

XU GROUP
Department of Chemistry, Peking University

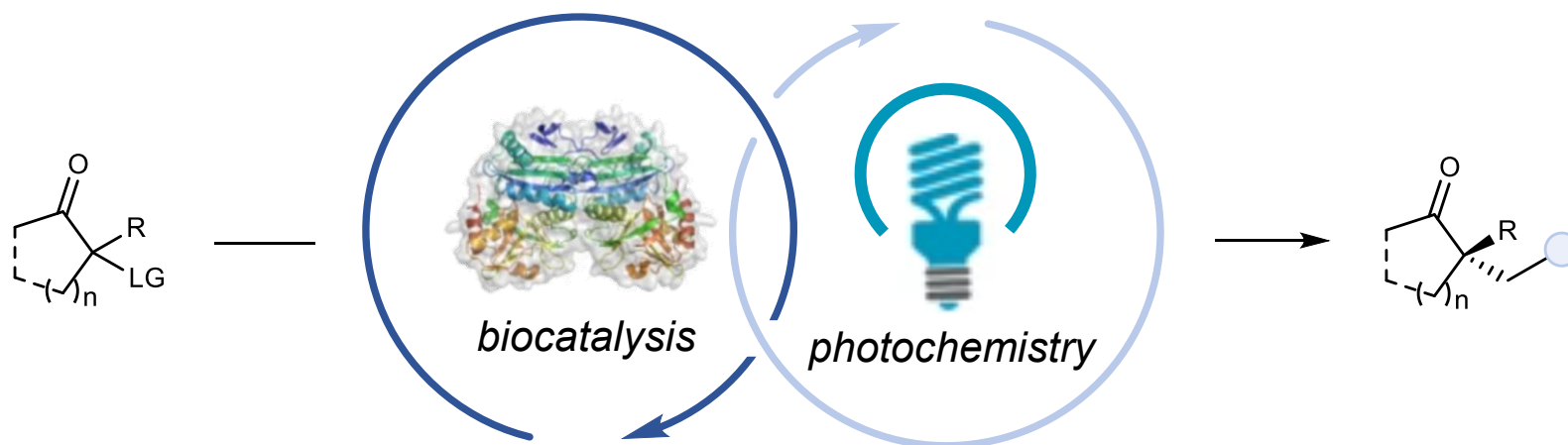
Selected Weekly Literature Presentations

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Photobiocatalysis for Abiological Transformations



Ken Chen

Group meeting

Jun. 8th, 2024

■ ***Background of photobiocatalysis***

- Brief introduction to enzymatic catalysis
- Modification of enzyme catalysts
- Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis

■ ***Photobiocatalysis for organic synthesis***

- Cofactor-dependent photocatalysis
- Artificial photoenzymes
- Combination of external photocatalysis and enzymes

■ ***Summary and perspective***

■ ***Background of photobiocatalysis***

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■ ***Summary and perspective***

Enzymes for chemical synthesis

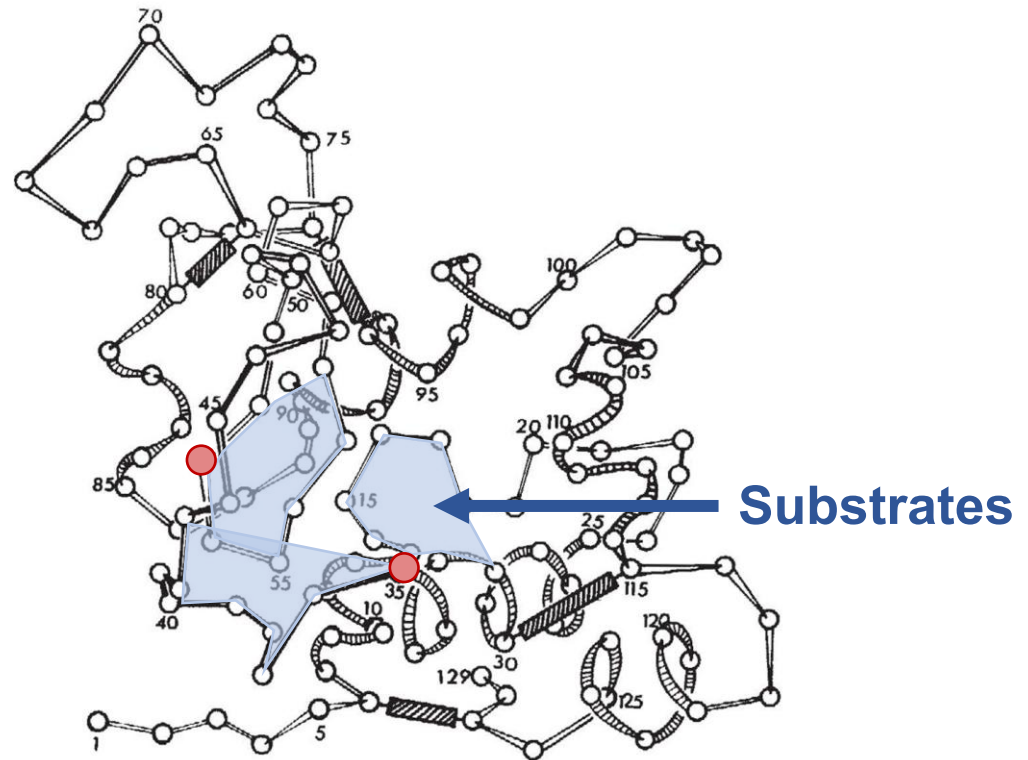
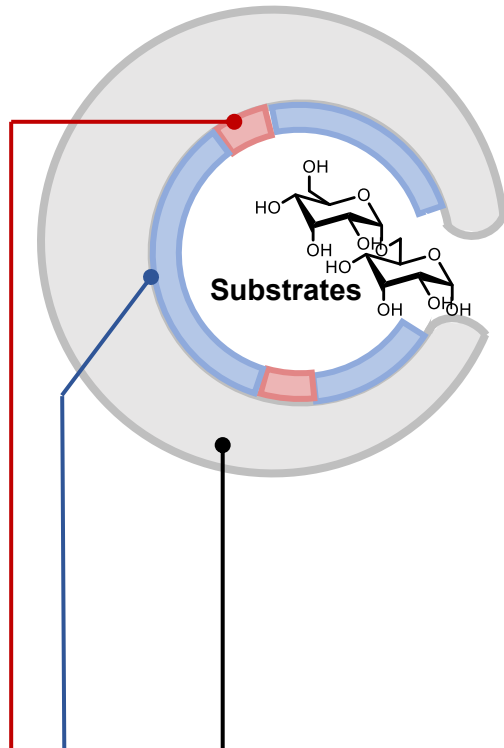
■ Definition

- Enzymes are macromolecular biological catalysts.
- Catalyze more than 5,000 biochemical reaction types.
- Most enzymes are proteins, a few are catalytic RNA molecules.

■ Advantages

- Higher enantioselectivity and regioselectivity
- Can be effective in both aqueous and organic media
- Typically do not require protecting groups
- Operate under mild conditions with high efficiency

Structure and functions of enzymes

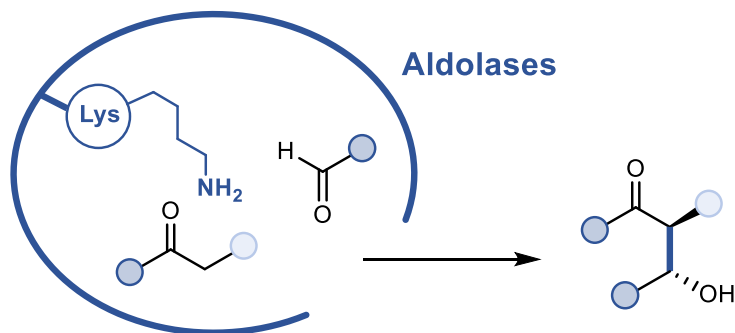


- Protein structure: Scaffold to support and position active site
- Binding sites: Bind and orient substrates
- Catalytic sites

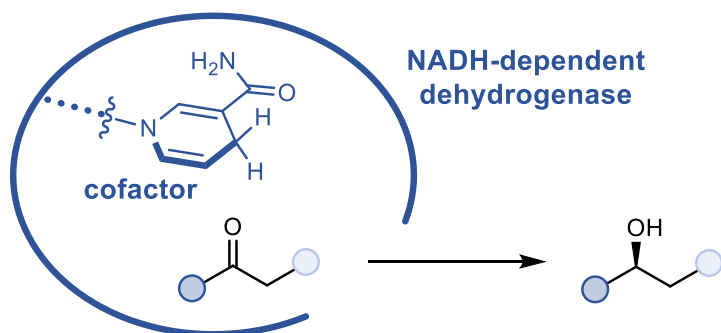
Catalytic sites of enzymes

■ Catalytic sites

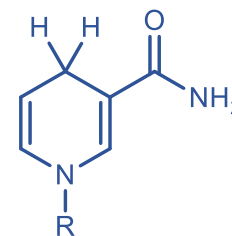
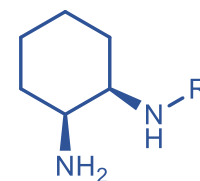
■ Catalyzing by residues of amino acid



■ Catalyzing by cofactor

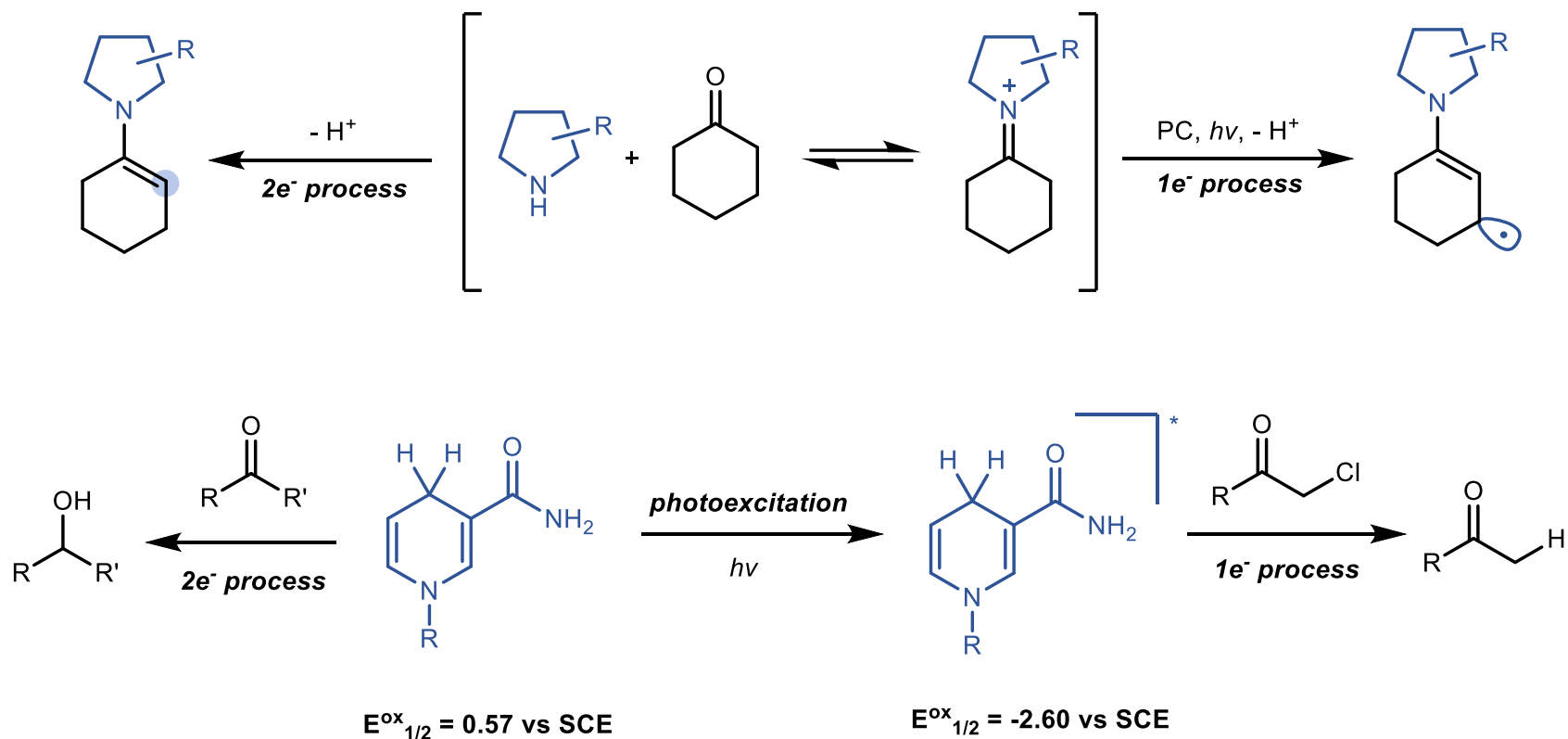


■ Derived from enzymes



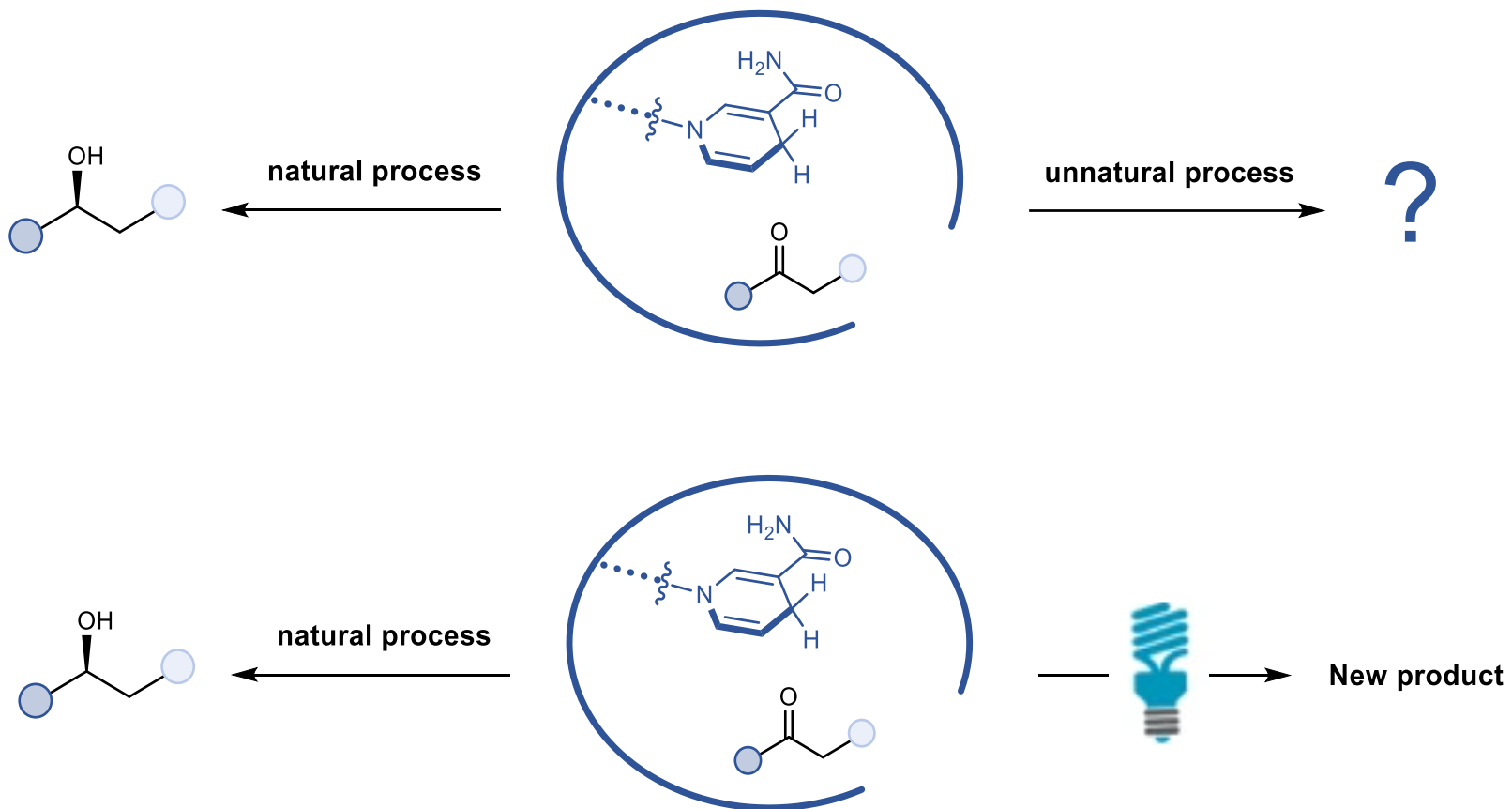
Discovering unnatural reactivity of enzymes

- The same catalyst presents different catalytic properties in different scenarios



MacMillan, D. W. C. *et al. Science* **2013**, 339,1593.
Suenobu, T. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, 125, 4808–4816.

Discovering unnatural reactivity of enzymes



Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis



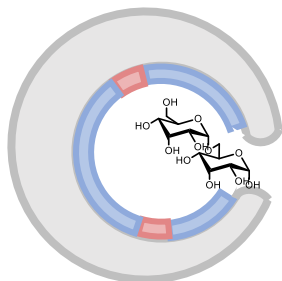
Advantages

- Mild reaction conditions
- Diverse reactive patterns
- Exquisite selectivity and high efficiency

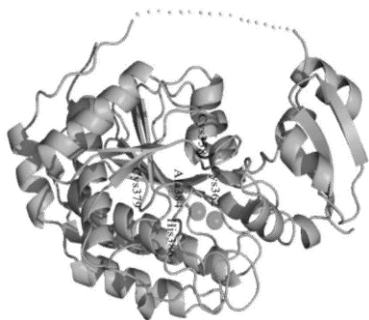
Challenges

- Compatibility of conditions
- Unmatched dynamics
- Limited substrates

Overcoming the limitation of enzymes in organic synthesis



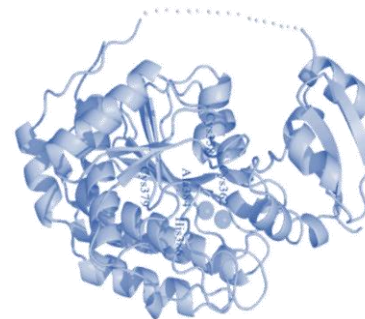
- Binding site can be modified to optimize the reaction



Naturally occurring enzyme

Activity for specific substrates

Unstable under certain conditions



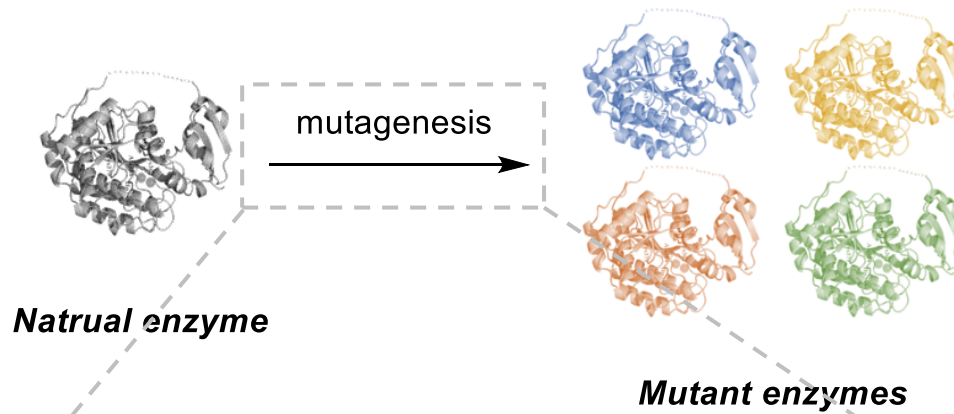
Ideal biocatalyst

Activity for desired substrates

Tolerates process conditions

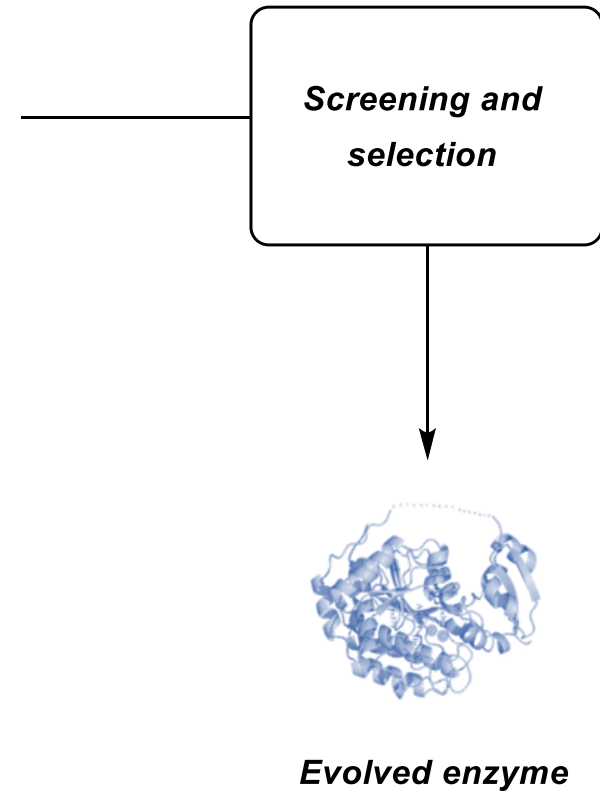
Modification of enzyme catalysts

■ Directed evolution



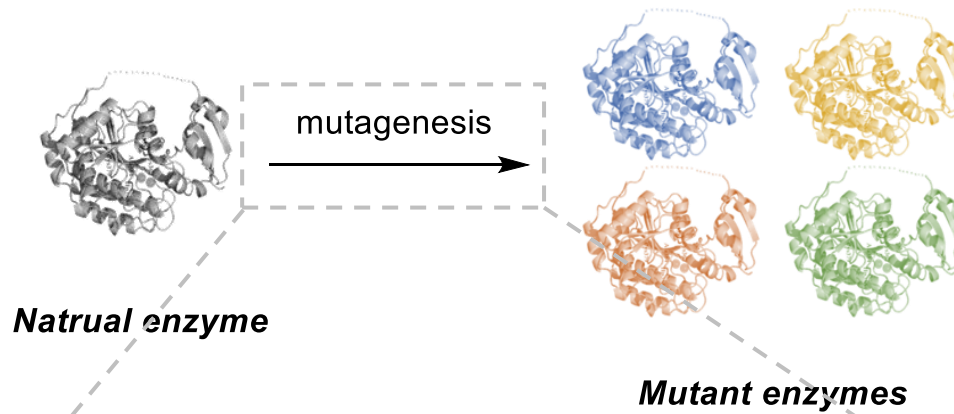
Methods for mutagenesis:

- Site-directed mutagenesis
- Error-prone PCR
- Gene shuffling



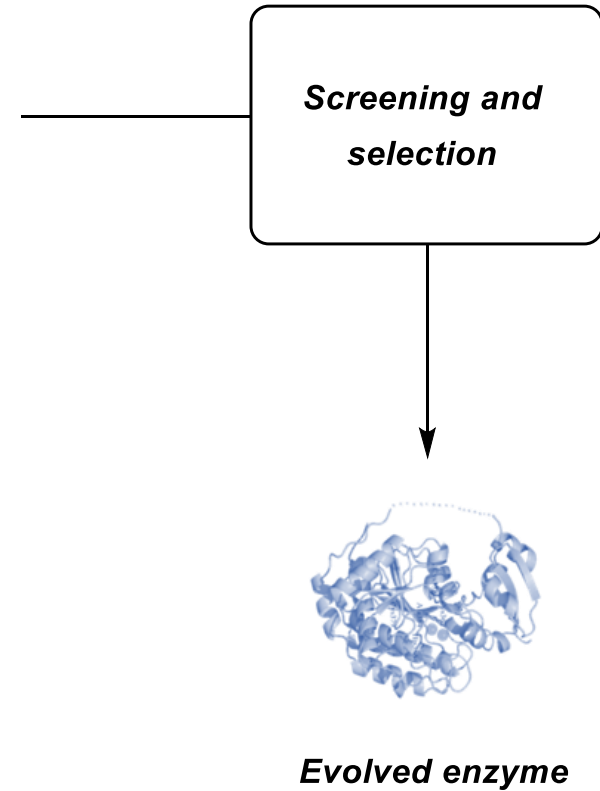
Modification of enzyme catalysts

■ Directed evolution



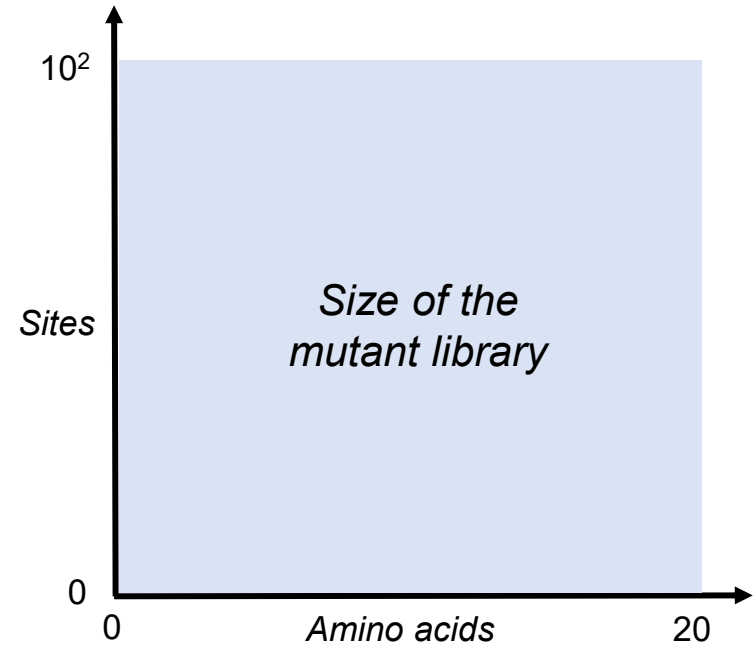
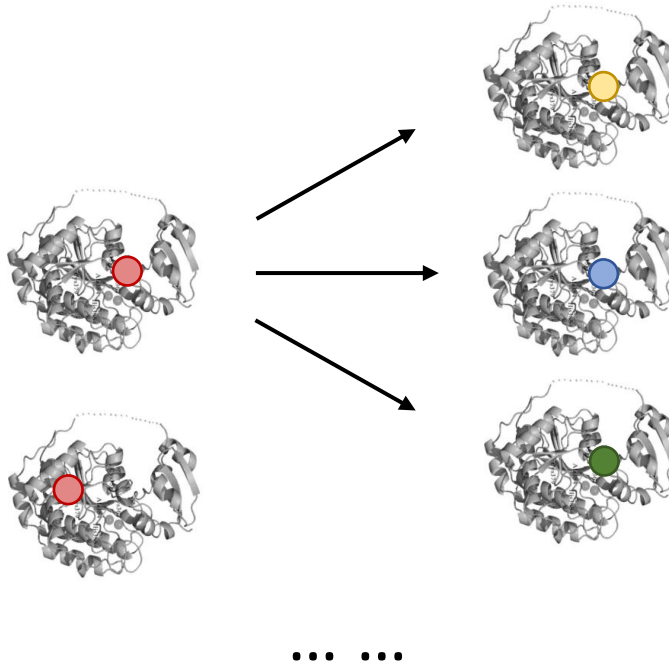
Methods for mutagenesis:

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Modification of enzyme catalysts

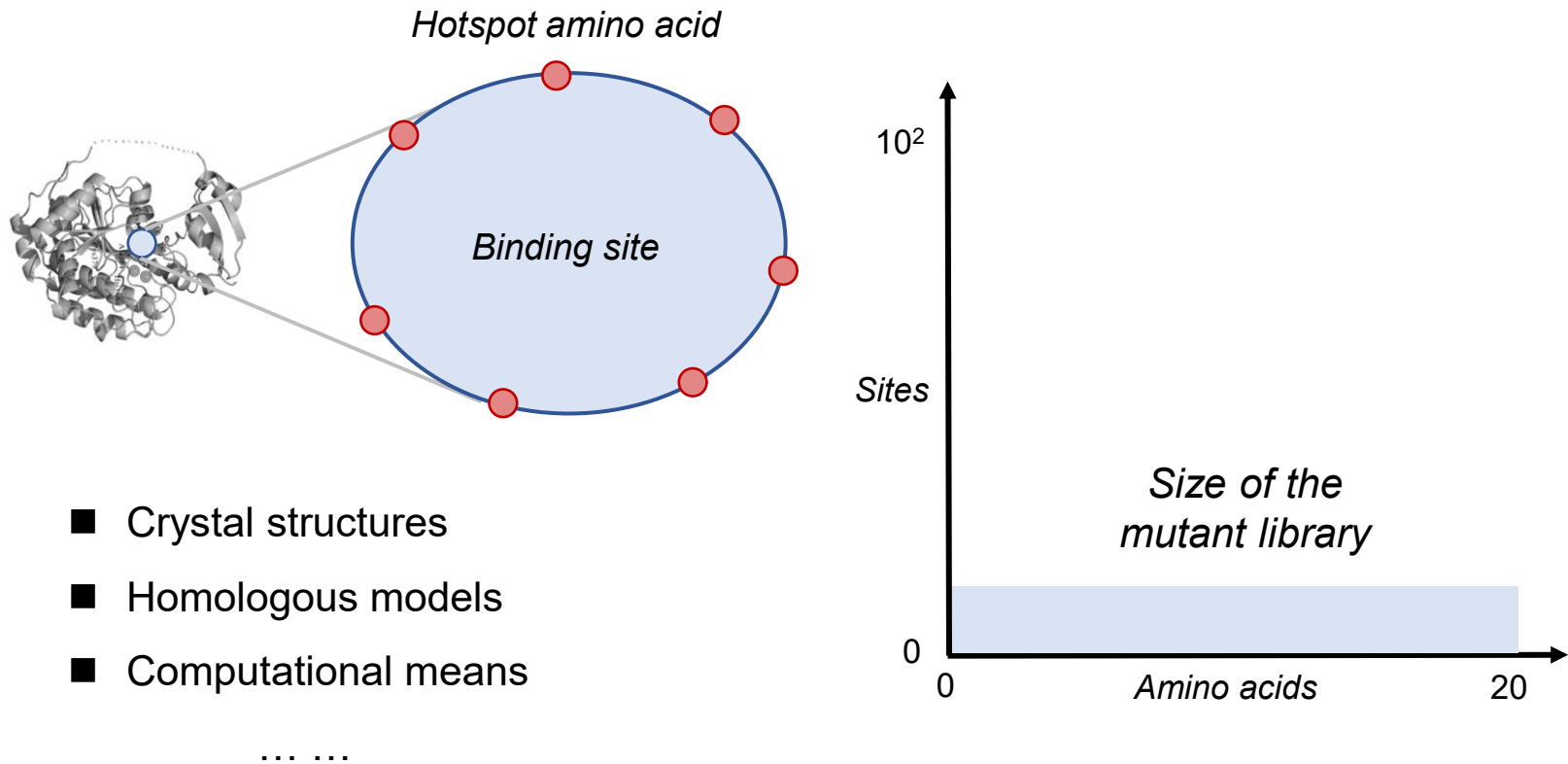
- Site-directed mutagenesis
 - Substituting individual amino acids in a protein
 - Requires a lot of structural information



Modification of enzyme catalysts

■ Site-directed mutagenesis

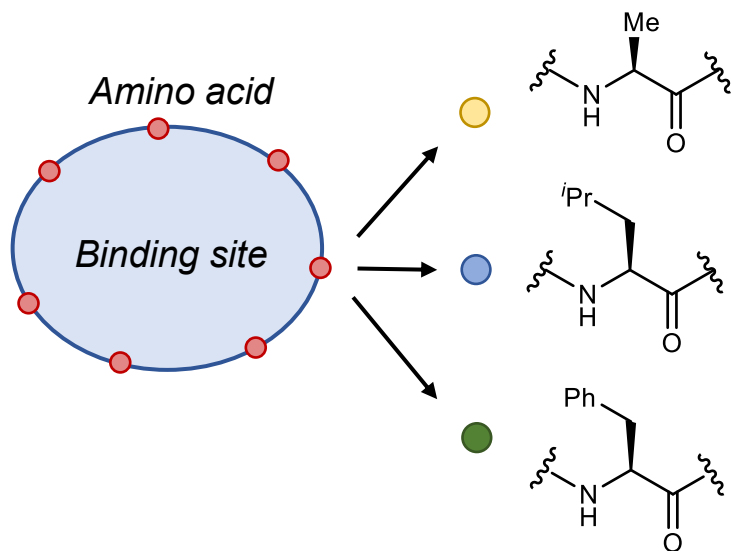
- Identify the appropriate mutational residues (hotspots)



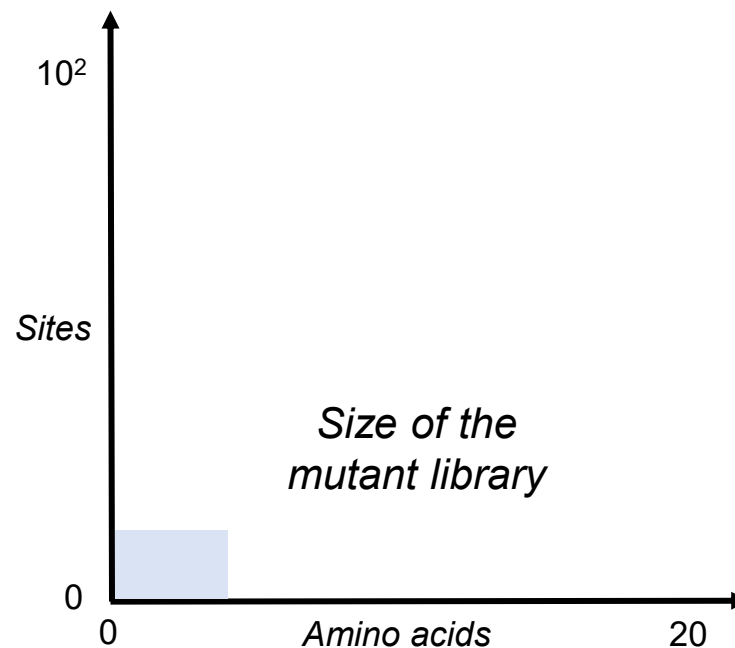
Modification of enzyme catalysts

■ Site-directed mutagenesis

- Introduce few different amino acids per hotspot



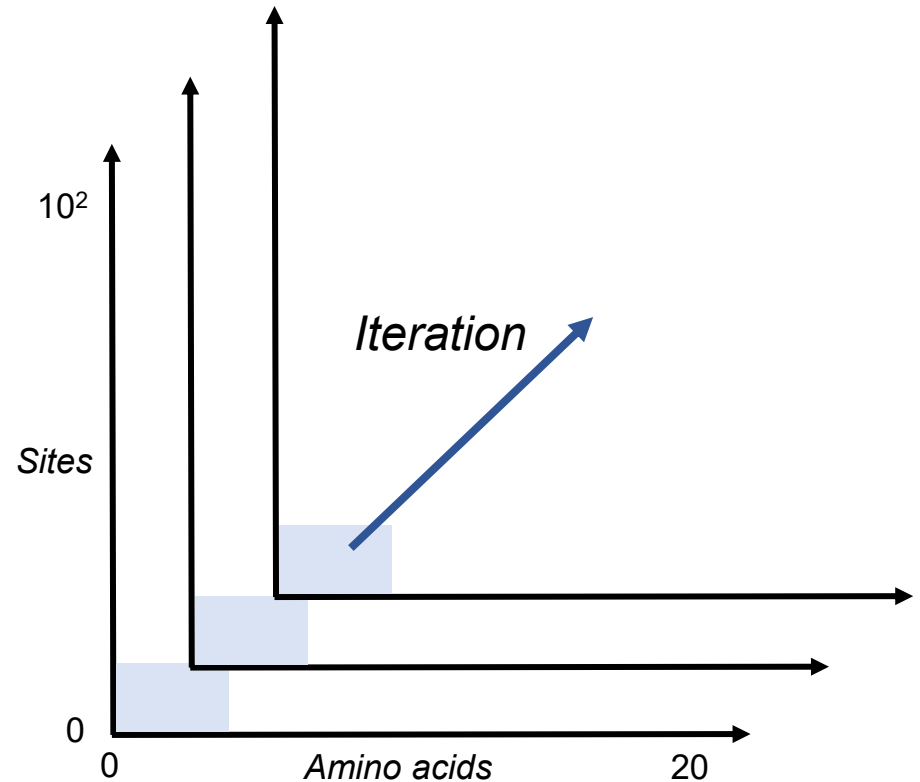
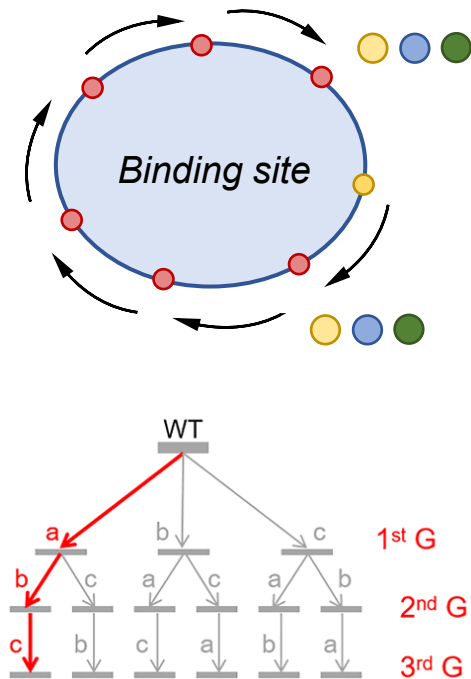
- Based on the assumption which property of residues influence the most



Modification of enzyme catalysts

■ Site-directed mutagenesis

■ Iteration using the same steps

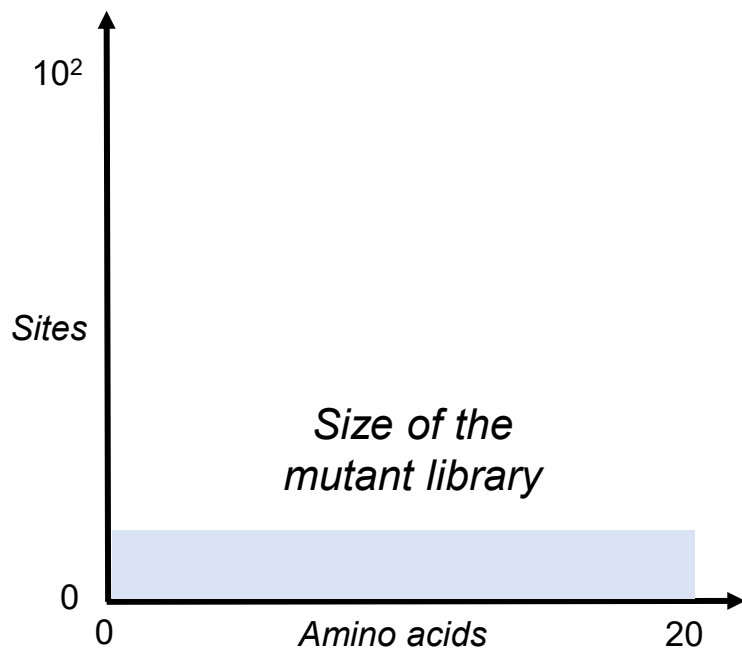


■ The optimal mutant is used as the starting point for iteration

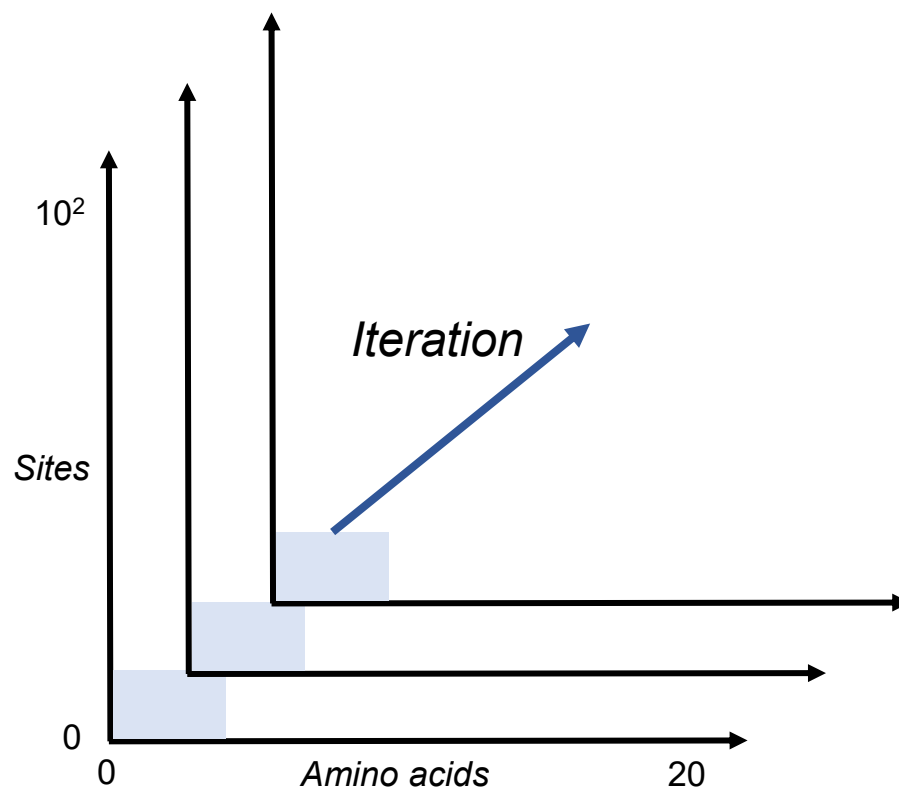
Modification of enzyme catalysts

■ Site-directed mutagenesis

■ Site-saturation mutagenesis (SSM)



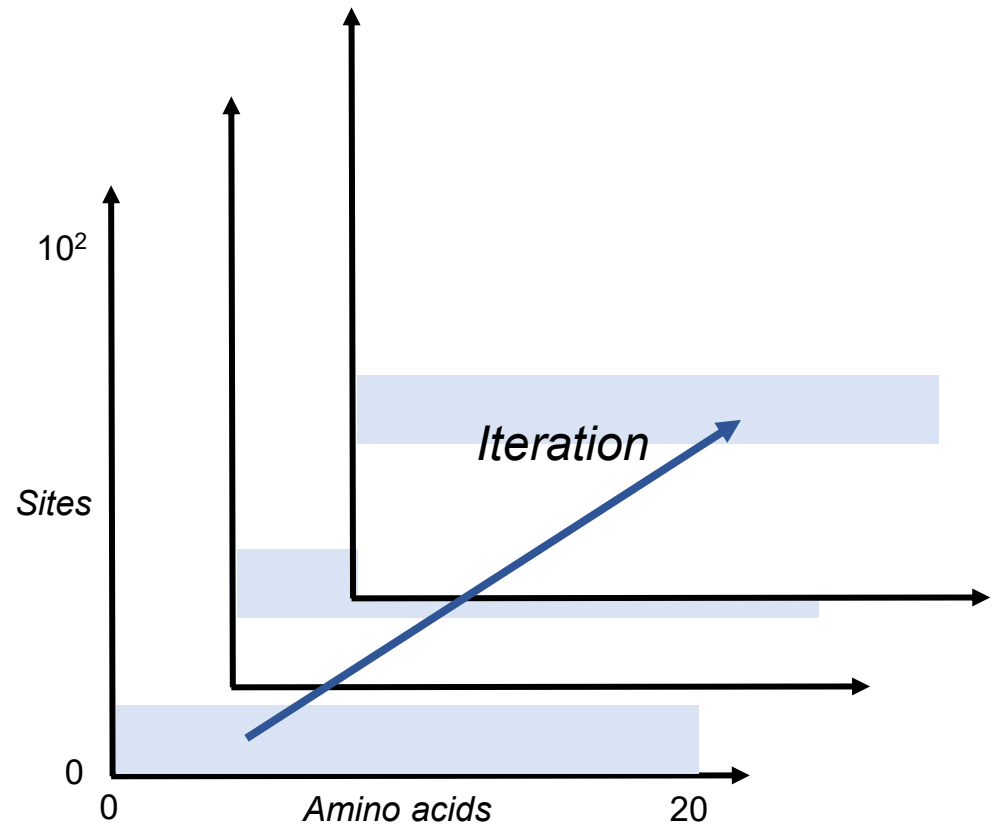
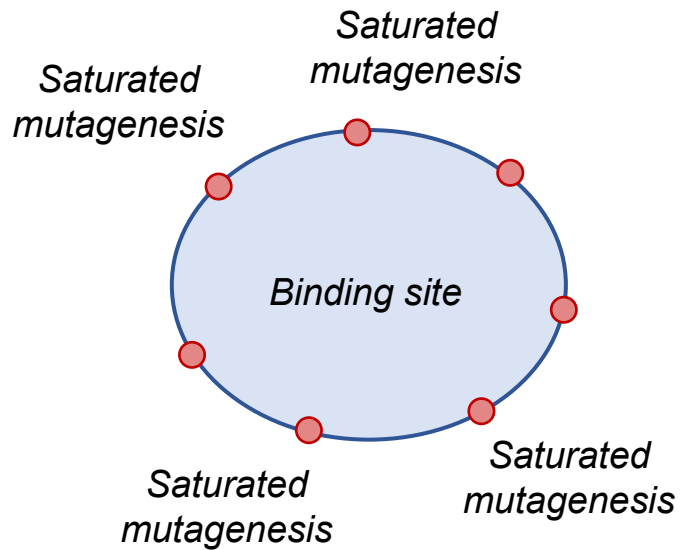
■ Focused rational iterative site-specific mutagenesis (FRISM)



Modification of enzyme catalysts

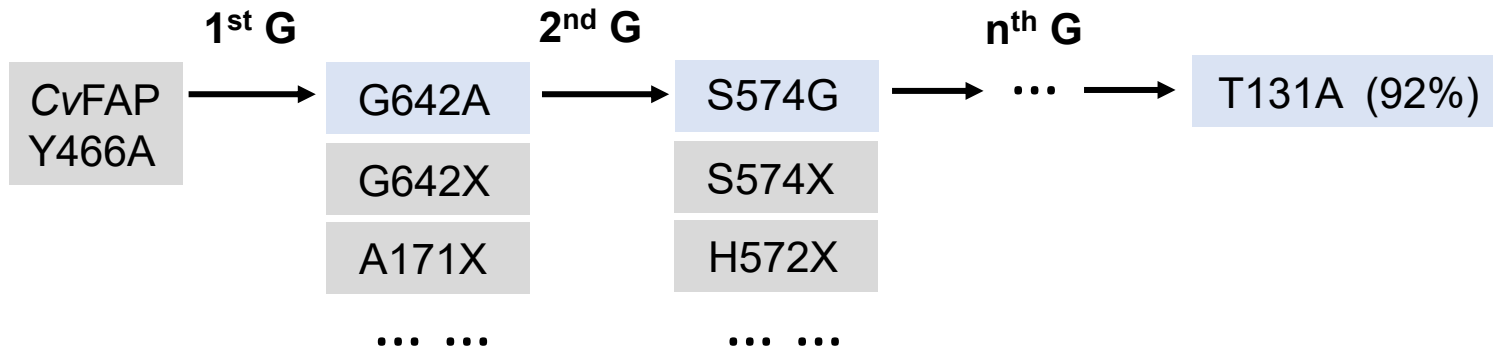
- Site-directed mutagenesis

- Combination of different methods

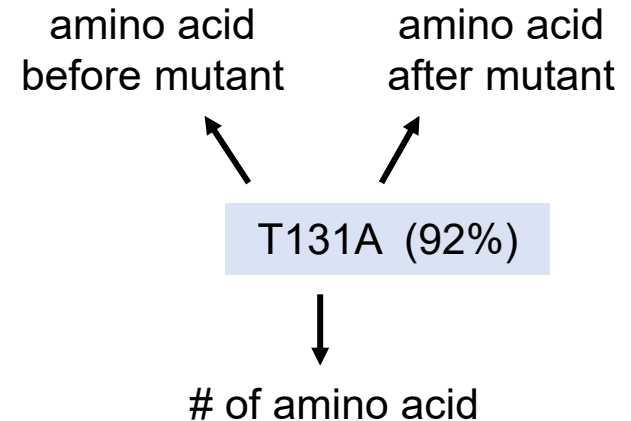


Modification of enzyme catalysts

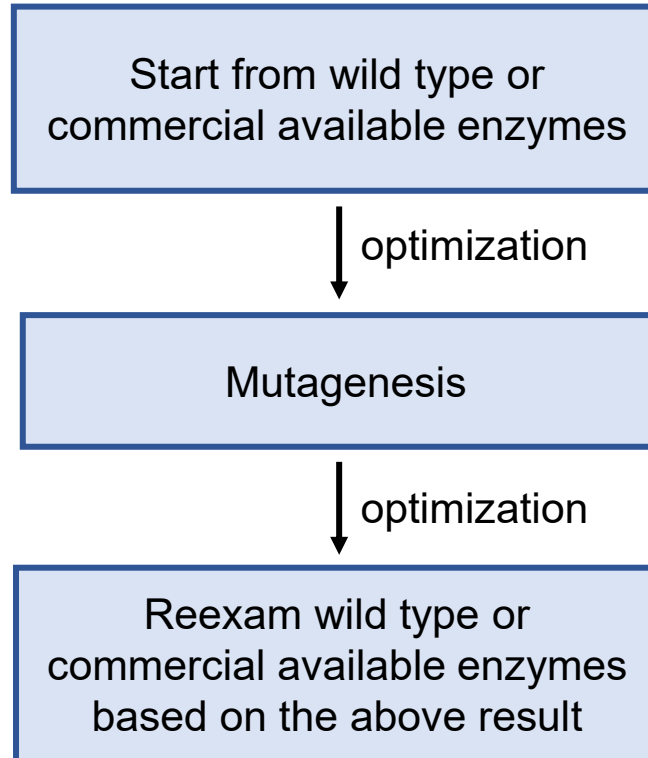
■ Note of mutagenesis



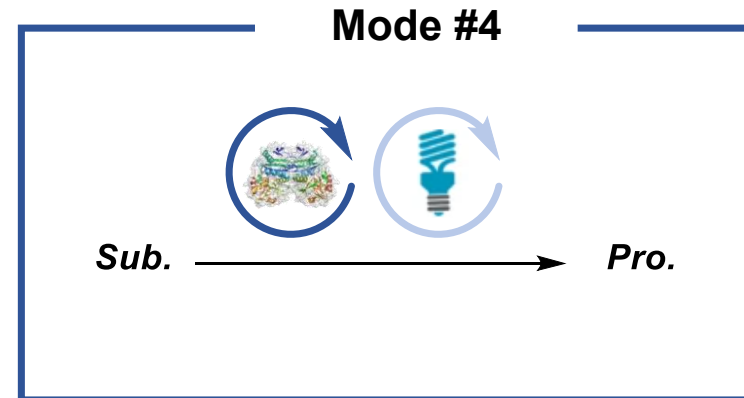
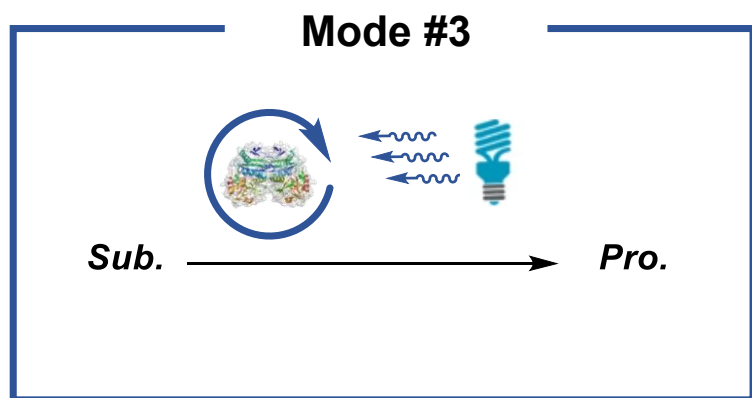
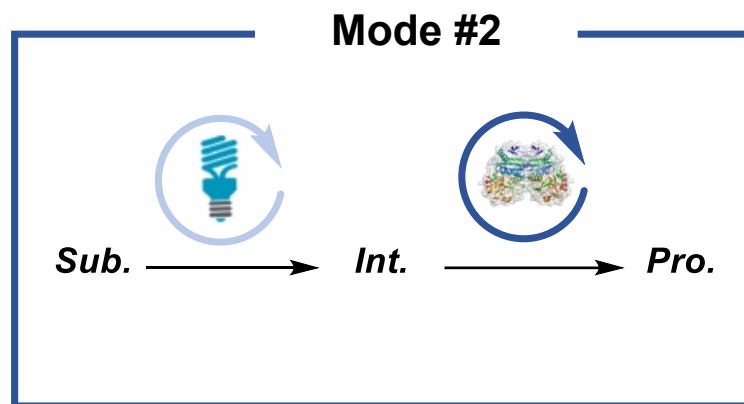
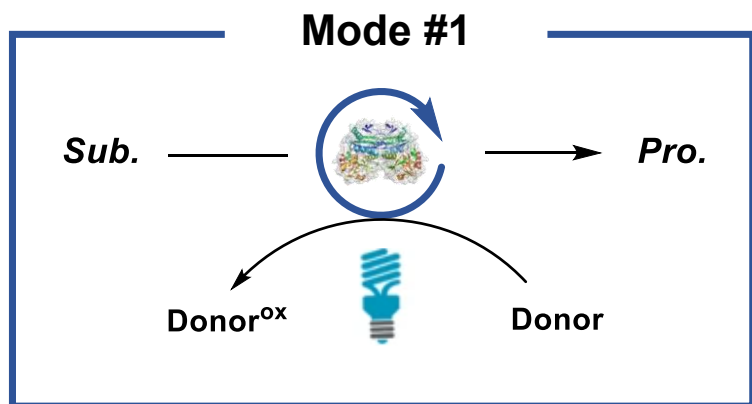
Entry	CvFAP variant	Yield of 2a
1	CvFAP Y466A	13%
2	CvFAP Y466A G462A	48%
3	CvFAP Y466A G462A S574G	87%
4	CvFAP Y466A G462A S574G S464A	89%
5	CvFAP Y466A G462A S574G S464A T131A (CvFAP ^{AAGAA} = CvRAP ₁)	91%
6	CvFAP Y466A G462A S574A	89%
7	CvFAP Y466A G462A S574A S464A	91%
8	CvFAP Y466A G462A S574A S464A T131A (CvFAP ^{AAAAA} = CvRAP ₂)	92%



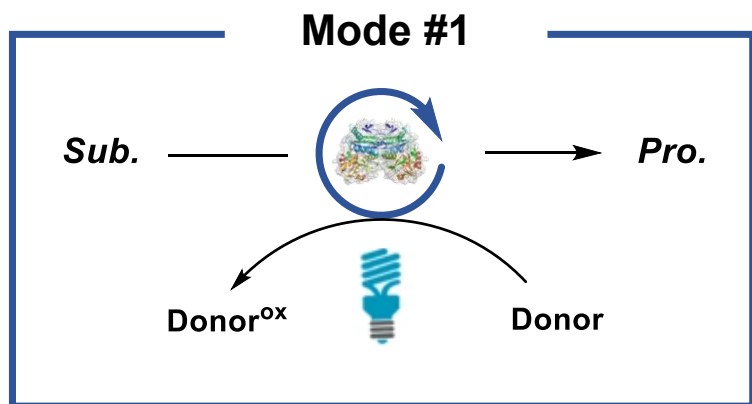
General methods for optimization



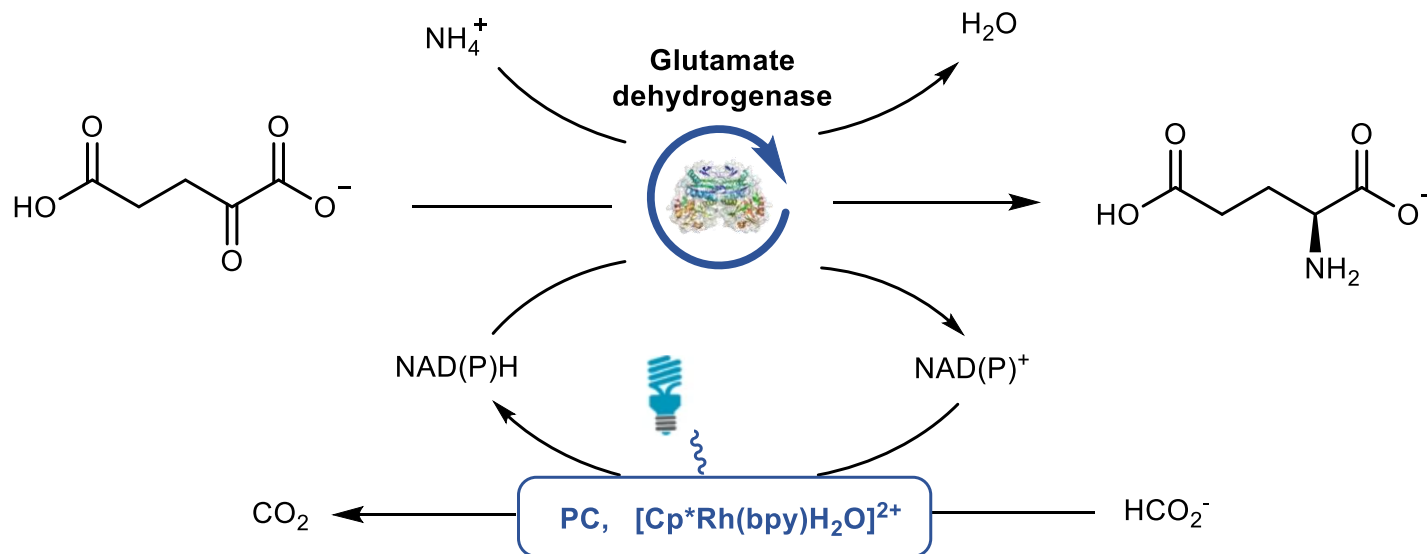
Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis



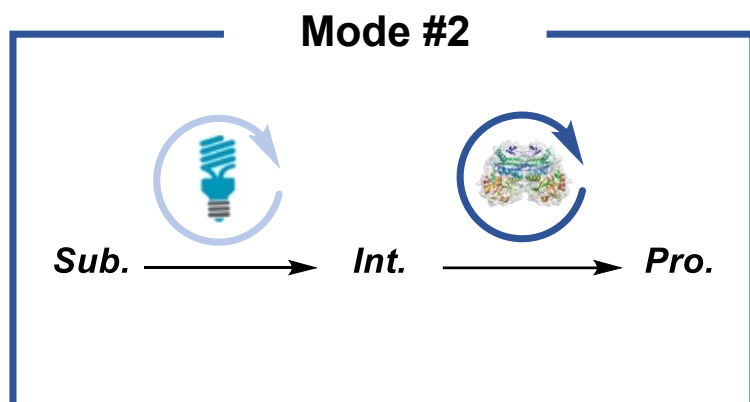
Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis



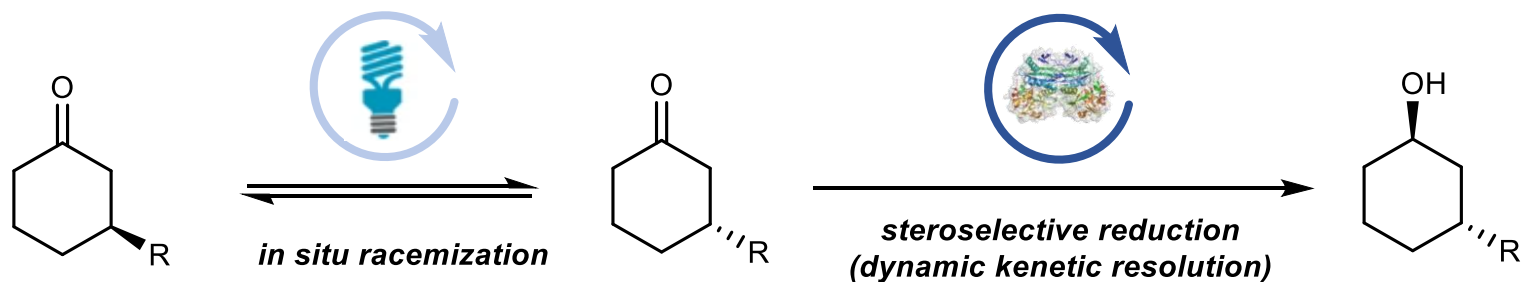
- Replaces the native cofactor regeneration system



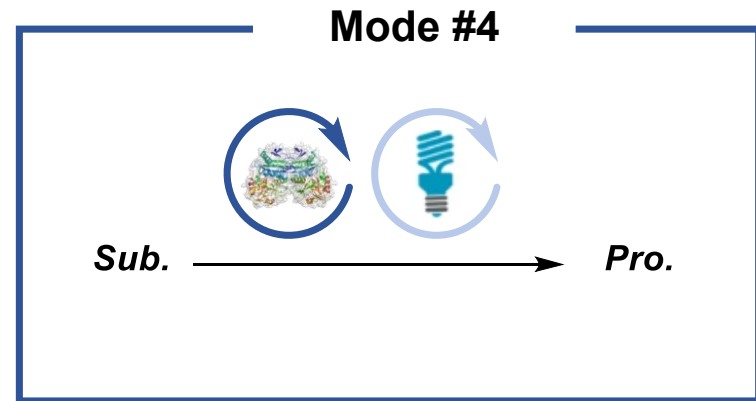
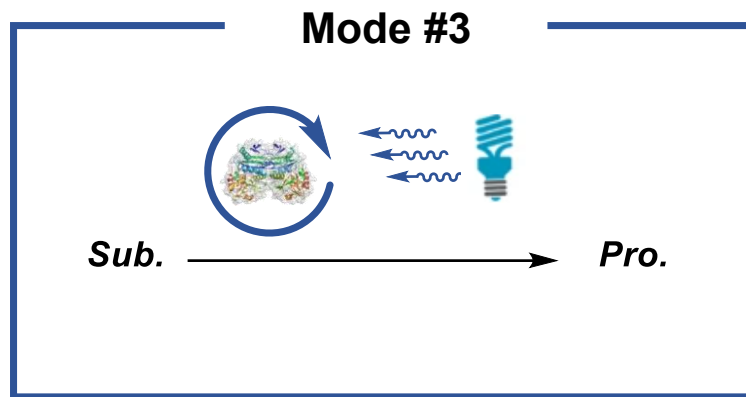
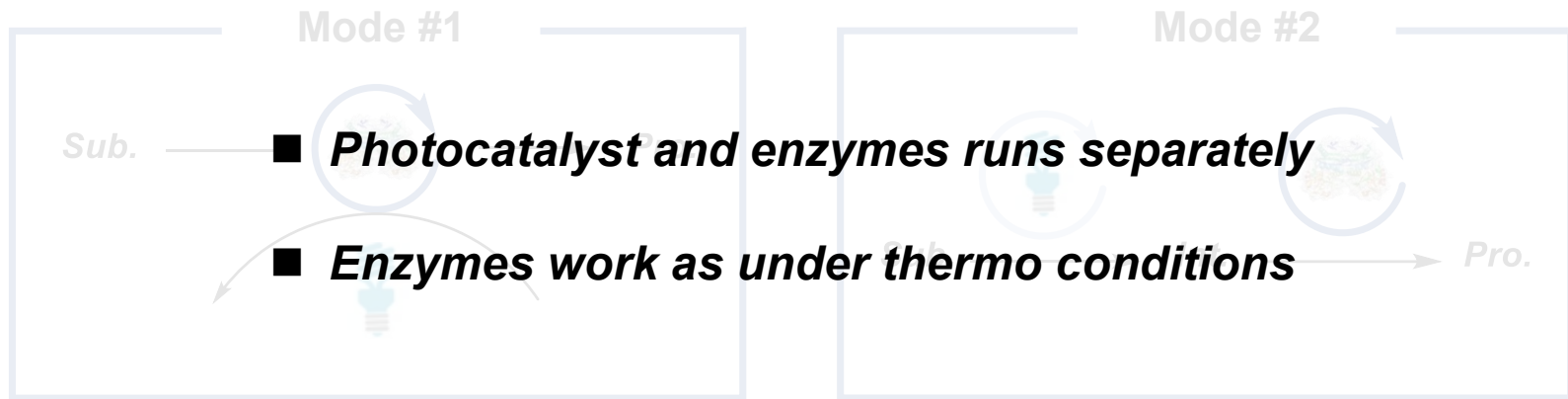
Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis



- Catalyzing the cascade respectively



Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis



- ***Background of photobiocatalysis***

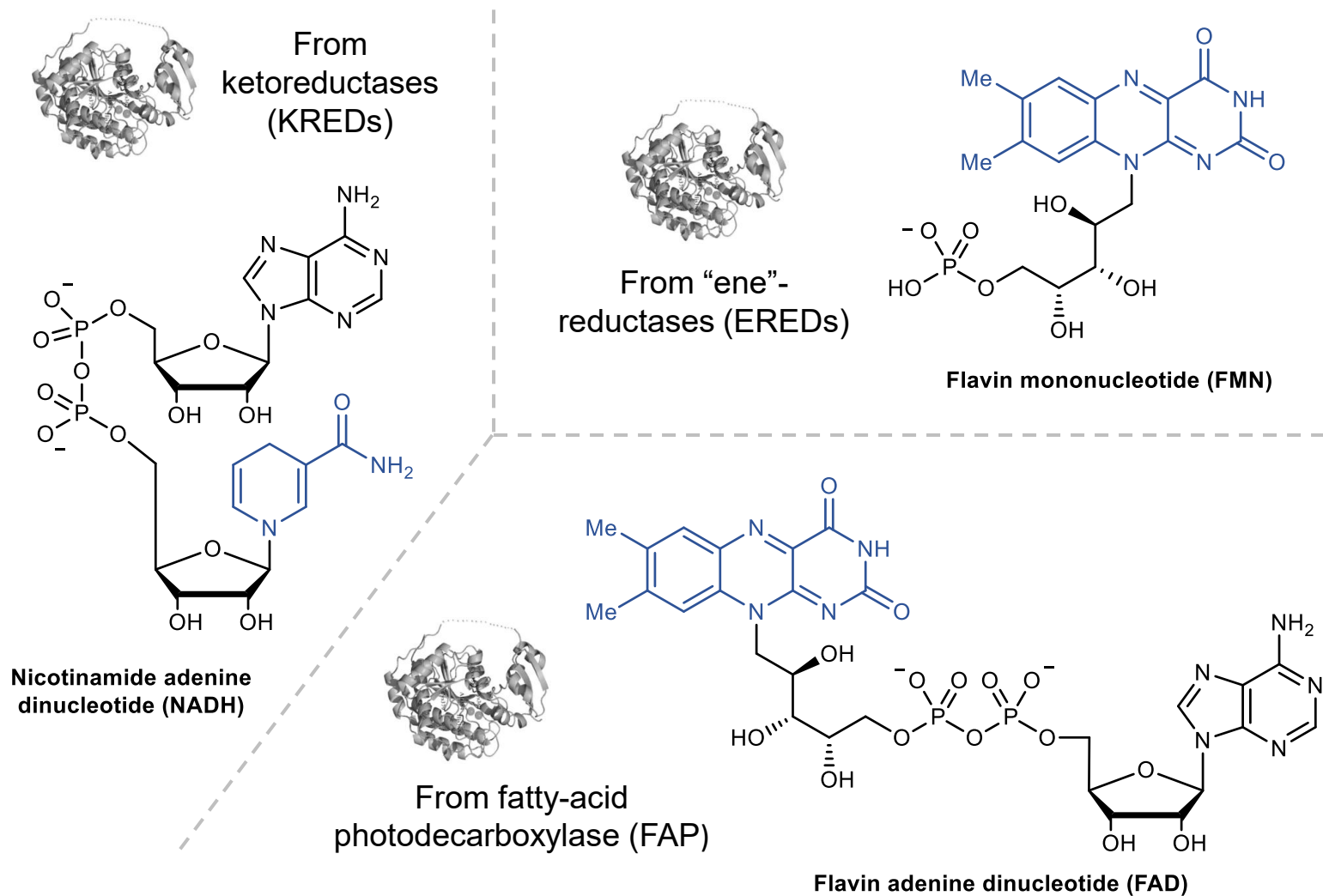
- Brief introduction to enzymatic catalysis
- Modification of enzyme catalysts
- Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis

- ***Photobiocatalysis for organic synthesis***

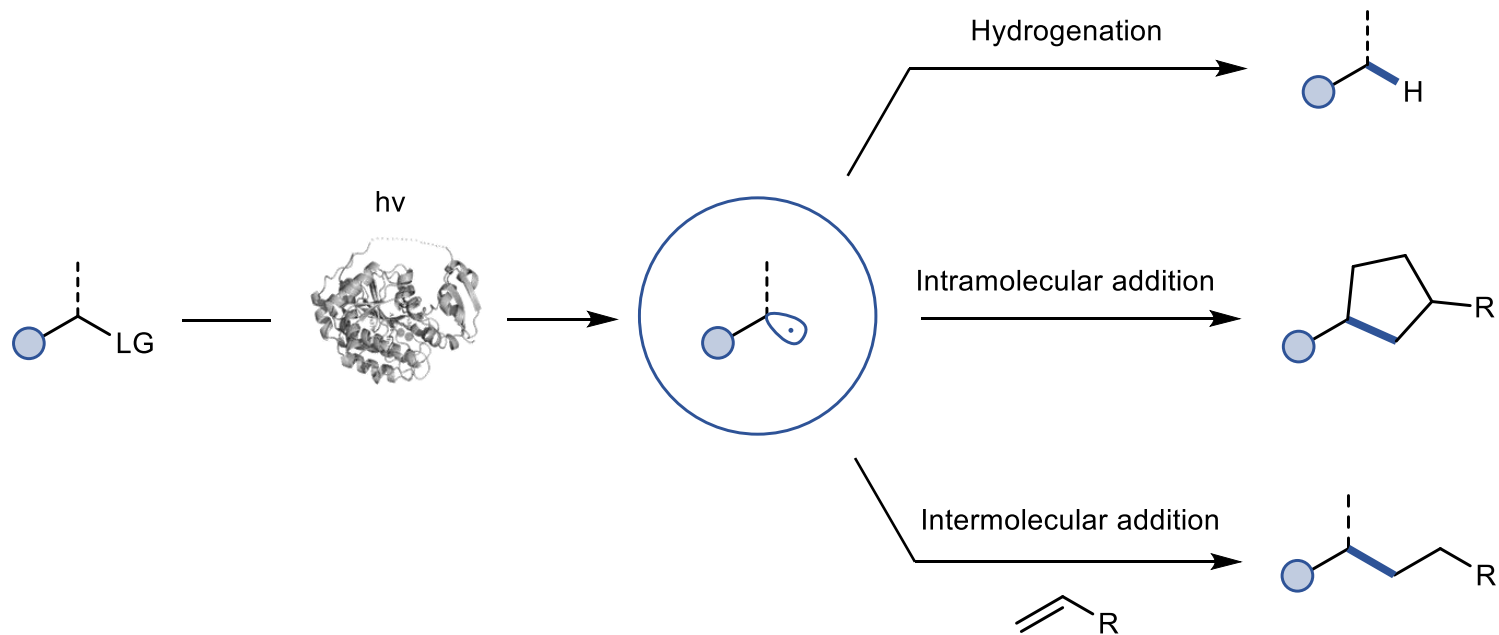
- Cofactor-dependent photocatalysis
- Artificial photo enzymes
- Combination of external photocatalysis and enzymes

- ***Summary and perspective***

Photosensitive cofactors in nature

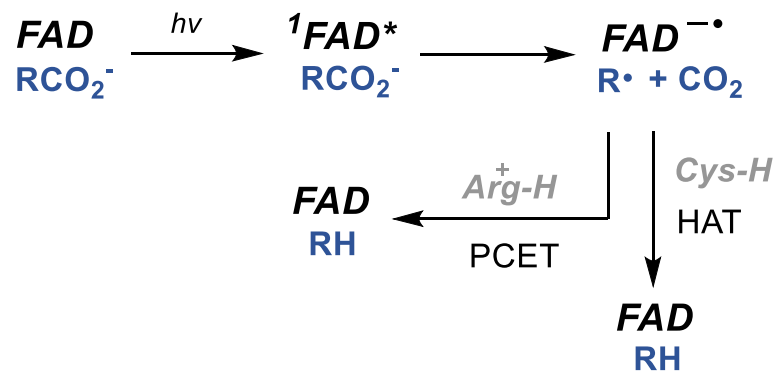
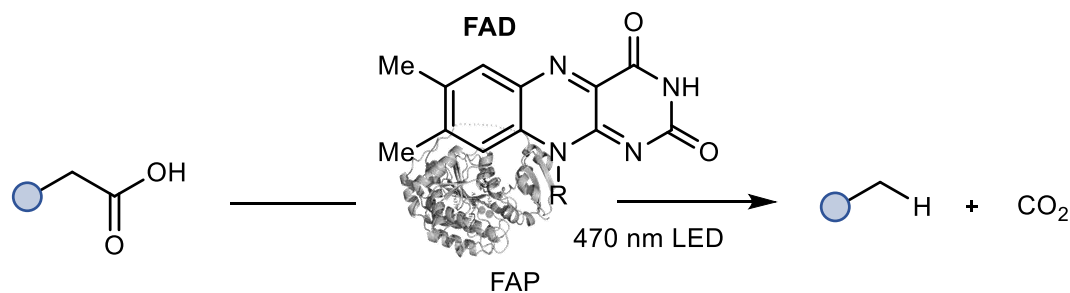


Developed reactions with photoenzyme



- Stereoselective radical process is rare in these scenarios

Hydrogenation with fatty acid photodecarboxylase (FAP)

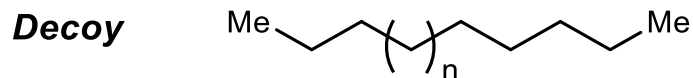


■ Redox neutral

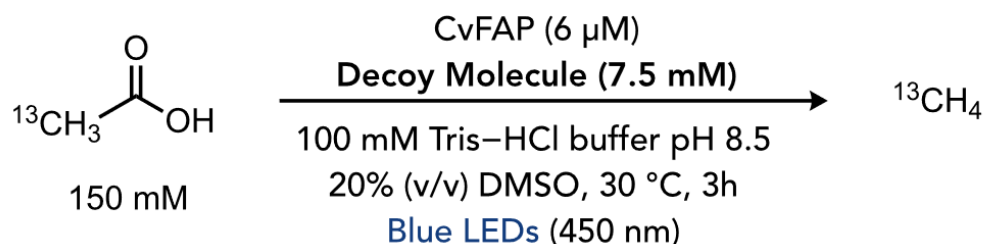
Substrate	Relative Activity (%)
C12:0	8% ± 1
C14:0	48% ± 10
C16:0	99% ± 8
C17:0	96% ± 12
C18:0	36% ± 3
C22:0	<1

Strategies to improve reactivity of FAP to other substrates

■ Using decoy



- Mimic the conformational change caused by long-chain fatty acid

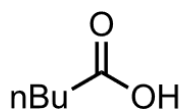


CvFAP
2.7 ± 0.2 μM

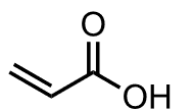
CvFAP + C₁₄H₃₀
7.5 ± 0.8 μM

2.5 fold increase

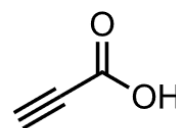
Representative Substrate Scope



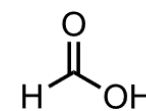
Decoy = C₉H₂₀
2440 ± 62.4 μM
2.8 fold improvement



Decoy = C₁₃H₂₈
2.1 ± 0.3 μM
no activity w/o decoy



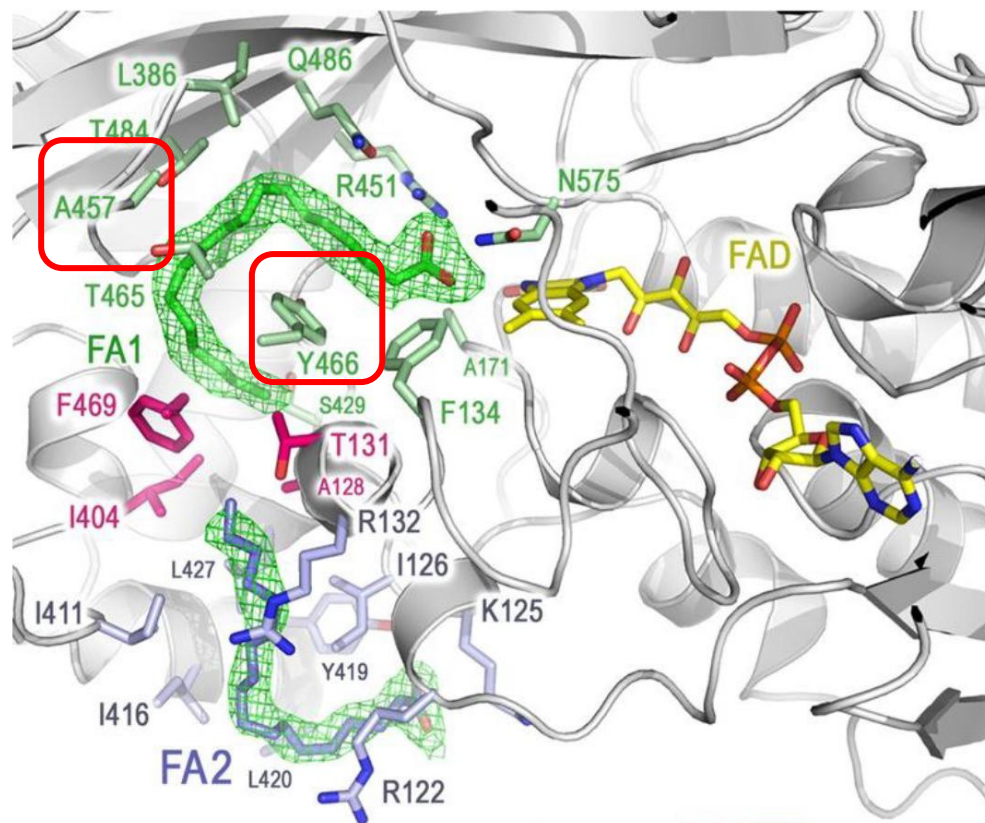
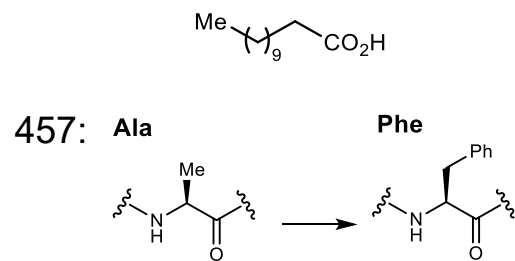
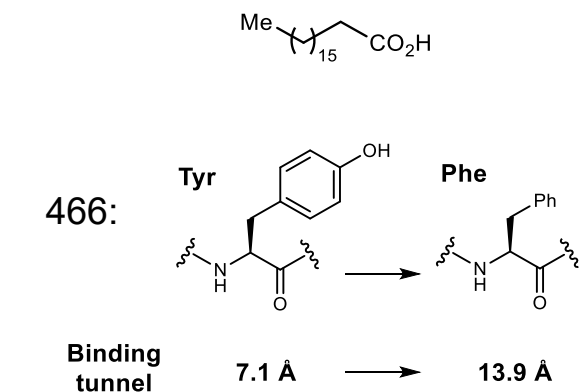
Decoy = C₁₄H₃₀
9.3 ± 1.2 μM
no activity w/o decoy



Decoy = C₁₄H₃₀
291.7 ± 14.2 μM
6.0 fold improvement

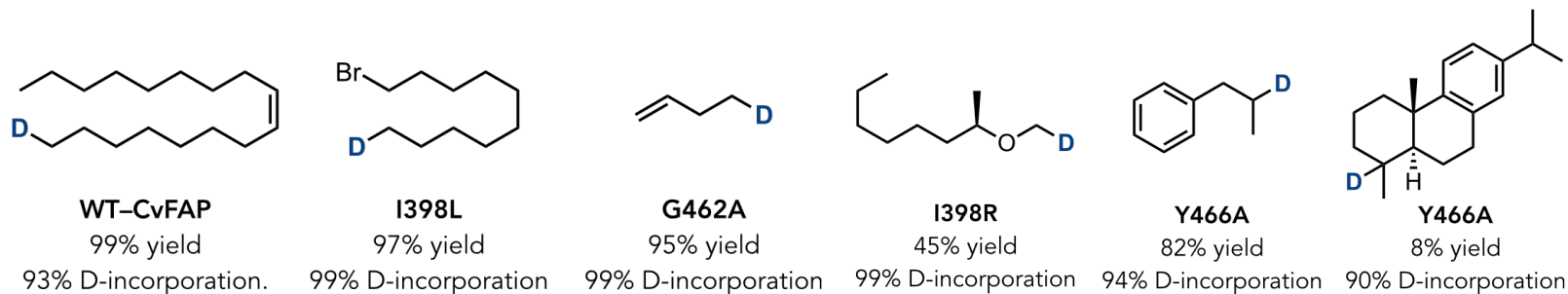
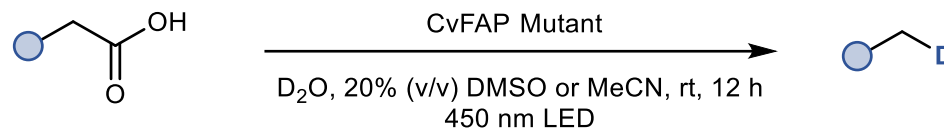
Strategies to improve reactivity of FAP to other substrates

- Using other type wild-type FAPs
- Using engineered FAP variants

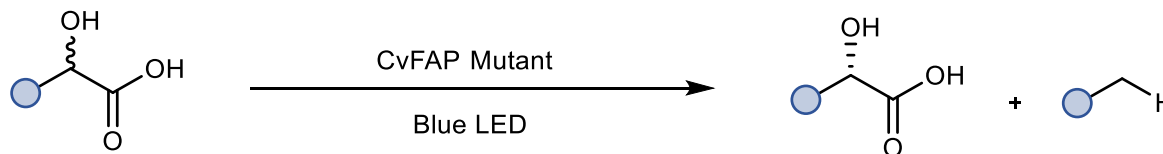


Hydrogenation reactions with FAP

■ Isotope incorporation

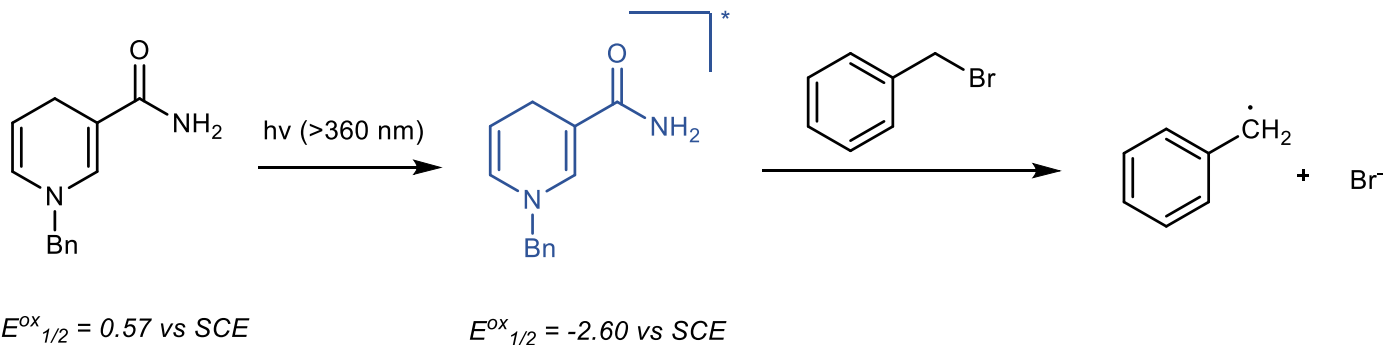


■ Kinetic resolution

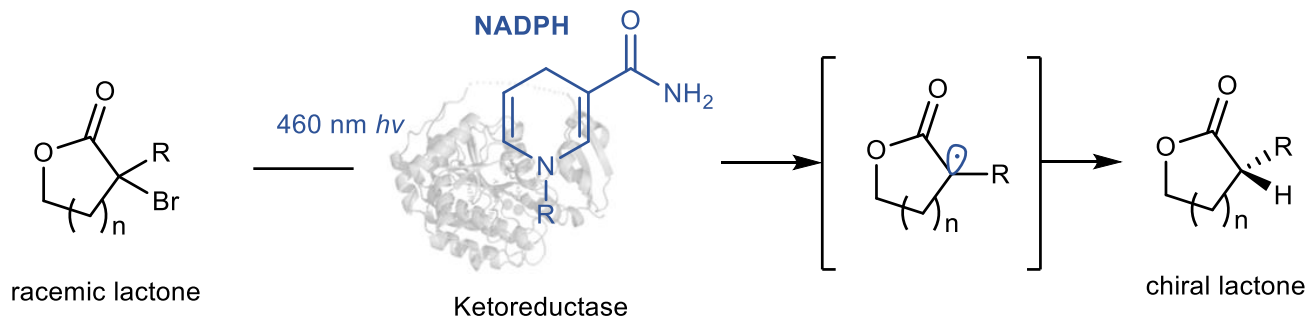


Wu, Q. *et al. Nat. Commun.* **2021**, *12*, 3983.
Wu, Q. *et al. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2019**, *58*, 8474–8478.

Hydrogenation with nicotinamide-dependent ketoreductase

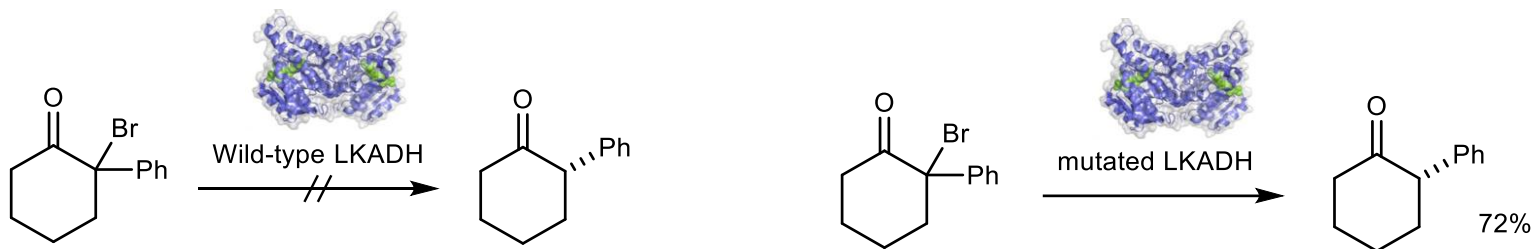


Hypothesis

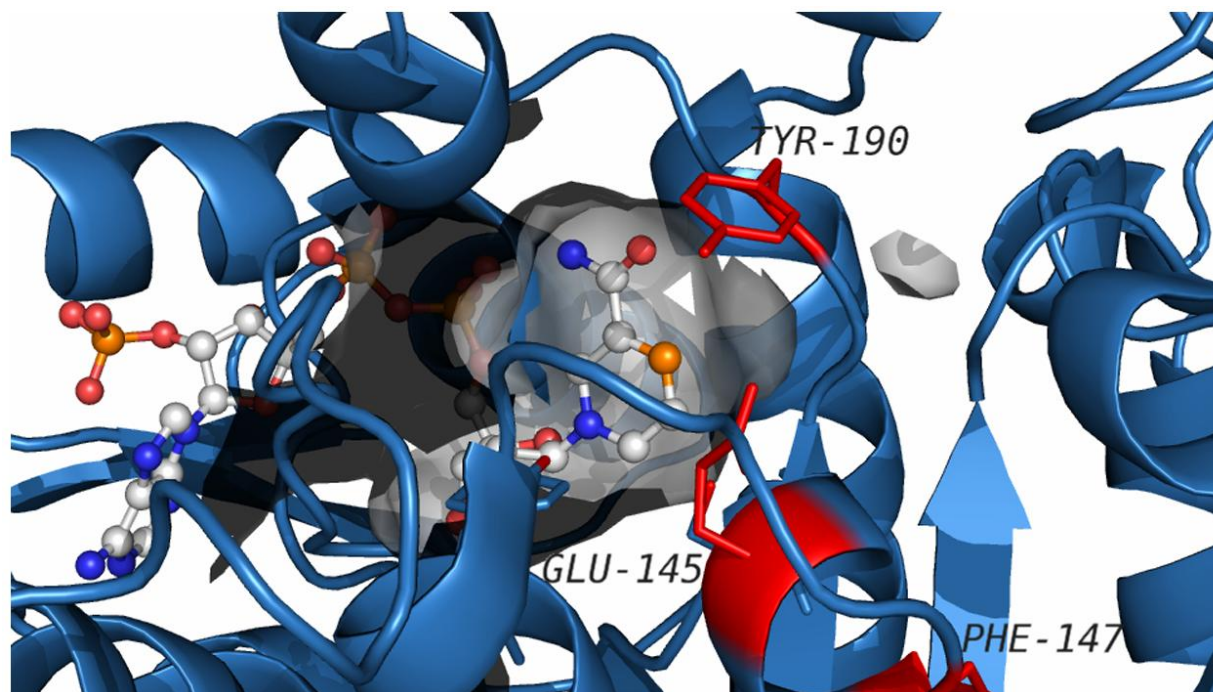
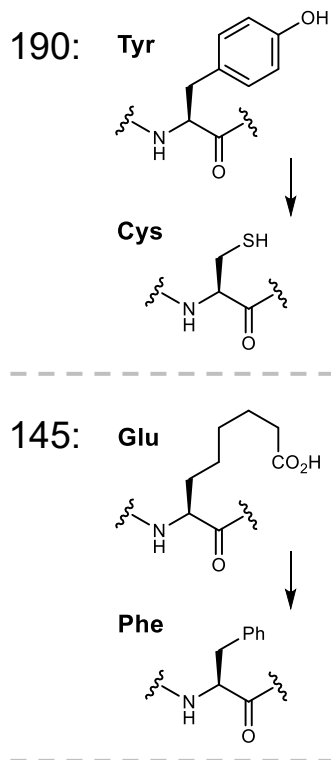


Tanaka, T. *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1983**, *105*, 4722–4727.
Hyster, T. K. *et al.* *Nature* **2016**, *540*, 414.

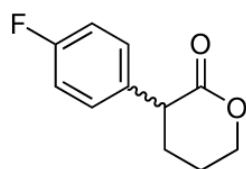
Reactivity of nicotinamide-dependent ketoreductase



A larger active site

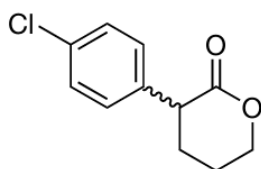


Reactivity of nicotinamide-dependent ketoreductase



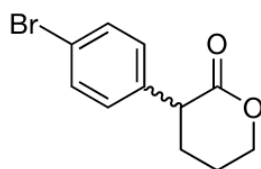
5

Ras-ADH
Yield 47%
e.r. 97/3



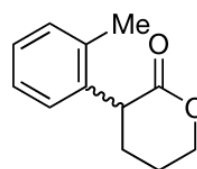
7

Ras-ADH
Yield 39%
e.r. 87/13



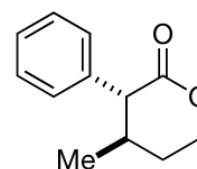
9

Ras-ADH
Yield 22%
e.r. 88/12



11

Ras-ADH
Yield 81%
e.r. 81/19



13

Ras-ADH
Yield 79%
e.r. 3/97

*Additional
stereocentres*

LKADH
Yield 91%
e.r. 2/98

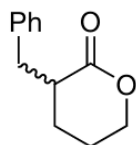
LKADH
Yield 86%
e.r. 5/95

LKADH
Yield 35%
e.r. 6/94

LKADH
Yield 80%
e.r. 6/94

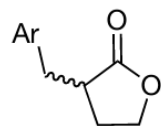
LKADH
Yield 56%
e.r. 4/96

decreased redox potentials



15

Ras-ADH
29% yield
e.r. 80/20



21

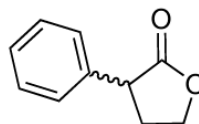
Ras-ADH
Yield 30%
e.r. 75/25

Ar = C₆H₄(3-OMe)

LKADH
80% yield
e.r. 4/96

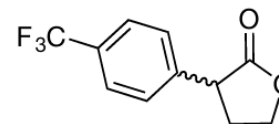
LKADH
Yield 50%
e.r. 12/88

γ-lactones (with KRED-3)



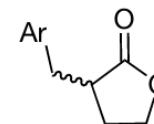
17

Ras-ADH
Yield 82%
e.r. 81/19



19

Ras-ADH
Yield 26%
e.r. 84/16



21

Ras-ADH
Yield 30%
e.r. 75/25

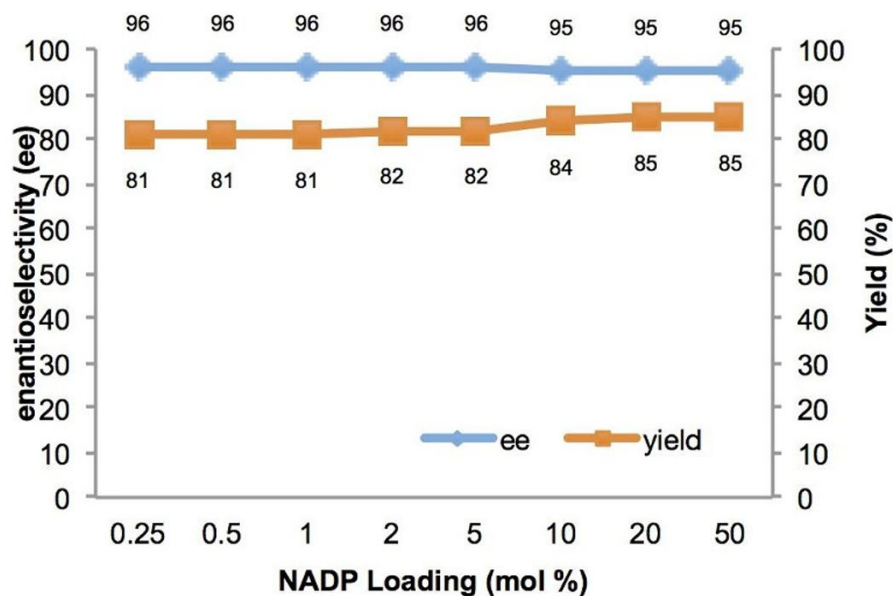
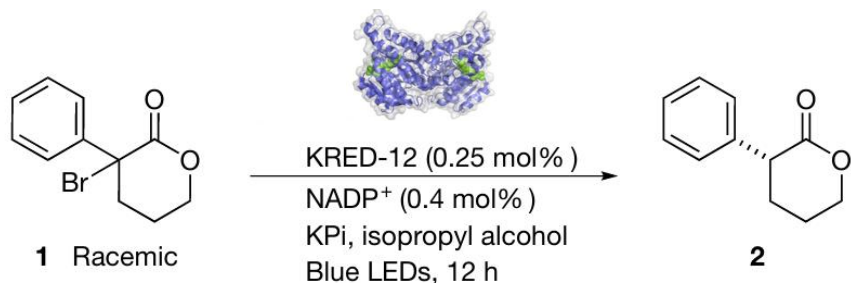
Ar = C₆H₄(3-OMe)

LKADH
Yield 74%
e.r. 9/91

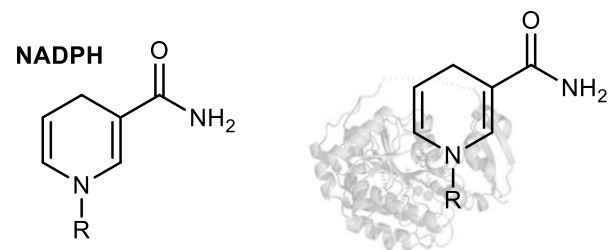
LKADH
Yield 78%
e.r. 10/90

LKADH
Yield 50%
e.r. 12/88

Nicotinamide-Dependent Ketoreductase



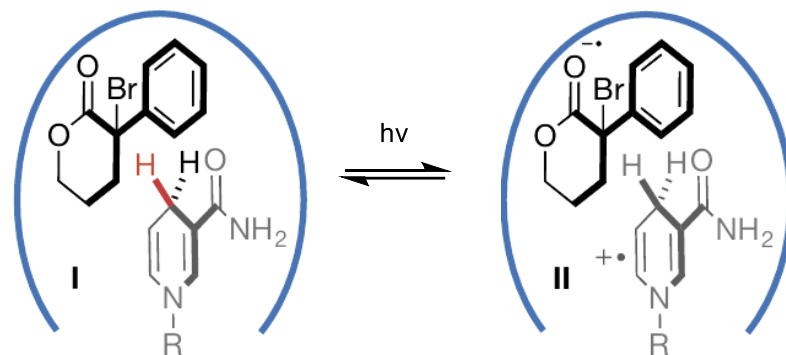
NADPH is stabilized by the protein



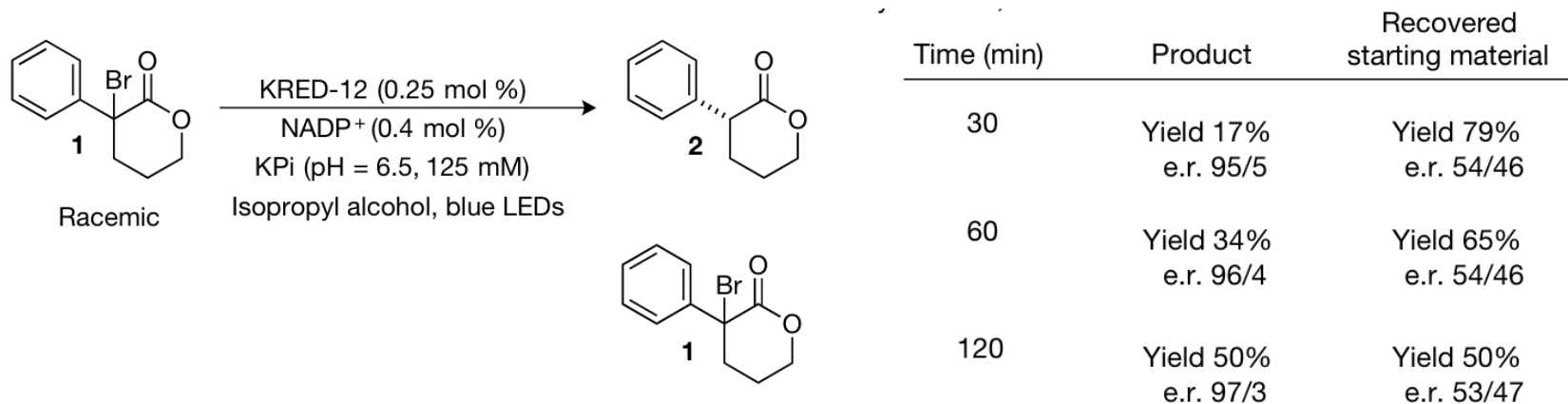
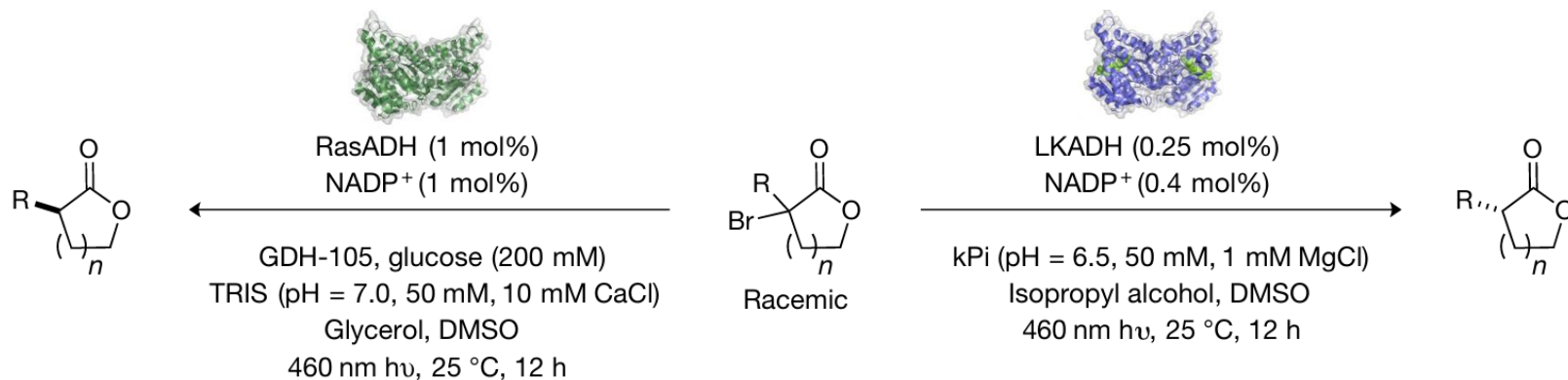
Lifetime: 0.405 ns

Lifetime: 9.00 ns

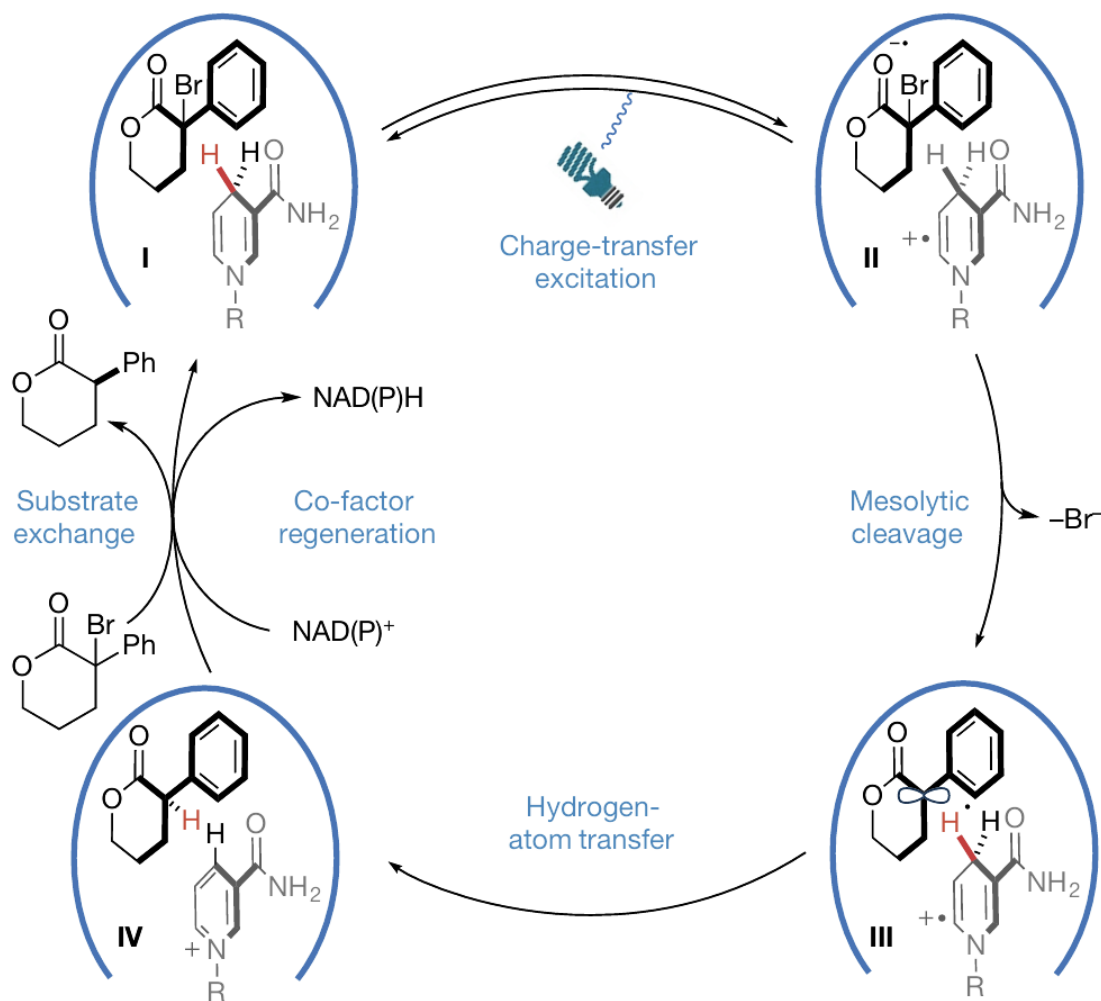
Cofactor-substrate complex



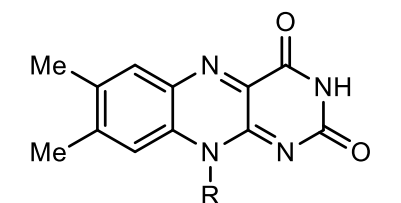
Stereoselectivity



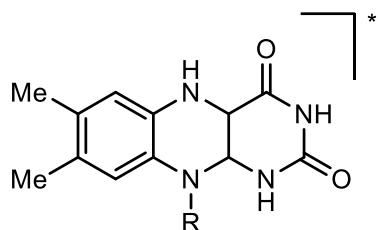
Mechanism



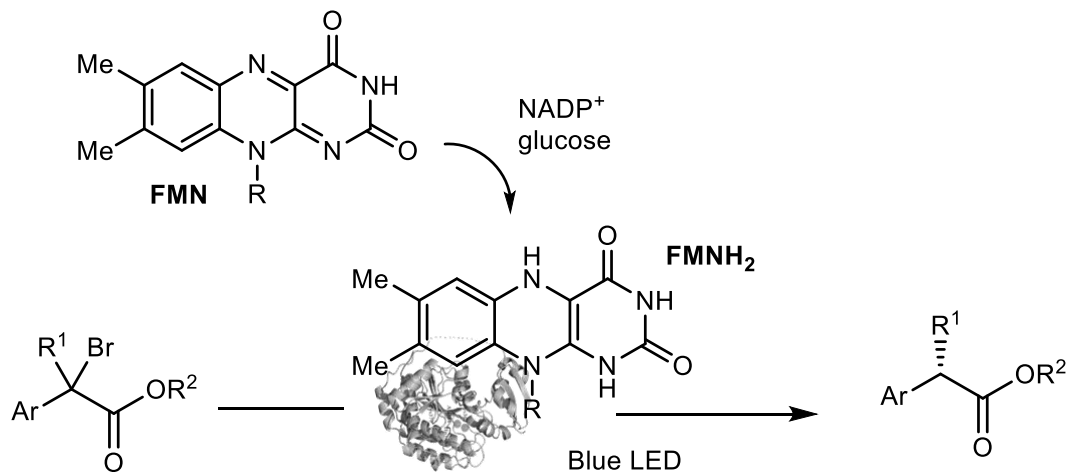
Hydrogenation with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase



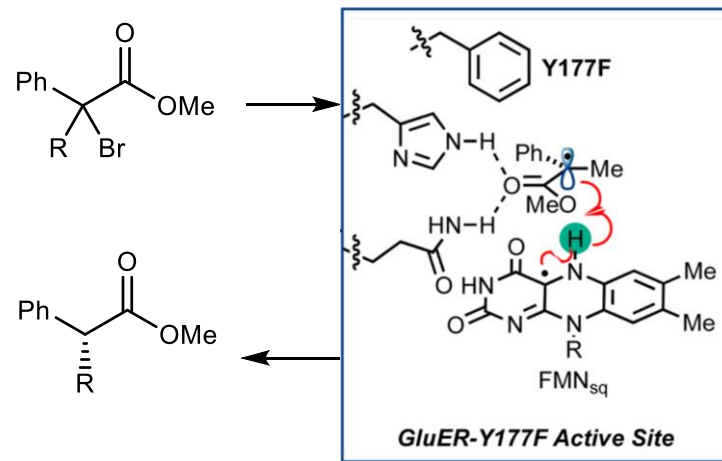
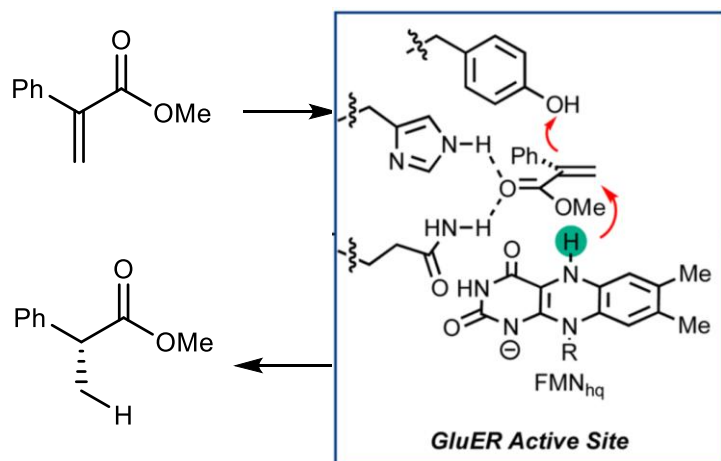
FMN $E^*_{1/2} = -0.45 \text{ V (vs SCE)}$



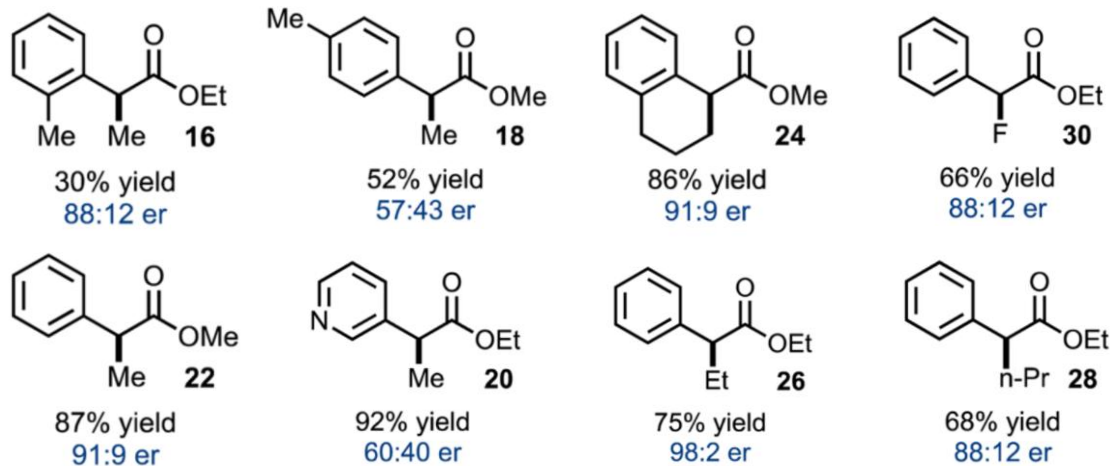
FMNH₂ $E^*_{1/2} = -2.26 \text{ V (vs SCE)}$



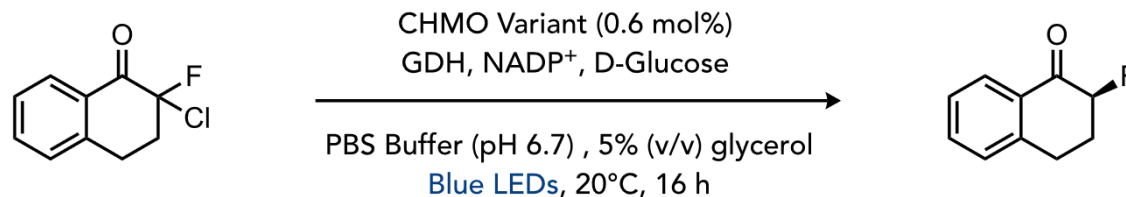
■ Mutate Y177 to improve stereoselectivity



Hydrogenation with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

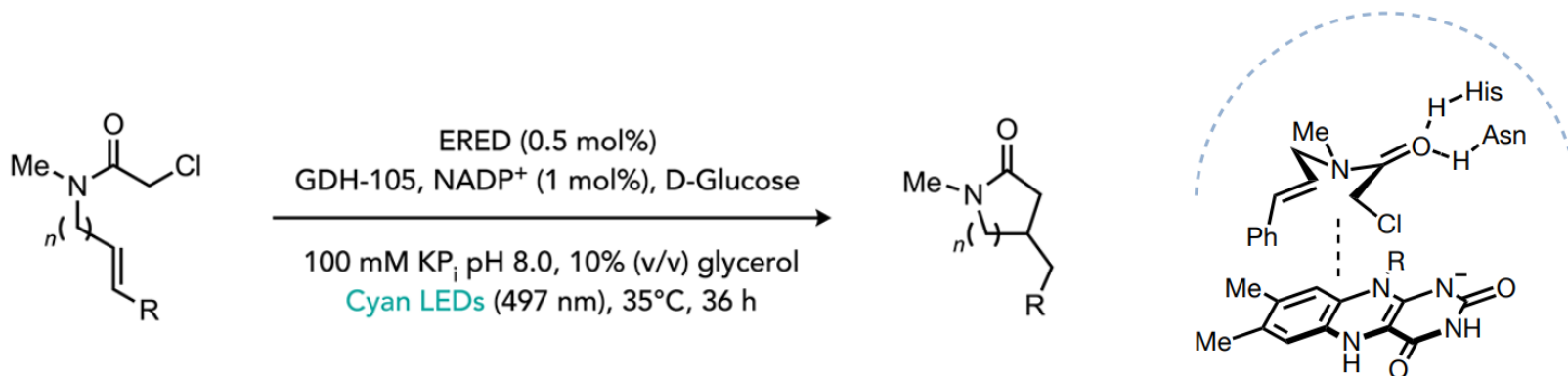


■ Hydrogenation of α -fluoro ketone



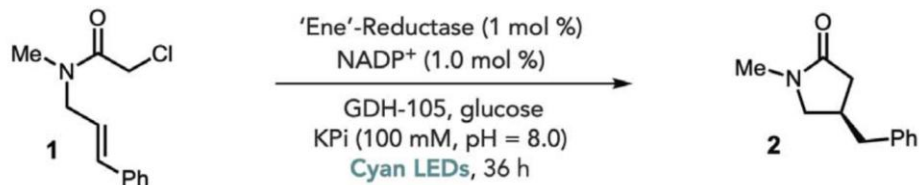
Cyclization with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

- From reduction to cyclization
 - Prevent undesired hydrogenation
 - Large, substrate-promiscuous active sites needed
 - Realizing stereoselective intramolecular radical addition



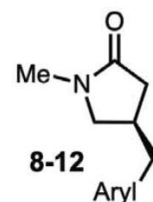
- ERED features a large active pocket

Cyclization with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase



- Cause no structural change in active site

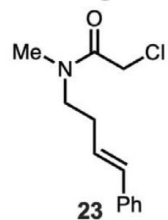
entry	'Ene'-reductase	yield (%)	er
1	GluER	68	94:6
2	OYE1	34	31:69
3	GluER-T36A	89	94:6
4 ^a	GluER-T36A (0.42 mol %)	92	94:6



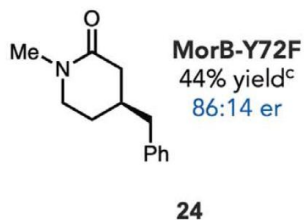
Aryl	GluER-T36A
4-OMeC ₆ H ₄	91% yield, 96:4 er
3-OMeC ₆ H ₄	73% yield, 95:5 er
2-OMeC ₆ H ₄	84% yield, 95:5 er
4-BrC ₆ H ₄	80% yield, 95:5 er
4-CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄	98% yield, 96:4 er

6-exo-trig

Starting Material

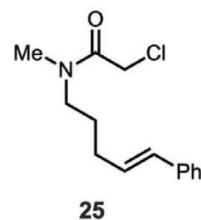


Product

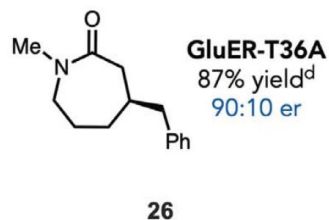


7-exo-trig

Starting Material

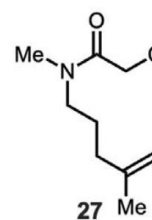


Product

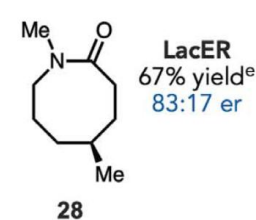


8-endo-trig

Starting Material



Product



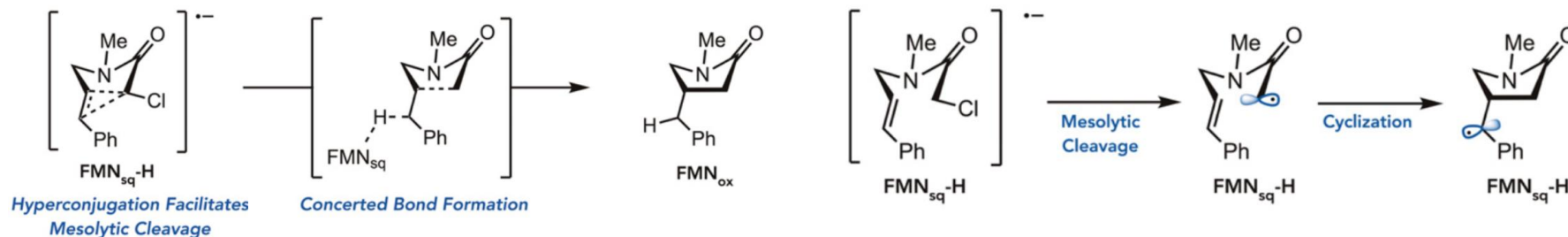
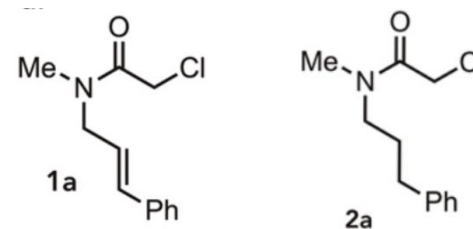
Cyclization with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

Enzyme	Quantum Yield	ERED Variant	Semiquinone Lifetime	Isotope Incorporation	ERED Variant	Substrate	Radical Pair Lifetime
GluER-WT	0.024	GluER-WT	710 ps	80%	GluER-WT	1a	2.8 ps
GluER-T36A	0.068	GluER-G6	20 ps	89%	GluER-G6	1a	0.8 ps
GluER-G6	0.105				GluER-WT	2a	4.3 ps
					GluER-G6	2a	3.2 ps

■ GluER-G6 = GluER-T36A-K317M-Y343F

■ Indicating a concerted mechanism for GluER-G6

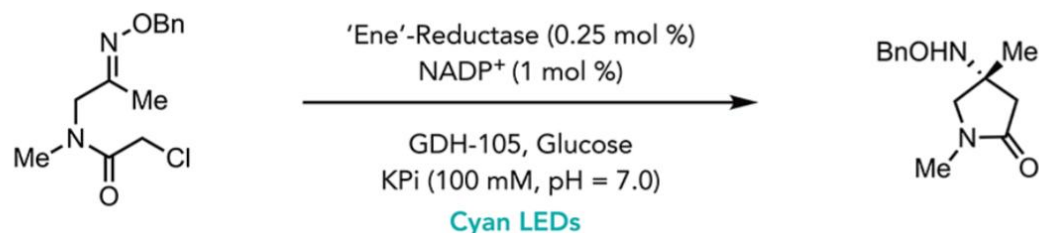
■ Interaction between σ^* C-Cl and π -electrons of the alkene



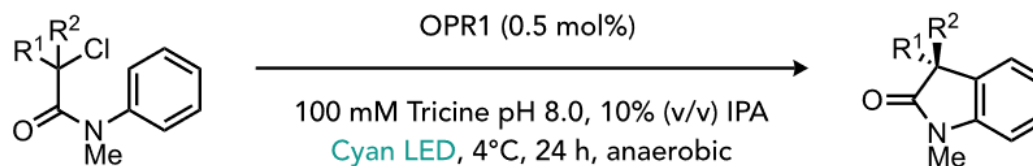
Cyclization with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

Other type intramolecular addition

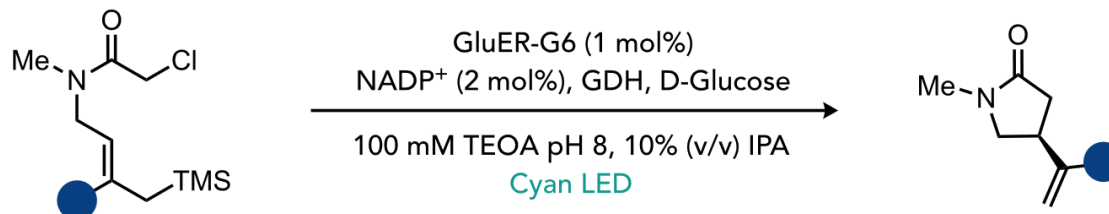
with oxime



with arene



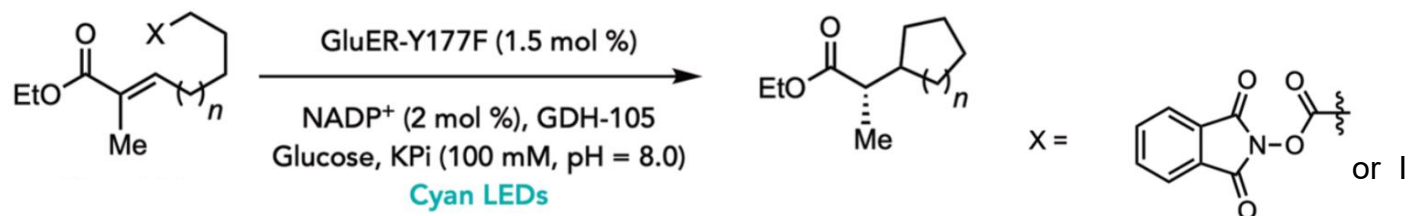
with a tandem β -session



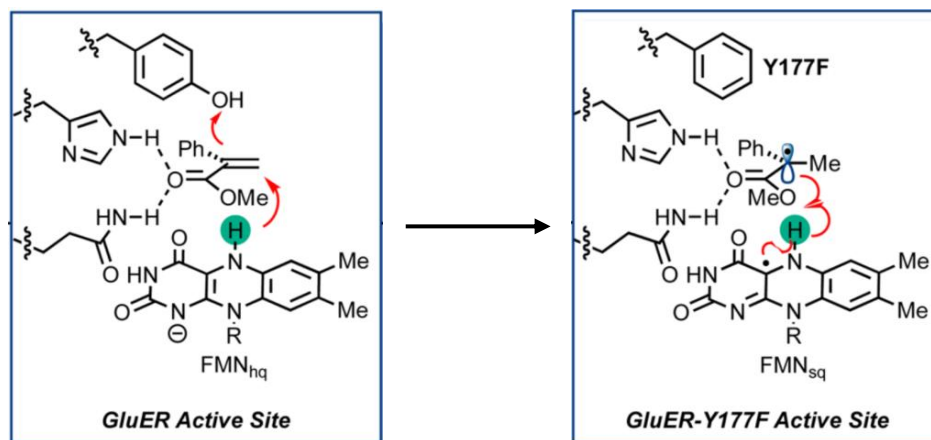
Hyster, T. K. *et al.* *Nat. Chem.* **2020**, *12*, 71–75.
Hyster, T. K. *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2021**, *143*, 19643–19647.
Hyster, T. K. *et al.* *ACS Catal.* **2022**, *12*, 9801–9805.

Cyclization with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

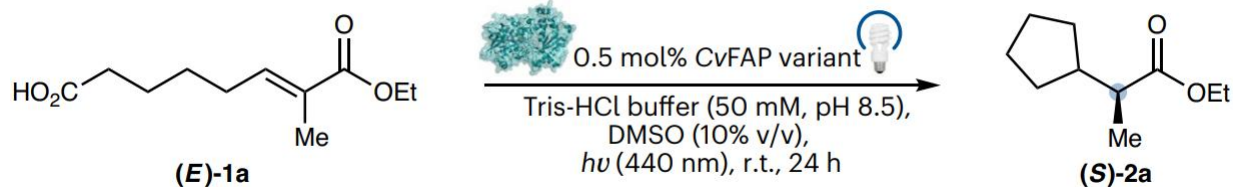
Other type intramolecular addition



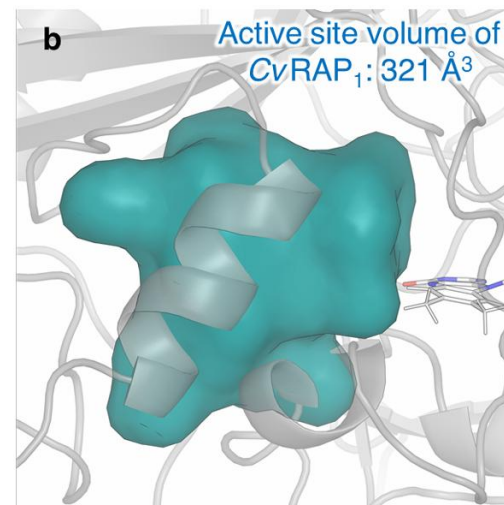
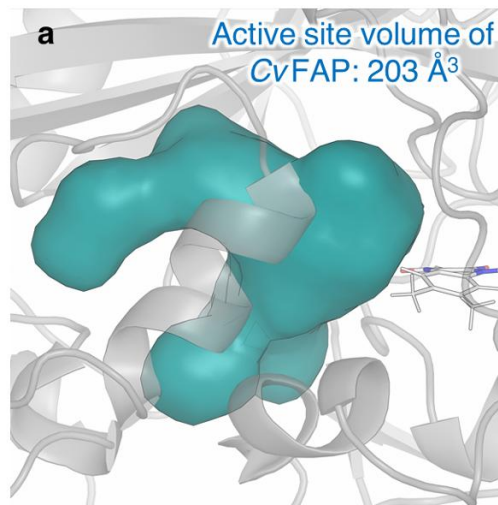
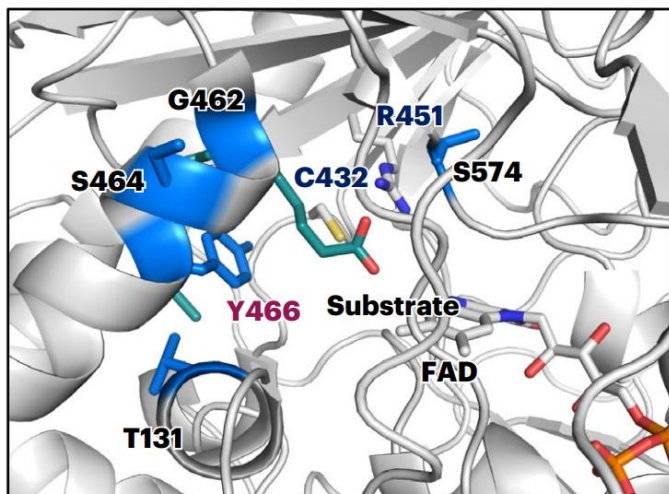
Prevent direct reduction



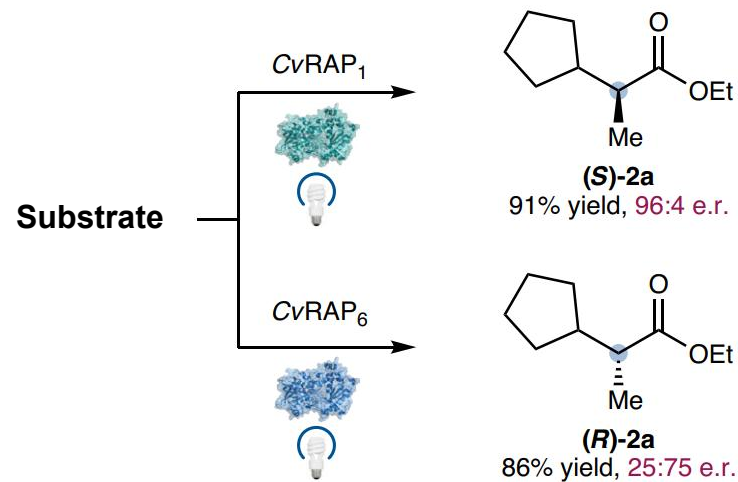
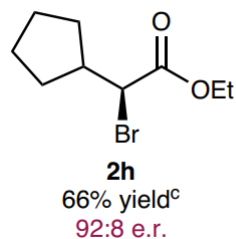
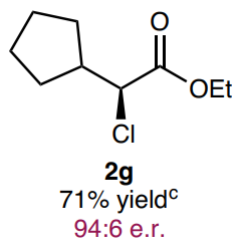
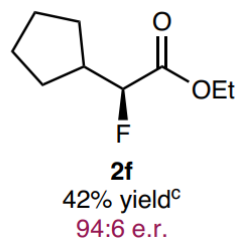
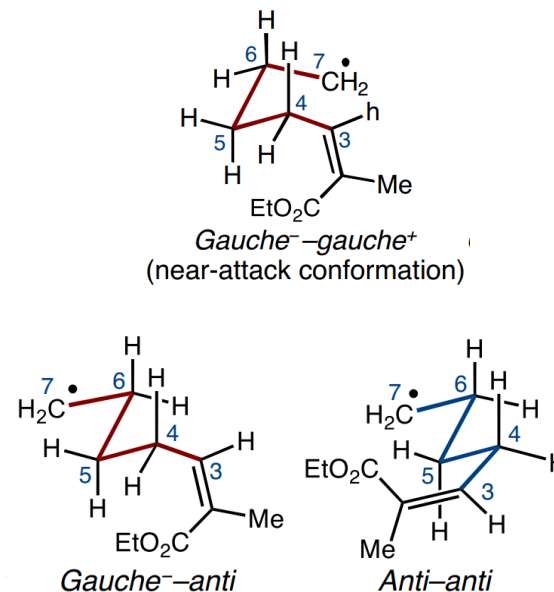
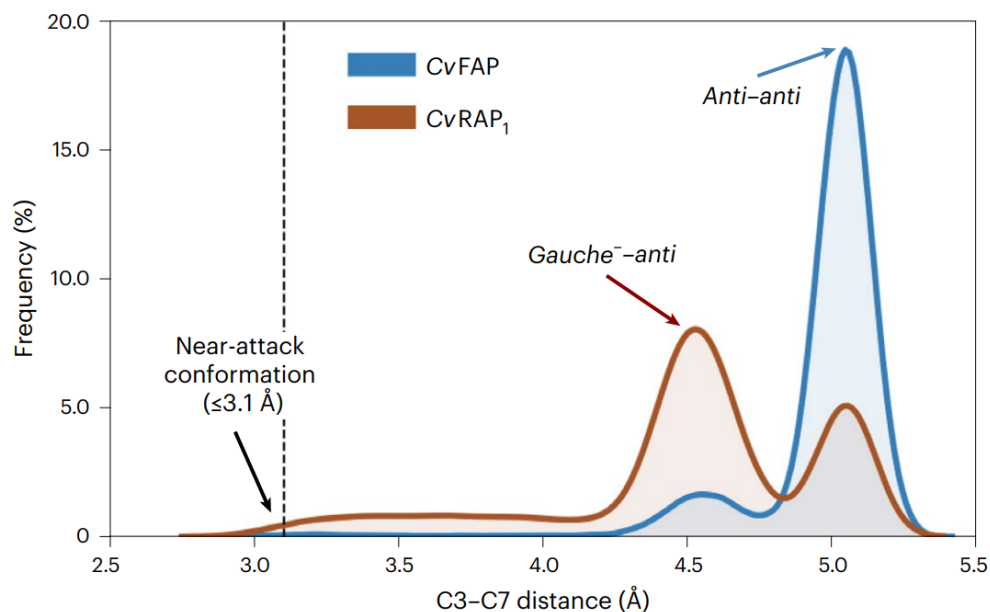
Cyclization with FAP



- Prevent the premature HAT/PCET
- Limited stability of natural FAPs
- The mechanism of HAT/PCET remains unclear



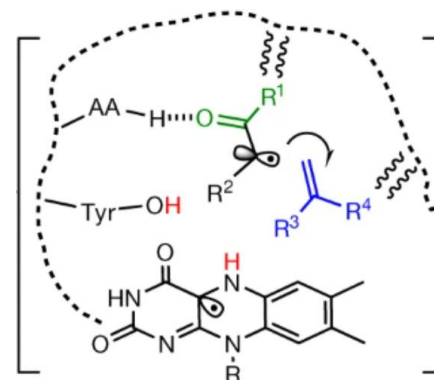
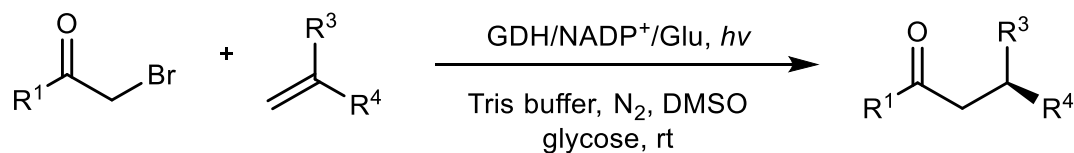
Cyclization with FAP



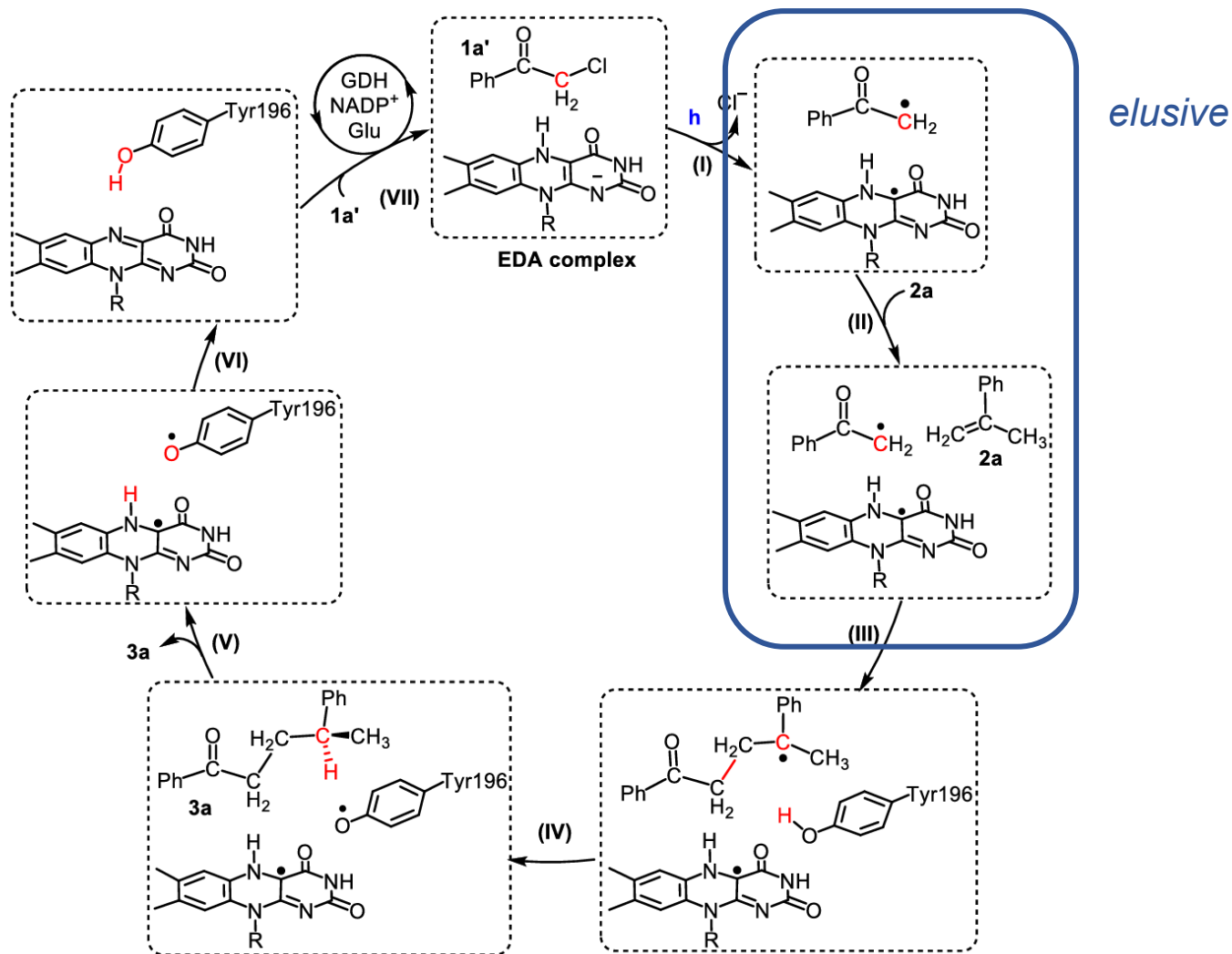
Intermolecular addition with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

■ From intramolecular to intermolecular

- Initially generated electrophilic radical needs to be long-lived.
- Both substrates are accessible to the enzyme active site and appear at applicable positions.
- Stereochemical induction is more difficult because of the flexible prochiral center.

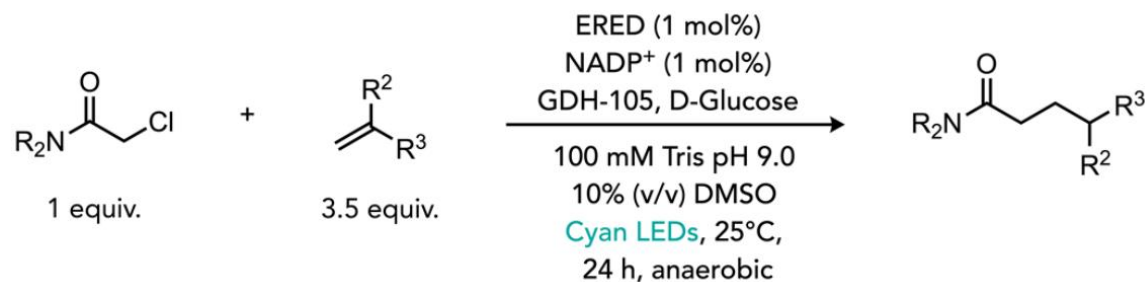


Intermolecular addition with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

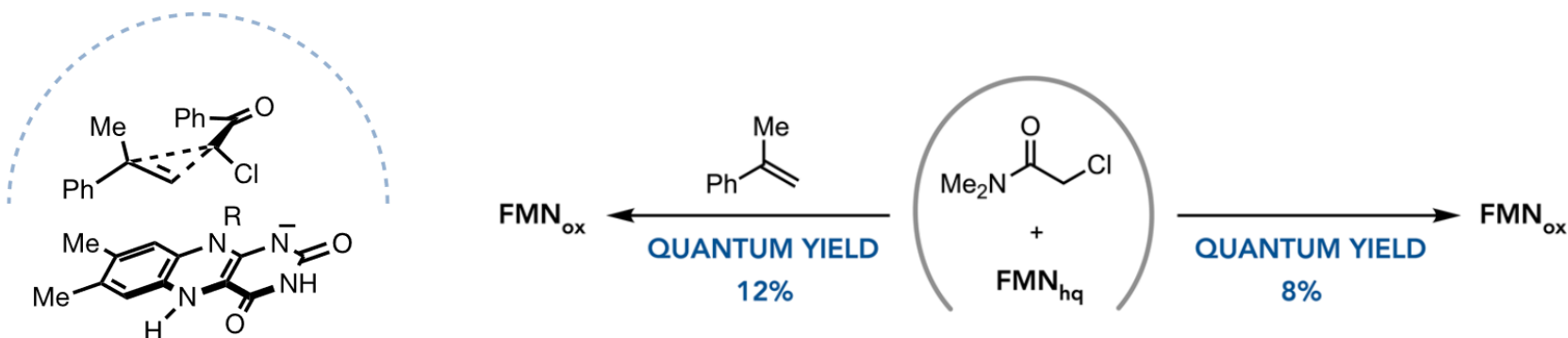


■ Tyr196 account for remote stereoselectivity

Intermolecular addition with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

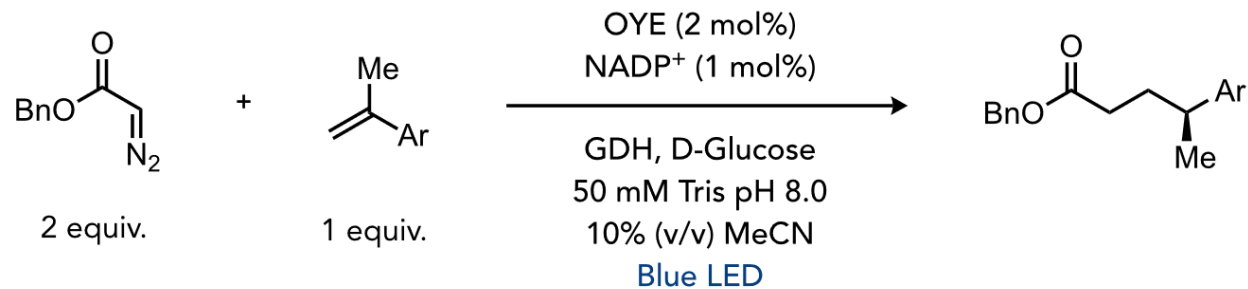


- To ensure radical formation only occurs in the presence of alkene
- GluER-T36A was used

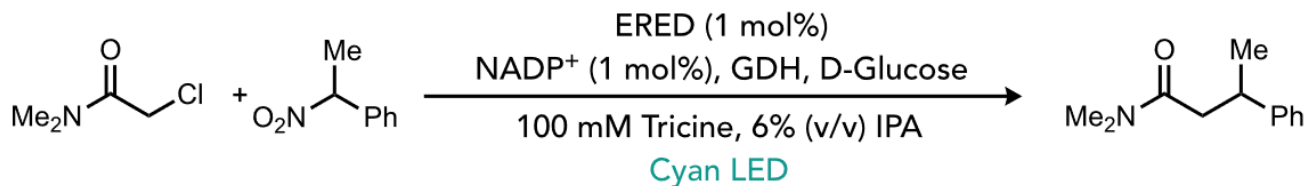


Intermolecular addition with flavin-dependent “ene”-reductase

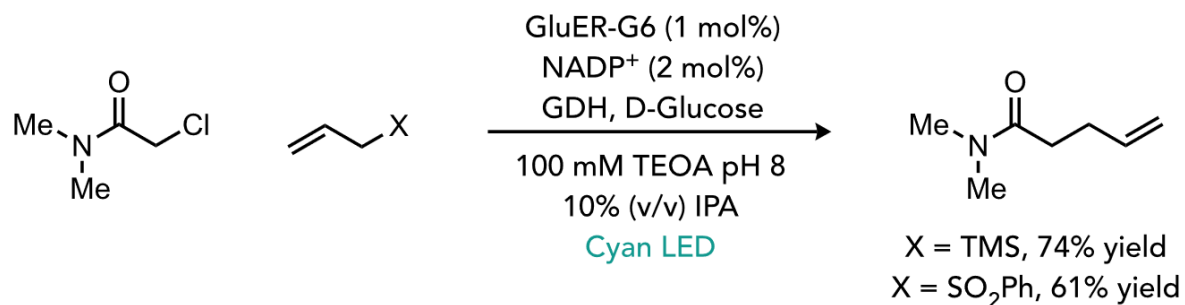
■ with azine



■ with sp³-C



■ with a tandem β -session



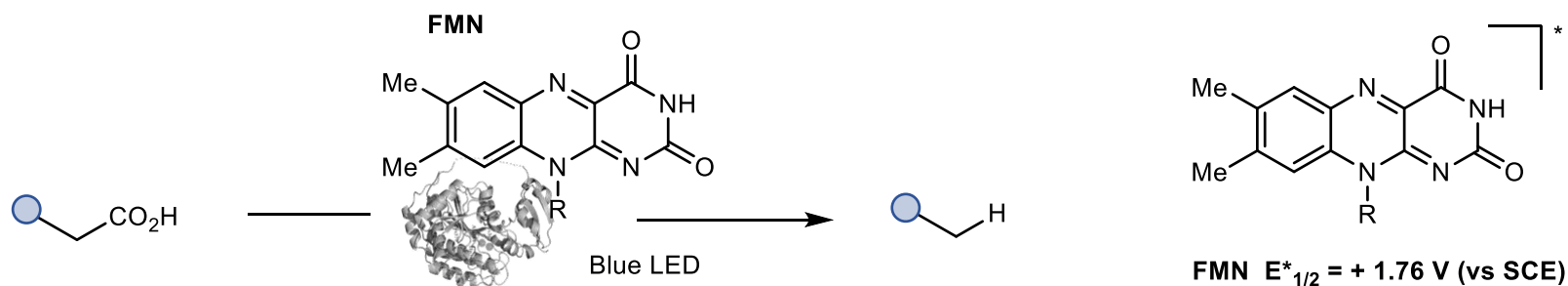
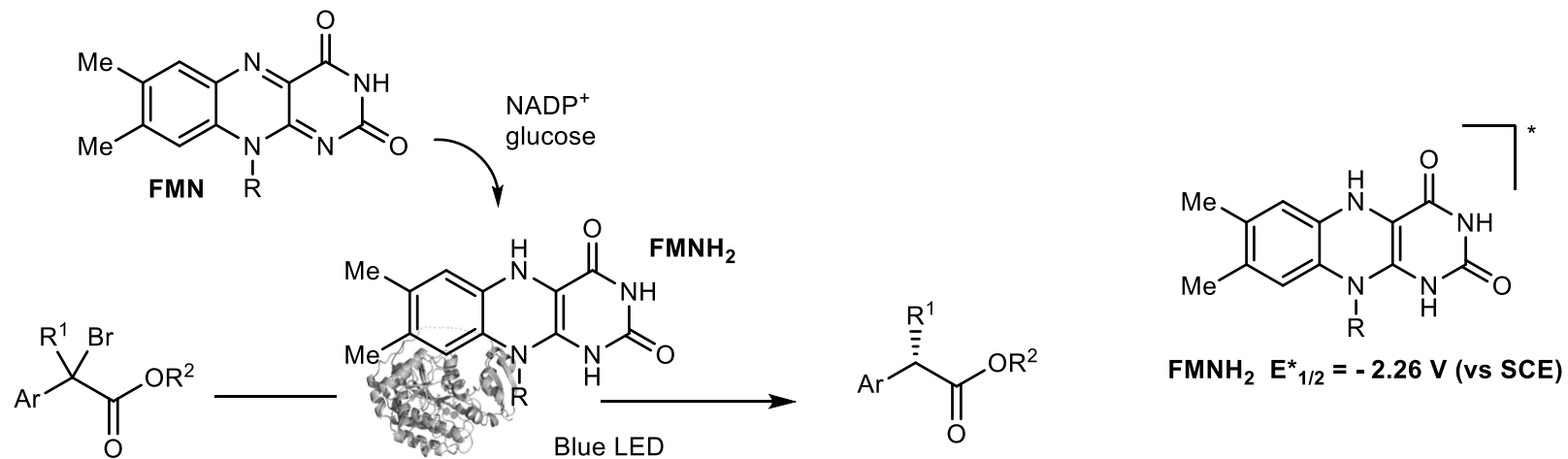
Xu, J. *et al. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2023**, *62*, e202214135.

Hyster, T. K. *et al. Nature* **2022**, *610*, 302–307.

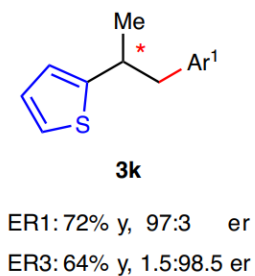
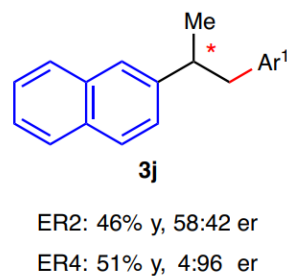
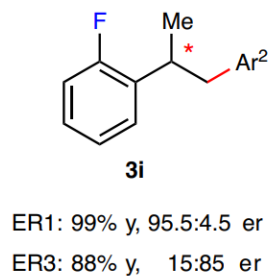
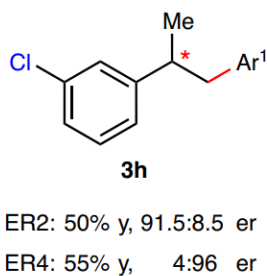
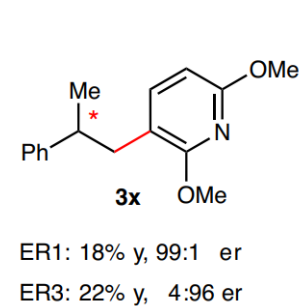
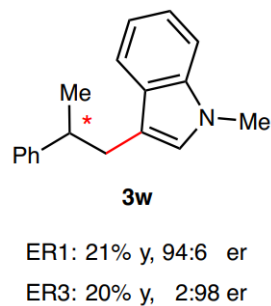
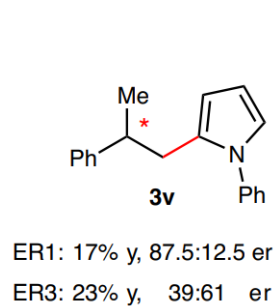
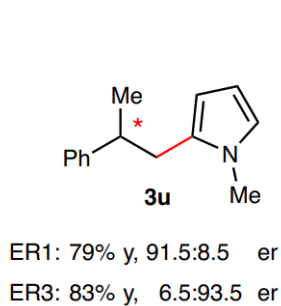
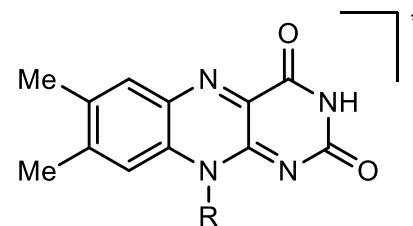
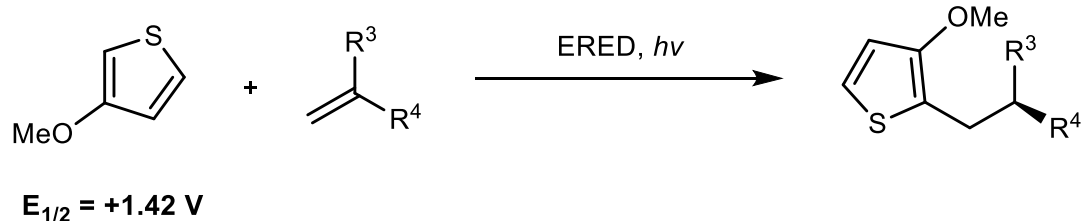
Hyster, T. K. *et al. ACS Catal.* **2022**, *12*, 9801–9805.

Direct excitation of FMN

■ Previous work



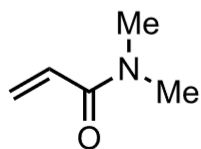
Direct excitation of FMN



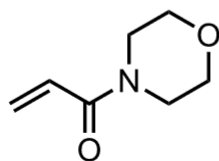
Flavin-dependent photoenzymes for CRP



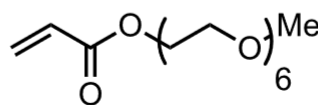
Polymer	Conv (%)	M_{th} (kg/mol)	M_{GPC} (kg/mol)	\bar{D}
poly-DMA ₂₀₀	>99	20.4	22.8	1.04
poly-AML ₁₈₈	94	27.2	23.4	1.13
poly-PEGA ₂₀₀	>99	96.6	82.1	1.16
poly-PEGMA ₂₀₀	>99	100.6	100.1	1.14



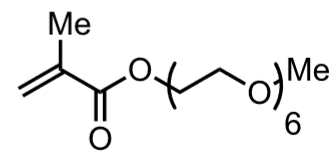
DMA



AML



PEGA



PEGMA

■ *Background of photobiocatalysis*

- Brief introduction to enzymatic catalysis
- Modification of enzyme catalysts
- Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis

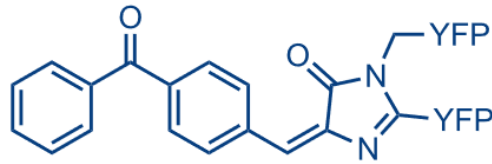
■ *Photobiocatalysis for organic synthesis*

- Cofactor-dependent photocatalysis
- Artificial photoenzymes
- Combination of external photocatalysis and enzymes

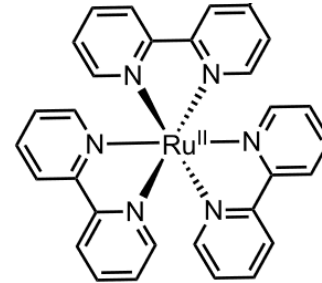
■ *Summary and perspective*

Utilizing non-natural cofactors

- Photoenzymes using non-natural cofactors and amino acids

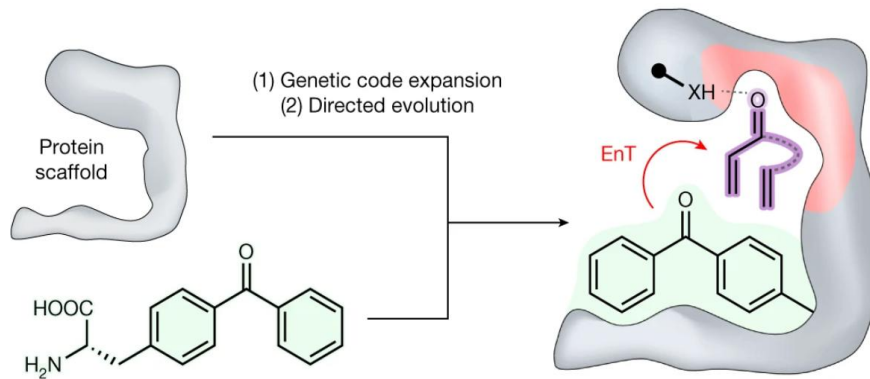


Benzophenone Chromophore

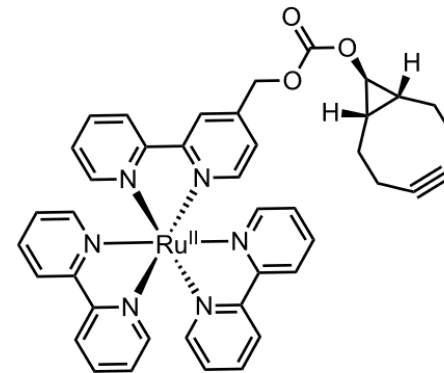


- Methods for binding non-natural cofactors into enzymes

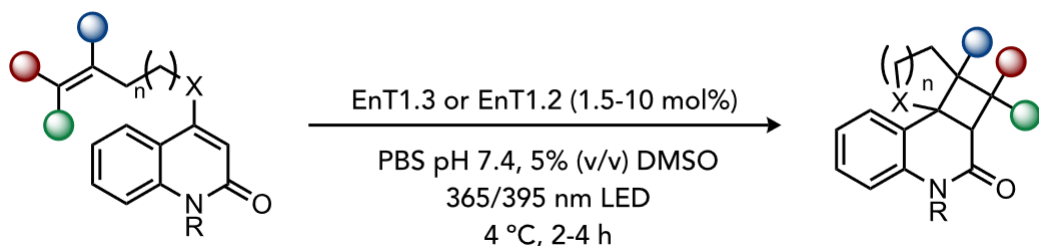
- Genetic code expansion



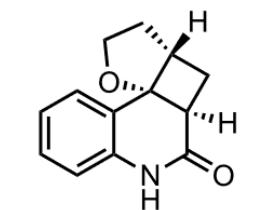
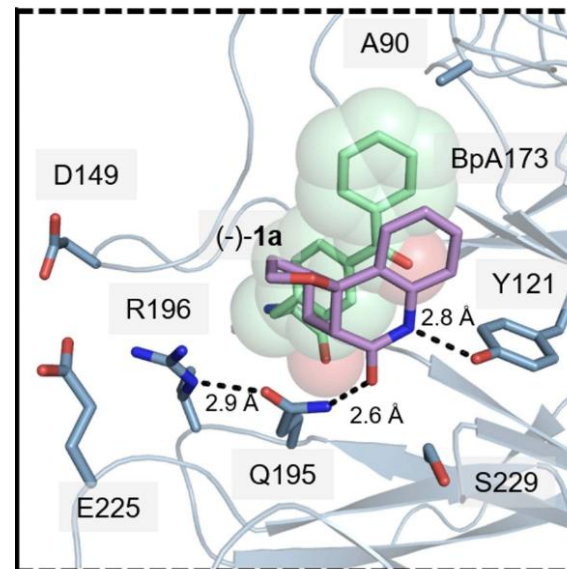
- Post-translational modification



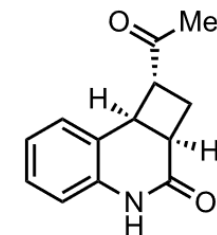
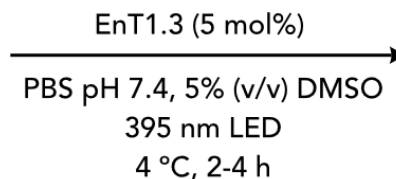
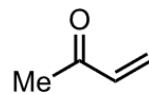
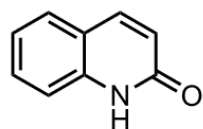
Flavin-dependent photoenzymes for CRP



- Substrate π -stacking interactions contributed to triplet energy transfer
- Hydrogen bonding interactions between the quinolone and residues Y121 and Q195

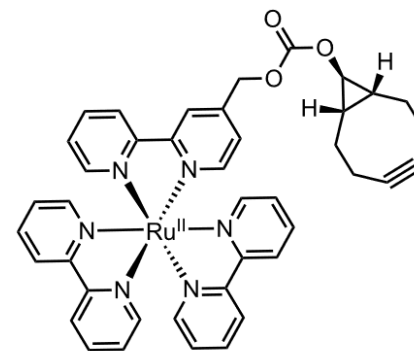
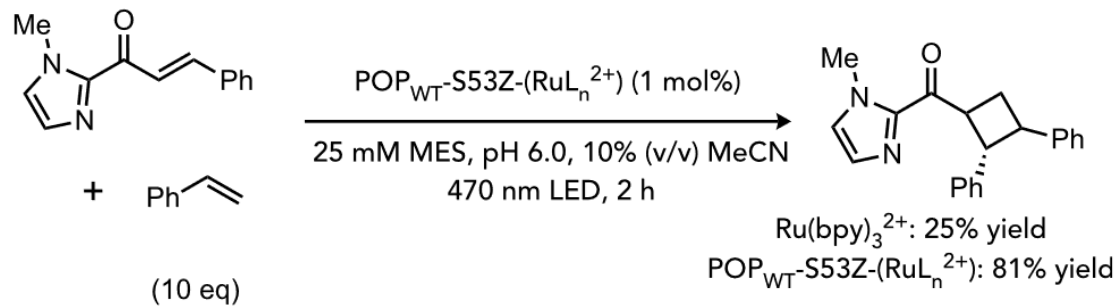
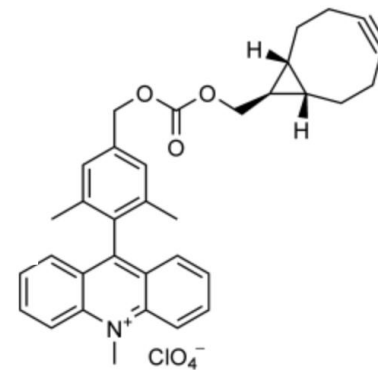
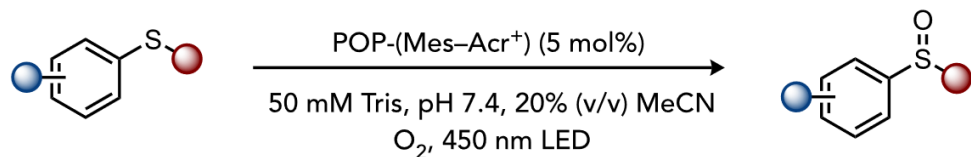


100% conversion
9:1 r.r., 99.5:0.5 e.r.



71% conversion
98.5:1.5 e.r.

Reactions with artificial photoenzymes

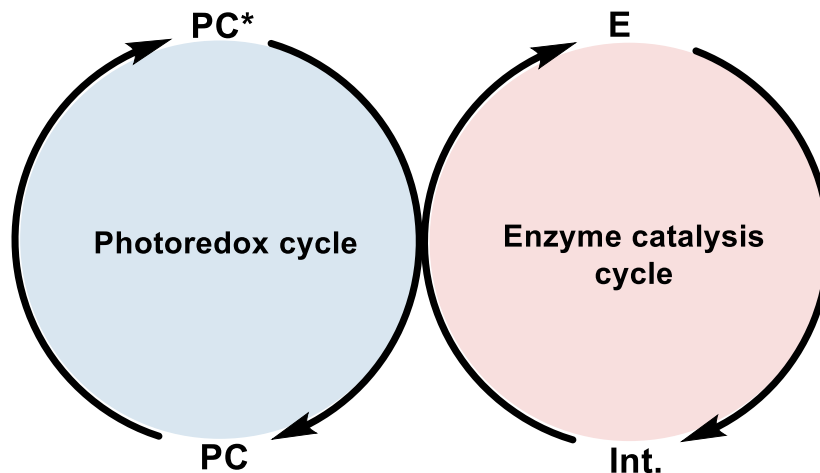


Lewis, J. C. *et al. ChemBioChem.* **2015**, *16*, 1880–1883.

Lewis, J. C. *et al. Chem. Sci.* **2022**, *13*, 1459–1468.

- ***Background of photobiocatalysis***
 - Brief introduction to enzymatic catalysis
 - Modification of enzyme catalysts
 - Combining photocatalysis and enzymatic catalysis
- ***Photobiocatalysis for organic synthesis***
 - Cofactor-dependent photocatalysis
 - Artificial photoenzymes
 - Combination of external photocatalysis and enzymes
- ***Summary and perspective***

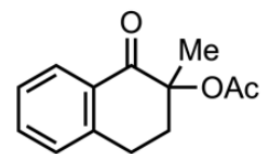
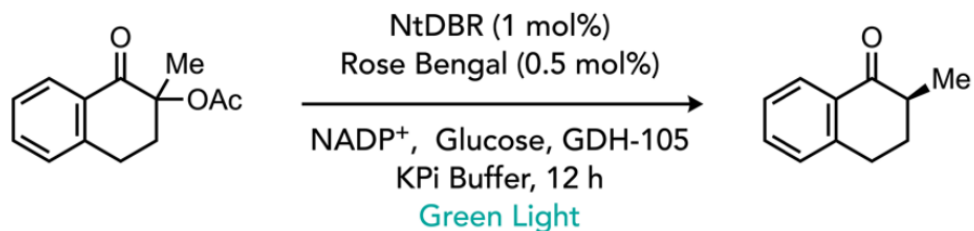
Combination of external photocatalysis and enzymes



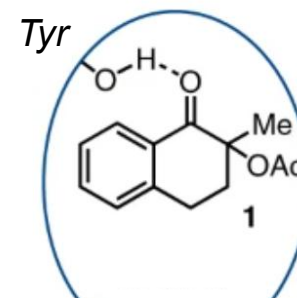
- Radical formation only occurs within the protein's active site
- Radical selectively react within the protein's active site
- Improve the compatibility of system

- **Long range electron transfer**
- Binding to proteins alters the redox properties of substrates or cofactors (**acceleration**)

Redox accelerated by enzymes

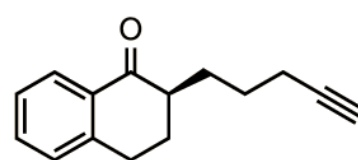


$E_{1/2} = -1.30 \text{ V}$

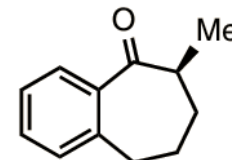


$E_{1/2} = -1.13 \text{ V}$

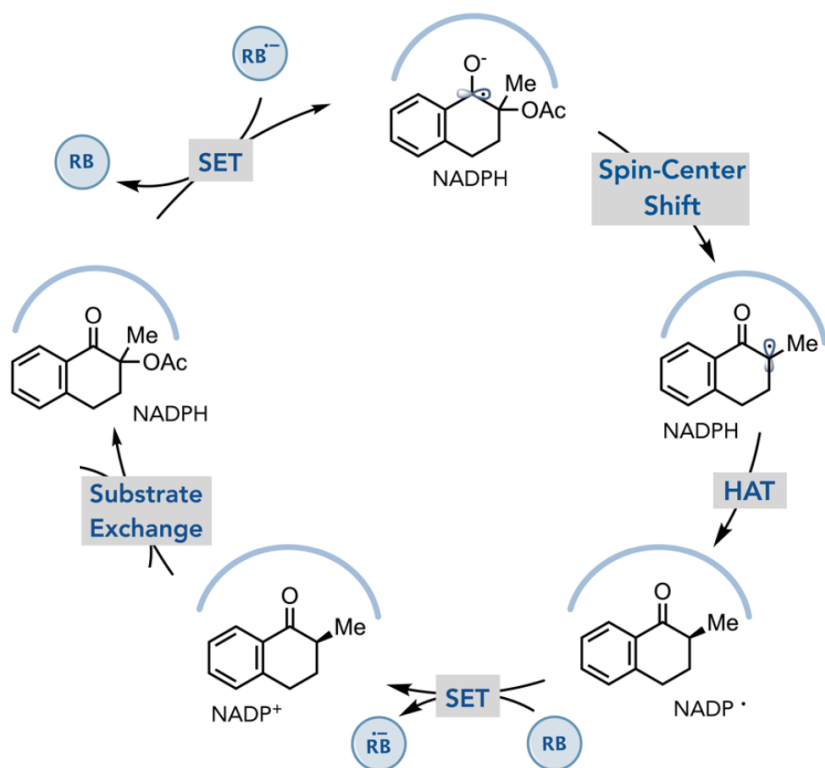
DBR from Nicotiana tabacum (NtDBR)



43% yield
87:13 e.r.

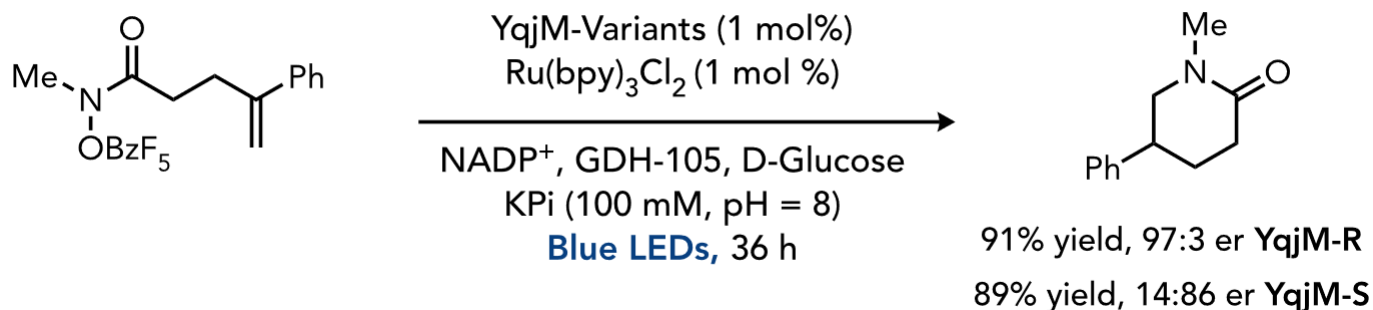


38% yield
88:12 e.r.

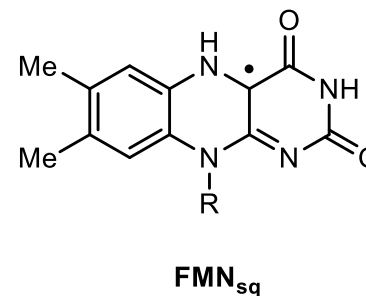
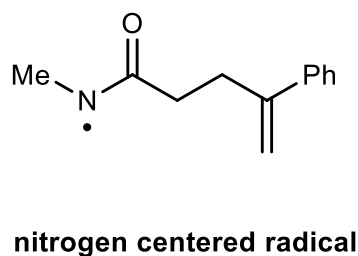
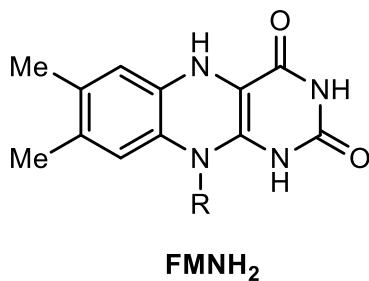


Hyster, T. K. et al. *Nat. Chem.* **2018**, *10*, 770–775.

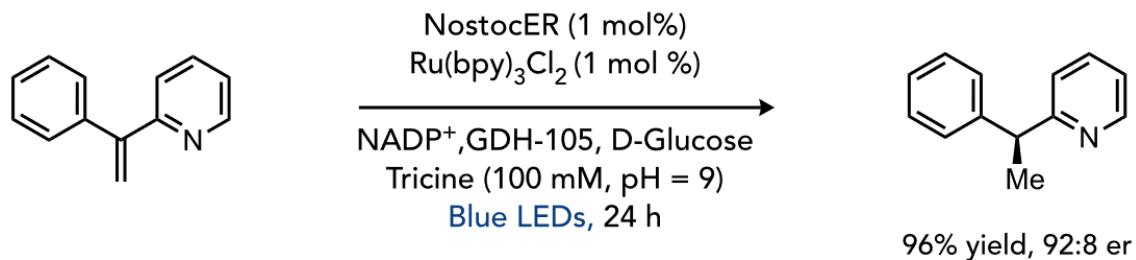
Improve the compatibility of system



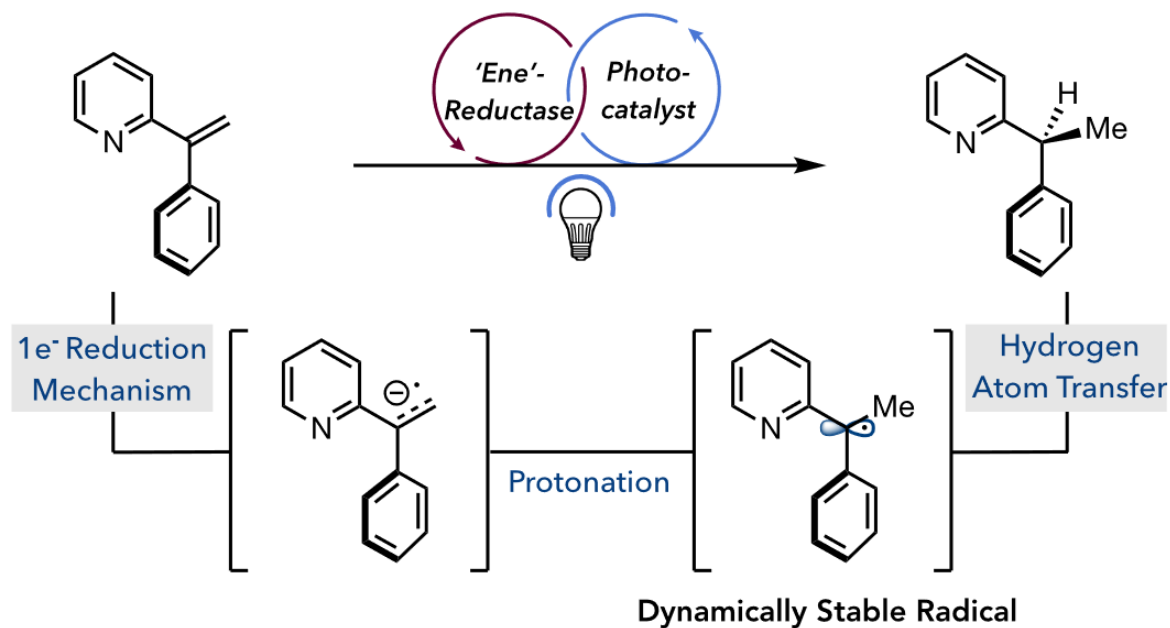
■ N-centered radical is incompatible with FMNs_{sq}



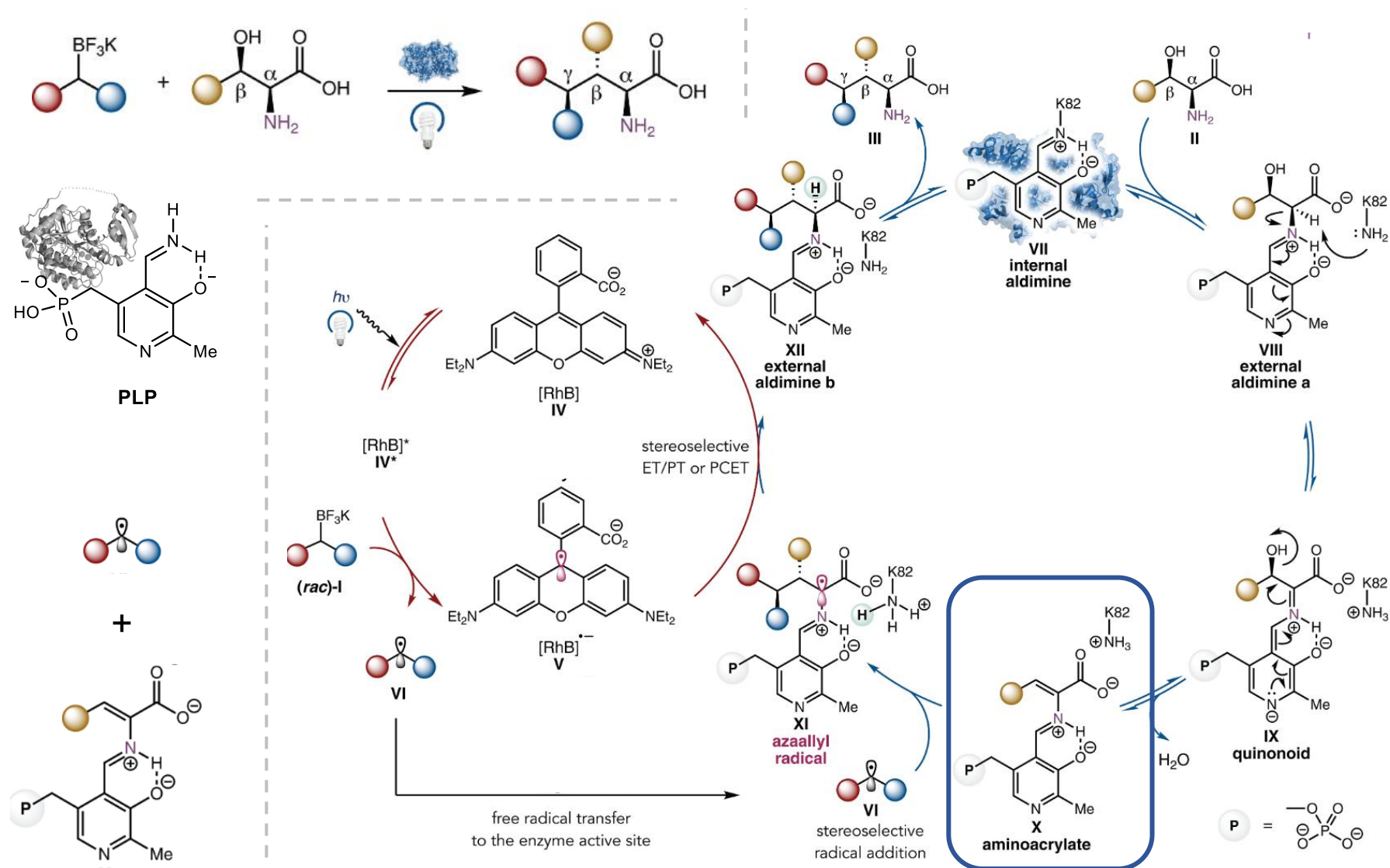
Forming a persistent radical



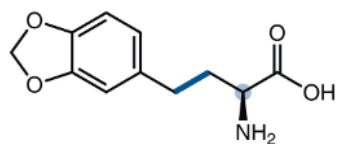
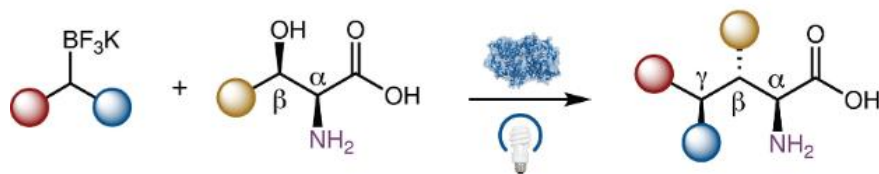
■ Reduced only within enzymes



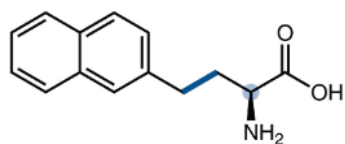
Combining persistent radical with PLP



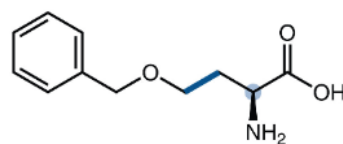
Combining persistent radical with PLP



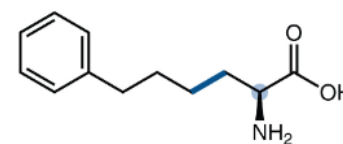
L-3k
(42 ± 2)% yield
95:5 e.r.



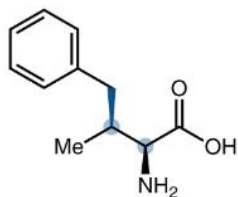
L-3l
(47 ± 5)% yield
90:10 e.r.



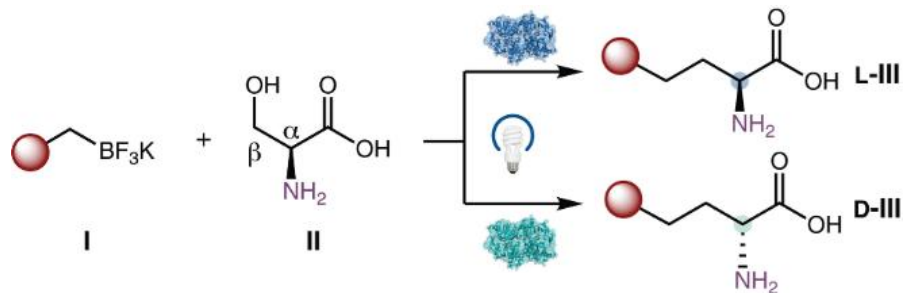
L-3m
(6 ± 1)% yield
96:4 e.r.



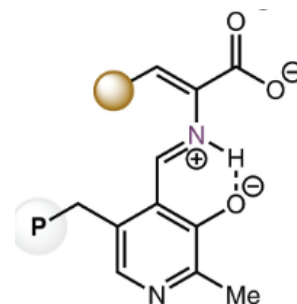
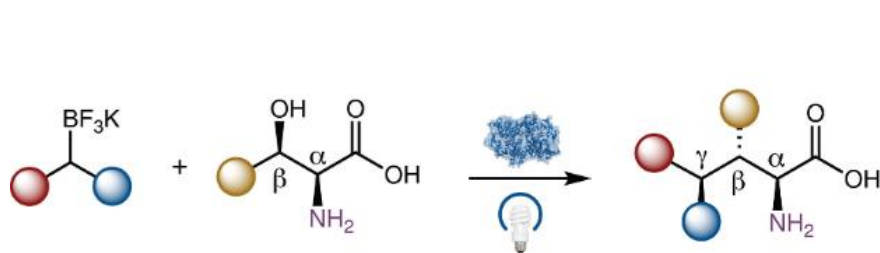
L-3n
(15 ± 1)% yield
71:29 e.r.



4a
(80 ± 2)% yield
d.r. = 19 : 1
e.r.(major) > 99 : 1
e.r.(minor) = 94 : 6

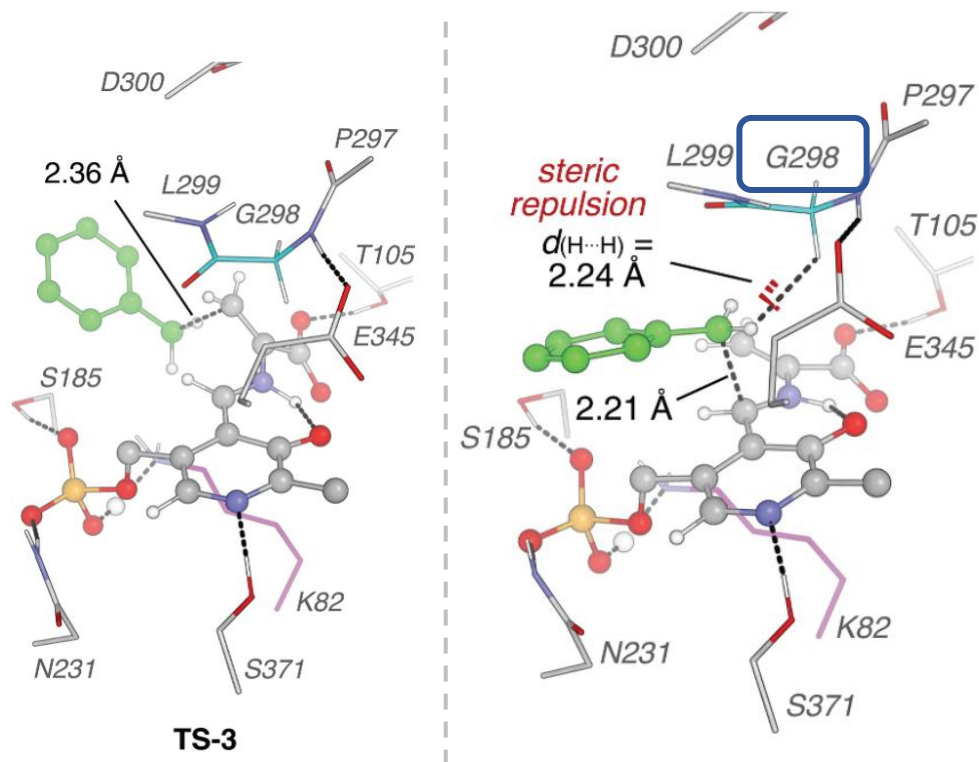


Combining persistent radical with PLP

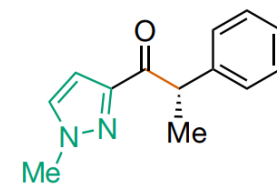
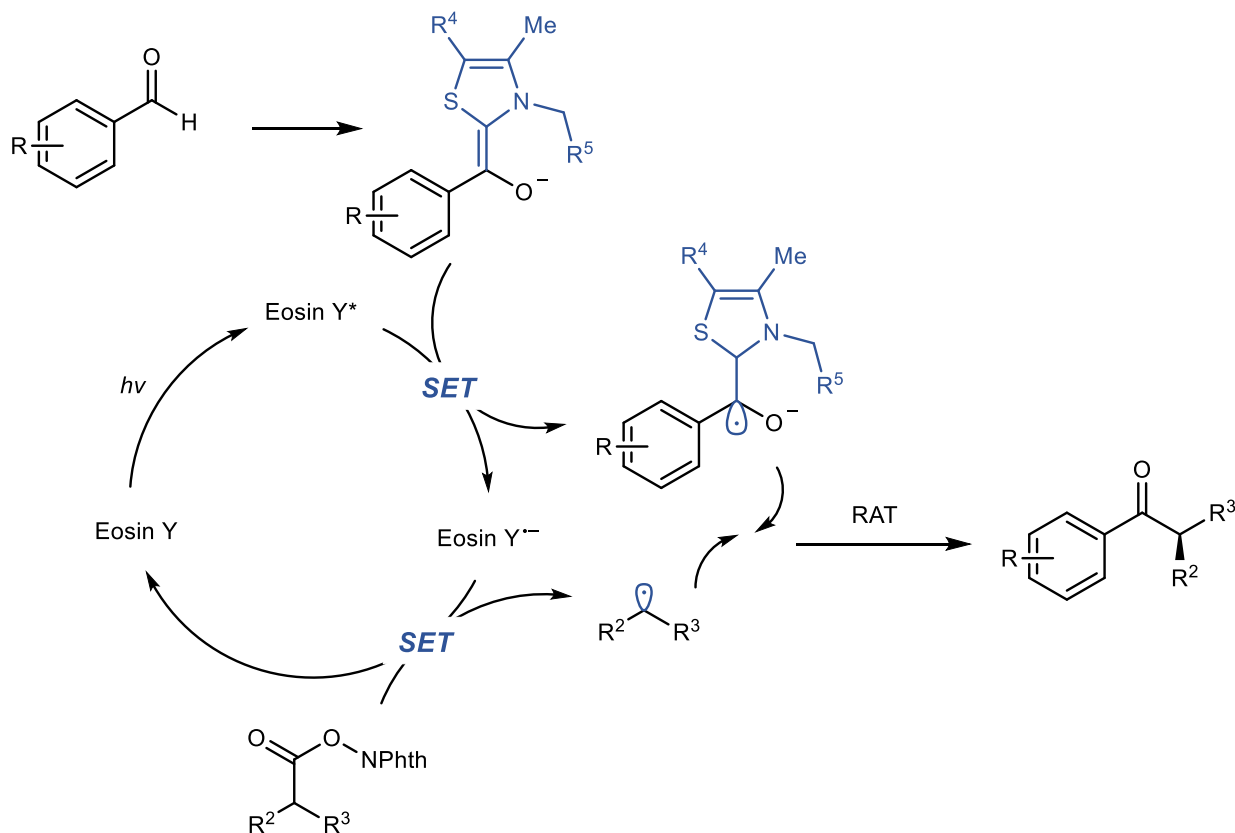
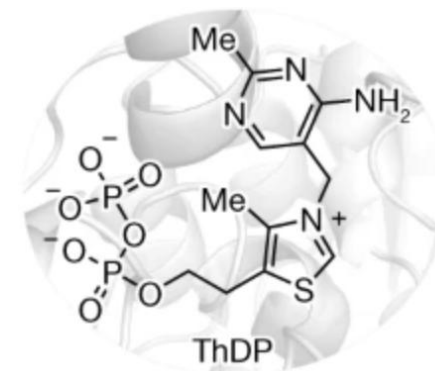
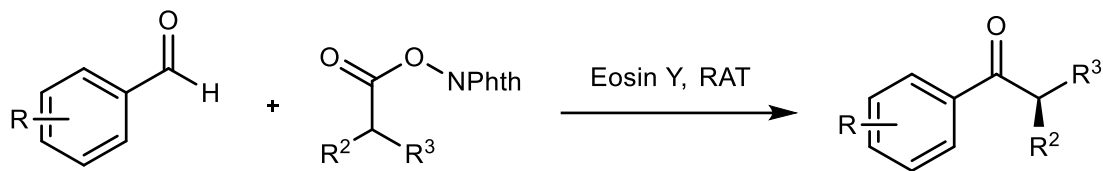


■ Enzyme helps to control the regioselectivity

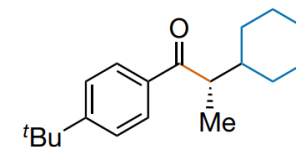
radical addition transition state	ΔH^\ddagger (kcal/mol)	
	theozyme	free PLP cofactor
TS-3 	5.6	8.3
TS-3' 	8.8	8.1
TS-3'' 	16.1	16.1



Combining persistent radical with ThDP



3q, RAT2
30% yield, 96% e.e.



3ad, RAT3
25% yield, 86% e.e.

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Summary

- Combining photocatalyst with enzymic catalysis
- Derive non-natural enzymes
 - SSM
 - FRISM
- Cofactor-dependent photocatalysis
 - Hydrogenation
 - Intramolecular addition
 - Intermolecular addition
 - FAD (FAP)
 - NADPH (KRED)
 - FMN (ERED)

Summary

- Artificial photoenzymes
 - Genetic code expansion
 - Post-translational modification
- Combination of external photocatalysis and enzymes
 - Acceleration within enzymes
 - Improving compatibility
 - Utilizing persistent radicals with different enzymes

Perspective

