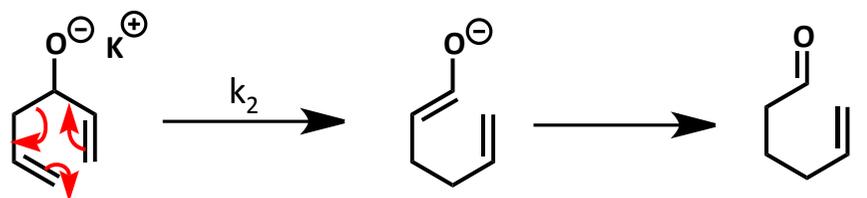
■ Generally the Cope rearrangement requires very high temperatures  $> 200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



■ The anionic oxy-Cope can be conducted at low temperature ( $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).



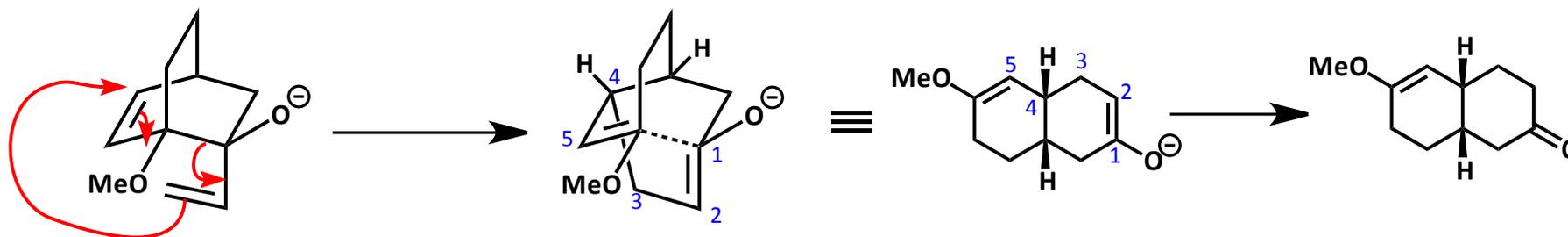
oxy-Cope



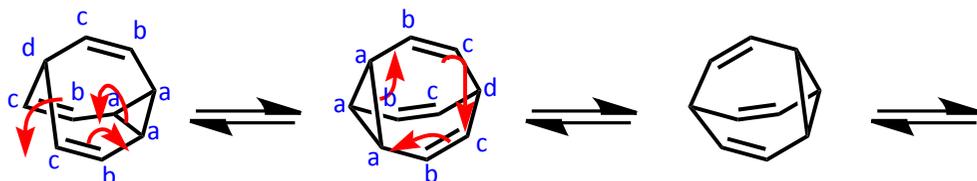
$k_2/k_1 \sim 10^{10} - 10^{17}$

anionic oxy-Cope

■ Useful method for the synthesis of *cis*-decalins.



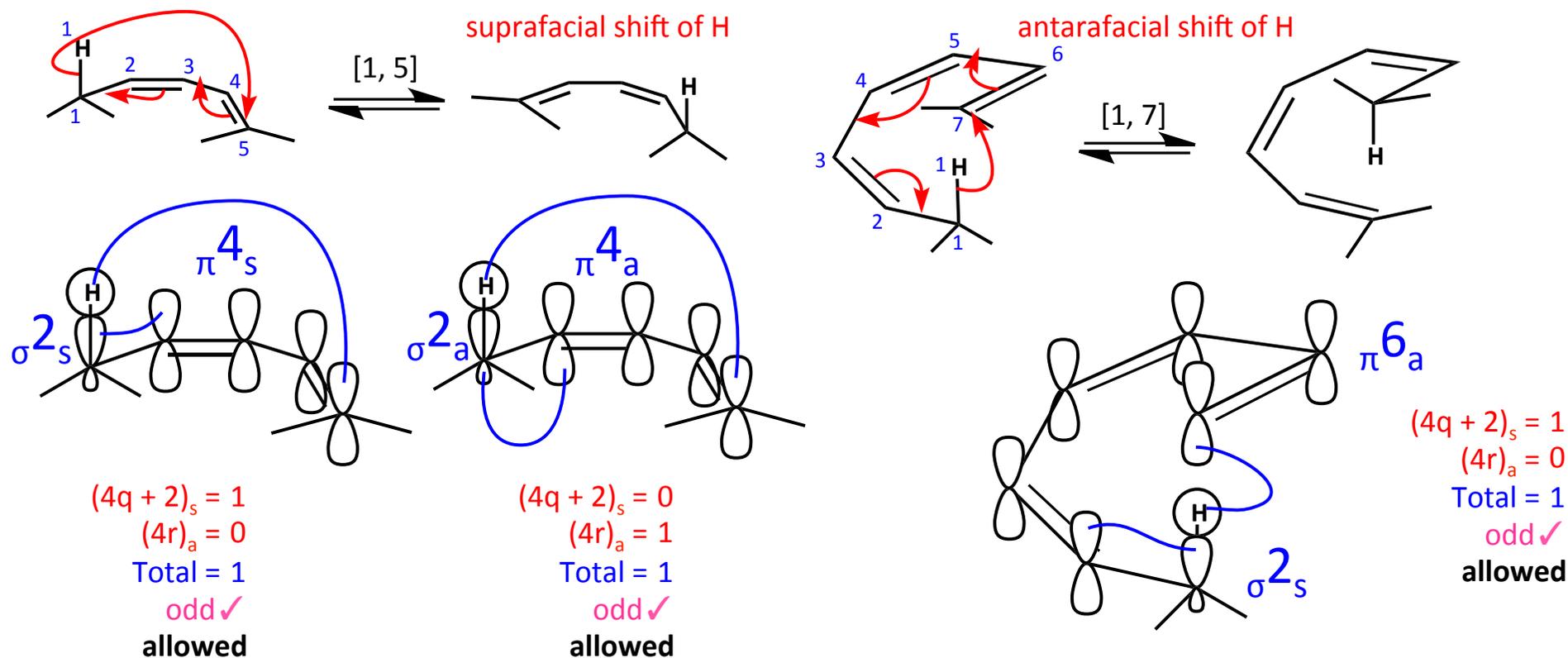
- Bulvalene - valence isomers interconvert by degenerate Cope rearrangements.



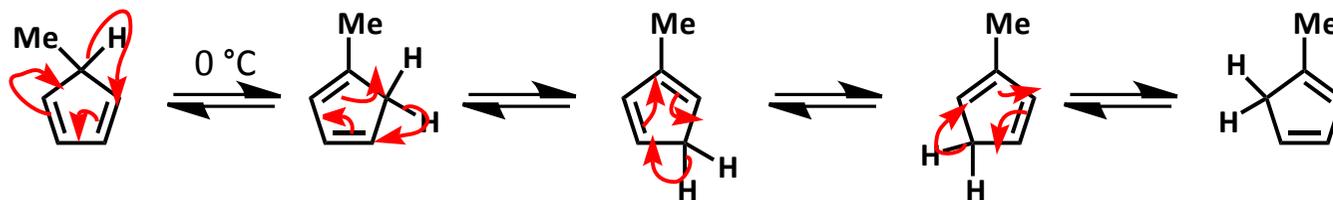
- 1,n-Hydride shifts.

- A *suprafacial* 1,n-hydride shift involves the hydrogen moving from one end of the conjugated system to the other across one face of the conjugated system.

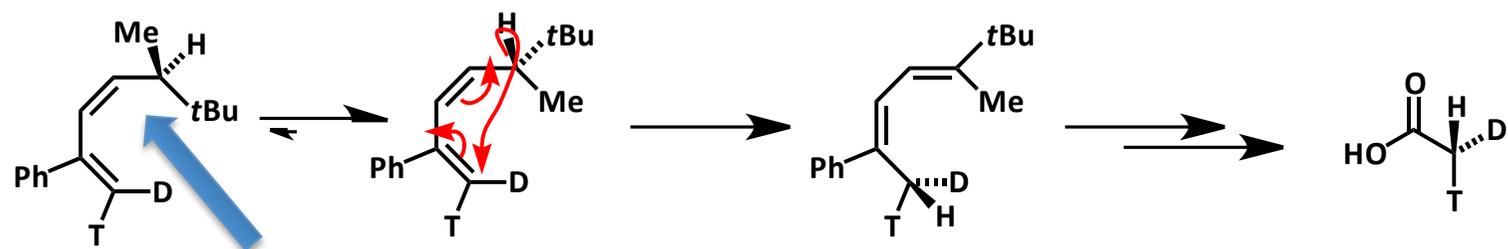
- An *antarafacial* 1,n-hydride shift involves the hydrogen moving from one end of the conjugated system to the other and moving from one face of the conjugated system to the opposite face.



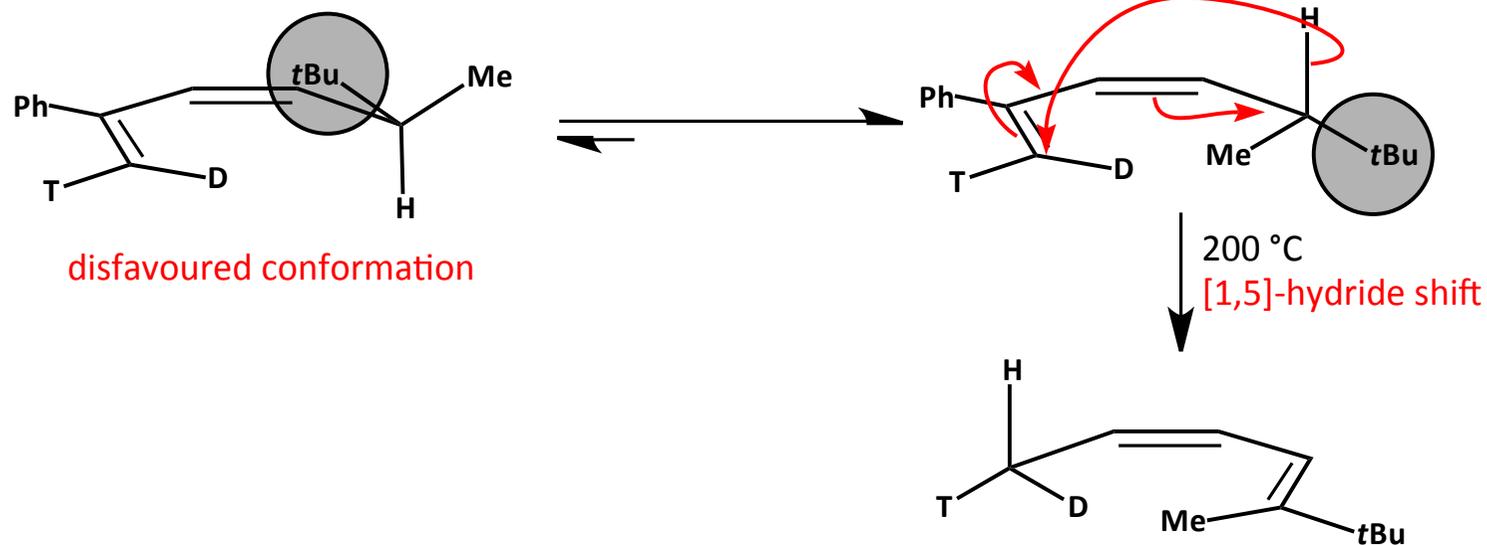
- 1,5-Hydride shifts occur readily when the two ends of the diene are held close.



- In acyclic systems 1,5-hydride shifts can be much slower.



allylic strain



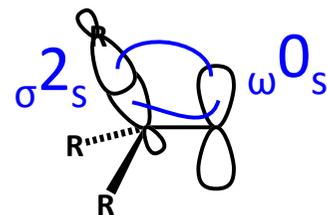
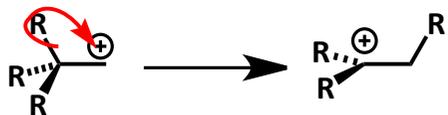
disfavoured conformation

200 °C  
[1,5]-hydride shift

chiral acetic acid

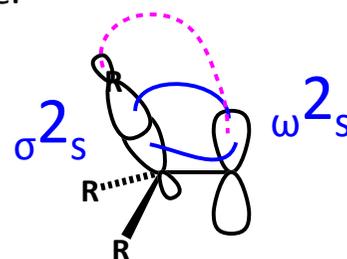
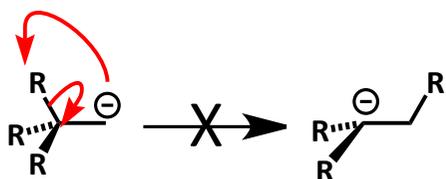
■ 1,2-Shifts of alkyl groups can also be pericyclic.

■ Carbocations readily undergo allowed 1,2-shifts.



$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 1 \\ &\text{odd} \checkmark \\ &\text{allowed} \end{aligned}$$

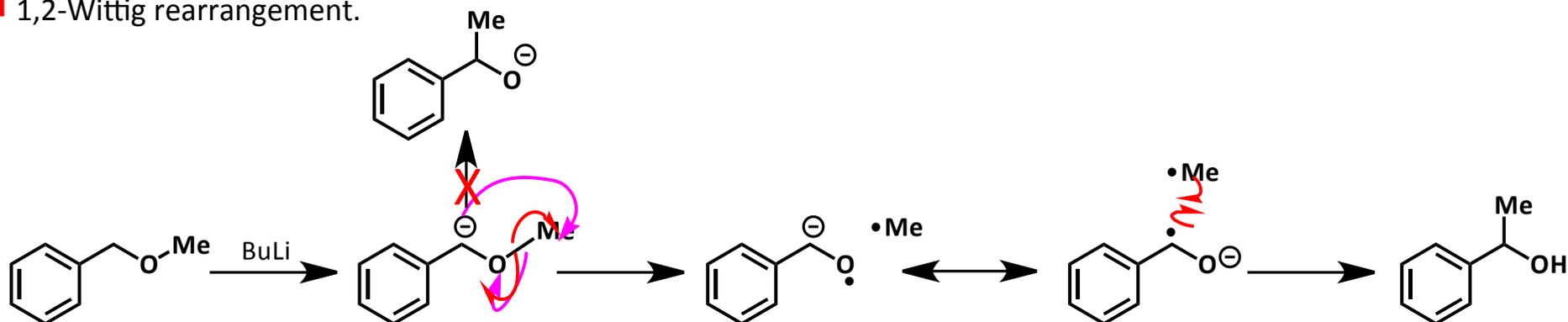
■ Allowed, concerted 1,2-shifts of carbanions are geometrically impossible.



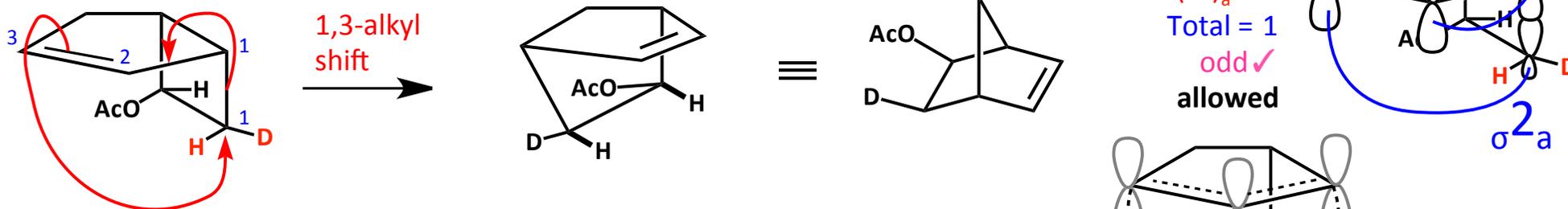
$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 2 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 2 \\ &\text{even} \times \\ &\text{forbidden} \end{aligned}$$

■ 1,2-Shifts of carbanions occur by a radical mechanism – 1,2-Wittig, 1,2-Stevens and related rearrangements.

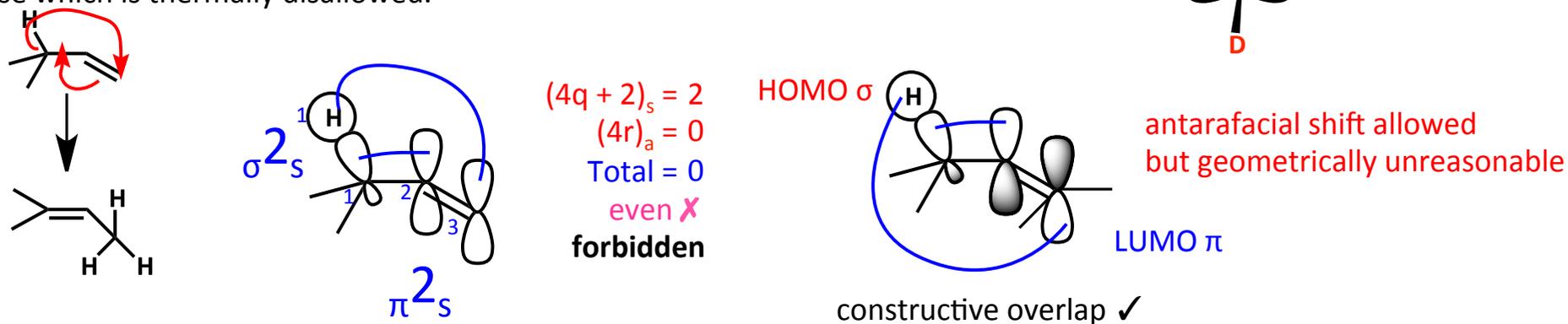
■ 1,2-Wittig rearrangement.



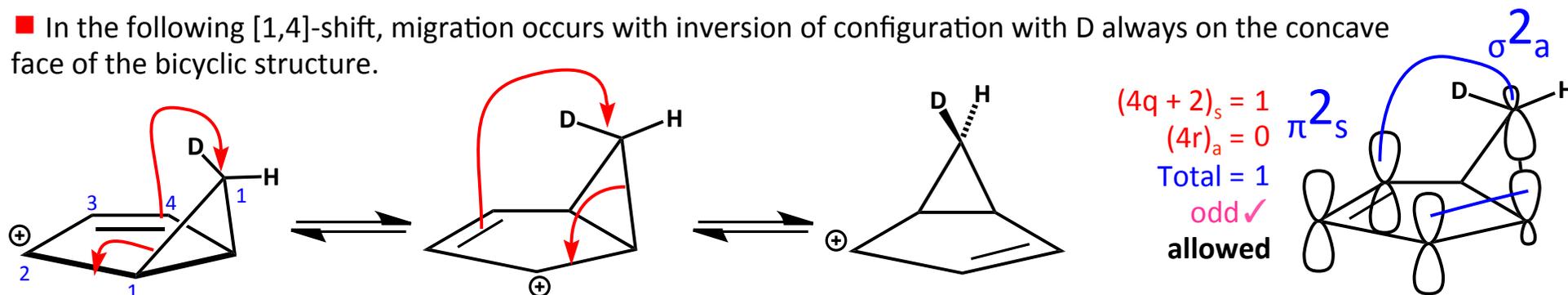
■ Thermal [1,3]-alkyl shifts occur with inversion of configuration in the migrating group.



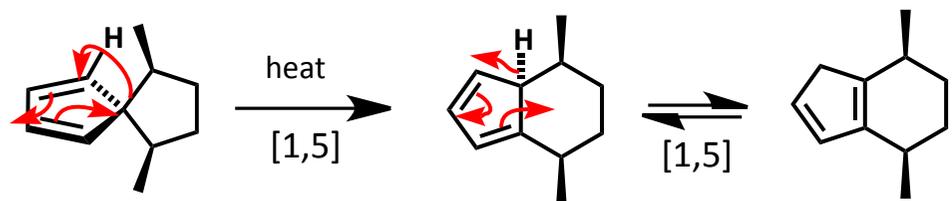
■ Thermal 1,3-shift of hydrogen is only geometrically reasonable in a suprafacial sense which is thermally disallowed.



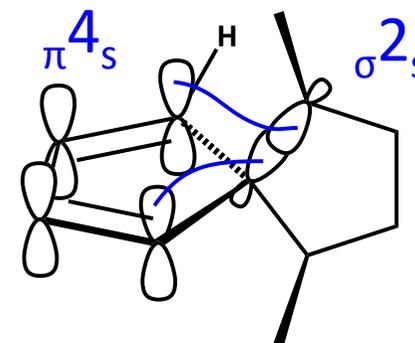
■ In the following [1,4]-shift, migration occurs with inversion of configuration with D always on the concave face of the bicyclic structure.



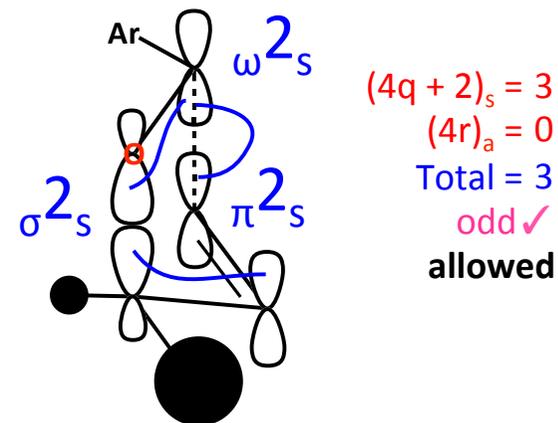
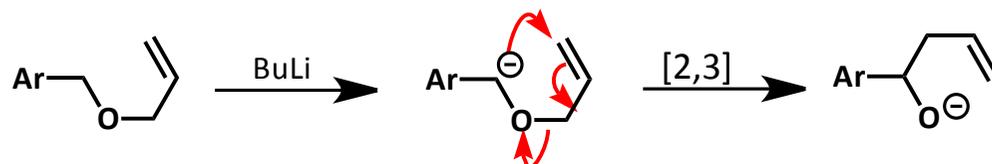
- 1,5-Alkyl shift with retention of configuration in the migrating group.



$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 1 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 1 \\ &\text{odd} \checkmark \\ &\text{allowed} \end{aligned}$$

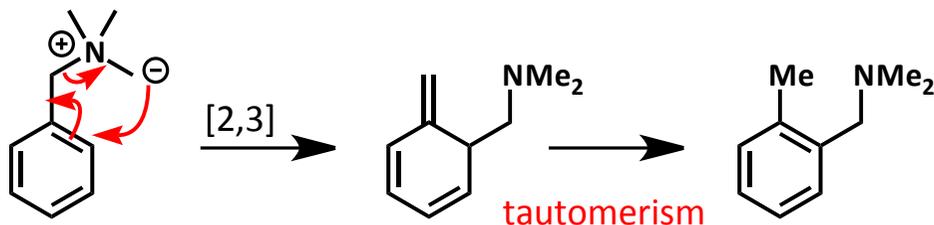


- A number of [2,3]-sigmatropic shifts are useful synthetically.
- [2,3]-Wittig rearrangement – most likely proceeds via an envelope transition state; large groups at the allylic position will tend to occupy a pseudo-equatorial position.

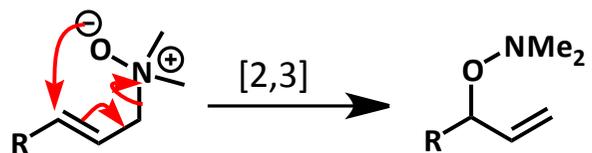


$$\begin{aligned} (4q + 2)_s &= 3 \\ (4r)_a &= 0 \\ \text{Total} &= 3 \\ &\text{odd} \checkmark \\ &\text{allowed} \end{aligned}$$

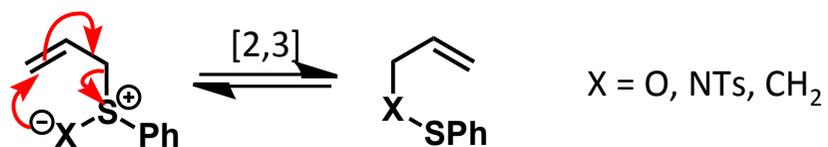
- Sommelet-Hauser rearrangement.



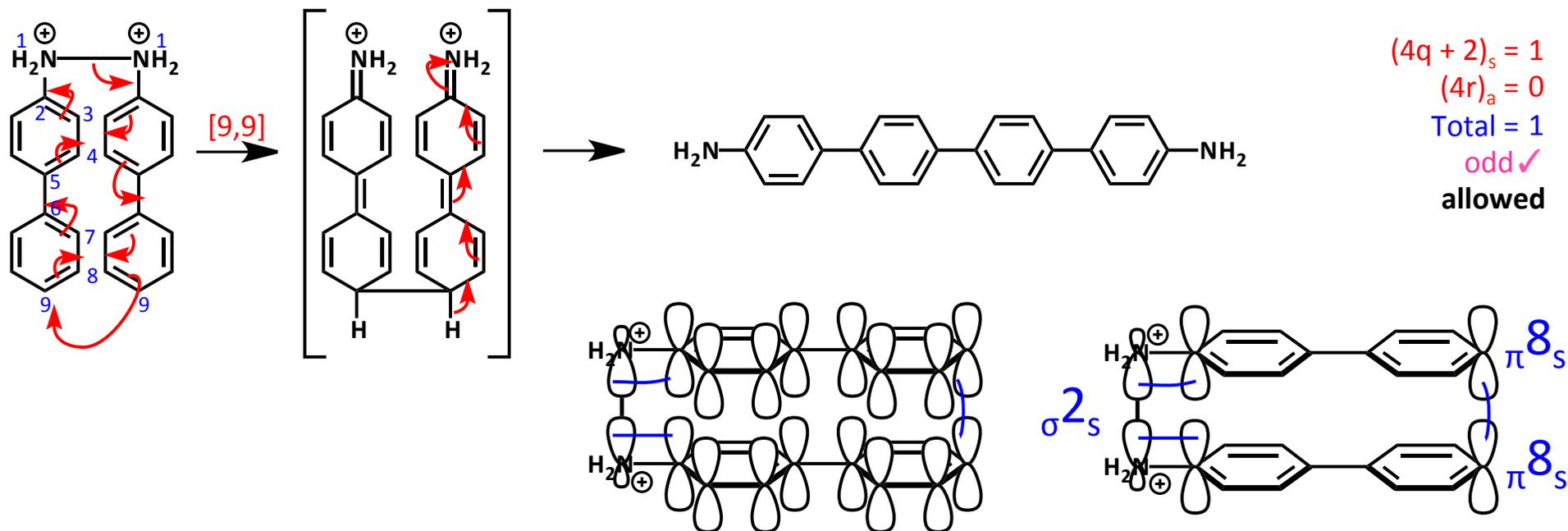
■ Meisenheimer Rearrangement.



■ Rearrangement of allyl sulfoxides, sulfinimines and sulfonium ylids.



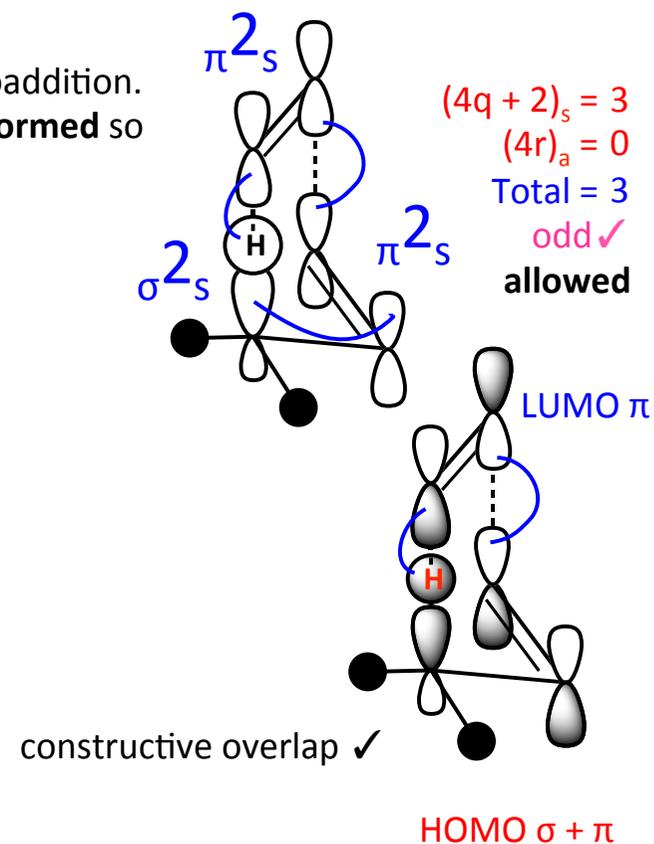
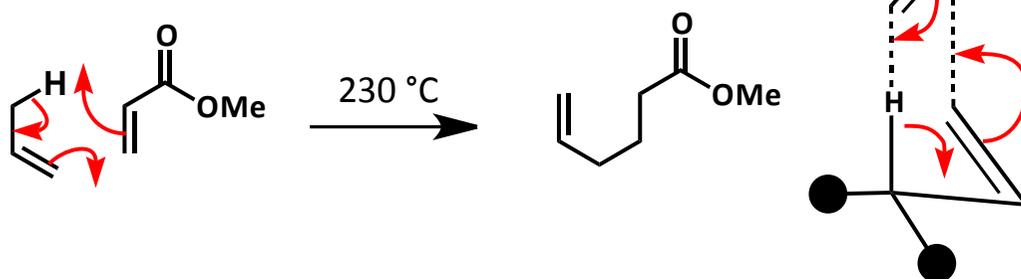
■ A [9,9]-sigmatropic shift.



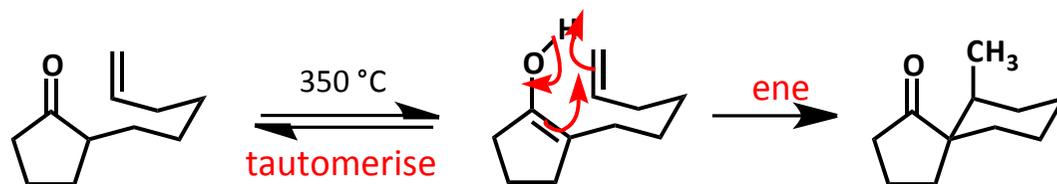
■ Group transfer reactions.

■ Group transfer – appear to be a mix of a sigmatropic rearrangement and a cycloaddition. They are **bimolecular** and so are not sigmatropic rearrangements, and **no ring is formed** so they are not cycloadditions.

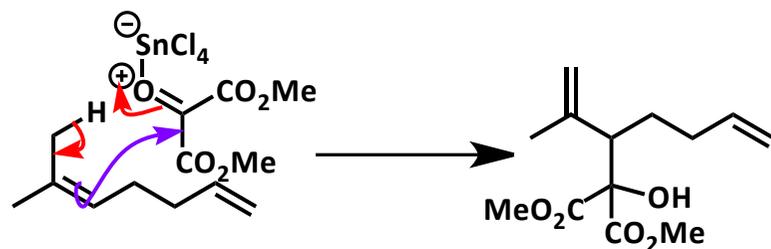
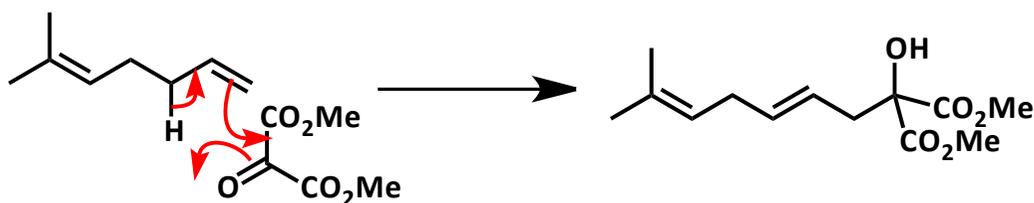
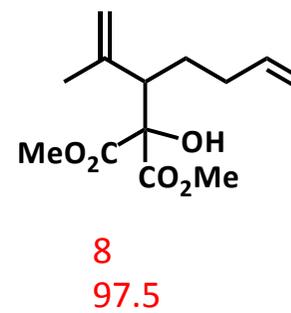
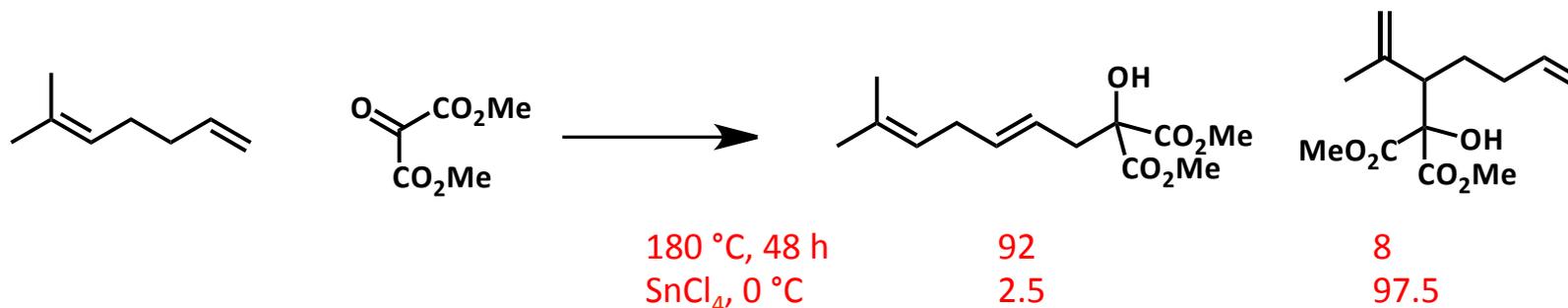
■ Alder ene reaction



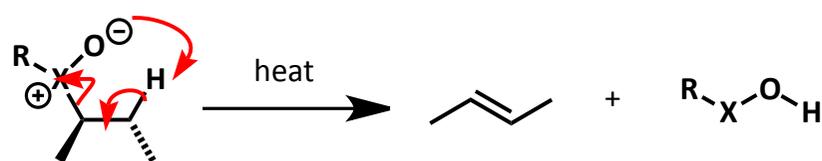
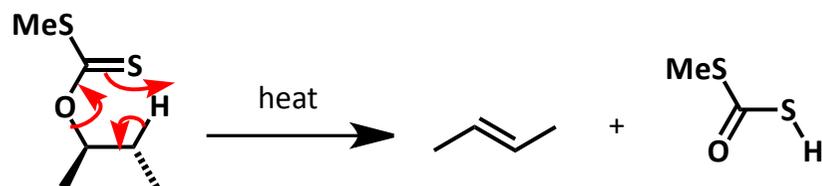
■ Conia-ene reaction.



■ Carbonyl-ene reaction - frequently catalysed by Lewis acids.



■ Retro-ene and retro group transfer reactions are common.



- Pericyclic reaction summary:
- Four classes:  
Cycloadditions (chelotropic reactions); Electrocyclic reactions; Sigmatropic rearrangements; Group transfer.
- Woodward-Hoffmann rules:

A ground state pericyclic reaction is symmetry allowed when the total number of  $(4q + 2)_s$  and  $(4r)_a$  components is odd (q and r must be integers).

A pericyclic change in the first electronically excited state (i.e. a photochemical reaction) is symmetry-allowed when the total number of  $(4q + 2)_s$  and  $(4r)_a$  components is even.

For thermal cycloadditions and group transfers:

- If the total number of electrons is  $(4n + 2)$  both components can be used in a suprafacial manner.
- If the total number of electrons is  $(4n)$  one of the components is suprafacial and the other antarafacial.

For electrocyclic reactions:

- Thermal electrocyclic processes will be *conrotatory* if the total number of electrons is  $4n$  and *disrotatory* if the total number of electrons is  $(4n + 2)$ .

- And just because you can draw a pericyclic curly arrow mechanism does not necessarily mean the reaction is pericyclic.