

Origins of the Wacker Oxidation

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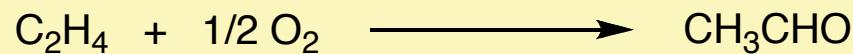
Smidt, Wacker Chemie, 1959:



Origins of the Wacker Oxidation

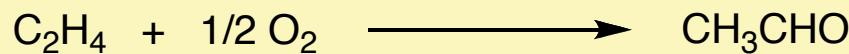
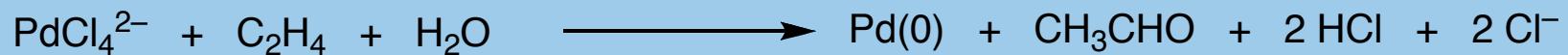


Origins of the Wacker Oxidation



Net Result: Air oxidation of ethylene to acetaldehyde!

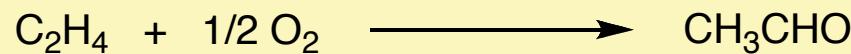
Origins of the Wacker Oxidation



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- ◆ First organopalladium reaction applied on industrial scale.
- ◆ First rendered commercial in 1960.
- ◆ At one point was responsible for the production of over 2 billion pounds per year of acetaldehyde!

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- ◆ Prior acetaldehyde production:
 - Oxymercuration of acetylene
 - Dehydrogenation of ethanol
- ◆ Wacker process eventually replaced because of more efficient ways of producing acetic acid (i.e. Monsanto process).

Early Kinetic Studies

Conditions:

$[Pd^{II}] = 0.005 - 0.04 \text{ M}$
 $[Cl^-] = 0.1 - 1.0 \text{ M}$
 $[H^+] = 0.04 - 1.0 \text{ M}$

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{-d[C_2H_4]}{dt} = \frac{k [PdCl_4^{2-}] [C_2H_4]}{[Cl^-]^2 [H^+]}$$

- ◆ First order in Pd^{II}
- ◆ Second order Cl^- inhibition
- ◆ First order acid inhibition

Early Kinetic Studies

Chloride Inhibition

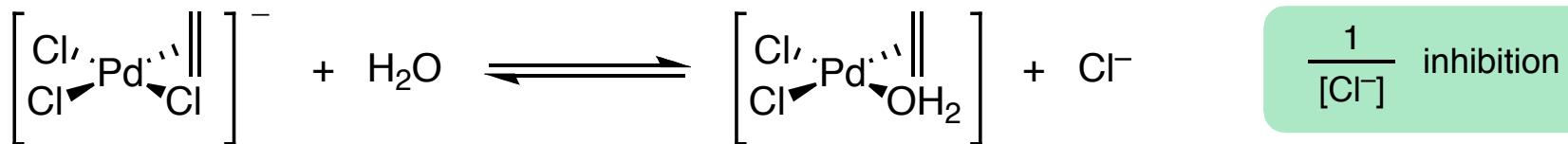
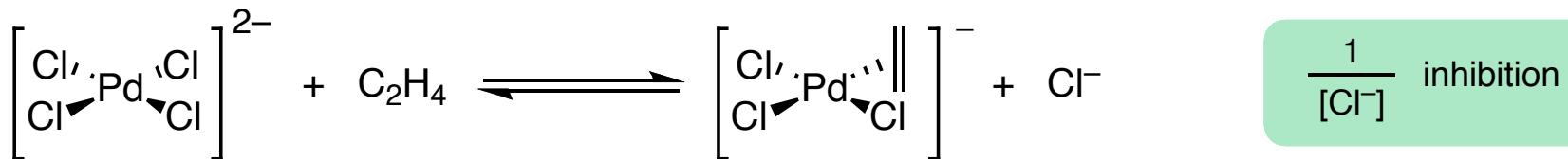
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Source of Chloride Inhibition:



Early Kinetic Studies

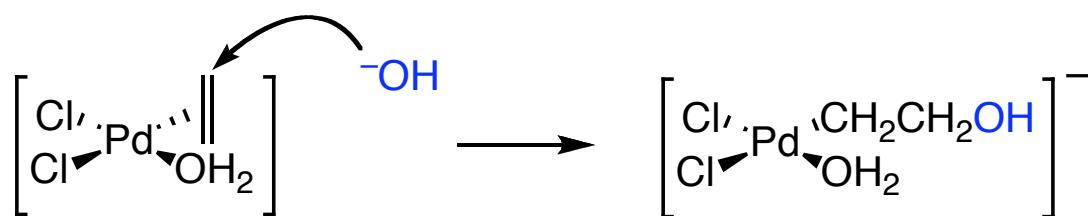
Proton Inhibition

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Outer-sphere hydroxide attack:
Predicted to be 10^3 times faster
than diffusion controlled process

Early Kinetic Studies

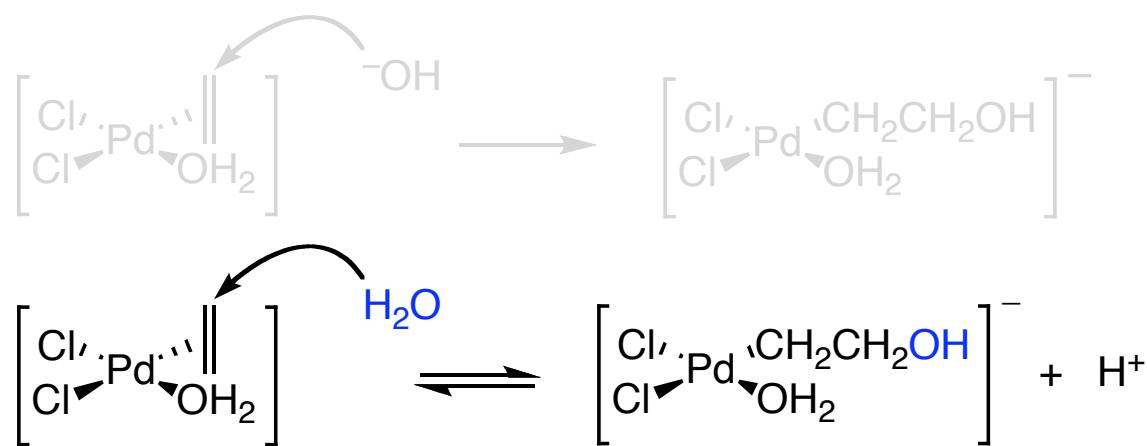
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Outer-sphere water attack:
Predicted to occur by an anti
hydroxypalladation mechanism

Early Kinetic Studies

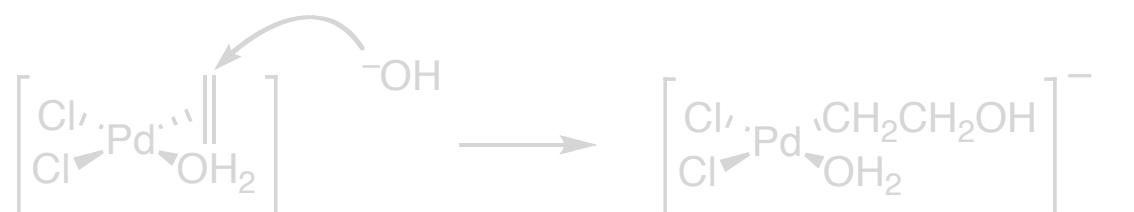
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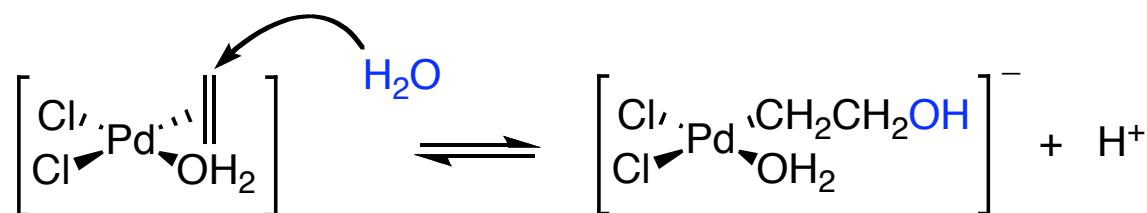
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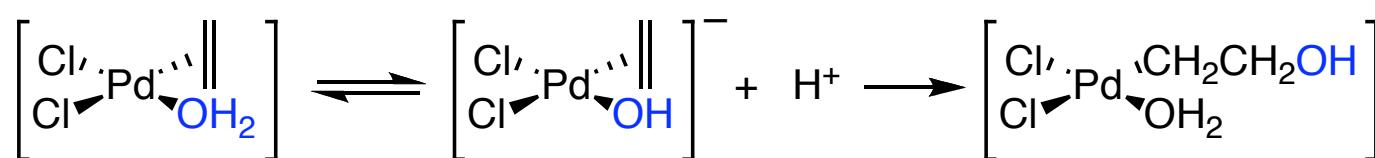
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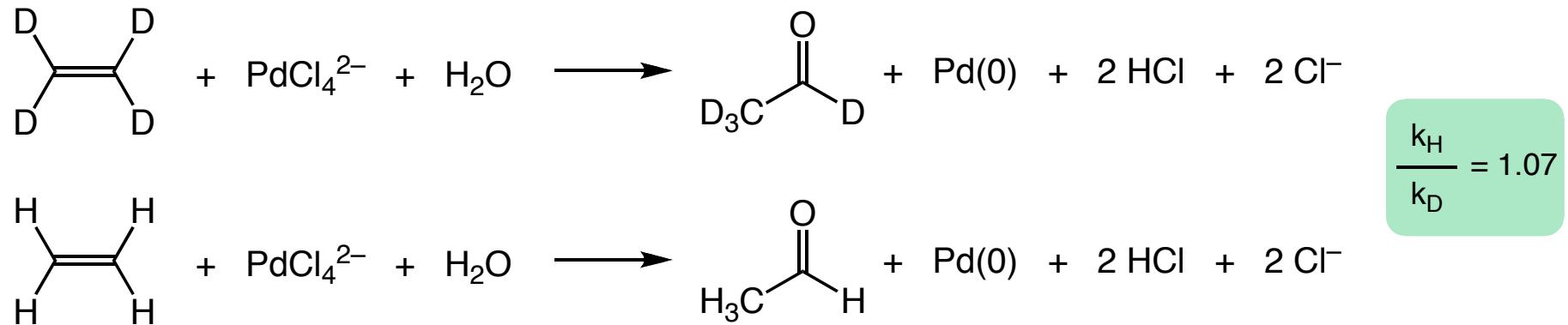
Outer-sphere water attack:
Predicted to occur by an anti
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Inner-sphere hydroxyl
attack: Predicted to
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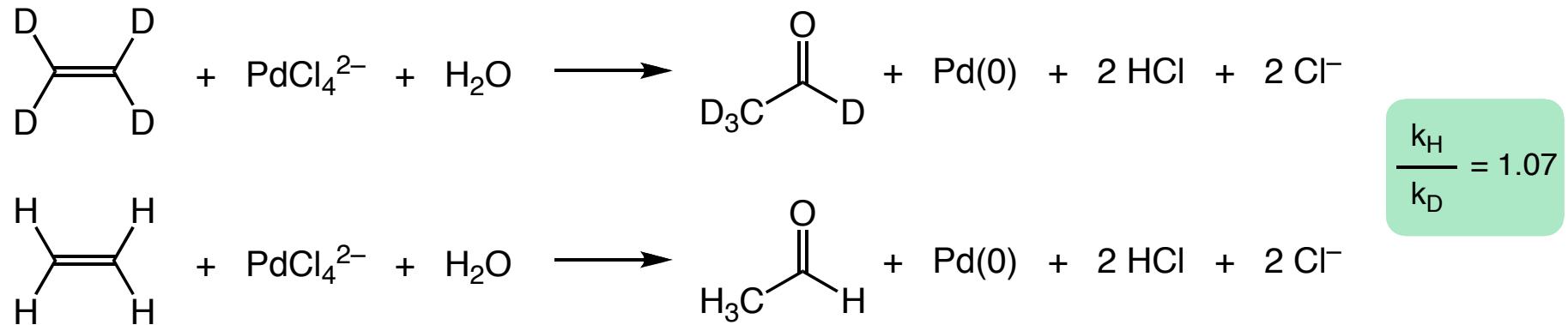
Kinetic Isotope Effects

Early Evidence for an Inner-Sphere Syn Hydroxypalladation Mechanism

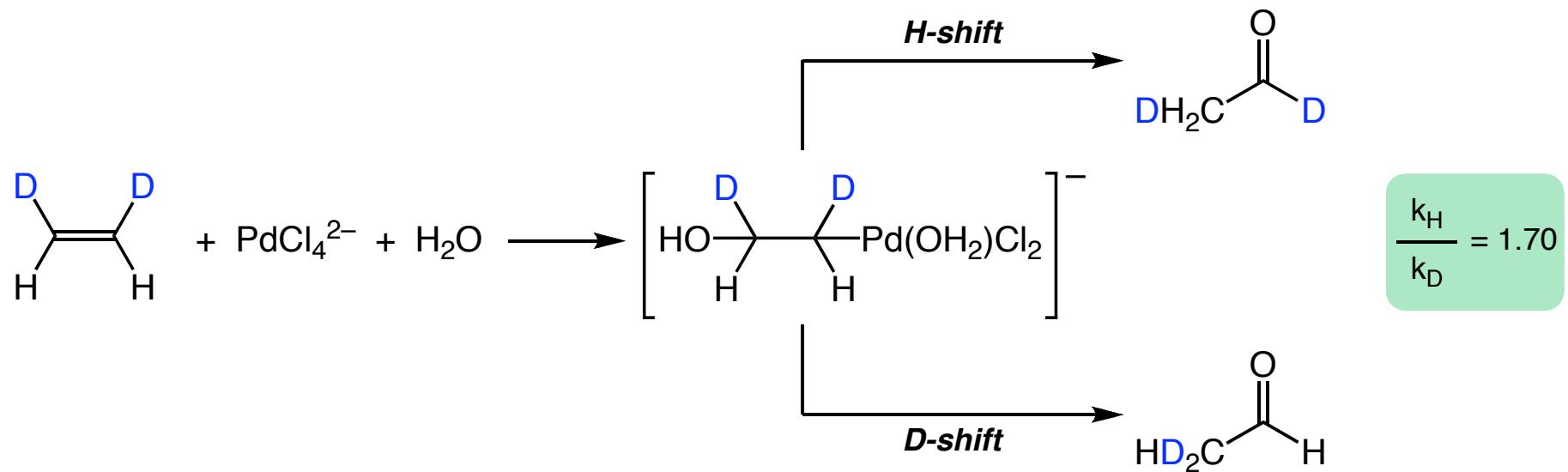


Kinetic Isotope Effects

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KIE for decomposition step determined by competitive isotope effect experiment:

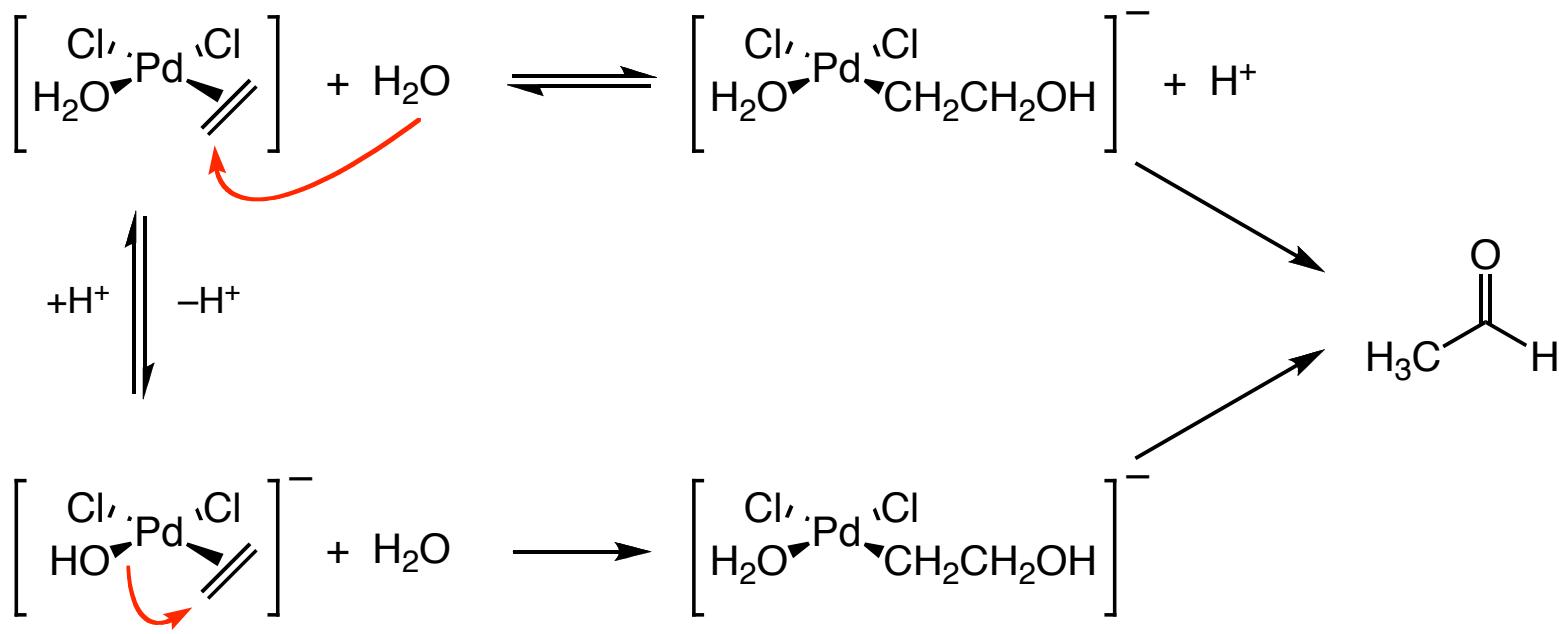


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outer-sphere anti hydroxypalladation

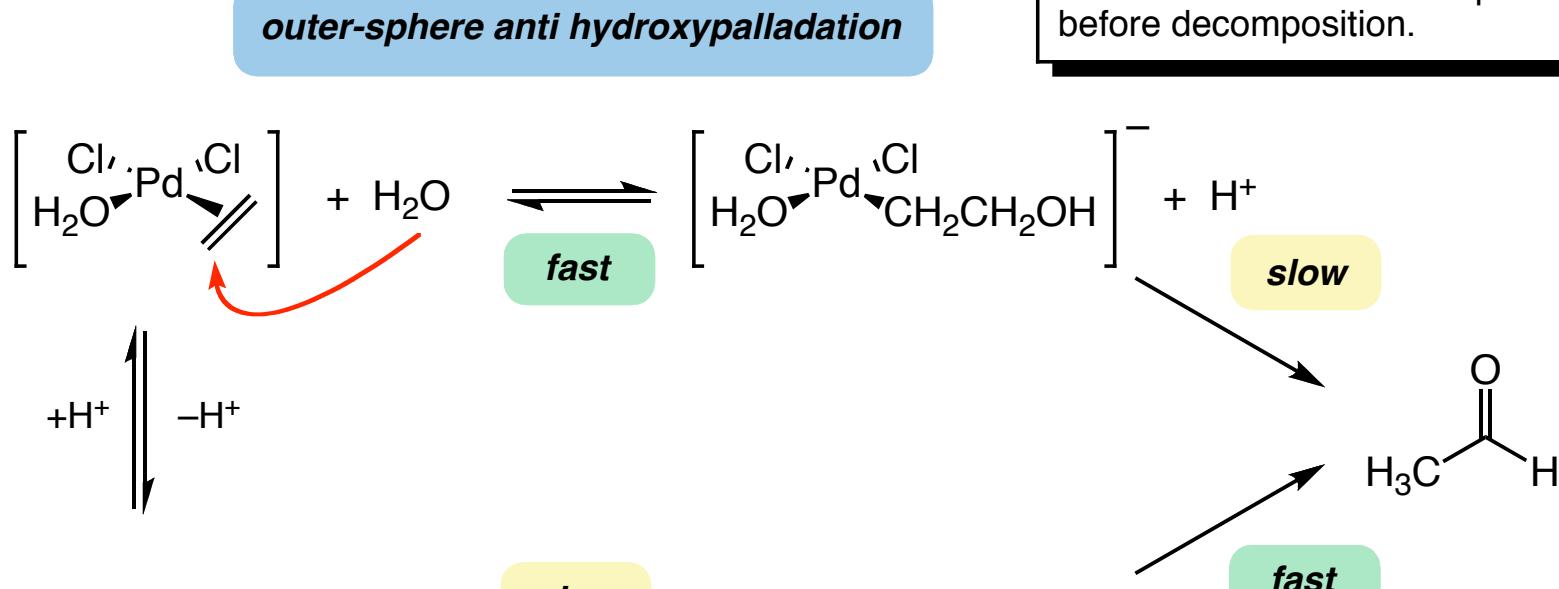
KIE 1.07 and competitive KIE of 1.70 indicates that the slow step occurs before decomposition.



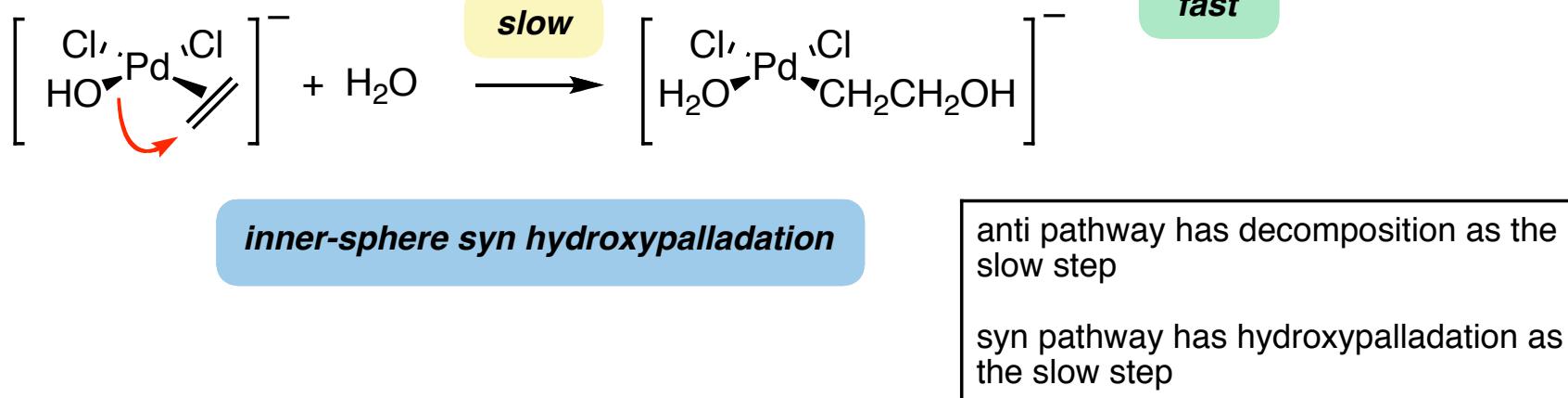
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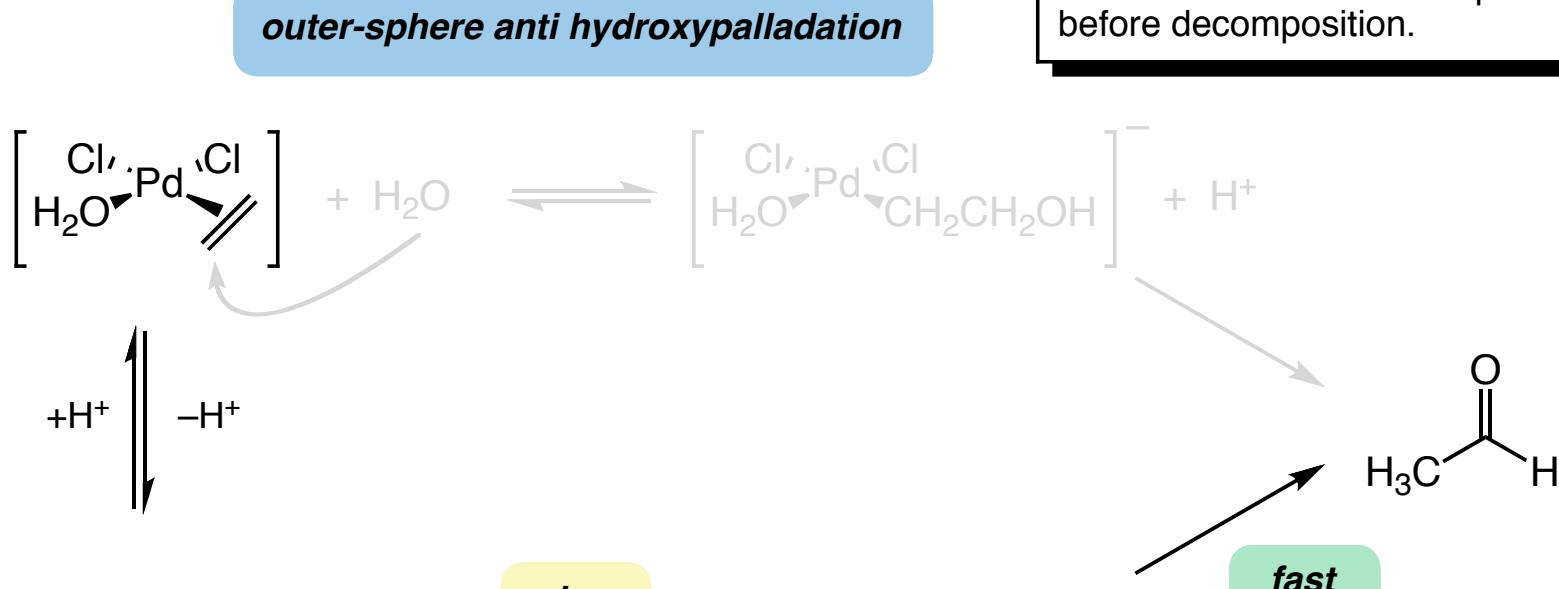


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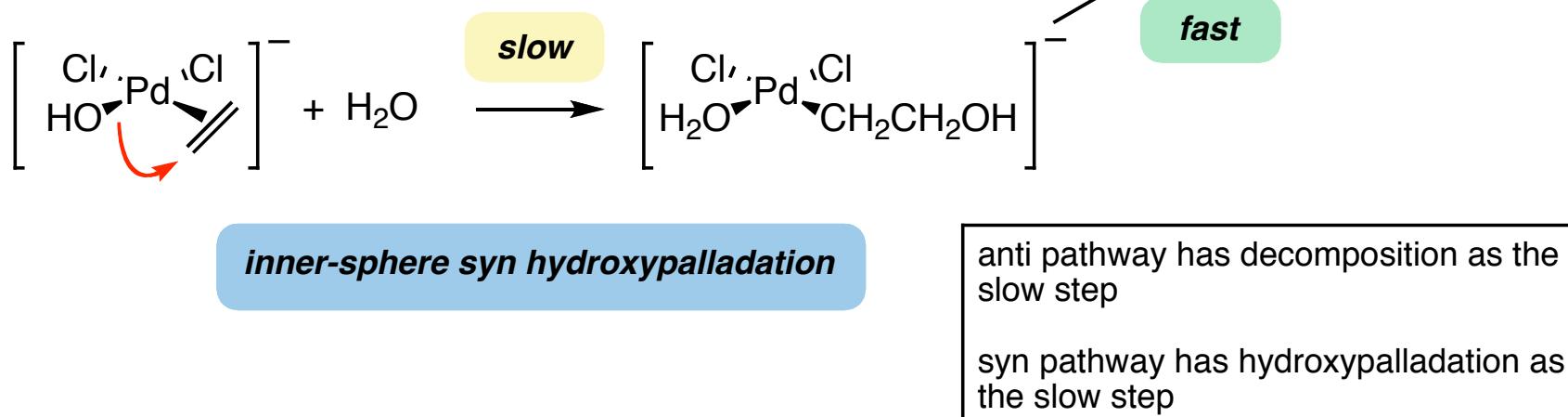


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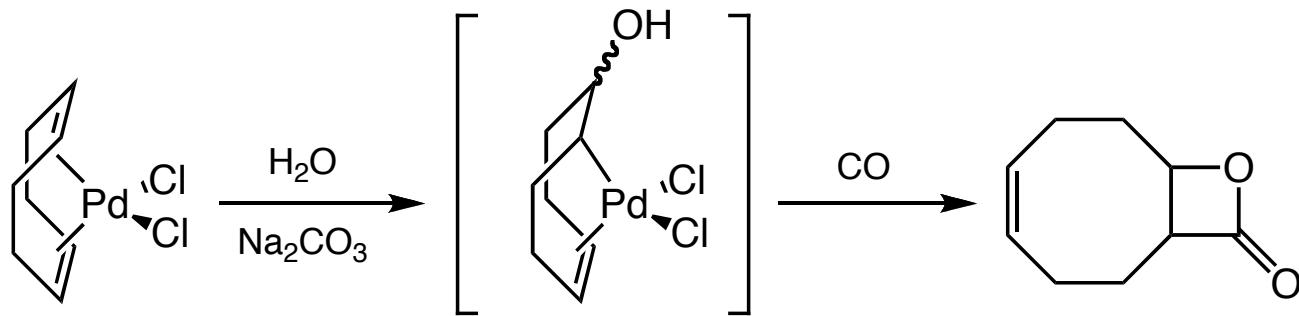


anti pathway has decomposition as the slow step

syn pathway has hydroxypalladation as the slow step

Early Stereochemical Studies

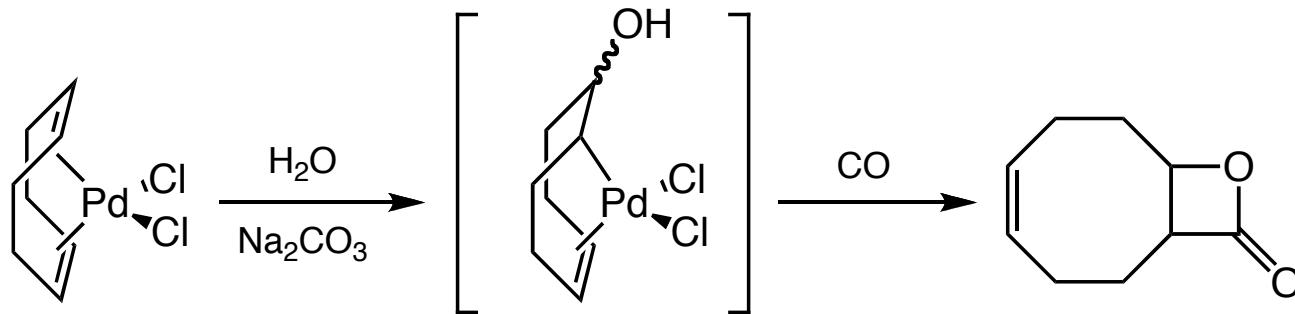
Stille's Work Suggests Anti Hydroxypalladation Mechanism



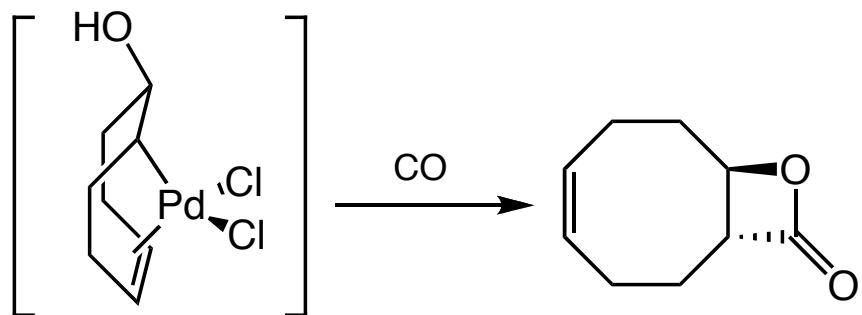
Key: CO insertion proceeds with retention of stereochemistry at the migrating stereocenter.

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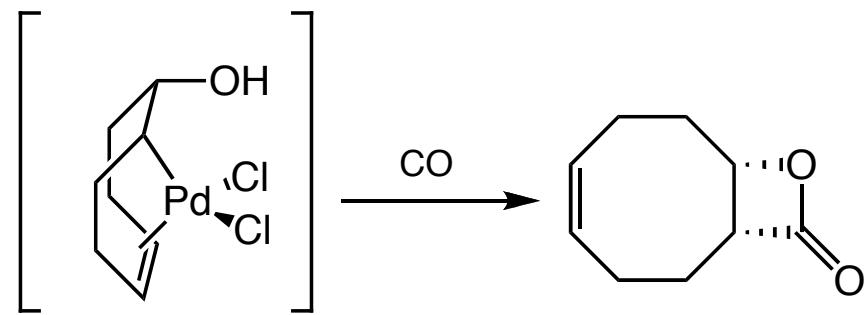
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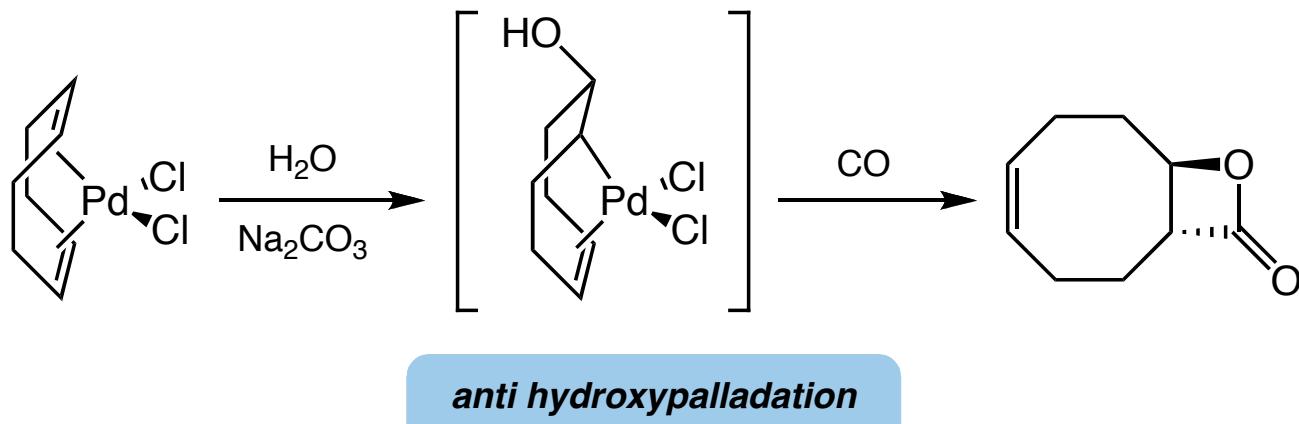
anti hydroxypalladation



syn hydroxypalladation

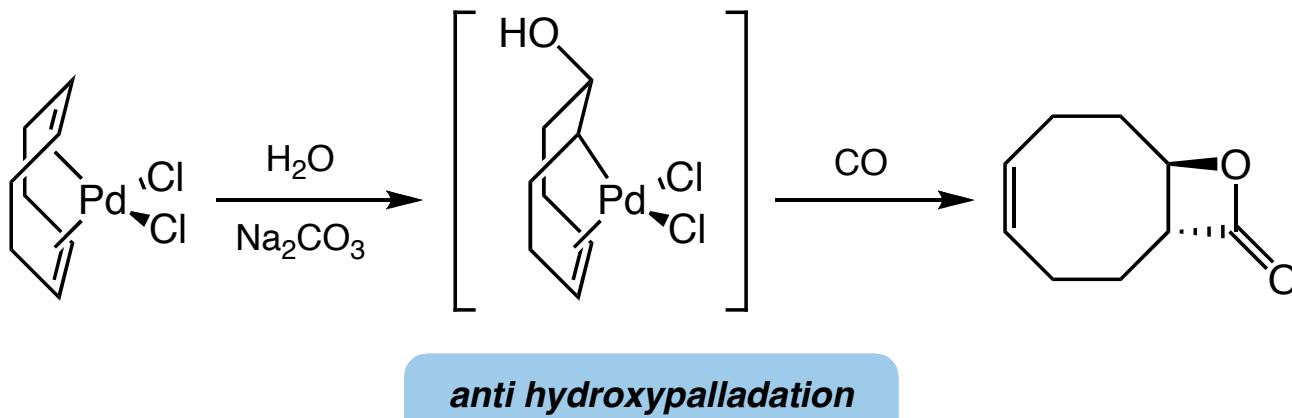
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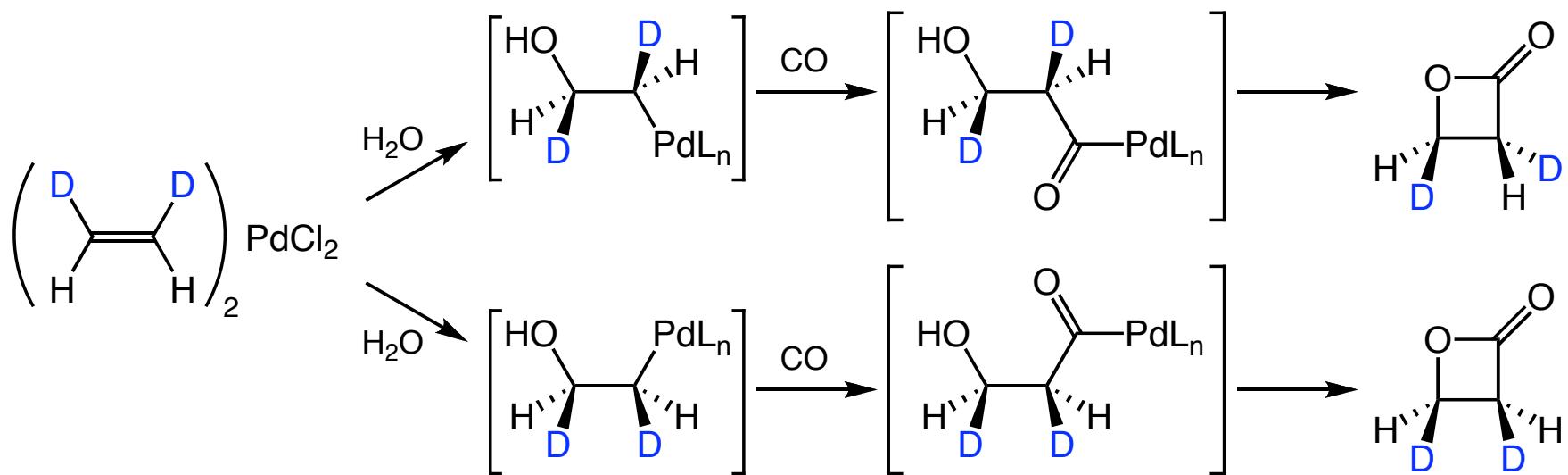
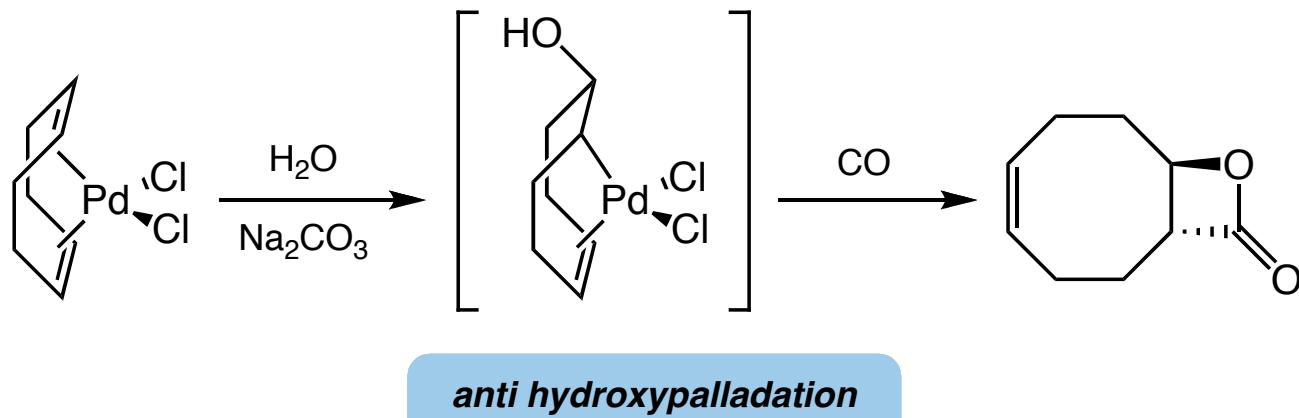


Criticism:

- ◆ Olefin is unable to rotate into the square plane of the PdCl_2 making syn hydroxypalladation impossible
- ◆ Ligand exchange to give $\text{Pd}(\text{cod})(\text{H}_2\text{O})\text{Cl}$ would result in a cationic intermediate and is unlikely

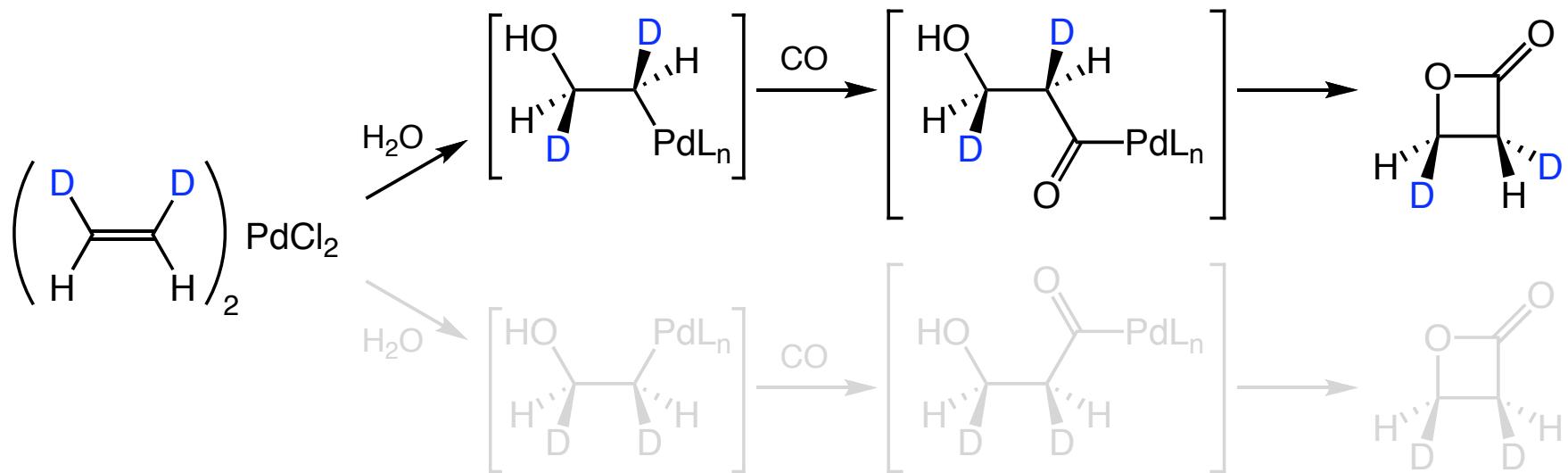
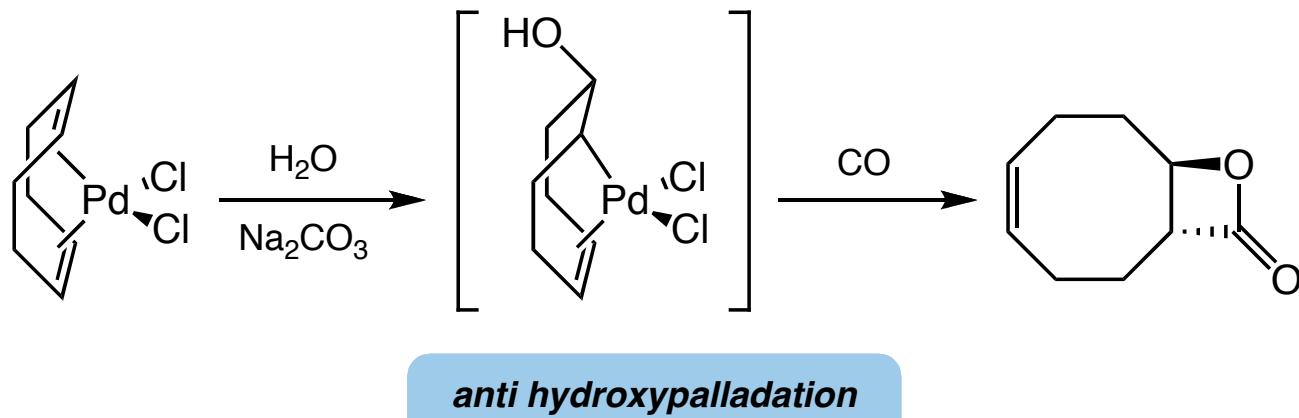
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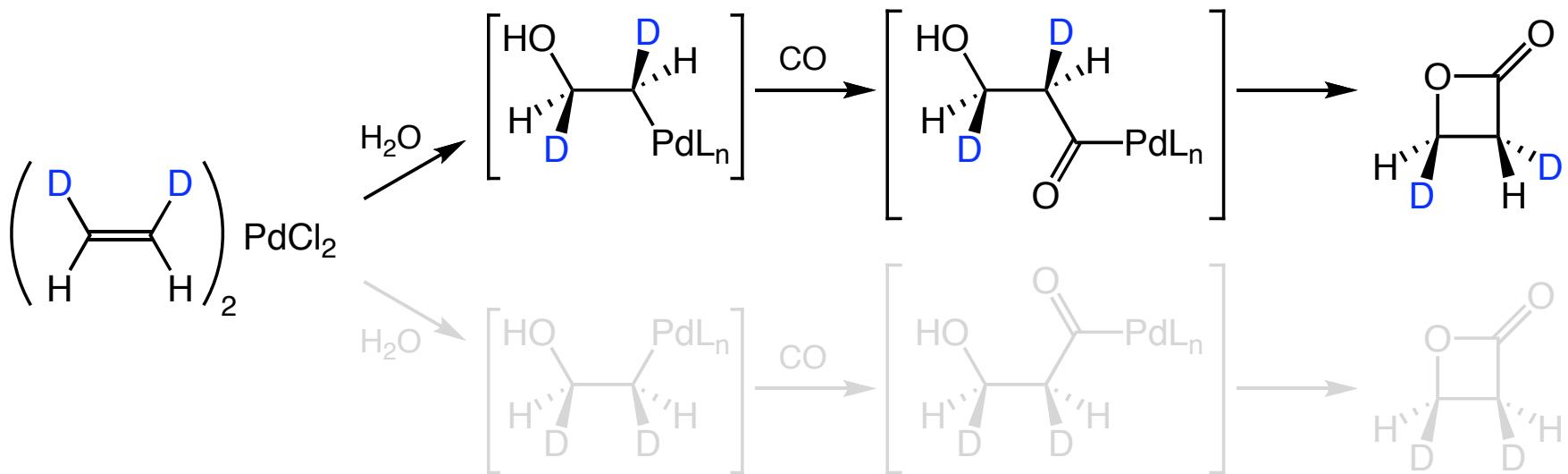
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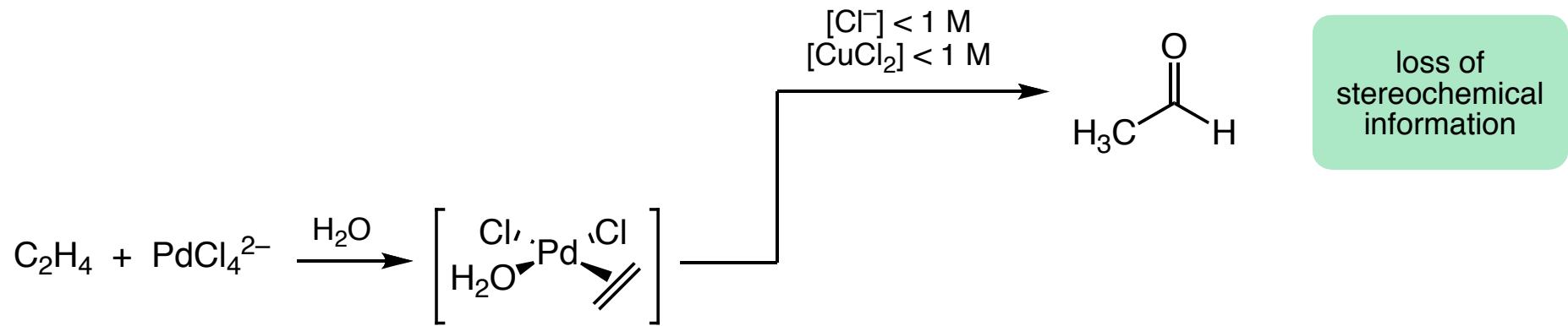
- ◆ Solvent is acetonitrile not water.
- ◆ Might proceed through a dimeric Pd complex.
- ◆ CO (3 atm) is very coordinating and might occupy coordination sites prohibiting the ligation of water necessary for syn hydroxypalladation.

anti hydroxypalladation



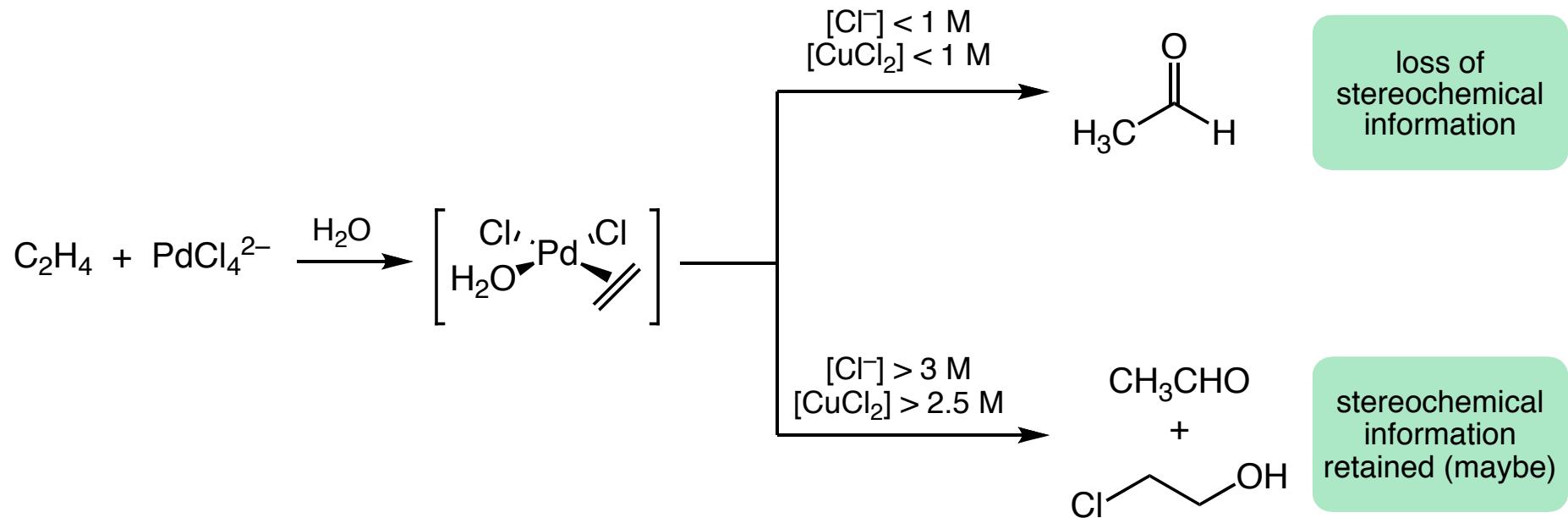
Bäckvall's Stereochemical Studies

Further (More Convincing) Evidence for Outer-Sphere Anti Hydroxypalladation



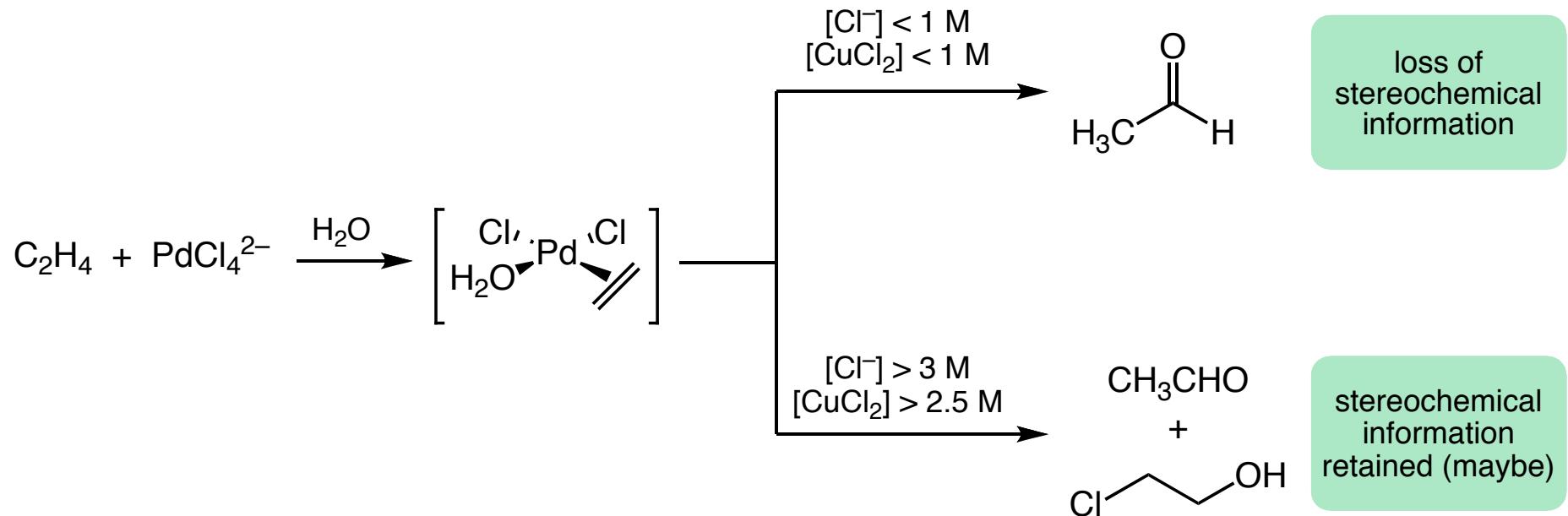
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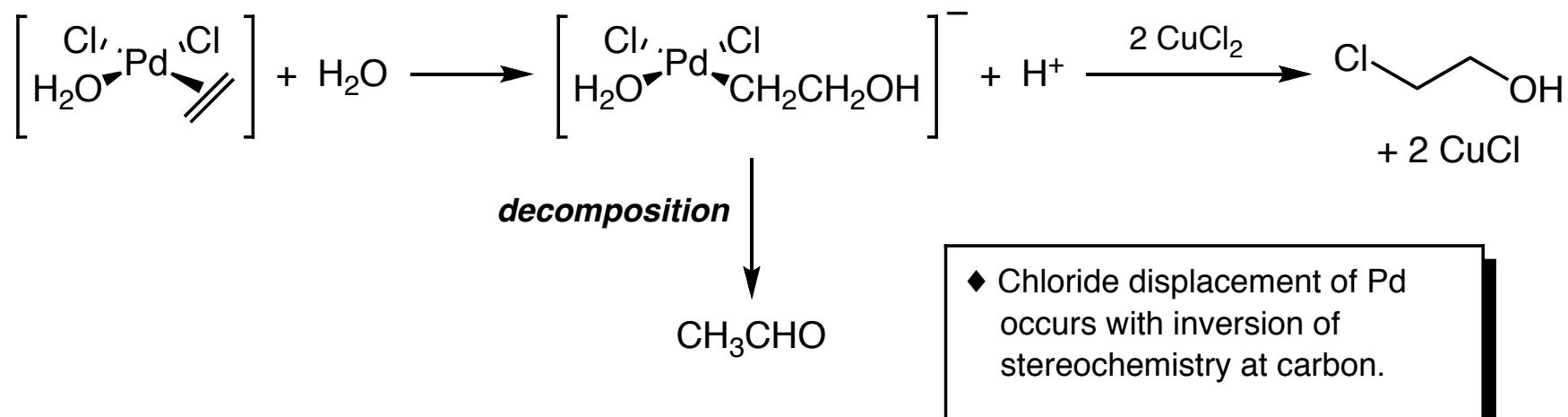


Two Key Assumptions:

- ◆ Chlorohydrin and acetaldehyde form from the same intermediate (i.e., $[\text{Pd}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})\text{Cl}_2]^-$).
- ◆ The steric course of the reaction is not affected by conditions containing high $[\text{Cl}^-]$ and high $[\text{CuCl}_2]$.

Bäckvall's Stereochemical Studies

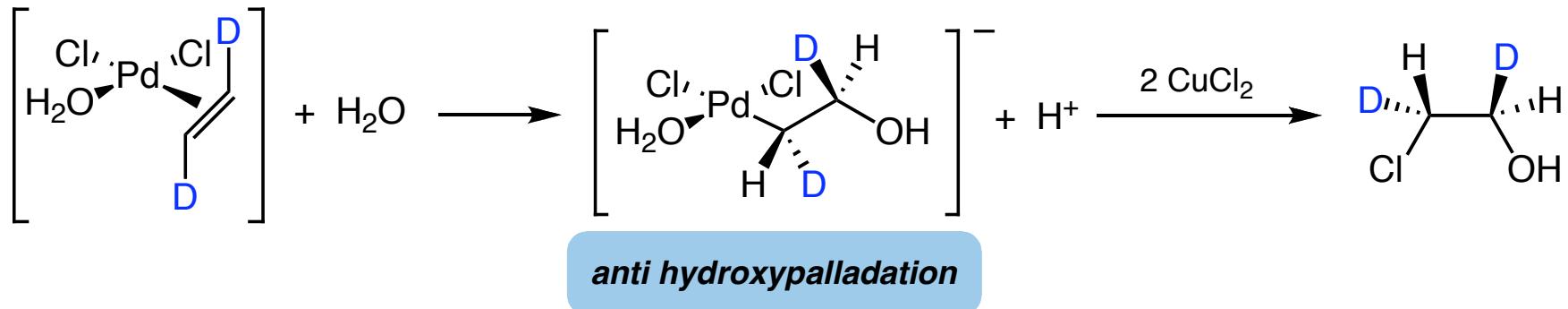
Further (More Convincing) Evidence for Outer-Sphere Anti Hydroxypalladation



- ◆ Chloride displacement of Pd occurs with inversion of stereochemistry at carbon.
- ◆ Chlorohydrin formation requires *both* high $[\text{Cl}^-]$ and high $[\text{CuCl}_2]$.

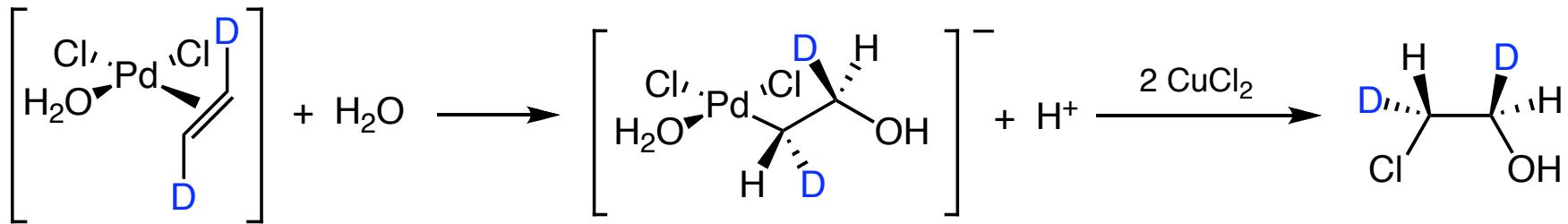
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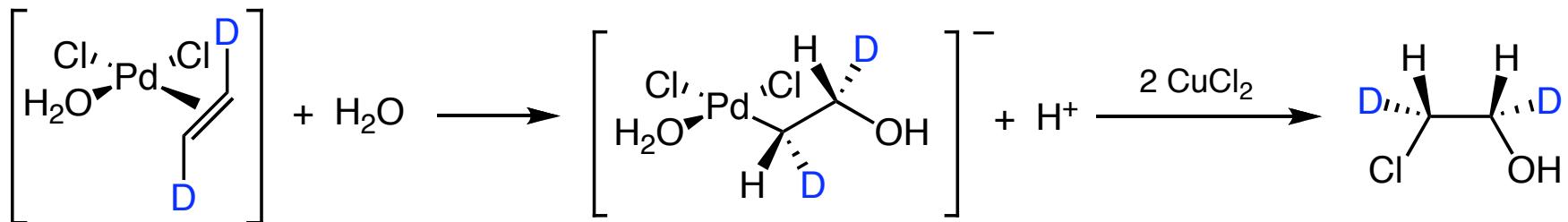


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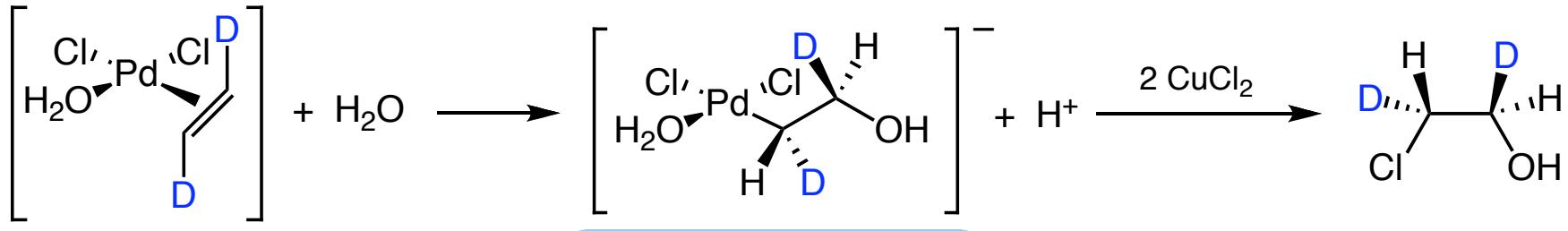
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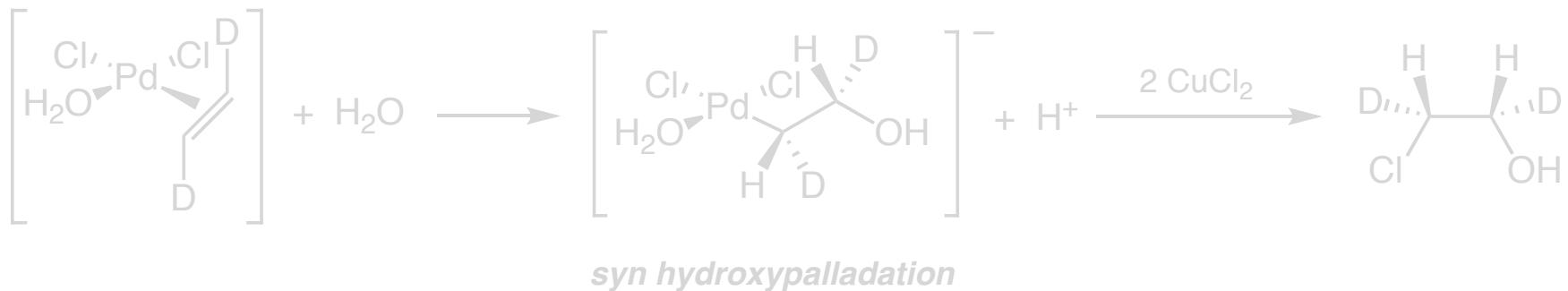
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Bäckvall's Stereochemical Studies

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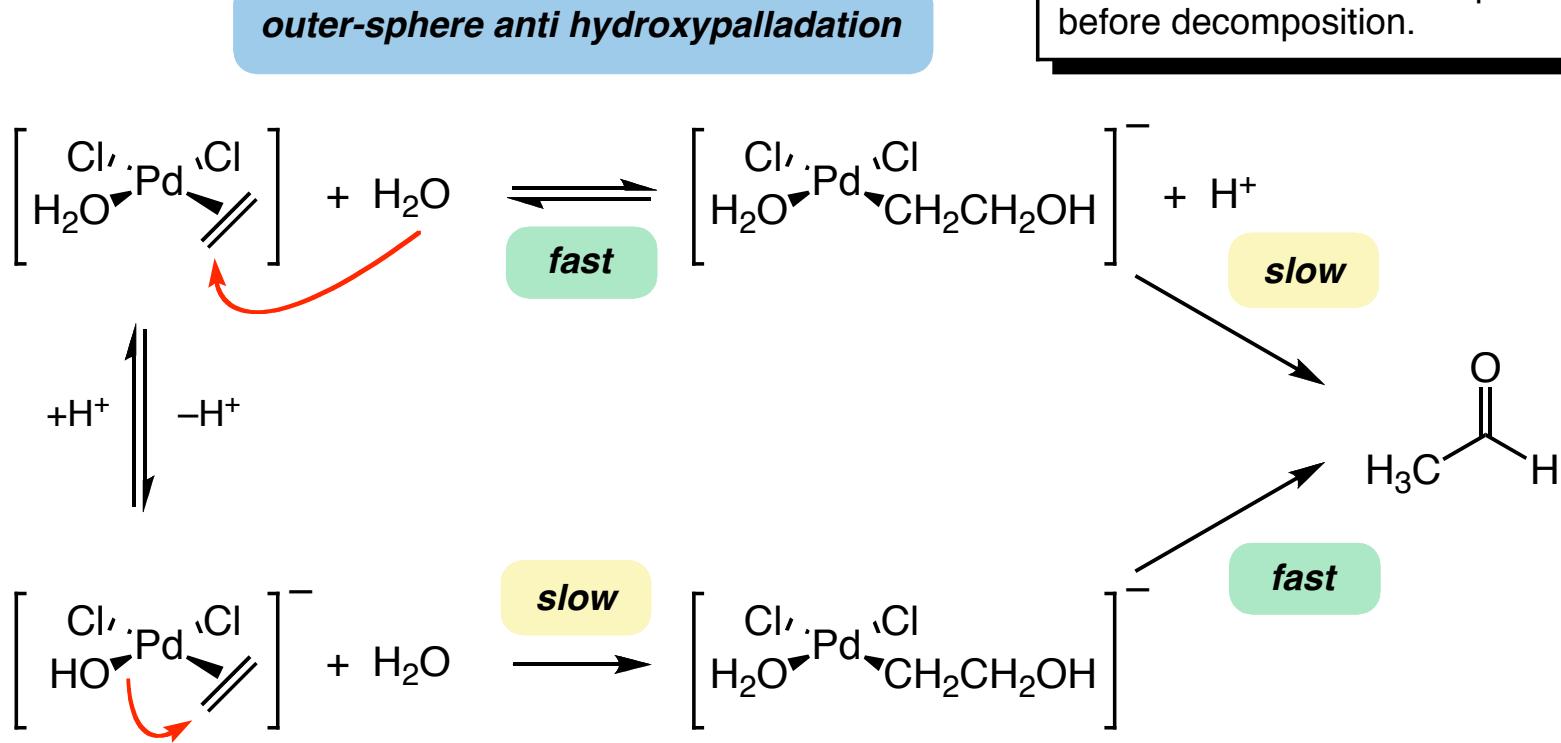
syn hydroxypalladation

Control Experiments:

- ◆ Z/E isomerization is < 1% under the reaction conditions.
- ◆ Confirmed that cleavage of C–Pd bond with CuCl_2 occurs with inversion at carbon.
- ◆ Confirmed that chlorohydrin does not arise from an intermediate epoxide.

Bäckvall's Stereochemical Studies

An Apparent Contradiction with KIE Studies

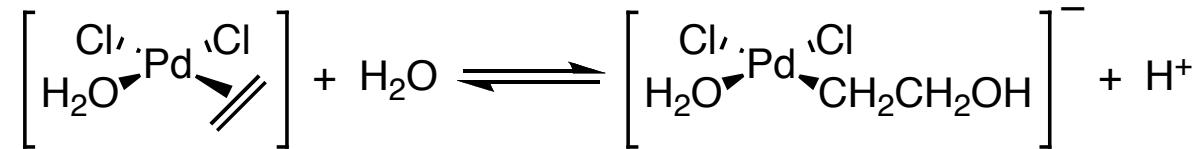


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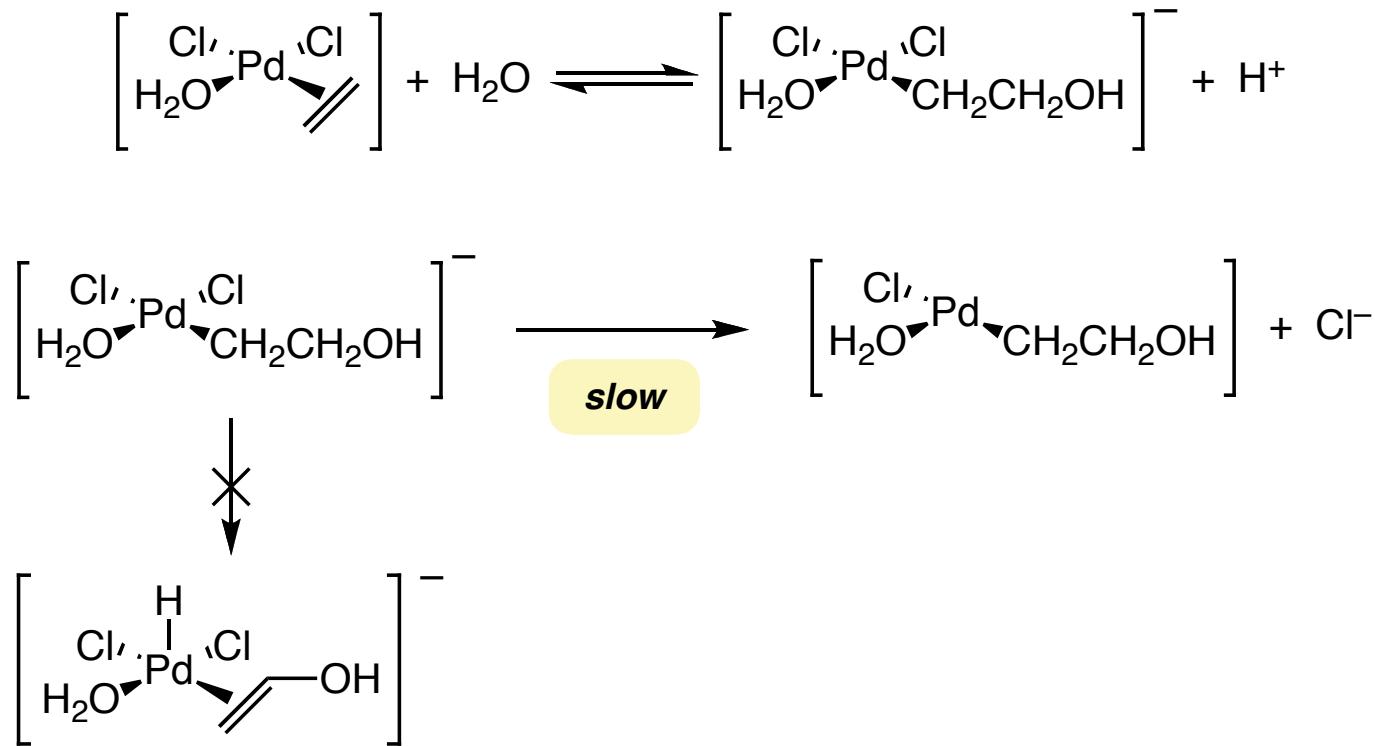
Bäckvall's Stereochemical Studies

Reconciling Stereochemical Results with Kinetic Data



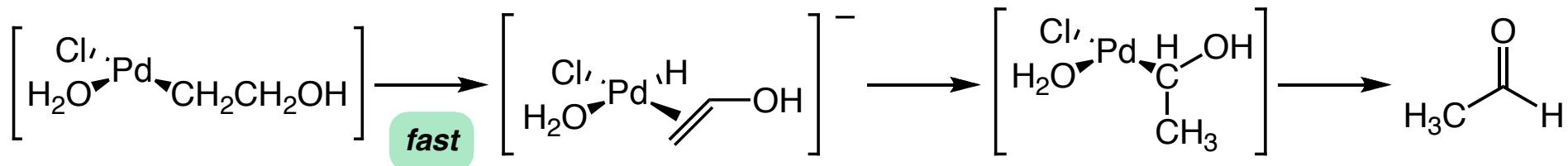
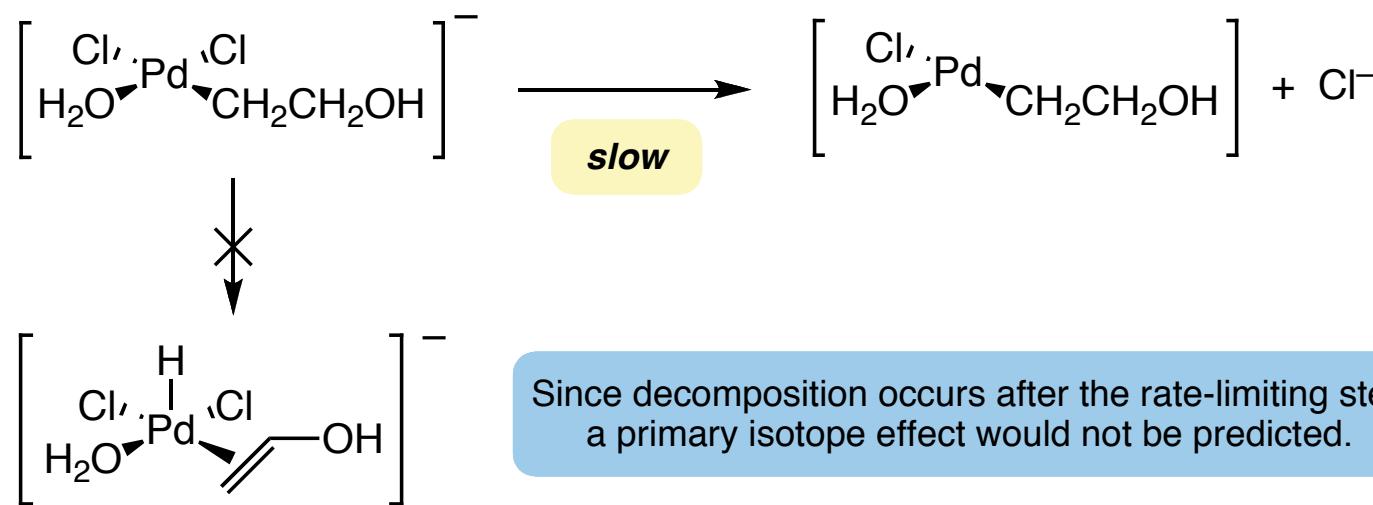
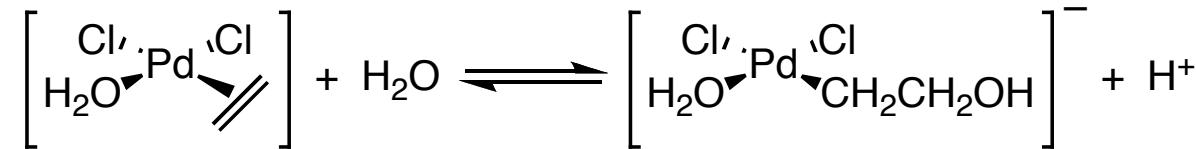
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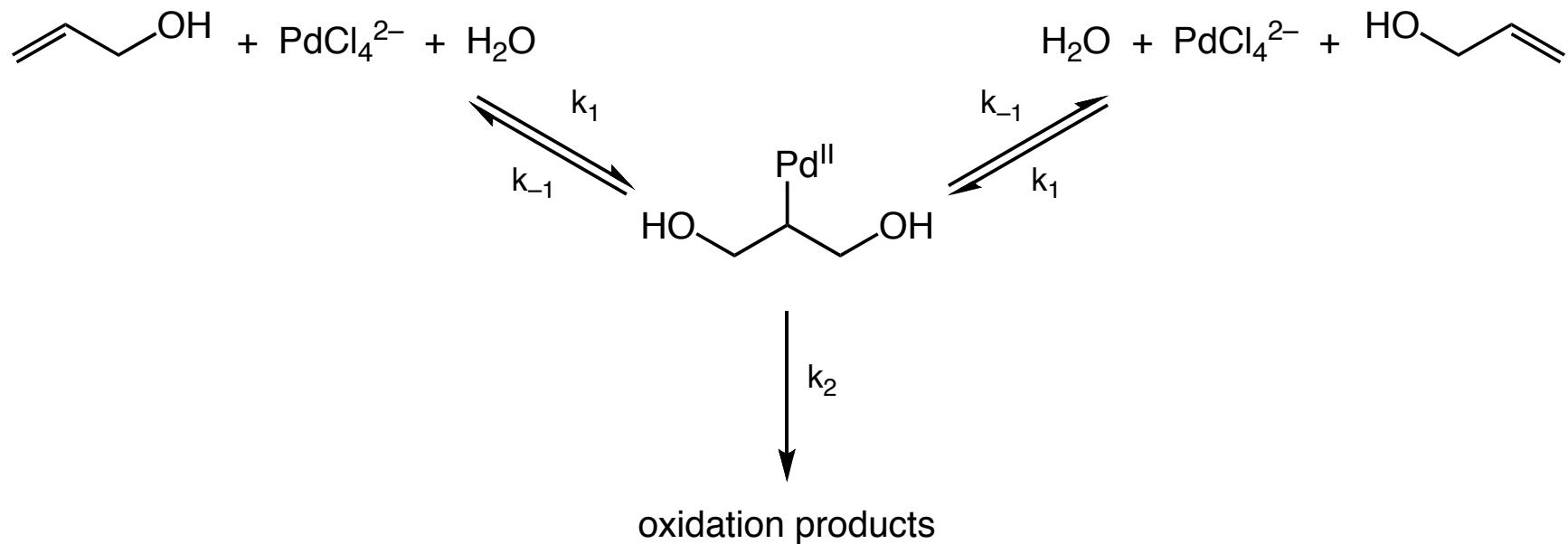
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Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

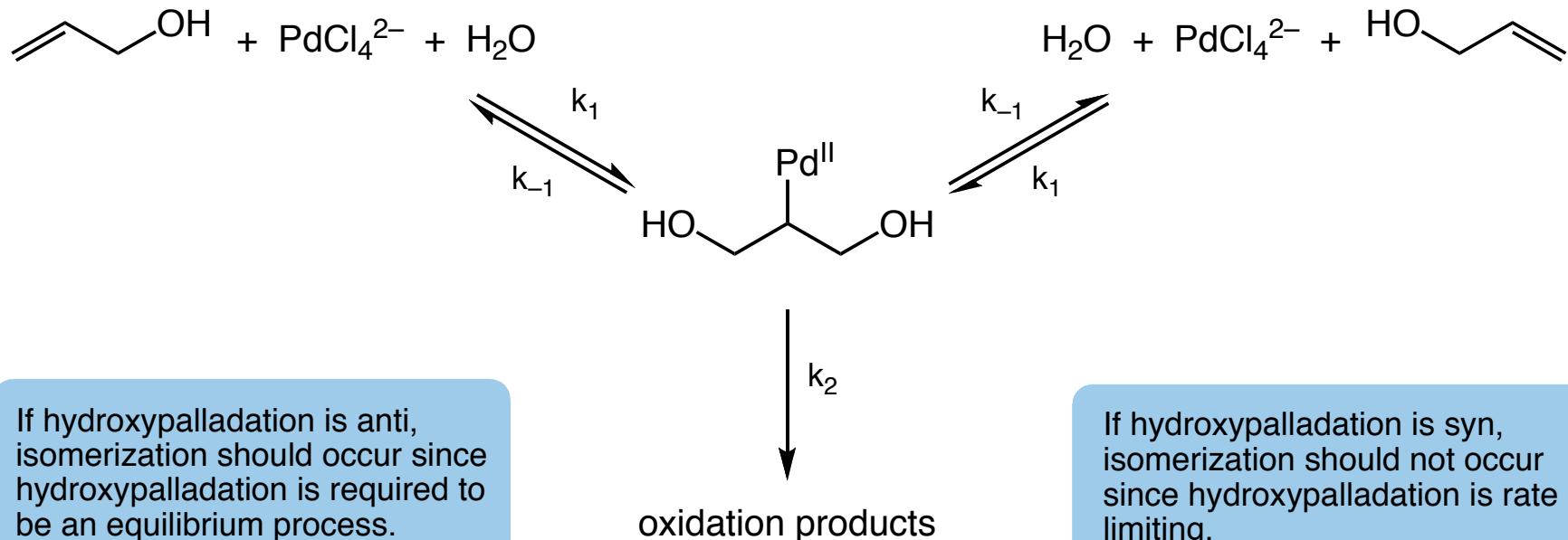
The Isomerization of Allyl Alcohol Under Wacker Conditions



Oxidation of allyl alcohol is directed by the hydroxyl group

Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

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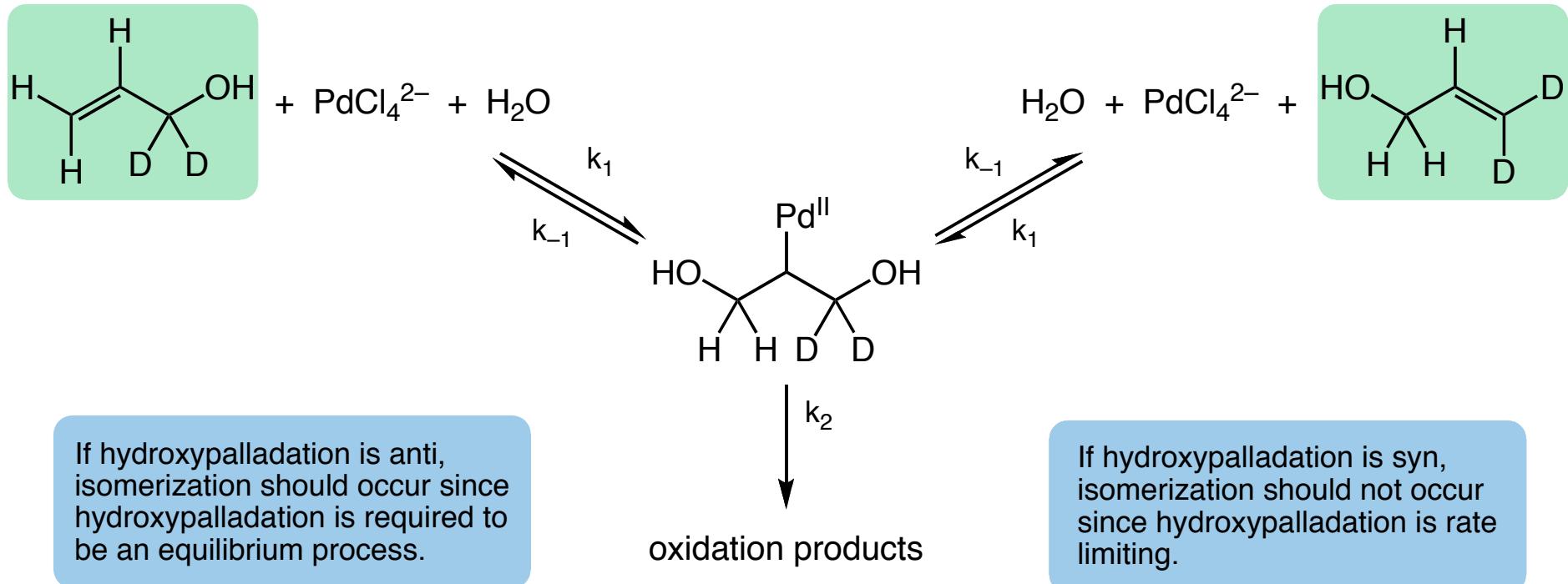


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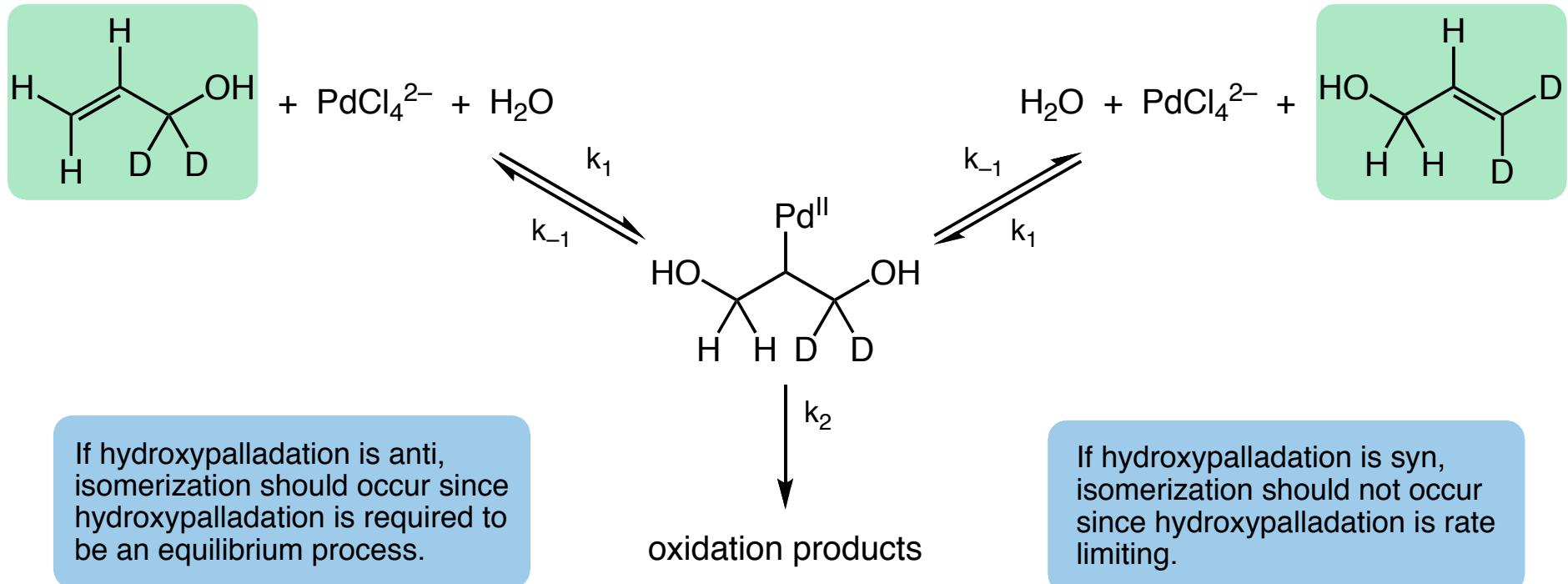


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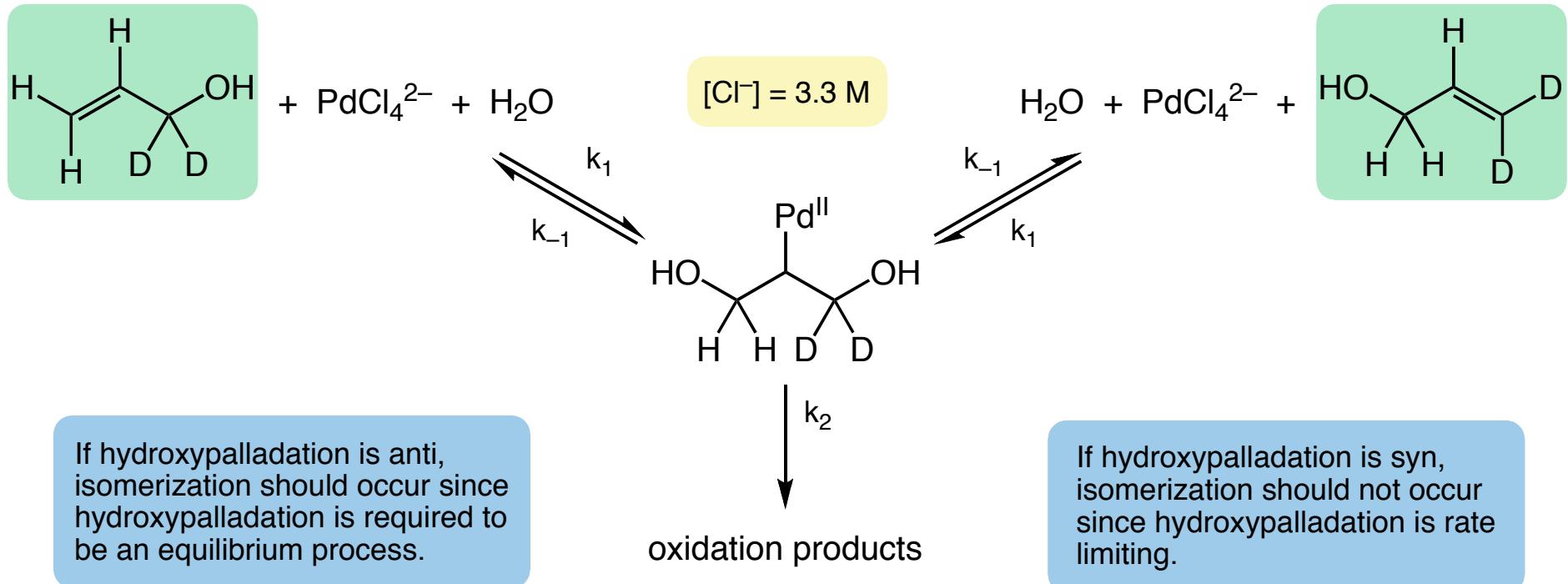


Isomerization product was < 3% of the total deuterated allyl alcohol when the reaction was stopped after one half-life.

Hydroxypalladation is NOT an equilibrium process!

Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

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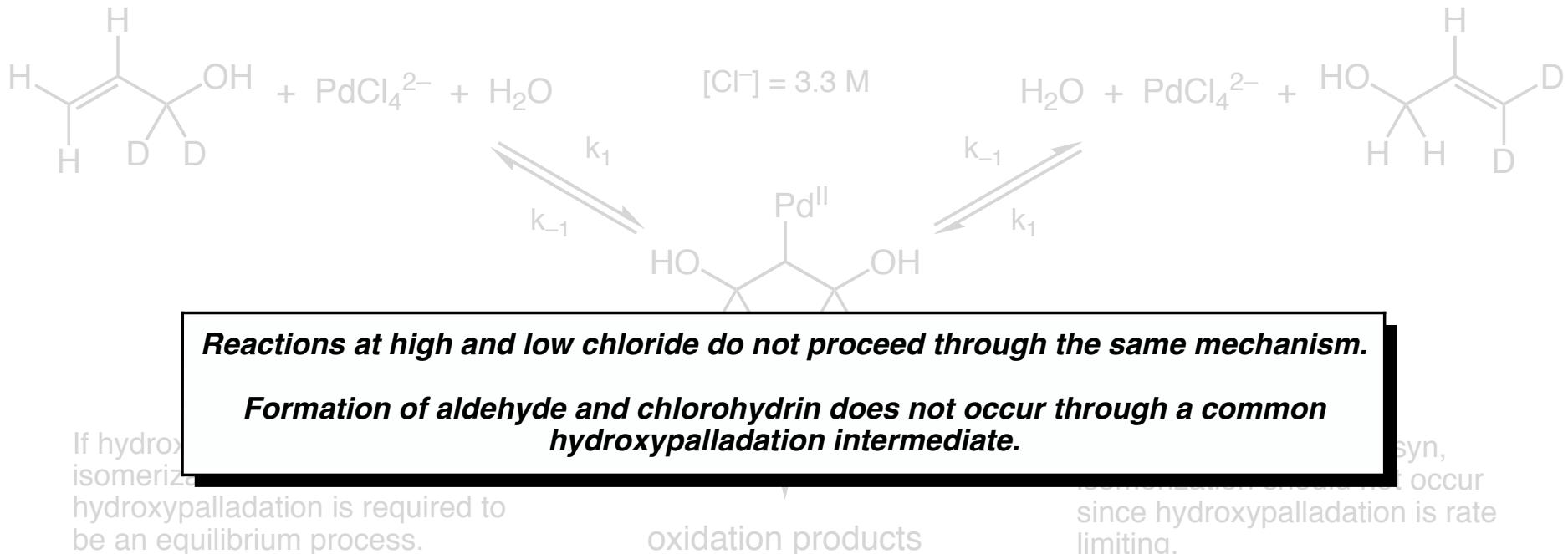


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Only isomerization observed.

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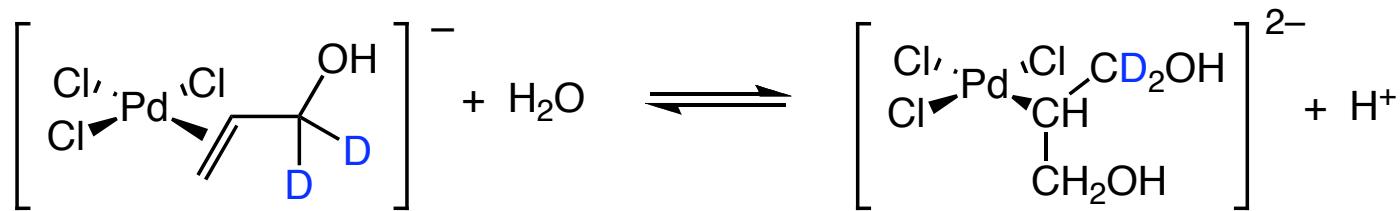
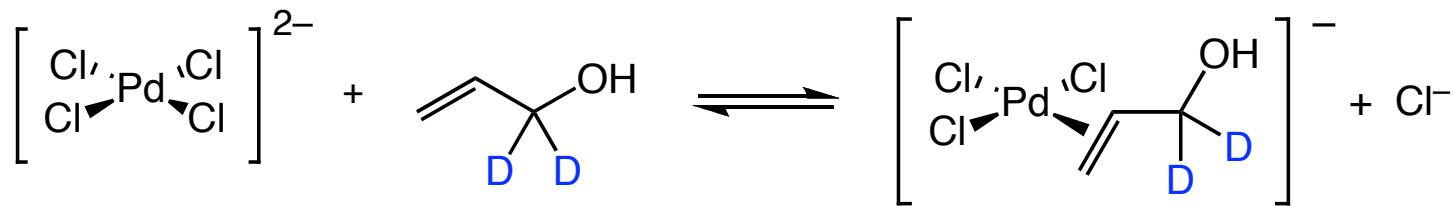


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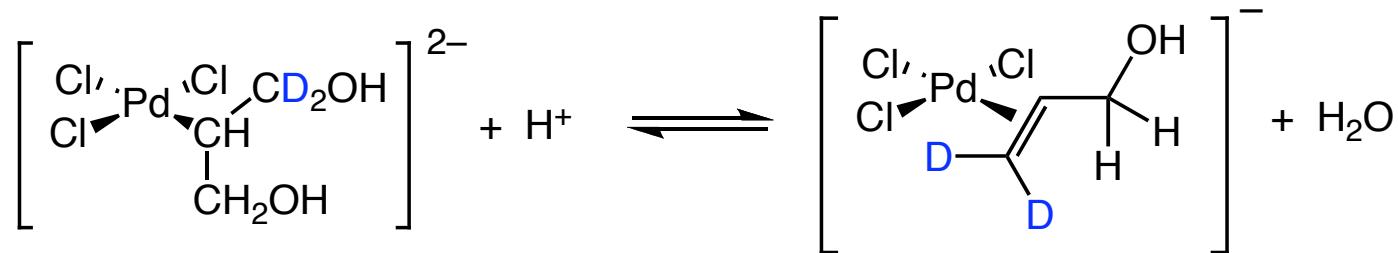
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Anti Hydroxypalladation at High $[Cl^-]$

Henry's Proposed Pathway

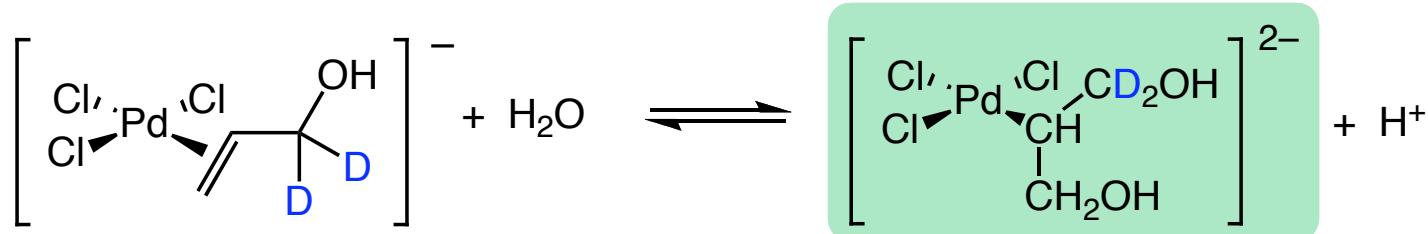
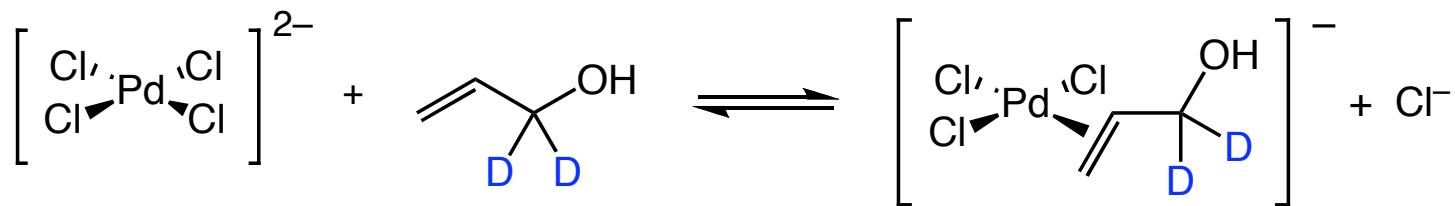


outer-sphere anti hydroxypalladation

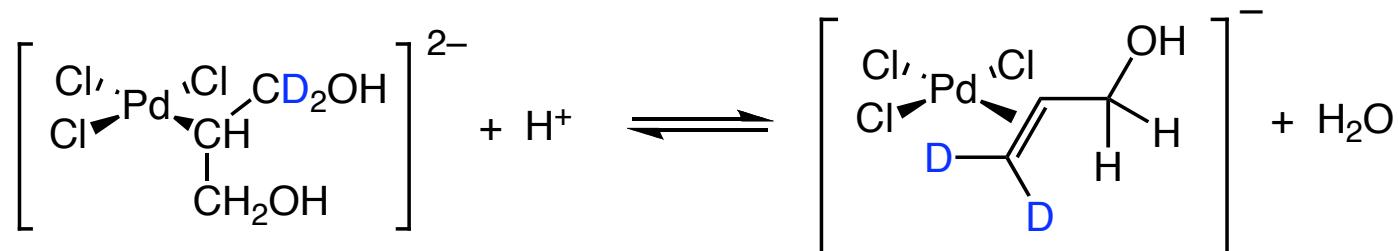


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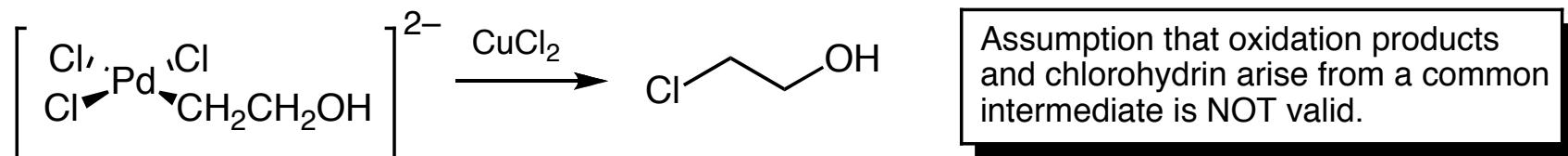
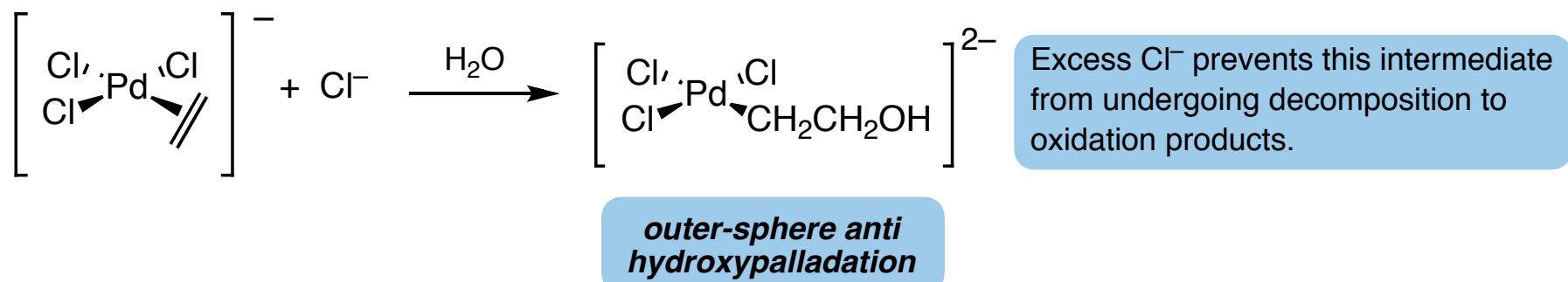


outer-sphere anti hydroxypalladation



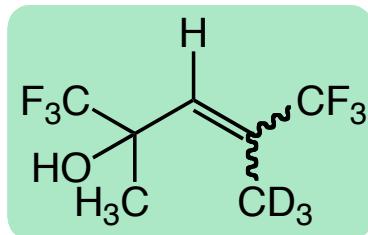
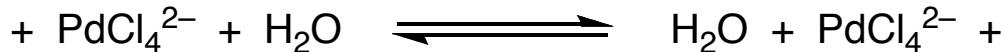
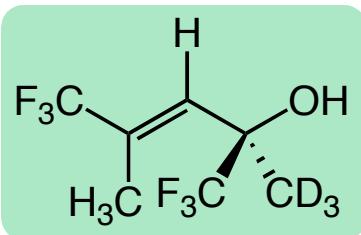
Reinterpreting Bäckvall's Results

Henry's Proposed Pathway



Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



oxidation products



Required Properties:

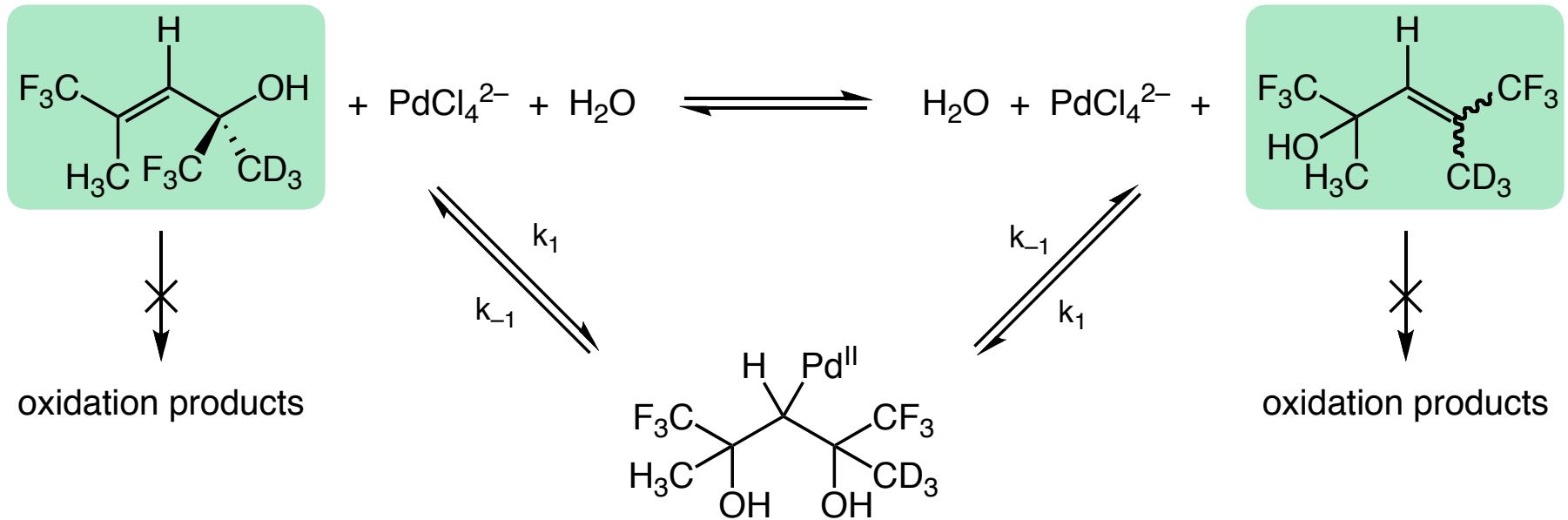
- ◆ Substrate cannot undergo oxidation; can only isomerize.
- ◆ Substrate whose RLS is hydroxypalladation.
- ◆ Substrate possesses stereochemistry that can be used to distinguish between syn and anti hydroxypalladation.

oxidation products



Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

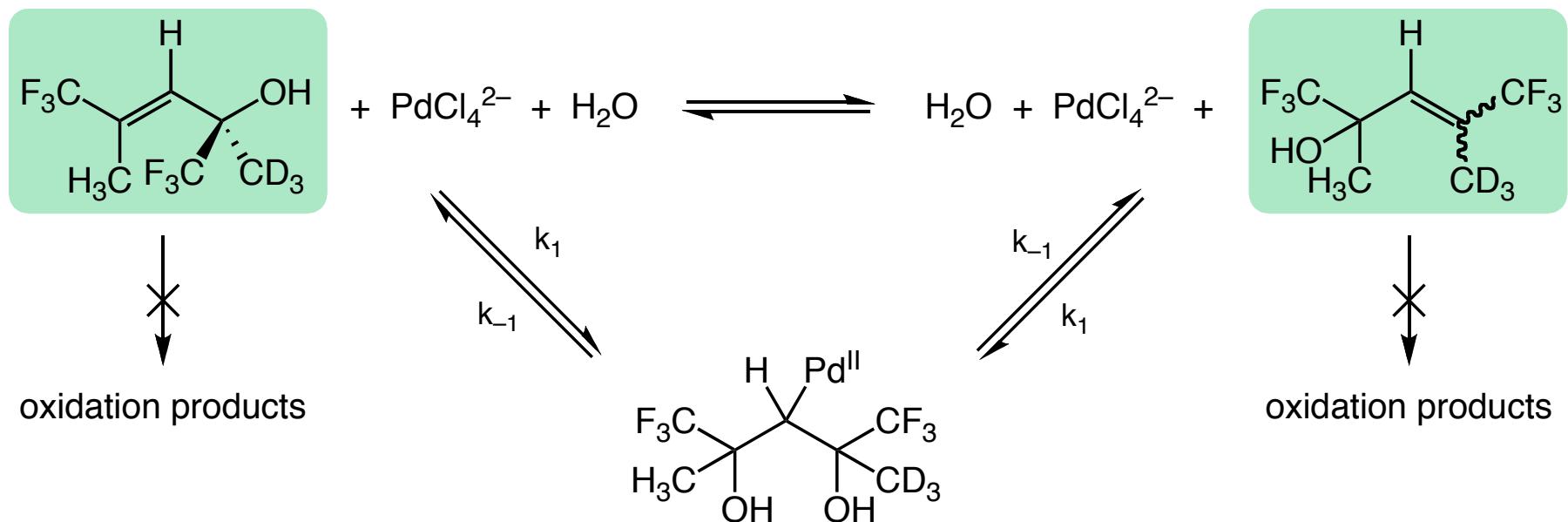
A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



Exchange is completely symmetric,
thus the rate of isomerization depends only
on the rate of formation of the hydroxypalladate
and not on its equilibrium concentration.

Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



For syn hydroxypalladation:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{-d[\text{C}_2\text{H}_4]}{dt} = \frac{k [\text{PdCl}_4^{2-}] [\text{olefin}]}{[\text{Cl}^-]^2 [\text{H}^+]}$$

Proton inhibition term must result from an equilibrium that occurs before the rate-limiting hydroxypalladation step.

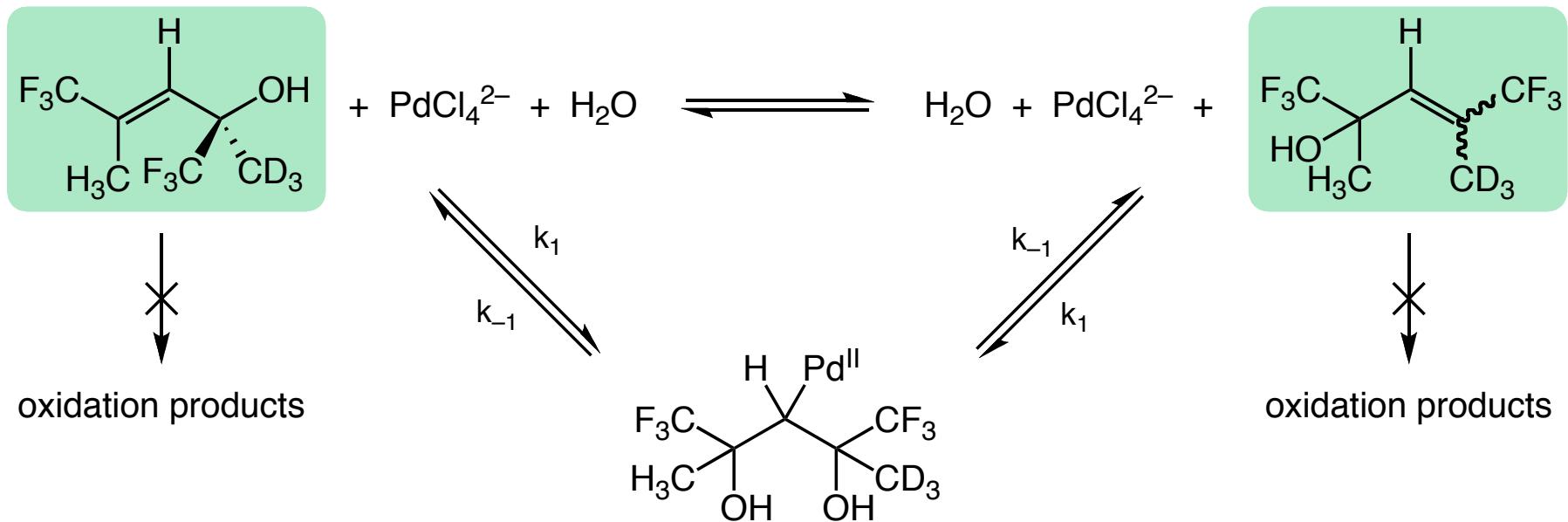
For anti hydroxypalladation:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{-d[\text{C}_2\text{H}_4]}{dt} = \frac{k [\text{PdCl}_4^{2-}] [\text{olefin}]}{[\text{Cl}^-]}$$

Proton inhibition term does not show up in the exchange rate because it results from this exchange equilibrium.

Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



For syn hydroxypalladation:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{-d[\text{C}_2\text{H}_4]}{dt} = \frac{k [\text{PdCl}_4^{2-}] [\text{olefin}]}{[\text{Cl}^-]^2 [\text{H}^+]}$$

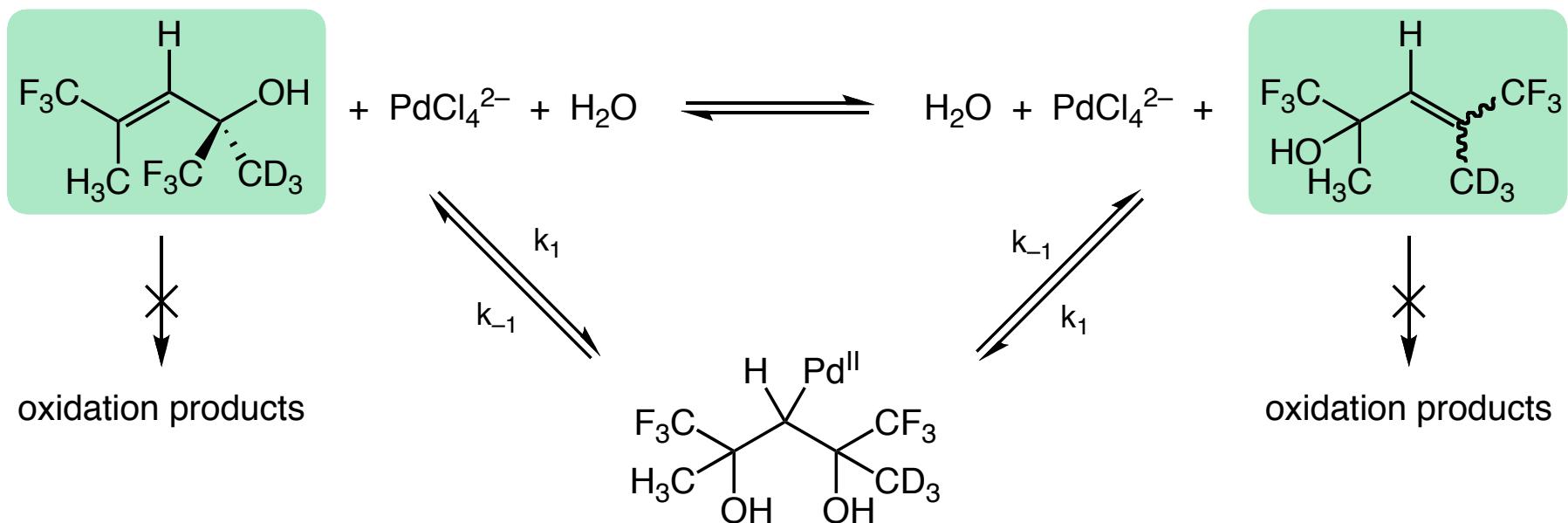
Proton inhibition term must result from an equilibrium that occurs before the rate-limiting hydroxypalladation step.

Observed Kinetics under Wacker Conditions:

- ◆ Rate expression had a first order proton inhibition term.
- ◆ Rate expression was identical to the Wacker rate expression.
- ◆ Consistent with syn hydroxypalladation mechanism.

Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



Observed Kinetics under High $[\text{Cl}^-]$ Conditions:

- ◆ Rate expression had no first order proton inhibition term.
- ◆ Rate expression was identical to what Bäckvall observed at high $[\text{Cl}^-]$.
- ◆ Consistent with anti hydroxypalladation mechanism.

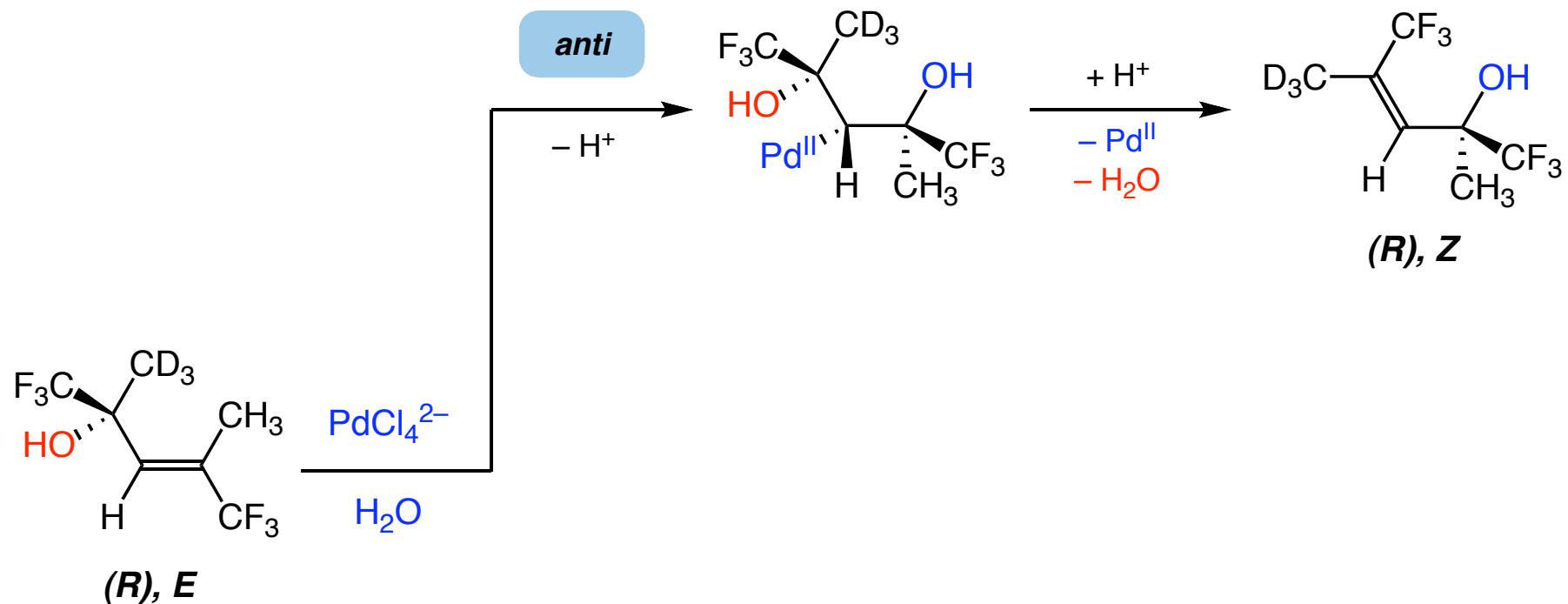
For anti hydroxypalladation:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{-d[\text{C}_2\text{H}_4]}{dt} = \frac{k [\text{PdCl}_4^{2-}] [\text{olefin}]}{[\text{Cl}^-]}$$

Proton inhibition term does not show up in the exchange rate because it results from this exchange equilibrium.

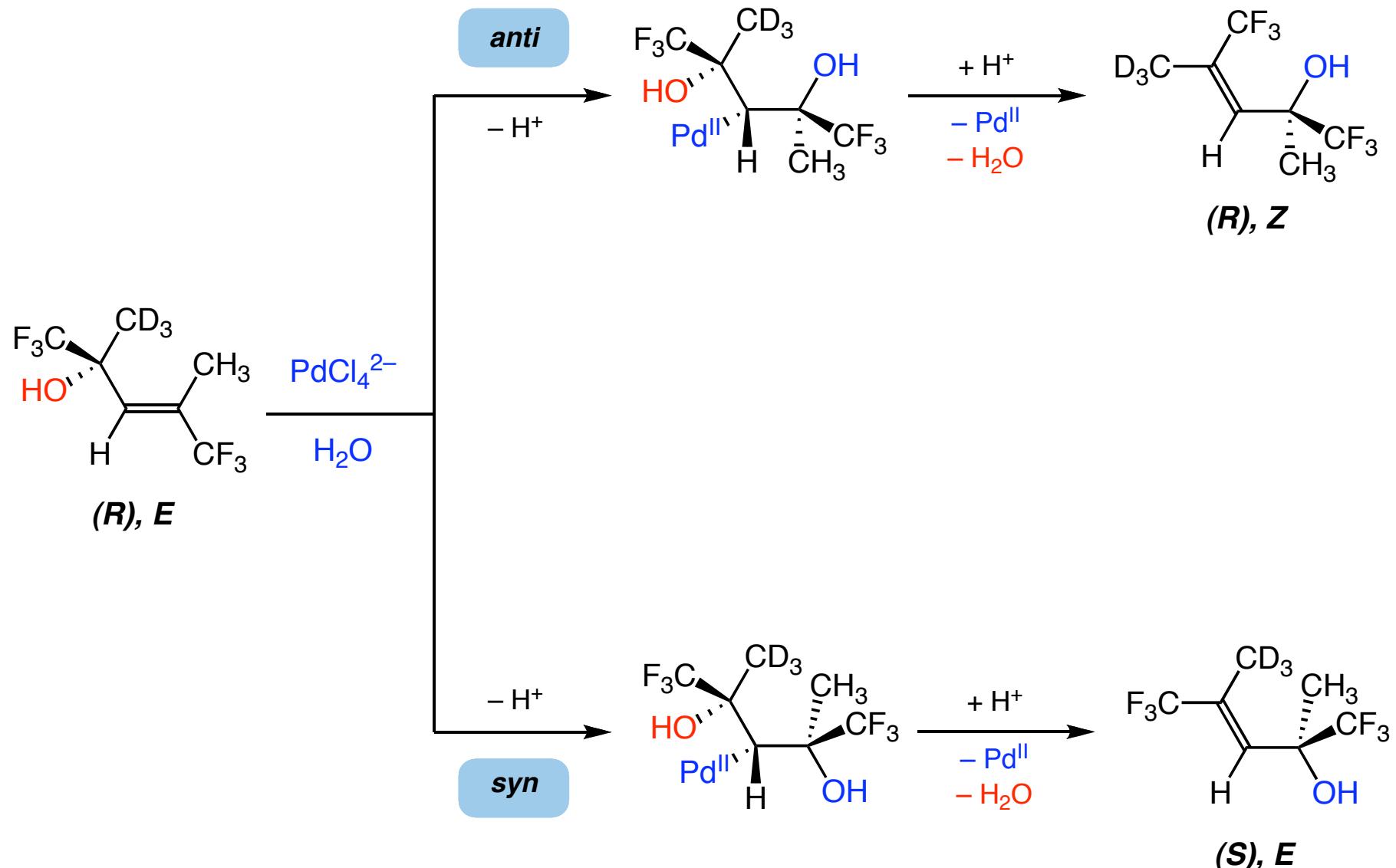
Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



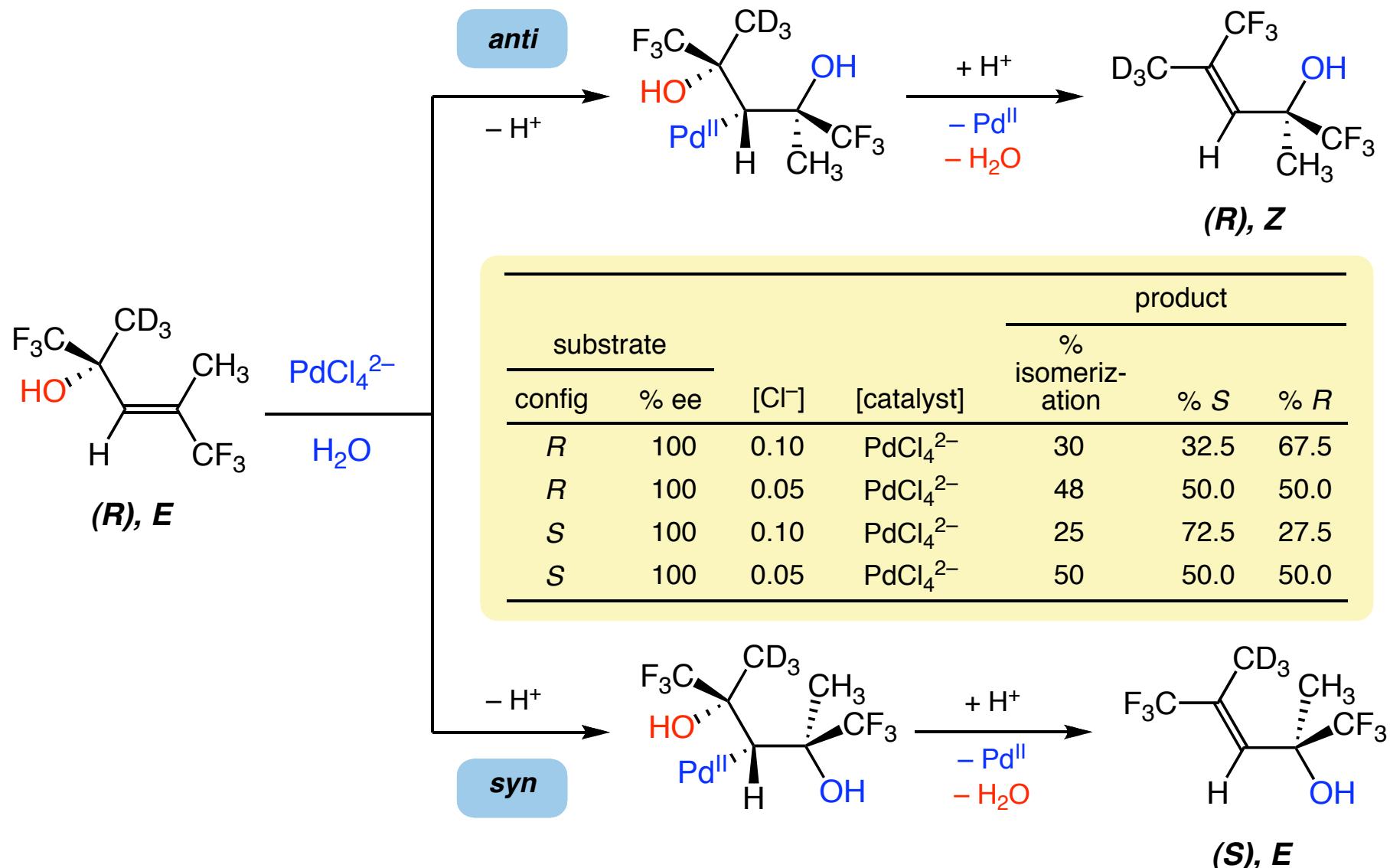
Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



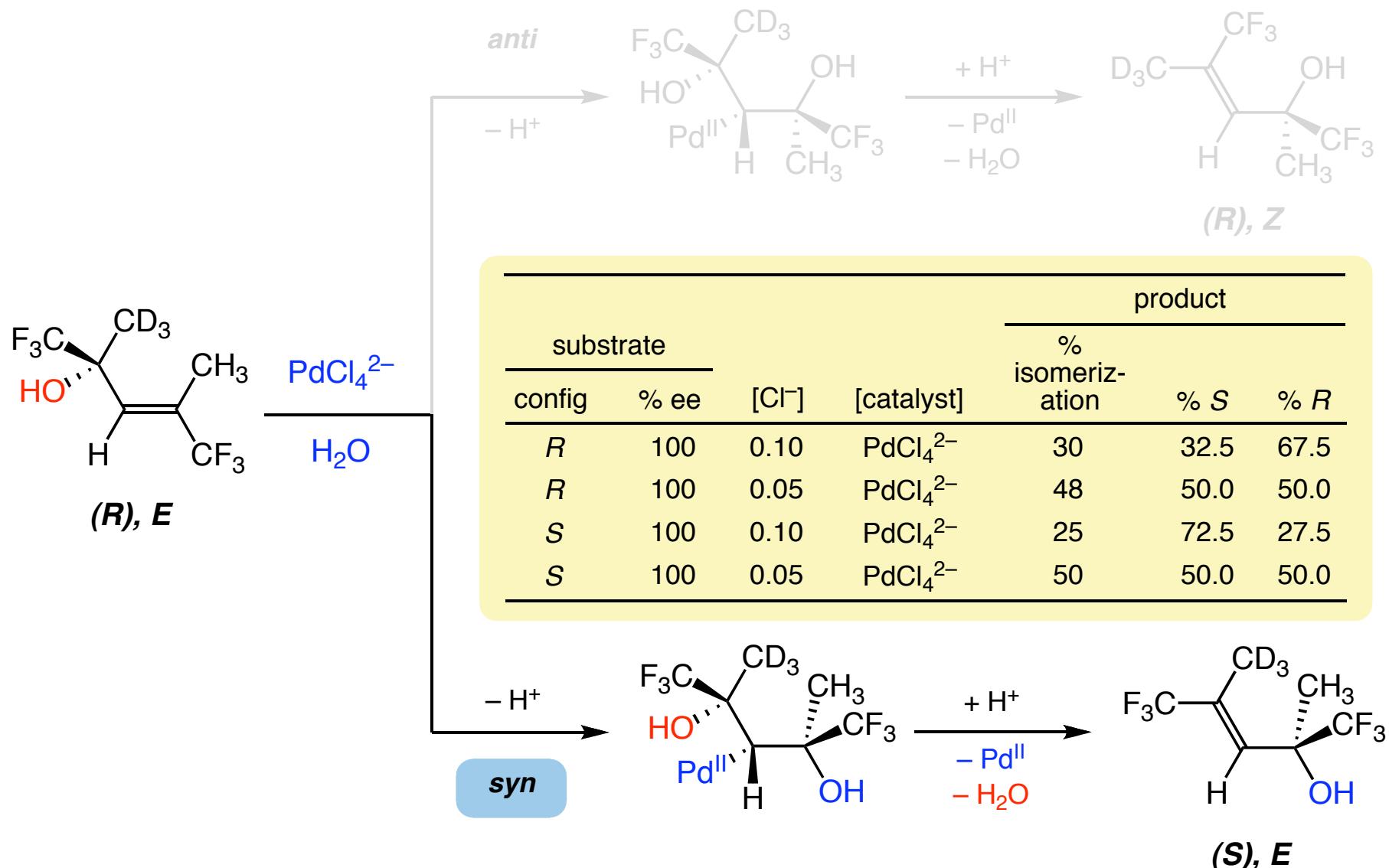
Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



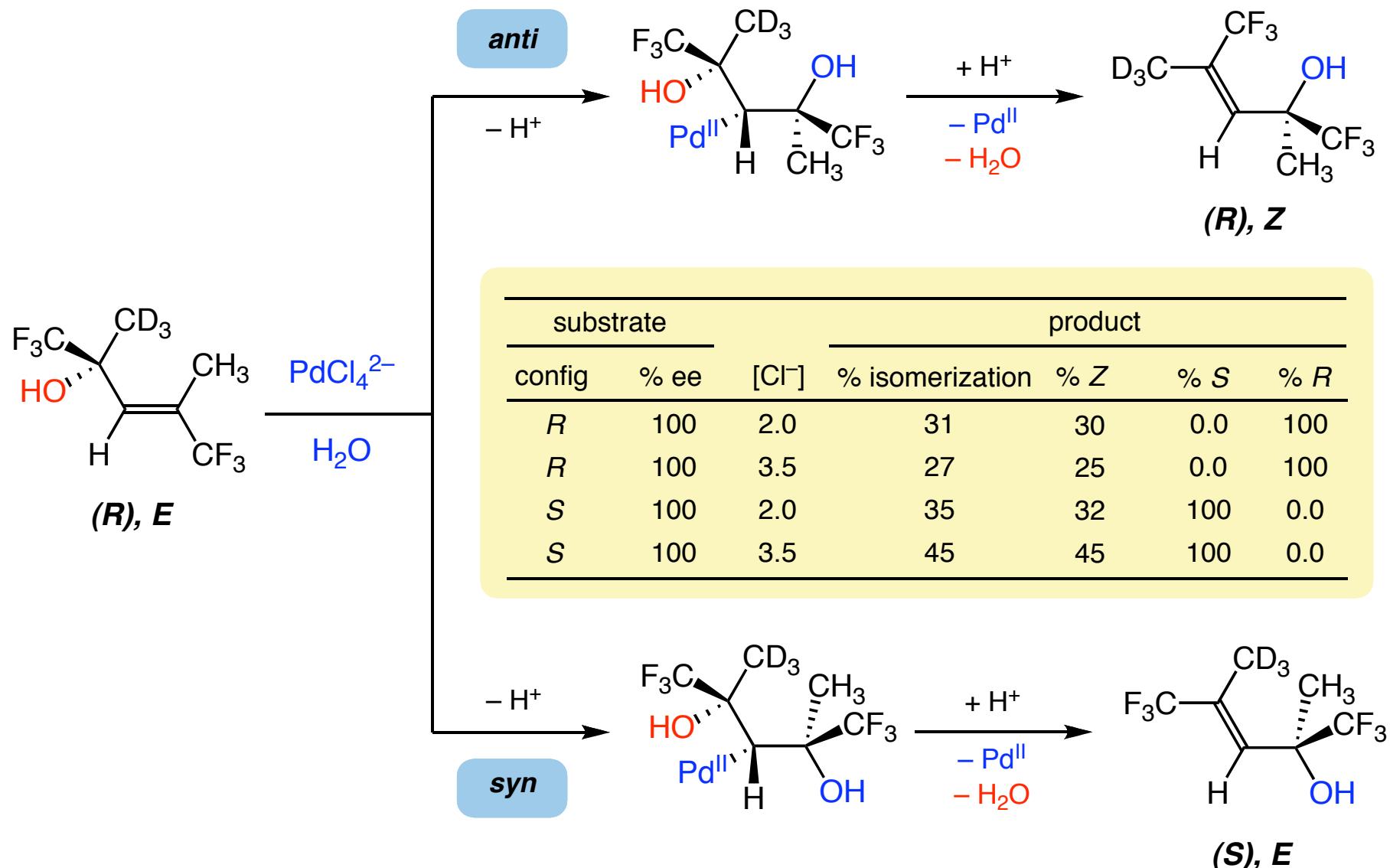
Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe



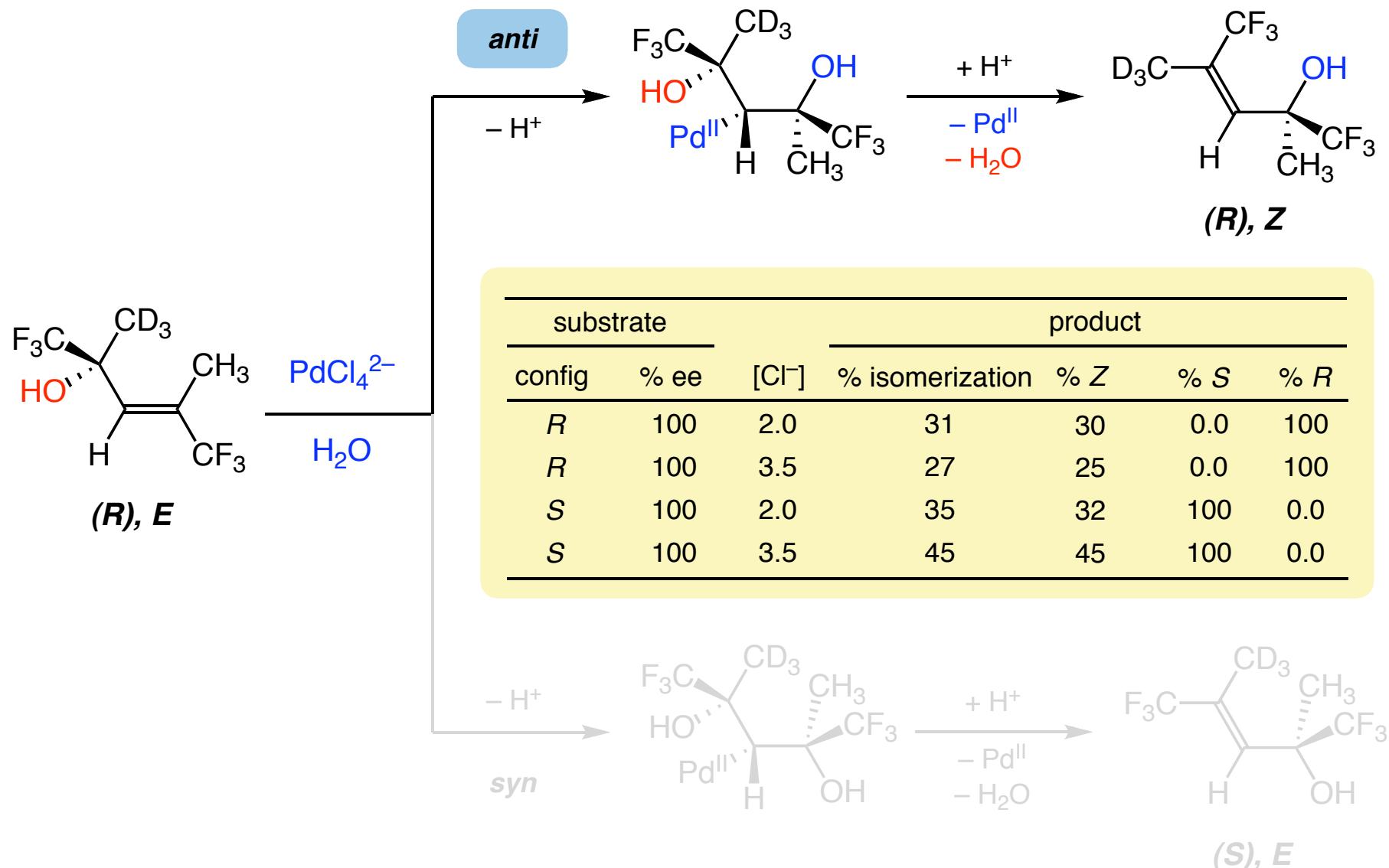
Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

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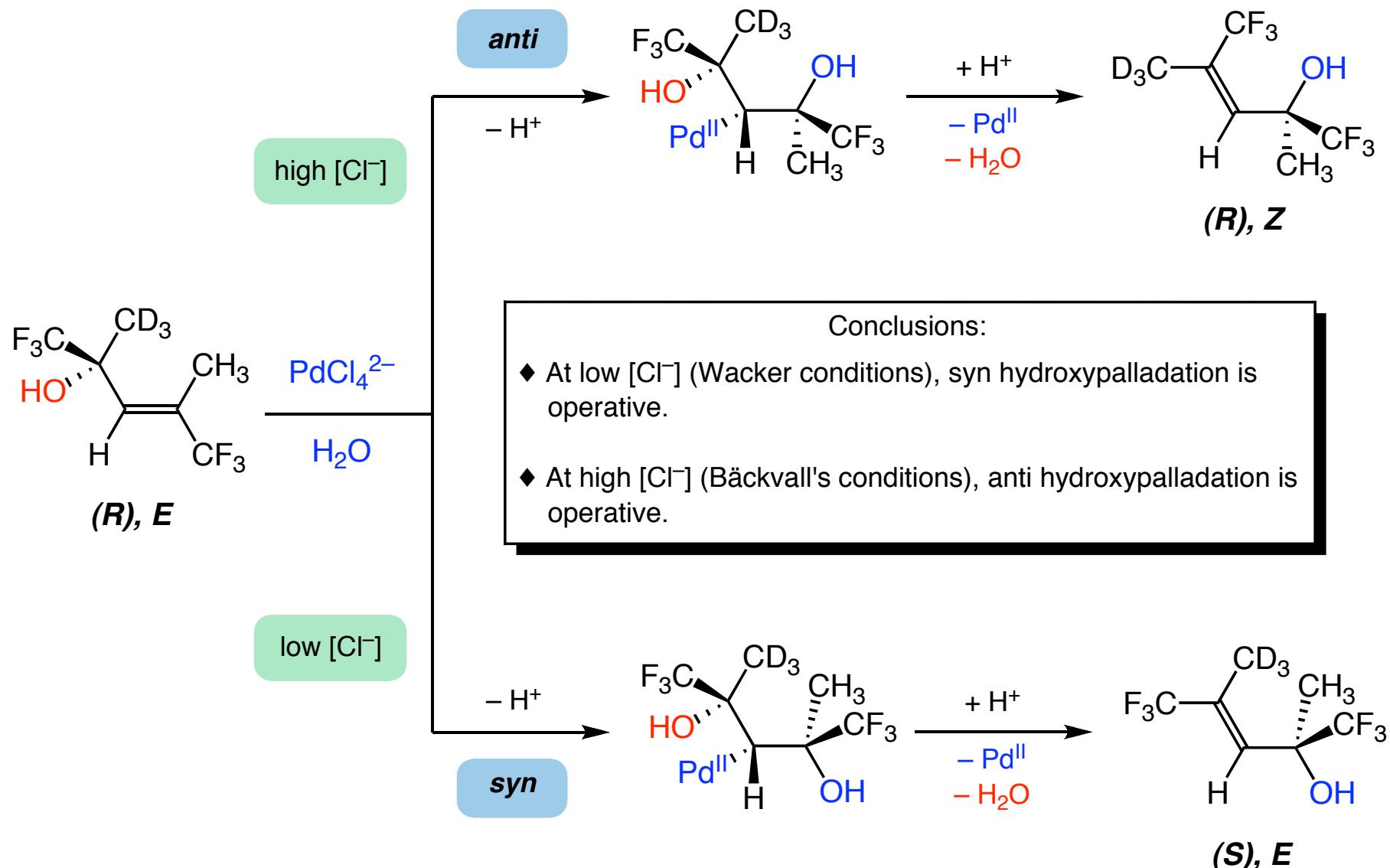
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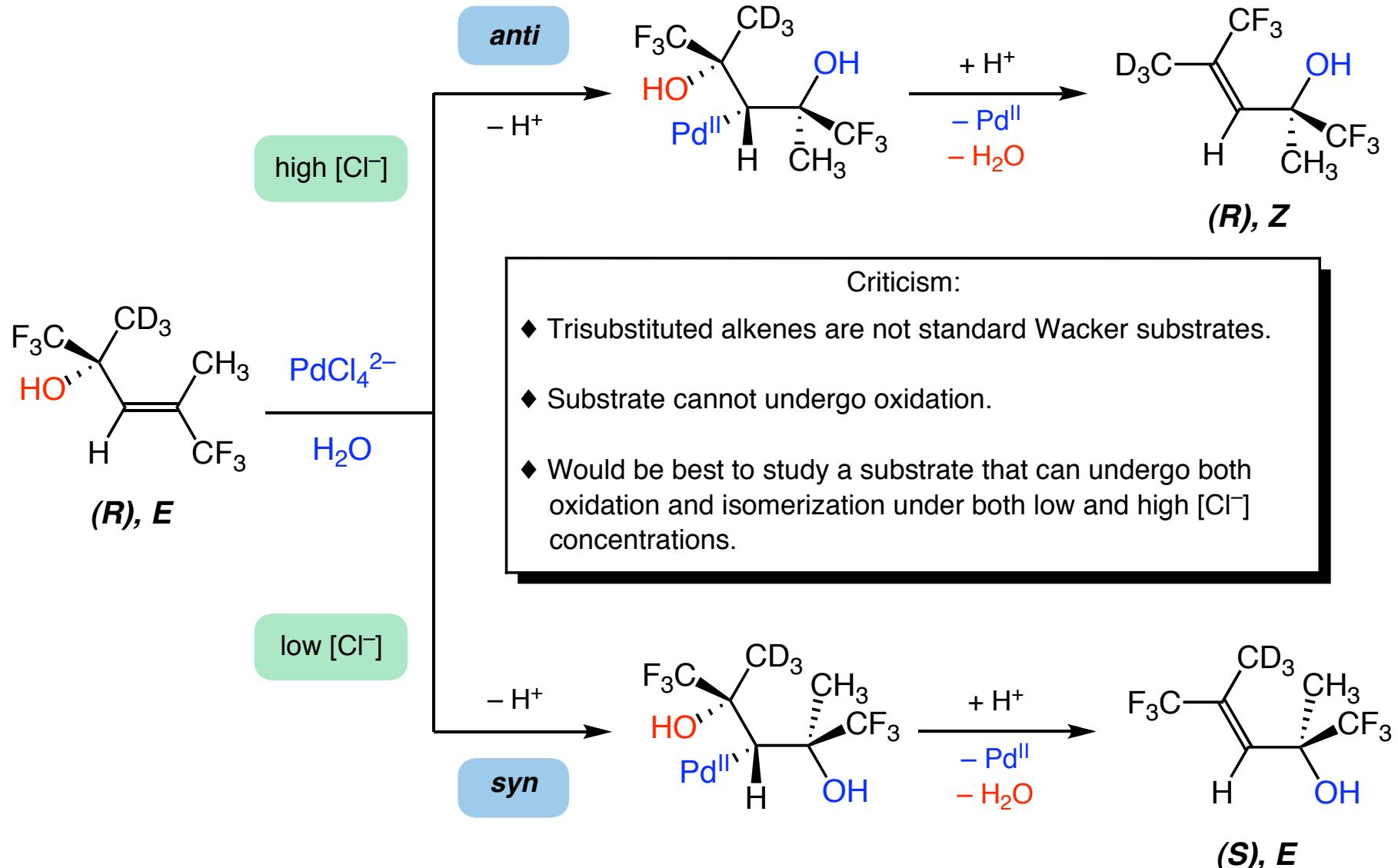
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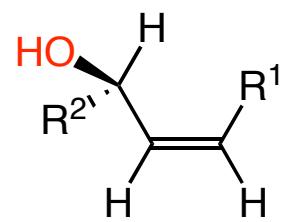


Evidence for Syn Hydroxypalladation

A New Stereochemical and Kinetic Probe

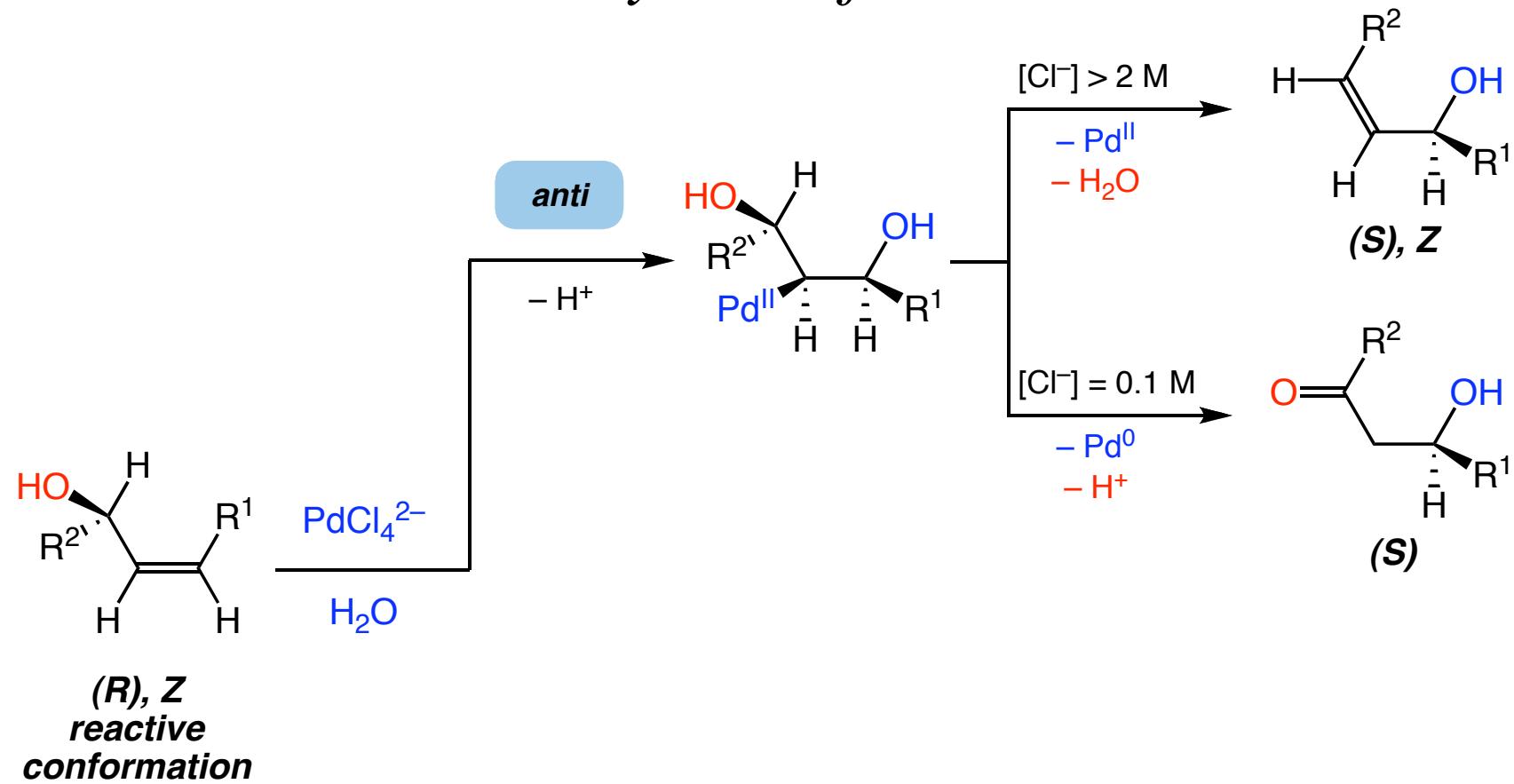


Chirality Transfer Studies

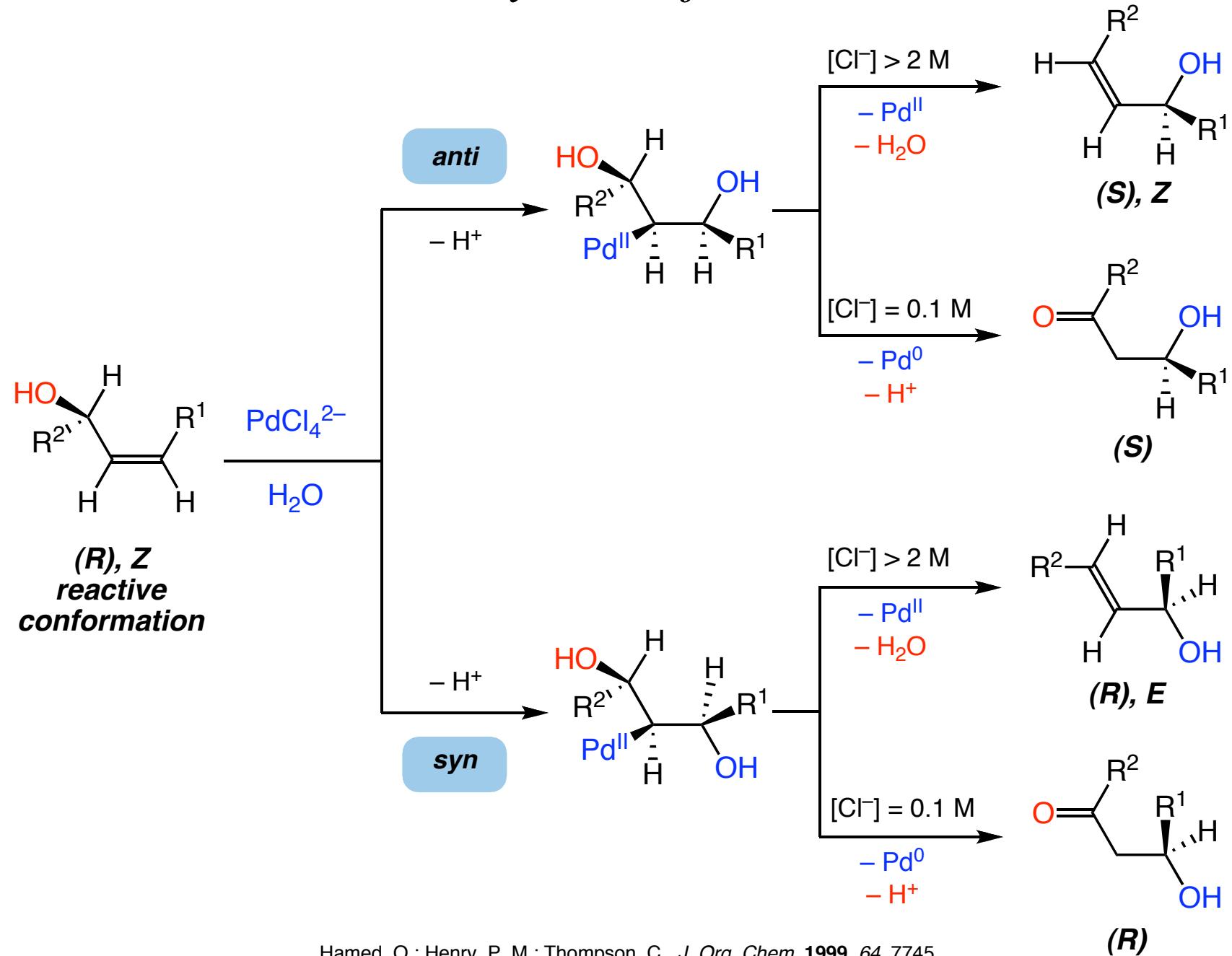


**(R), Z
reactive
conformation**

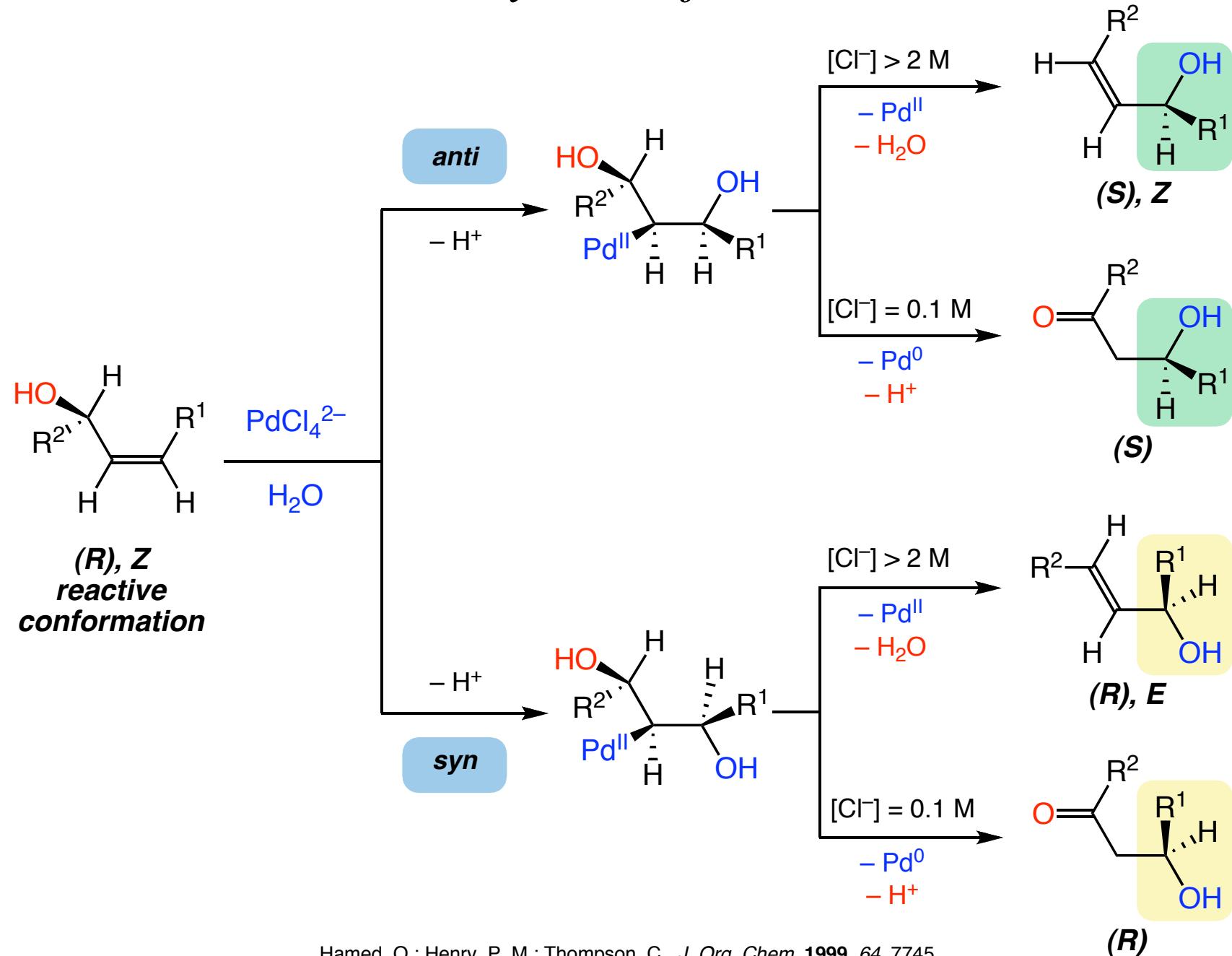
Chirality Transfer Studies



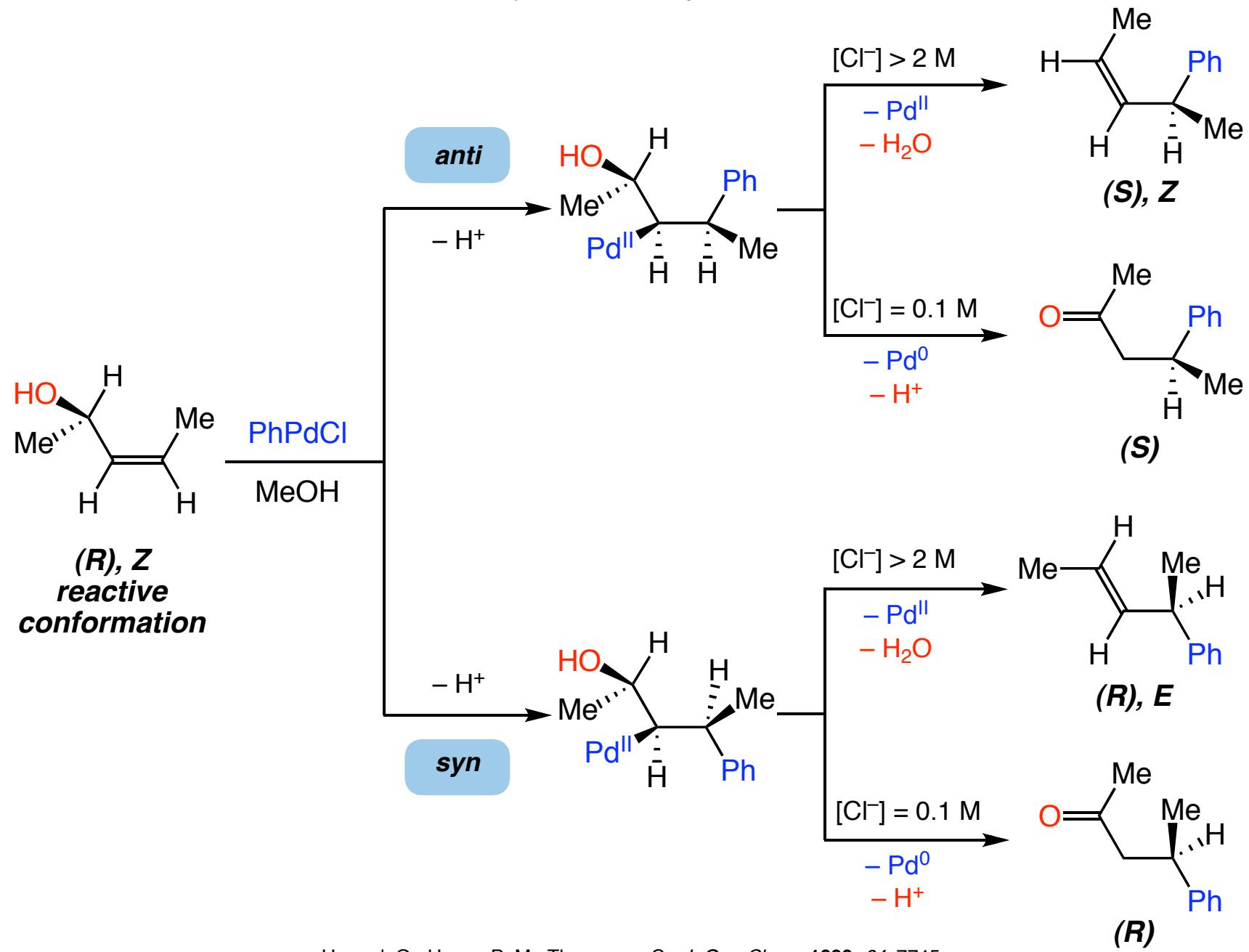
Chirality Transfer Studies



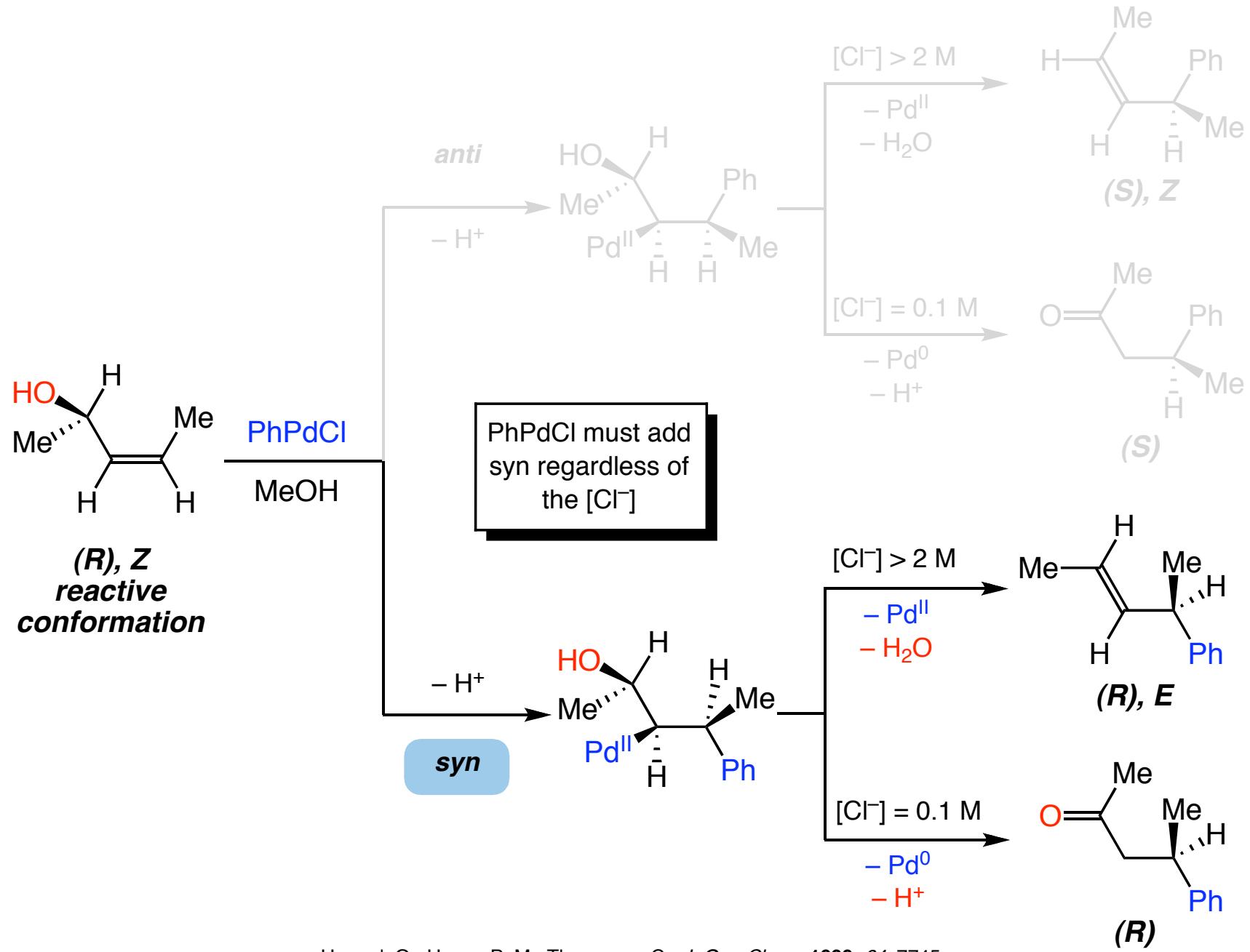
Chirality Transfer Studies



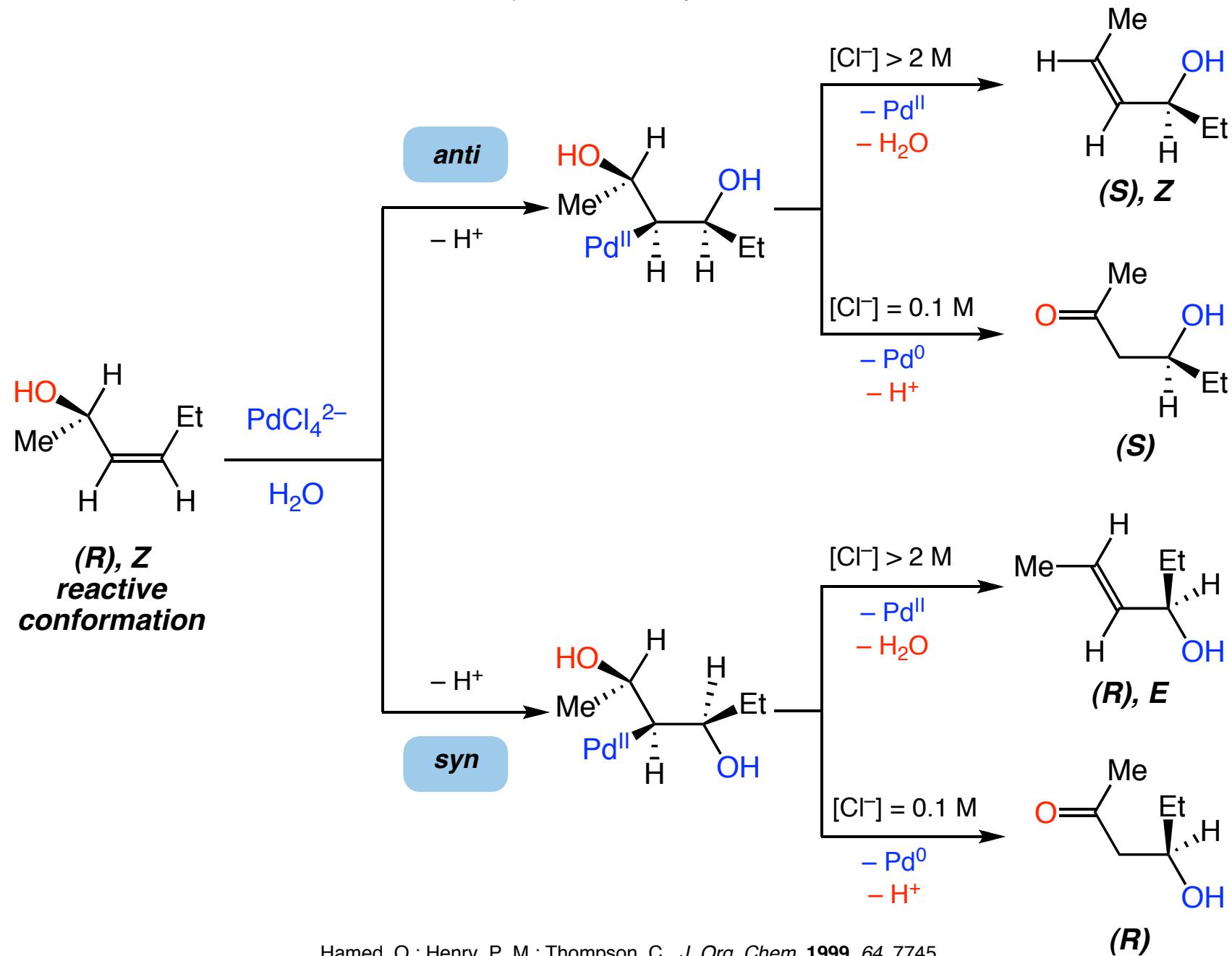
Chirality Transfer Studies



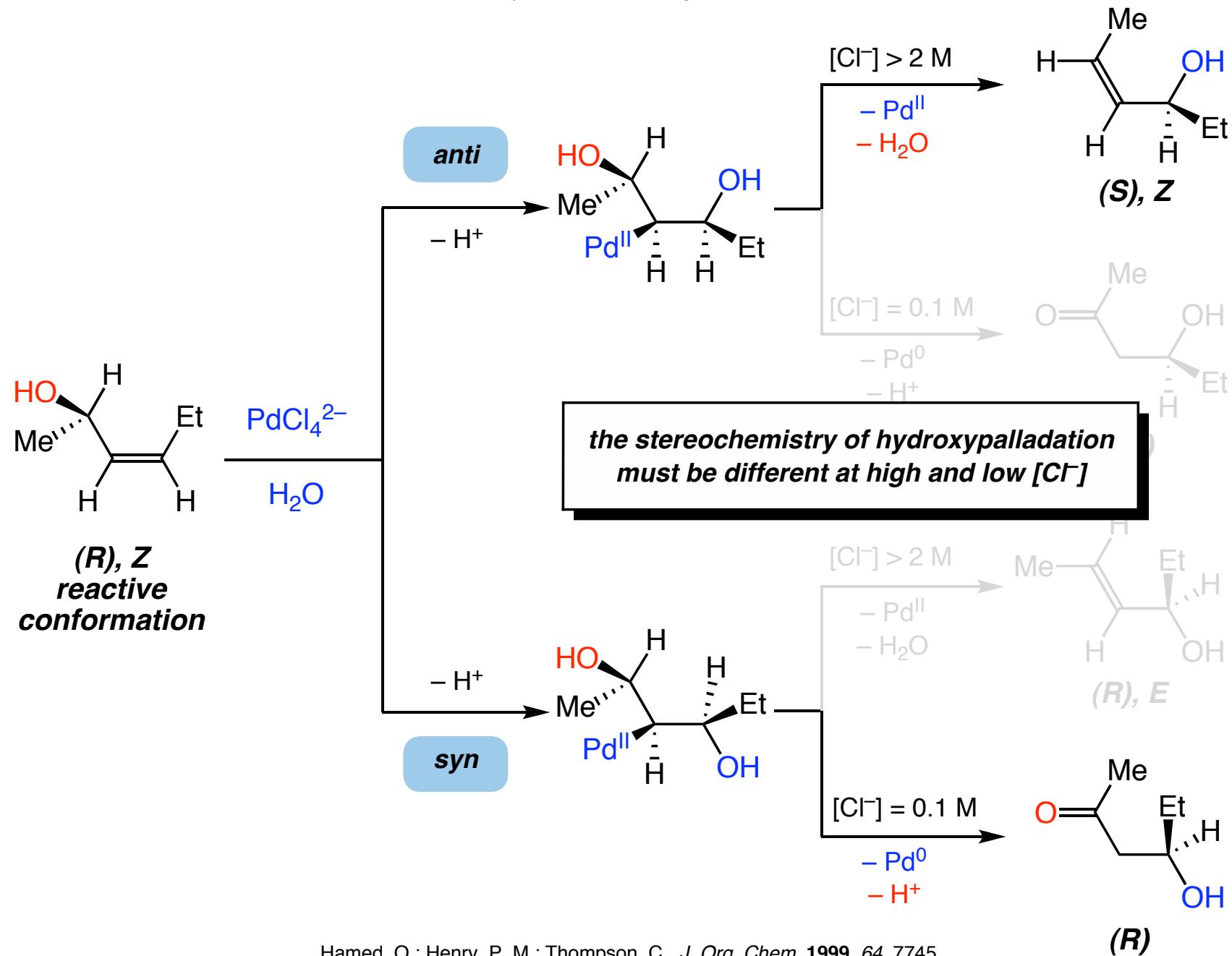
Chirality Transfer Studies



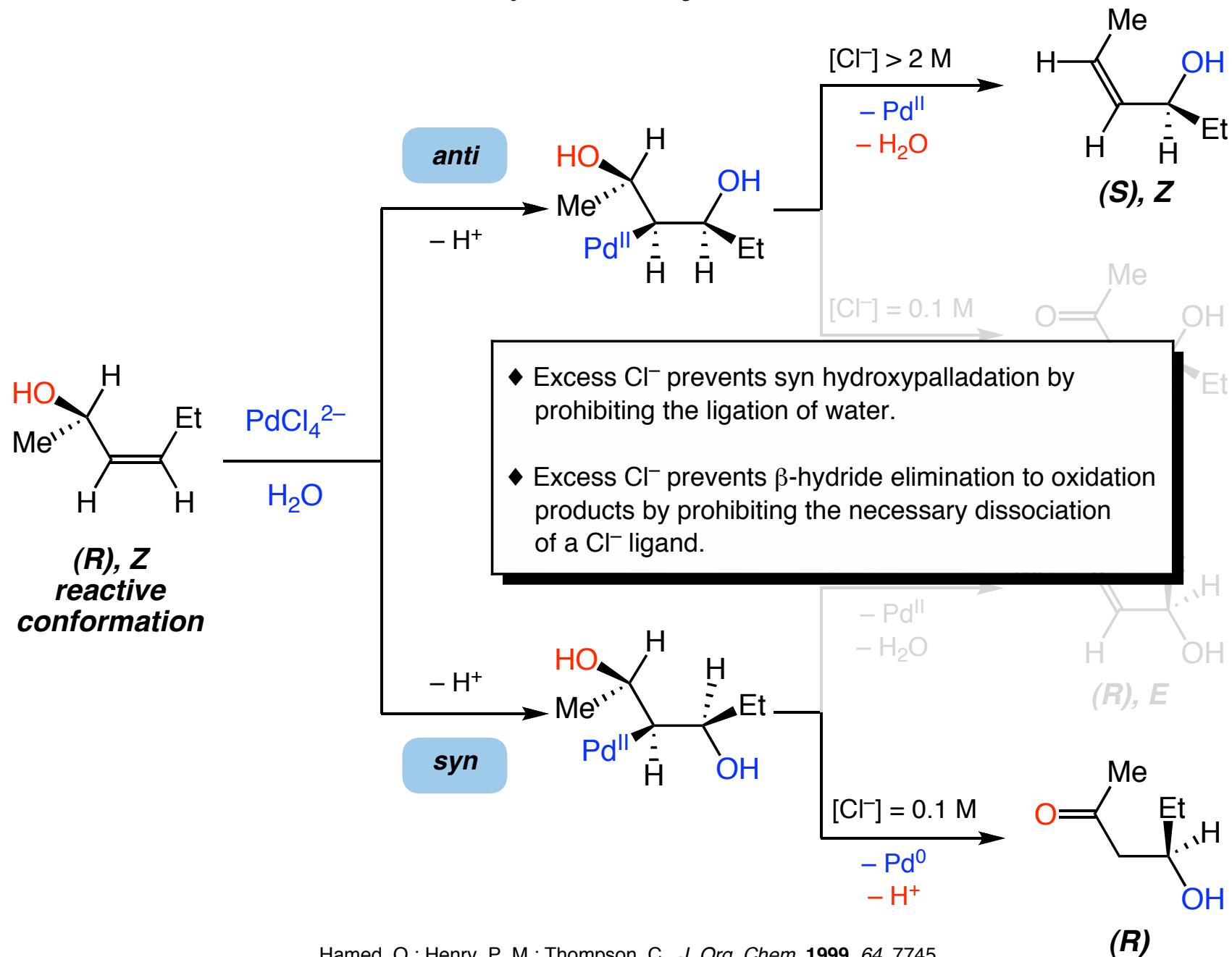
Chirality Transfer Studies



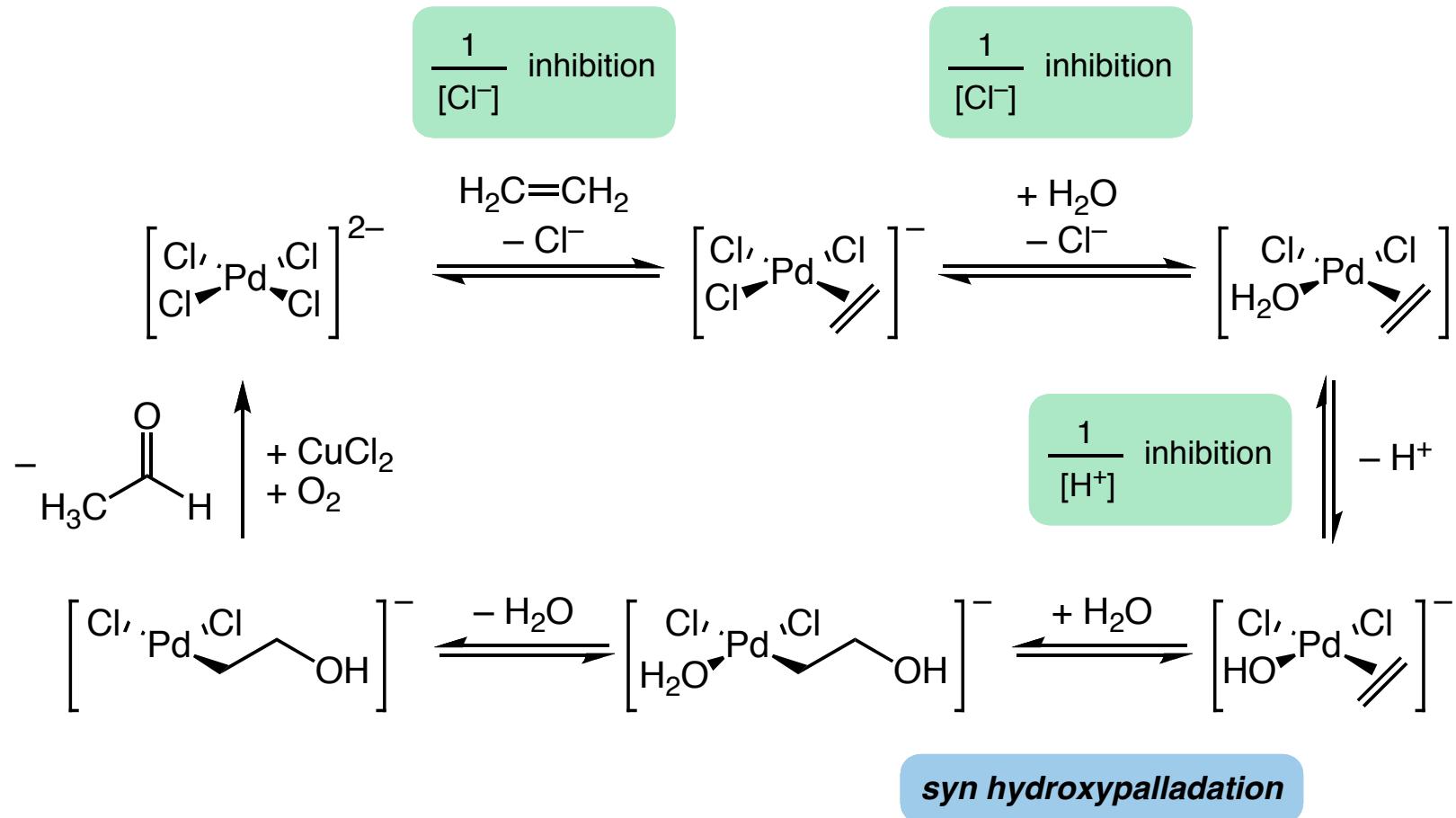
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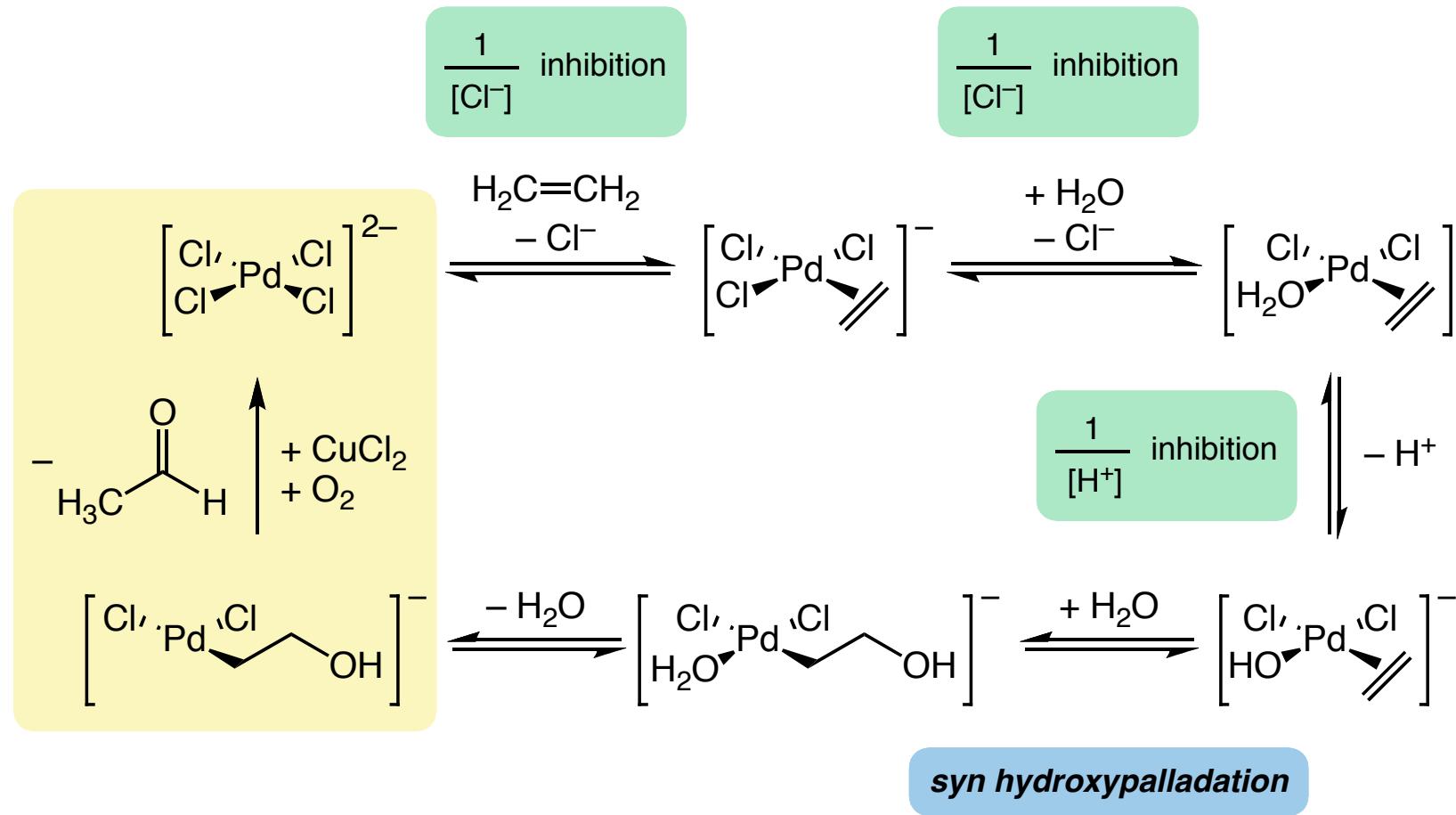
Chirality Transfer Studies



Mechanism for Oxidation of Olefins under Wacker Conditions

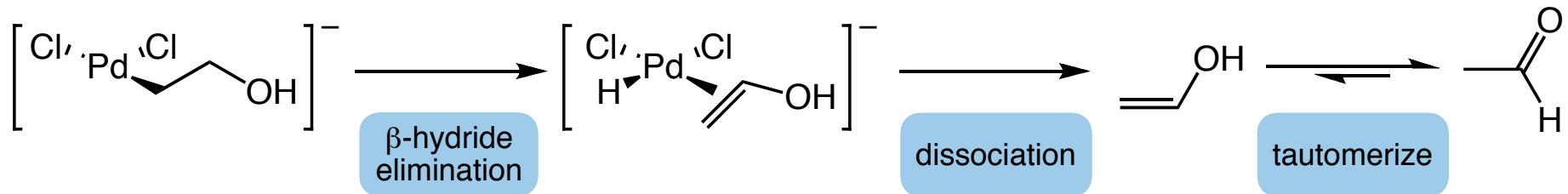


Mechanism for Oxidation of Olefins under Wacker Conditions



Mechanism for Decomposition to Oxidation Products

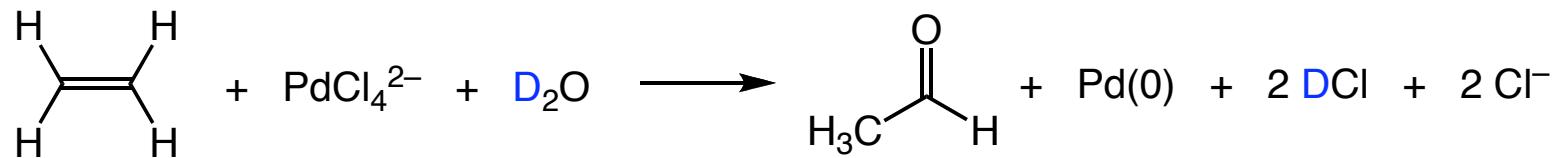
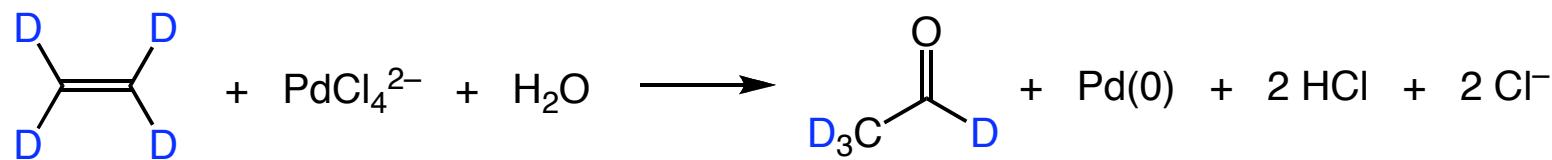
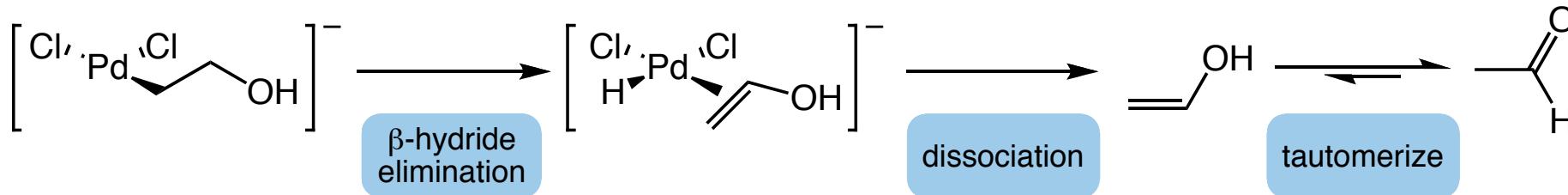
Moiseev's Mechanism:



Smidt, J.; Hafner, W.; Jira, R.; Sieber, R.; Sedlmeier, J.; Sabel, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1962**, *1*, 80. Moiseev, I. I.; Warhaftig, M. N.; Sirkin, J. H. *Doklady Akad. Nauk UdSSR* **1960**, *130*, 820. Bäckvall, J.-E.; Åkermark, B.; Ljunggren, S. O. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 2411. Henry, P. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1964**, *86*, 3246.

Mechanism for Decomposition to Oxidation Products

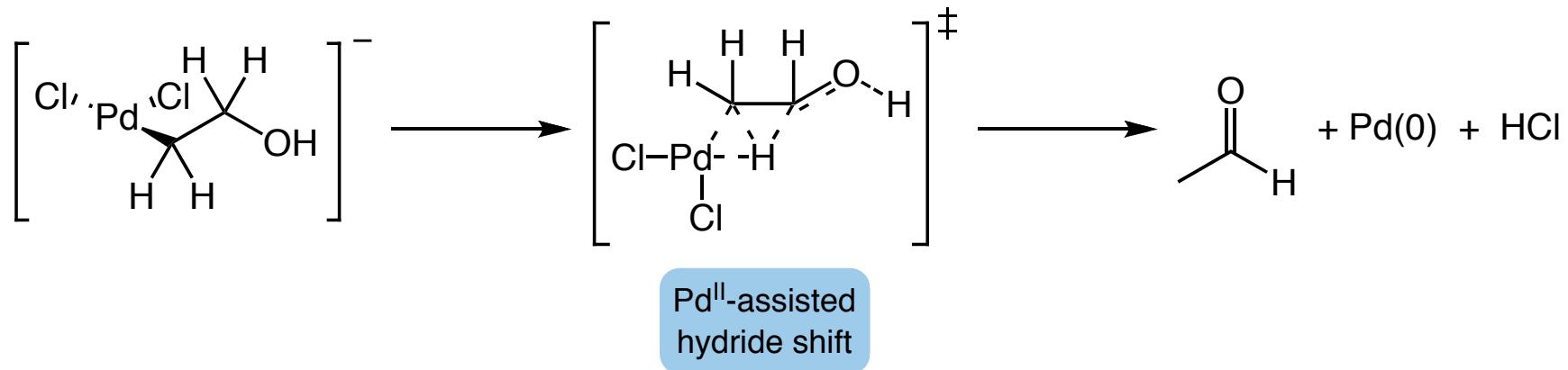
Moiseev's Mechanism:



Lack of proton incorporation from solvent means that tautomerization mechanism is invalid

Mechanism for Decomposition to Oxidation Products

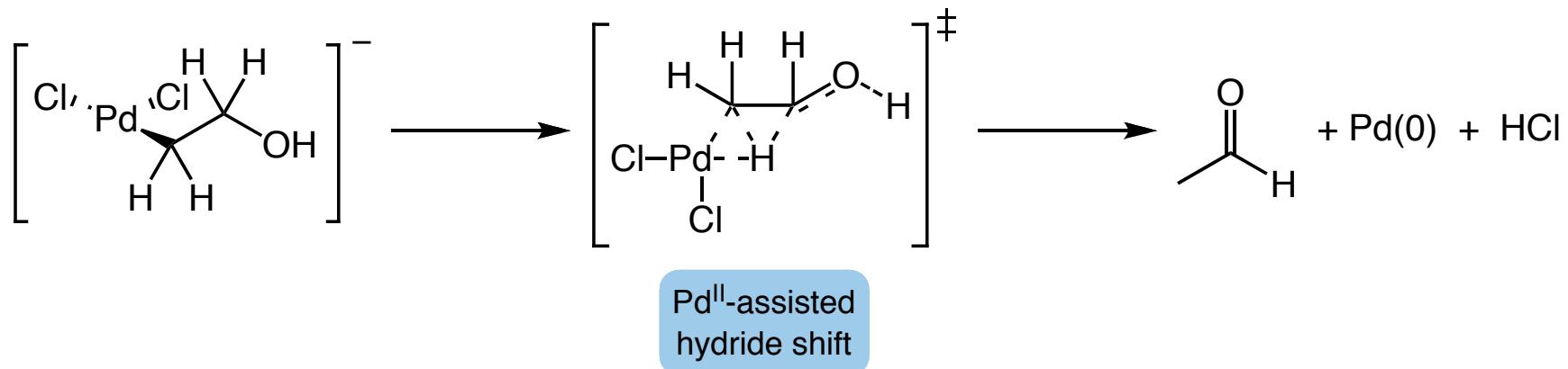
Henry's Model



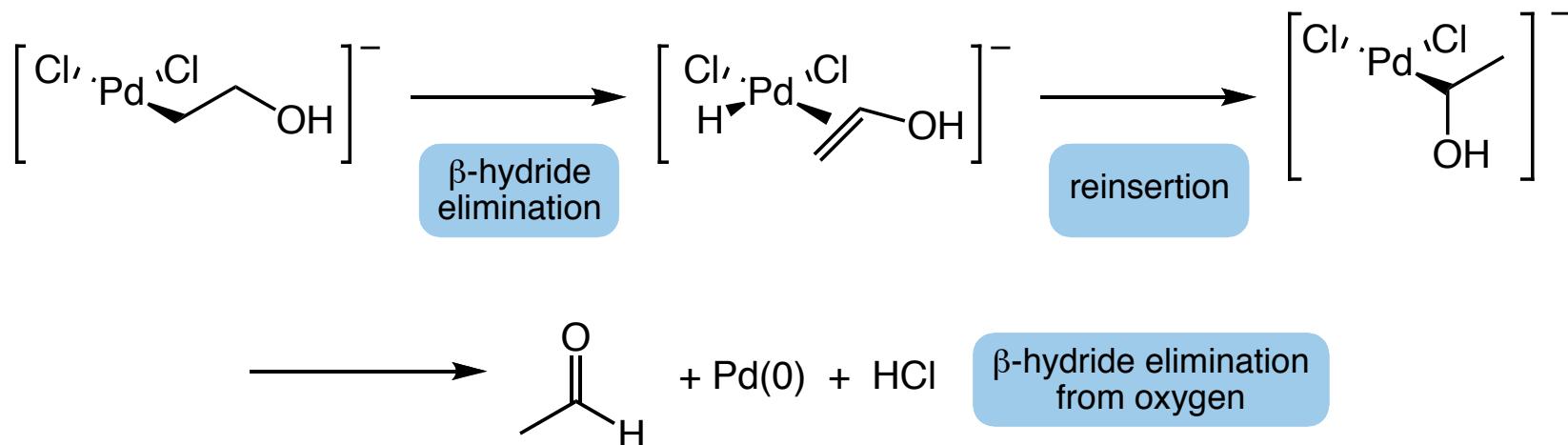
Smidt, J.; Hafner, W.; Jira, R.; Sieber, R.; Sedlmeier, J.; Sabel, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1962**, *1*, 80. Moiseev, I. I.; Warhaftig, M. N.; Sirkin, J. H. *Doklady Akad. Nauk UdSSR* **1960**, *130*, 820. Bäckvall, J.-E.; Åkermark, B.; Ljunggren, S. O. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 2411. Henry, P. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1964**, *86*, 3246.

Mechanism for Decomposition to Oxidation Products

Henry's Model



Bäckvall's Model

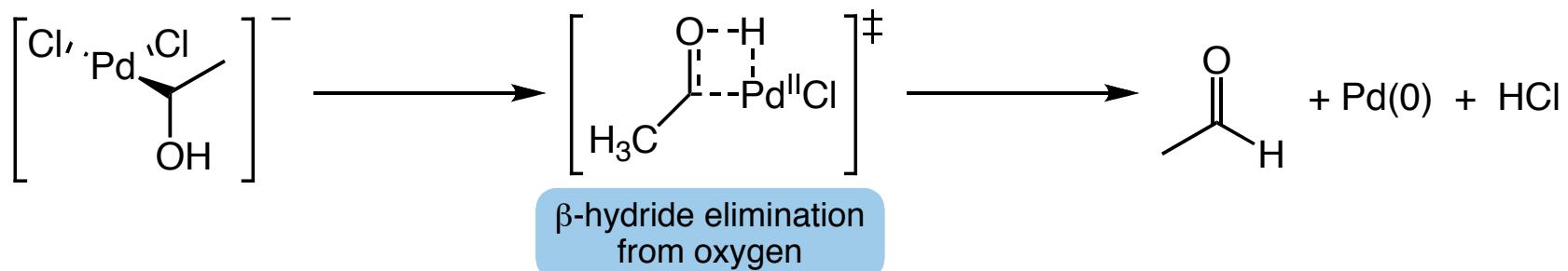


Smidt, J.; Hafner, W.; Jira, R.; Sieber, R.; Sedlmeier, J.; Sabel, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1962**, *1*, 80. Moiseev, I. I.; Warhaftig, M. N.; Sirkin, J. H. *Doklady Akad. Nauk UdSSR* **1960**, *130*, 820. Bäckvall, J.-E.; Åkermark, B.; Ljunggren, S. O. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 2411. Henry, P. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1964**, *86*, 3246.

Mechanism for Decomposition to Oxidation Products

Computational Studies

Bäckvall's Model

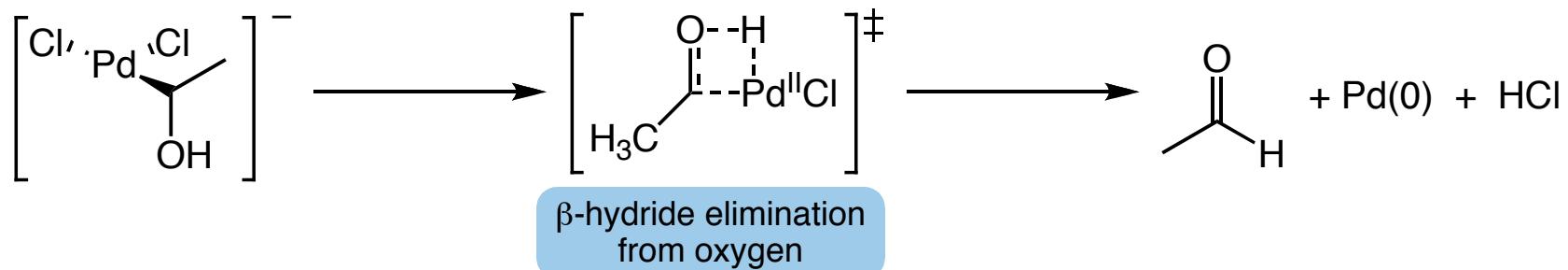


Goddard's Computations

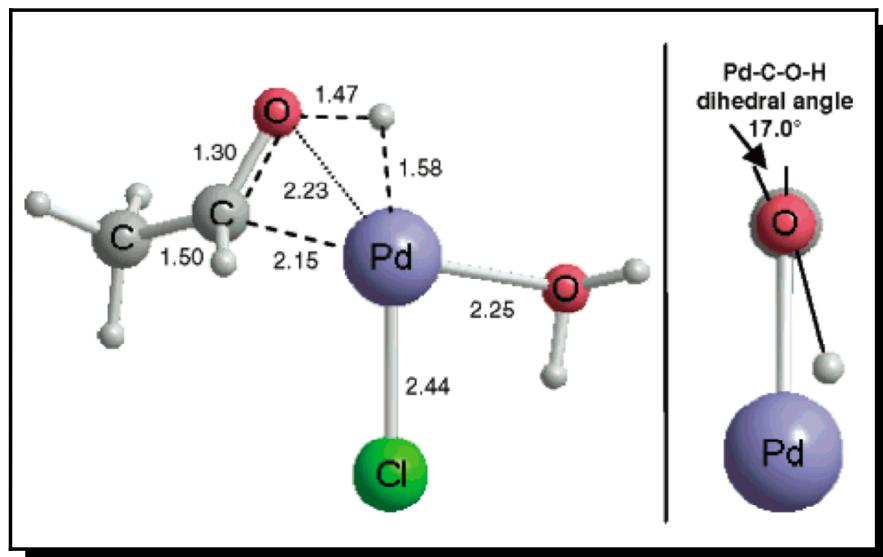
Mechanism for Decomposition to Oxidation Products

Computational Studies

Bäckvall's Model



Goddard's Computations

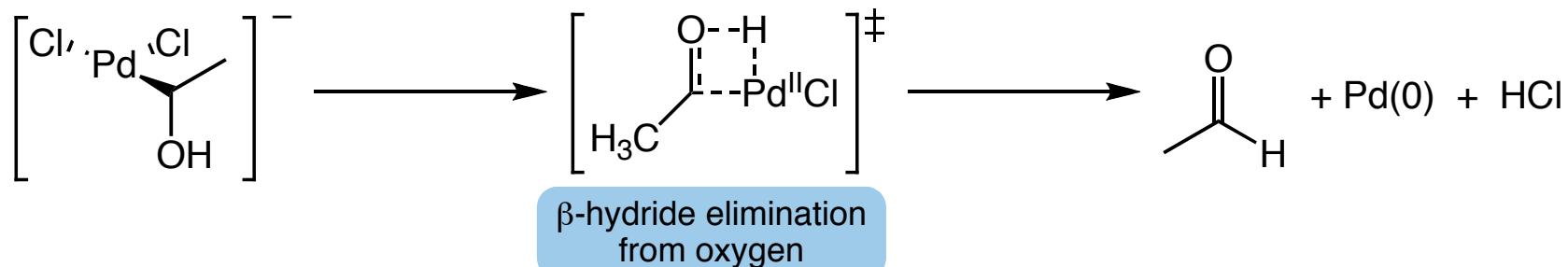


4-membered TS: 36.3 kcal/mol

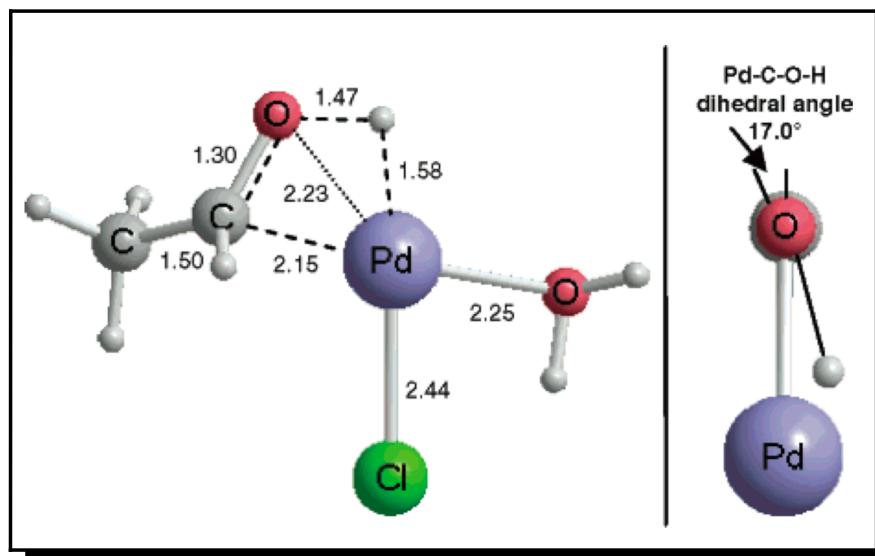
Mechanism for Decomposition to Oxidation Products

Computational Studies

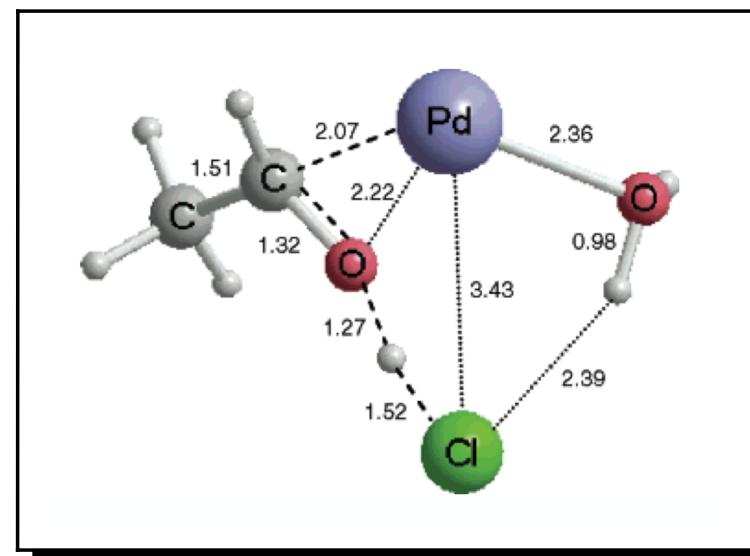
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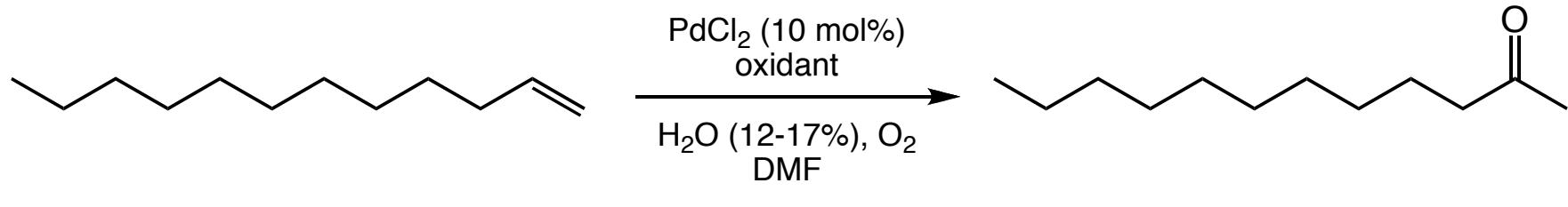


Cl-mediated reductive elimination TS: 18.7 kcal/mol

From Industrial Process to Synthetic Method

Preparations of Methyl Ketones from Terminal Olefins

Clement, 1964:

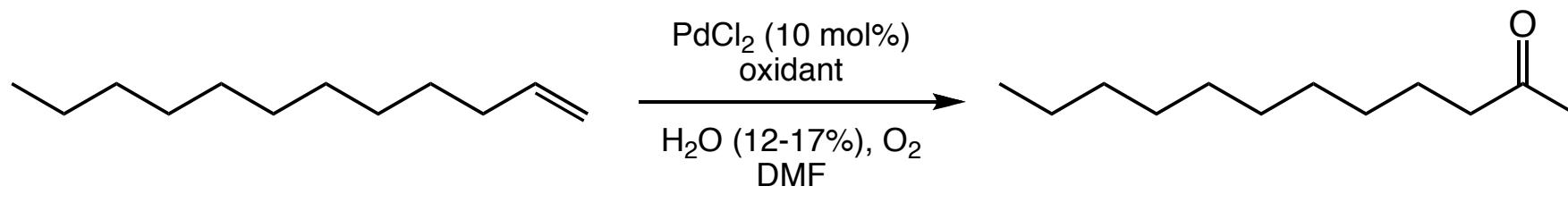


oxidant = $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (10 mol%) or *p*-benzoquinone

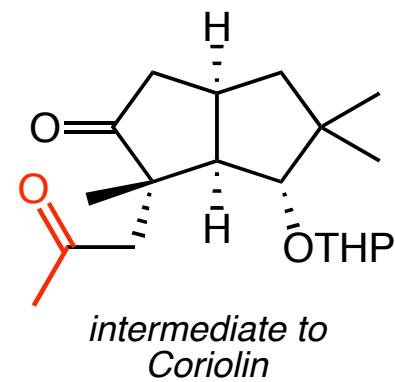
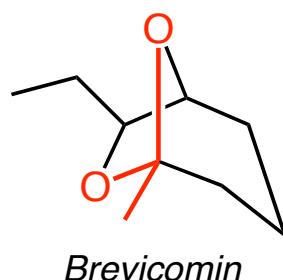
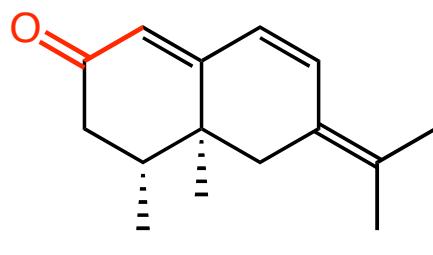
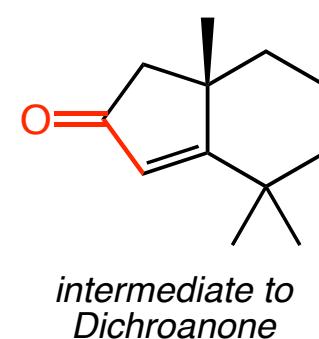
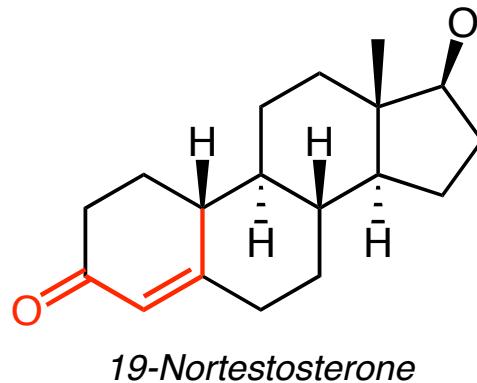
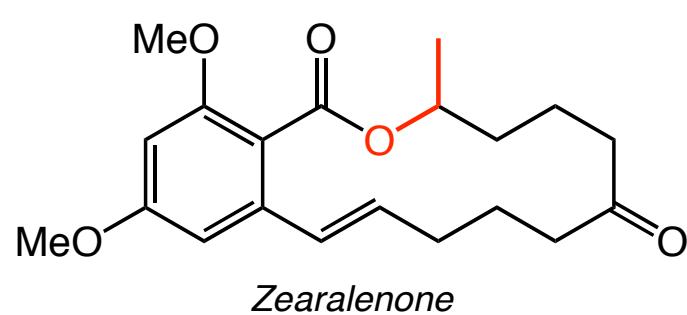
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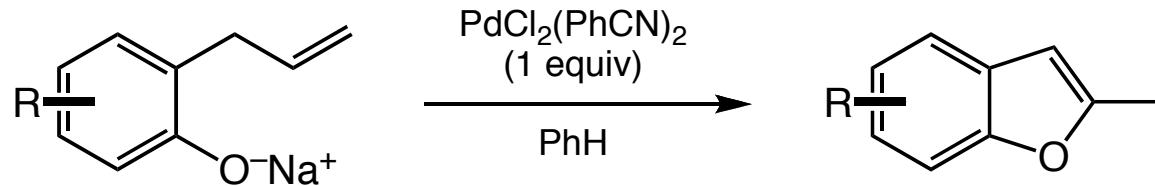
oxidant = $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (10 mol%) or *p*-benzoquinone



From Industrial Process to Synthetic Method

Oxidative Cyclizations Give Access to Heterocyclic Compounds

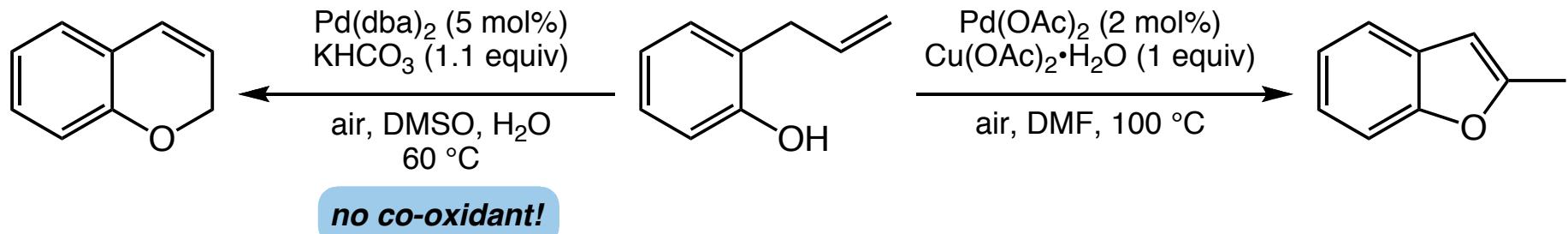
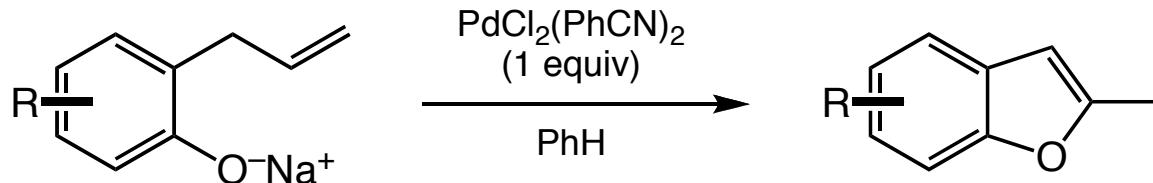
Moritani, 1973:



From Industrial Process to Synthetic Method

Oxidative Cyclizations Give Access to Heterocyclic Compounds

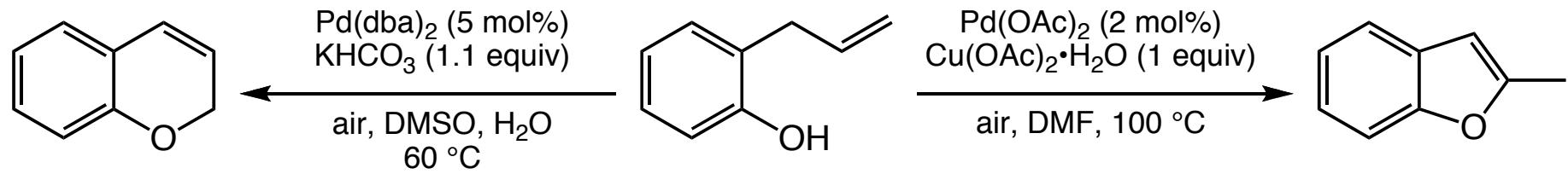
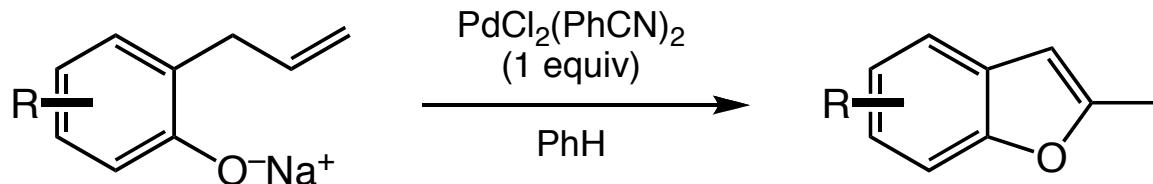
Moritani, 1973:



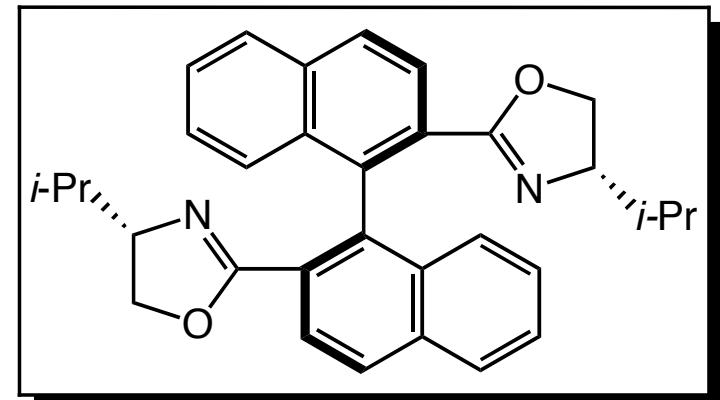
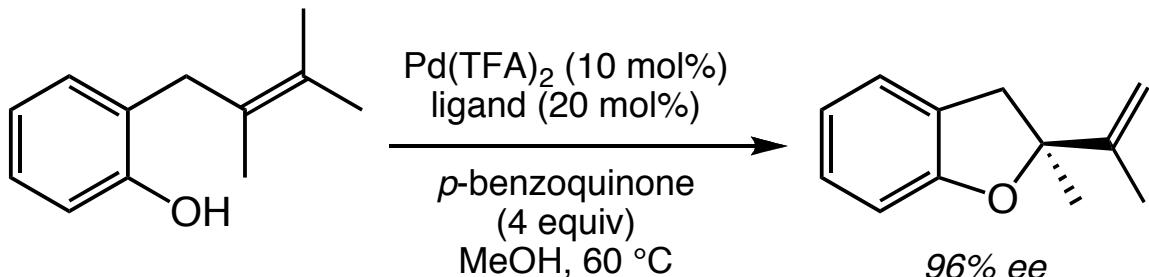
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Oxidative Cyclizations Give Access to Heterocyclic Compounds

Moritani, 1973:

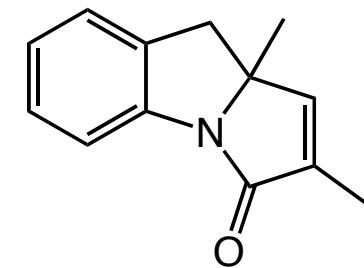
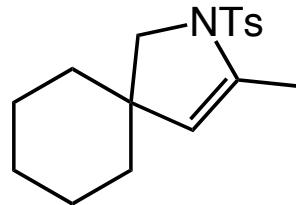
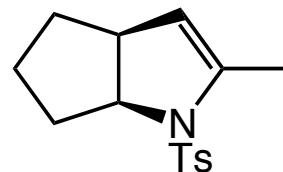
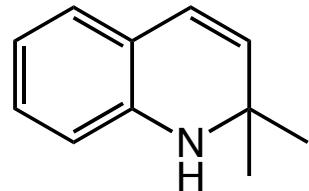
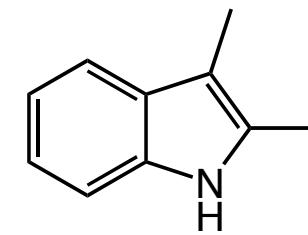
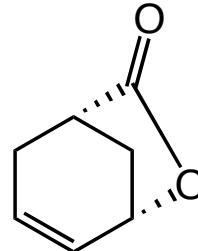
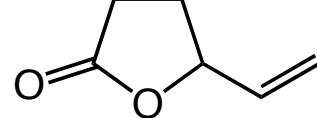
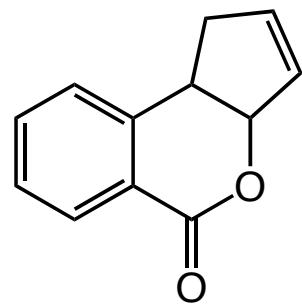
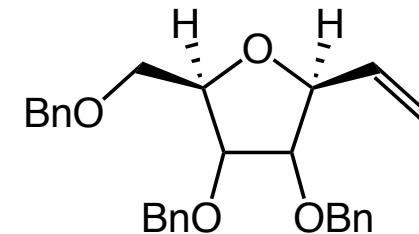
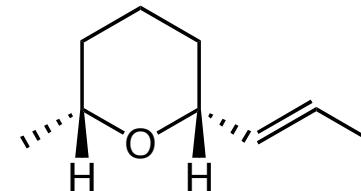
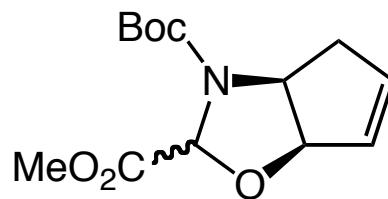
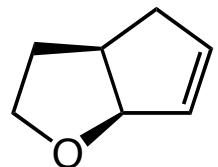


no co-oxidant!

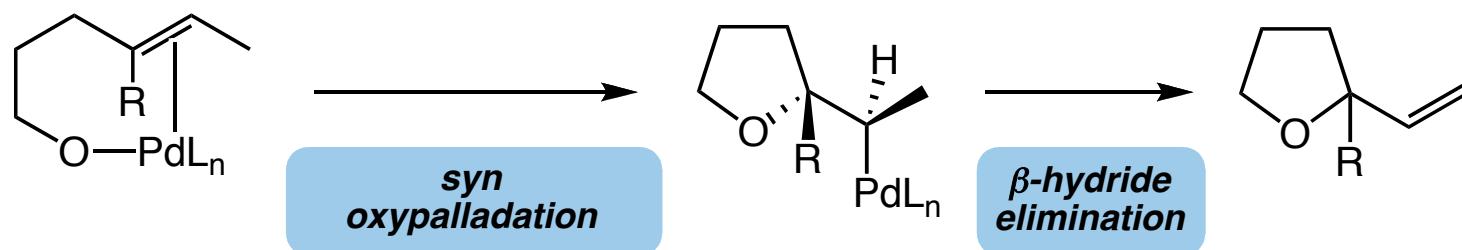
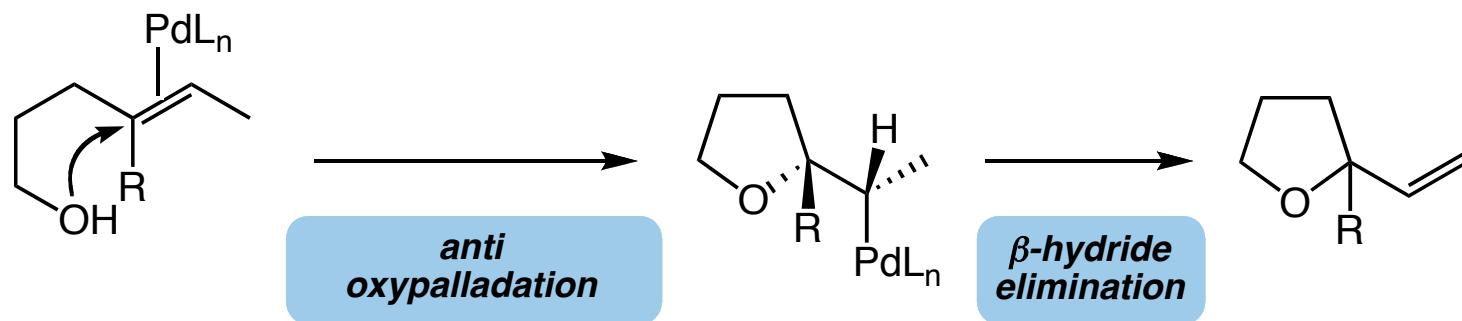


From Industrial Process to Synthetic Method

Oxidative Cyclizations Give Access to Heterocyclic Compounds

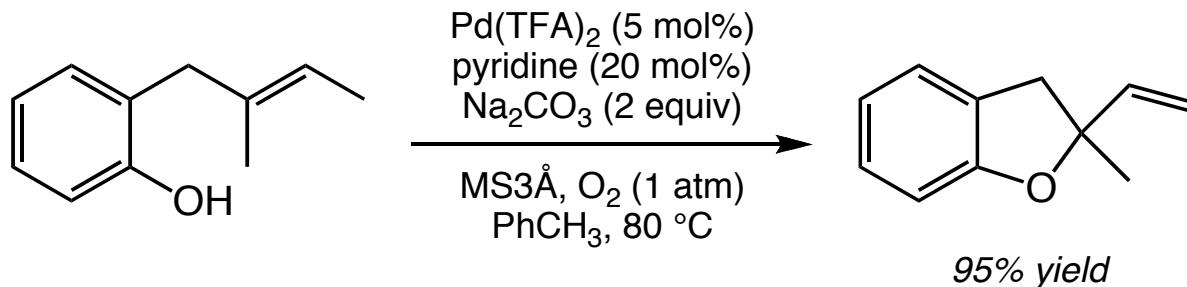


Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations



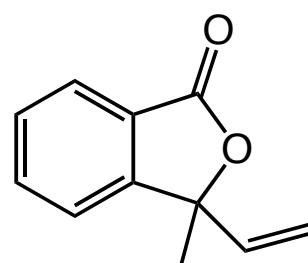
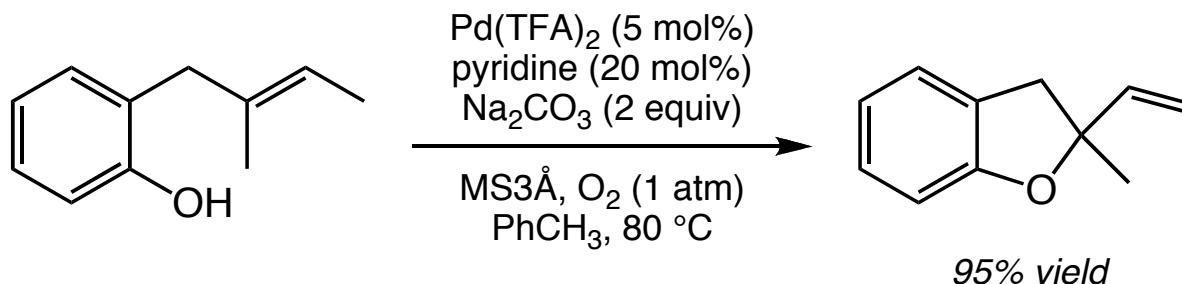
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

Stoltz Group Studies

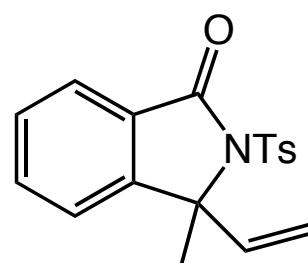


Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

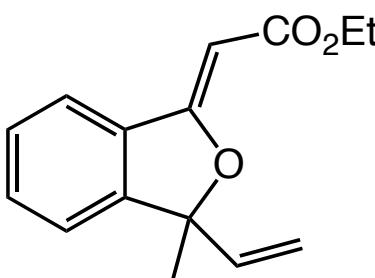
Stoltz Group Studies



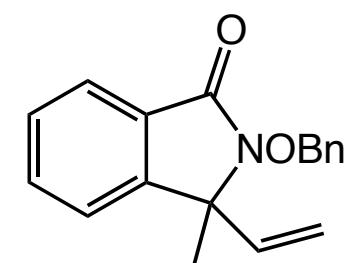
90% yield



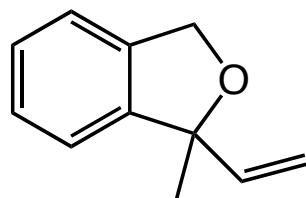
88% yield



63% yield



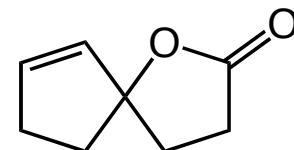
82% yield



87% yield



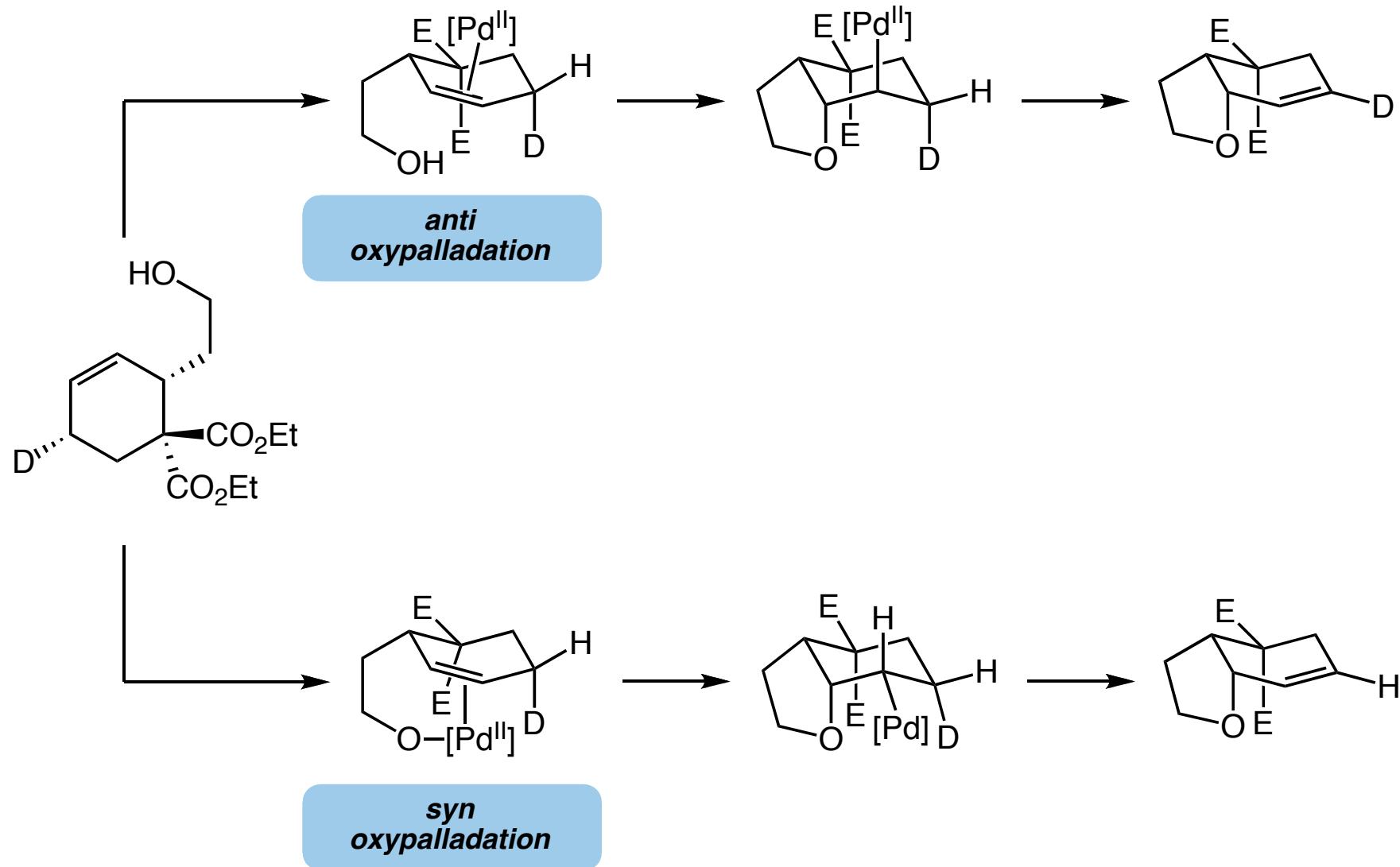
93% yield



62% yield

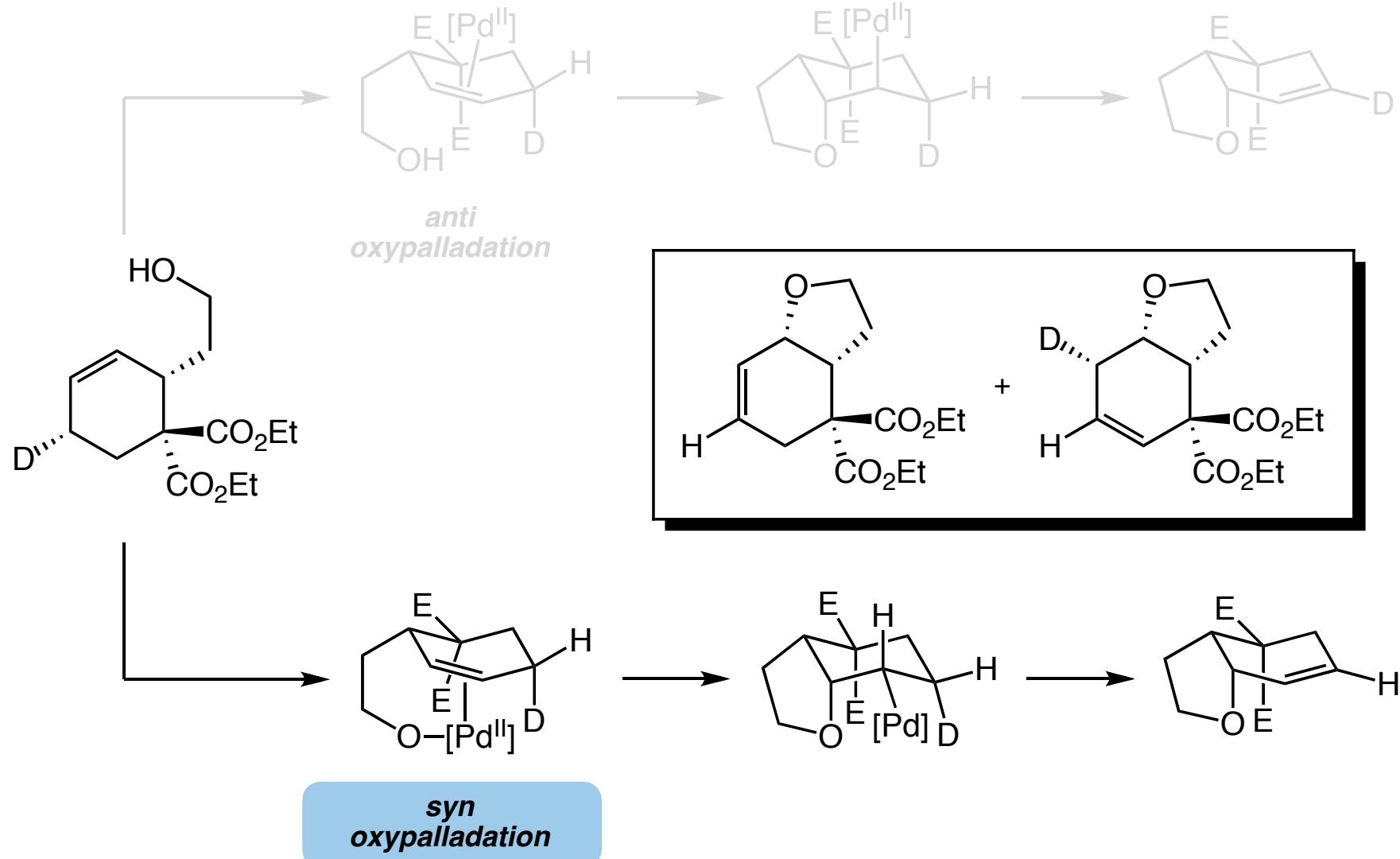
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

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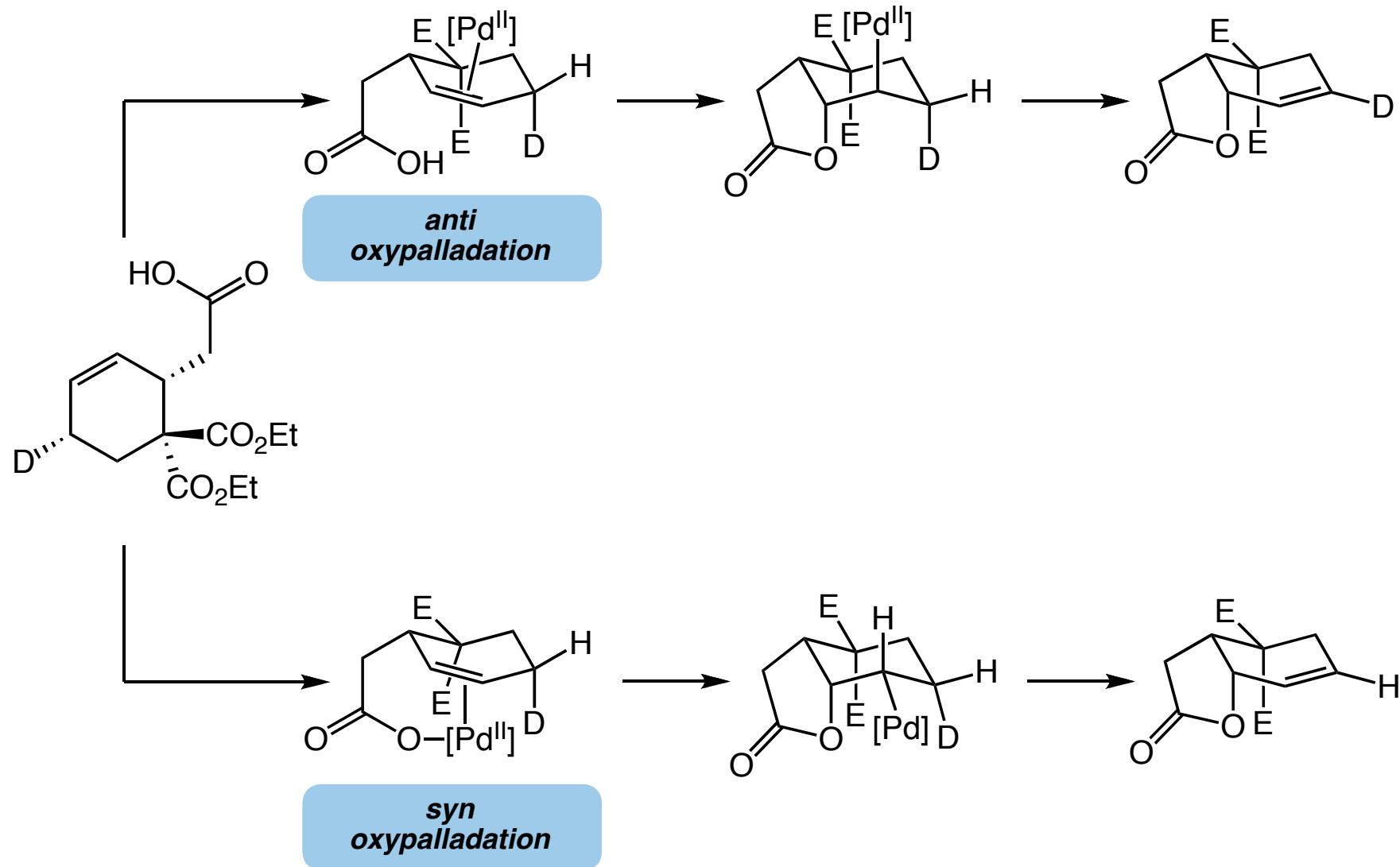
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

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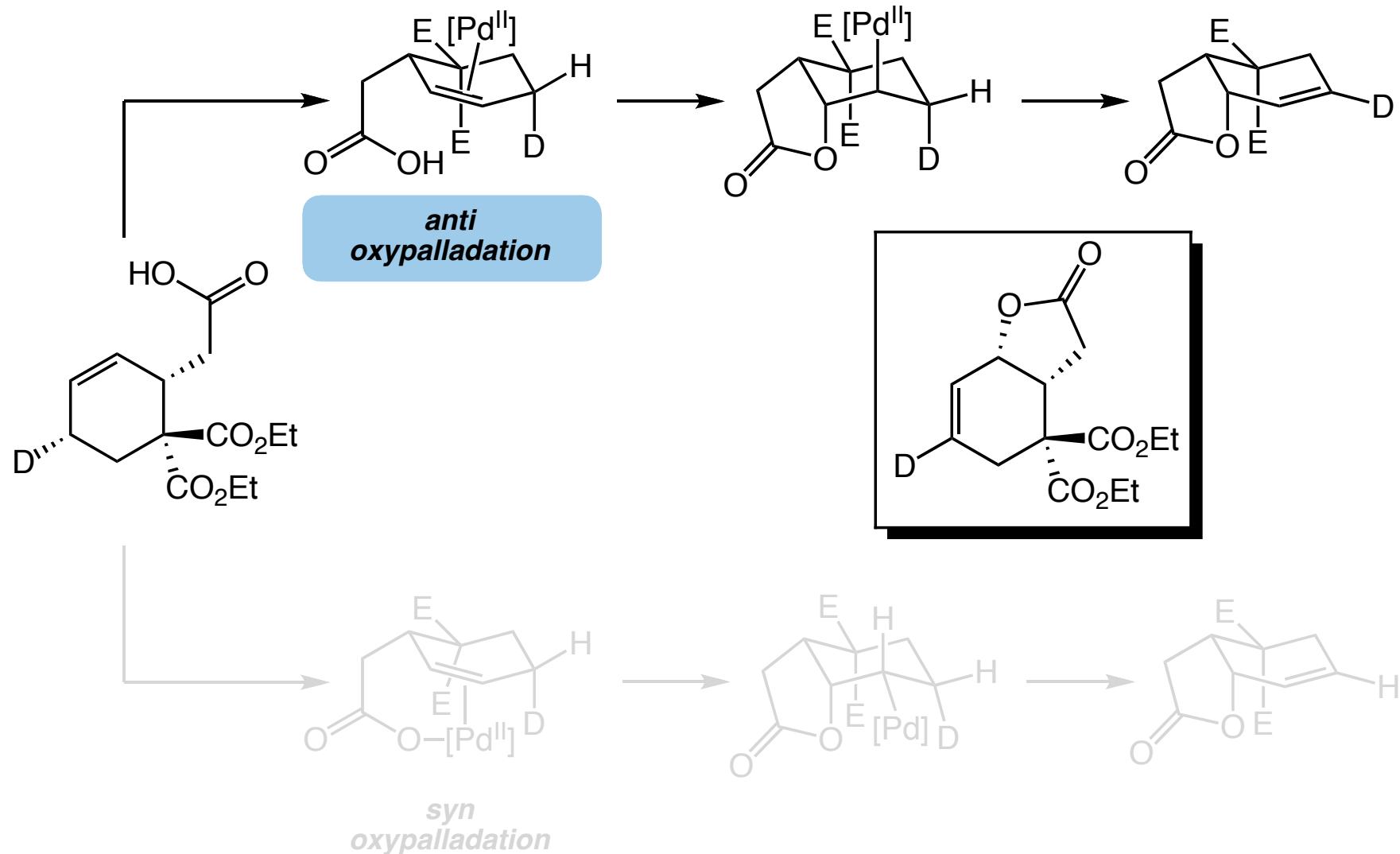
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

Stoltz Group Studies



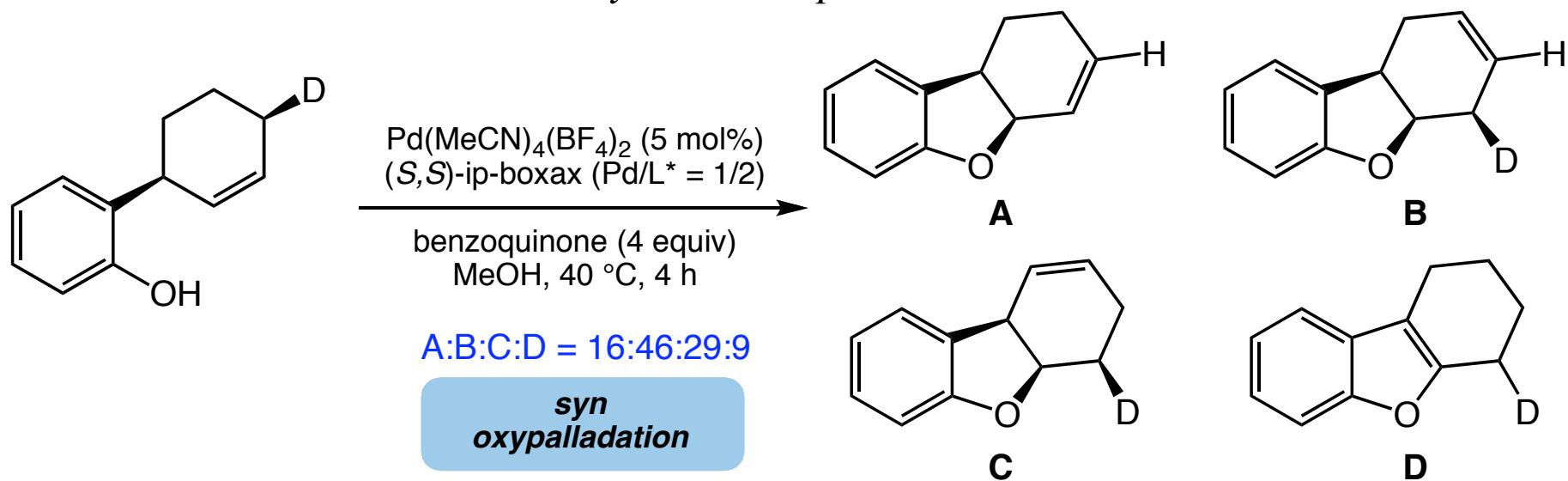
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

Stoltz Group Studies



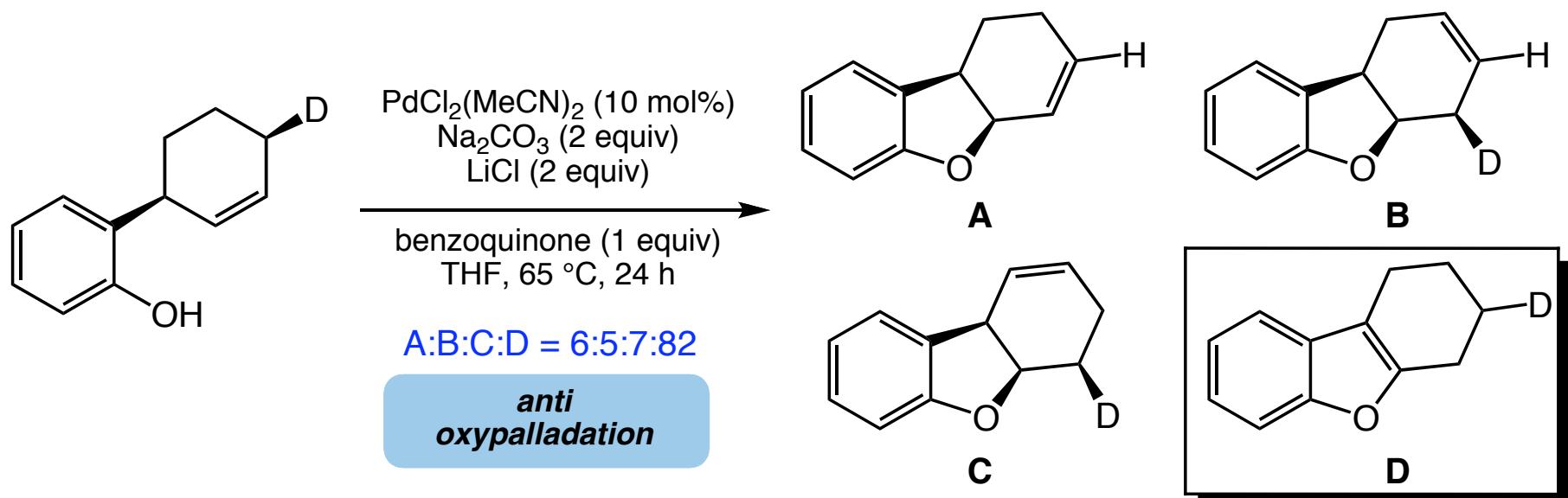
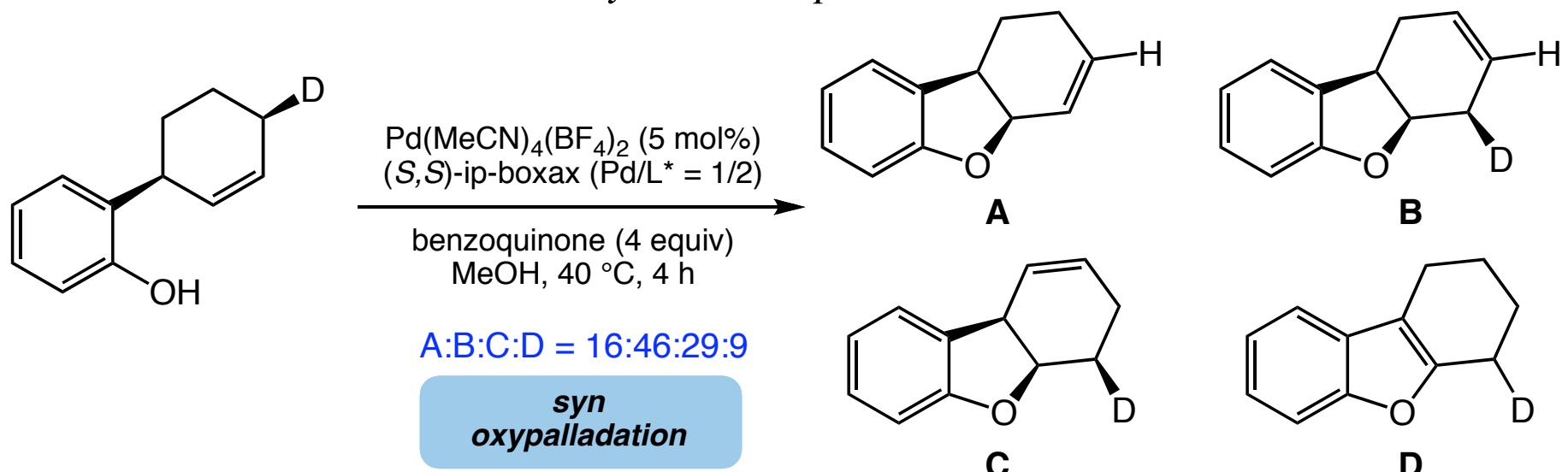
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

Hayashi Group Studies



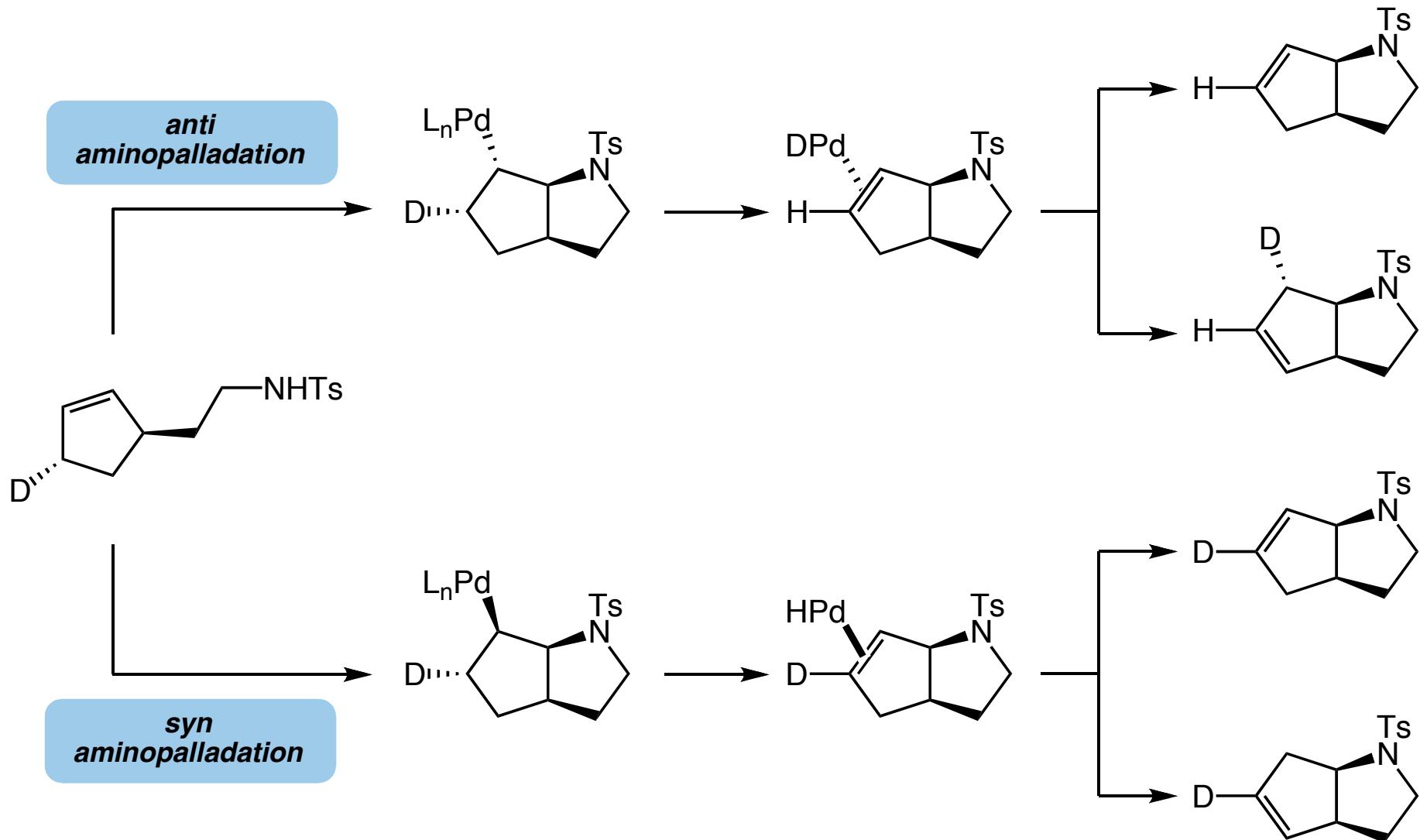
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

Hayashi Group Studies



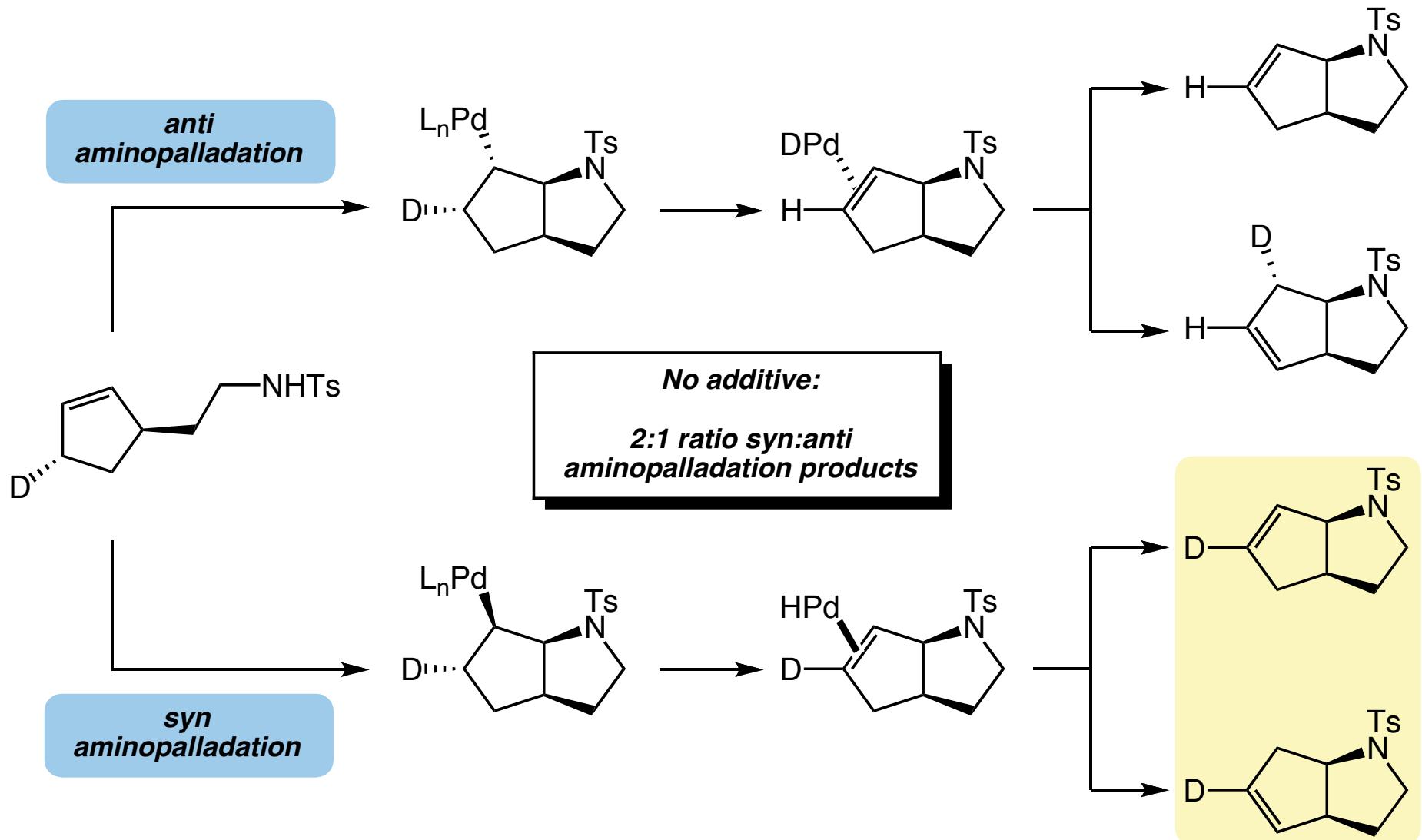
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

Stahl Group Studies



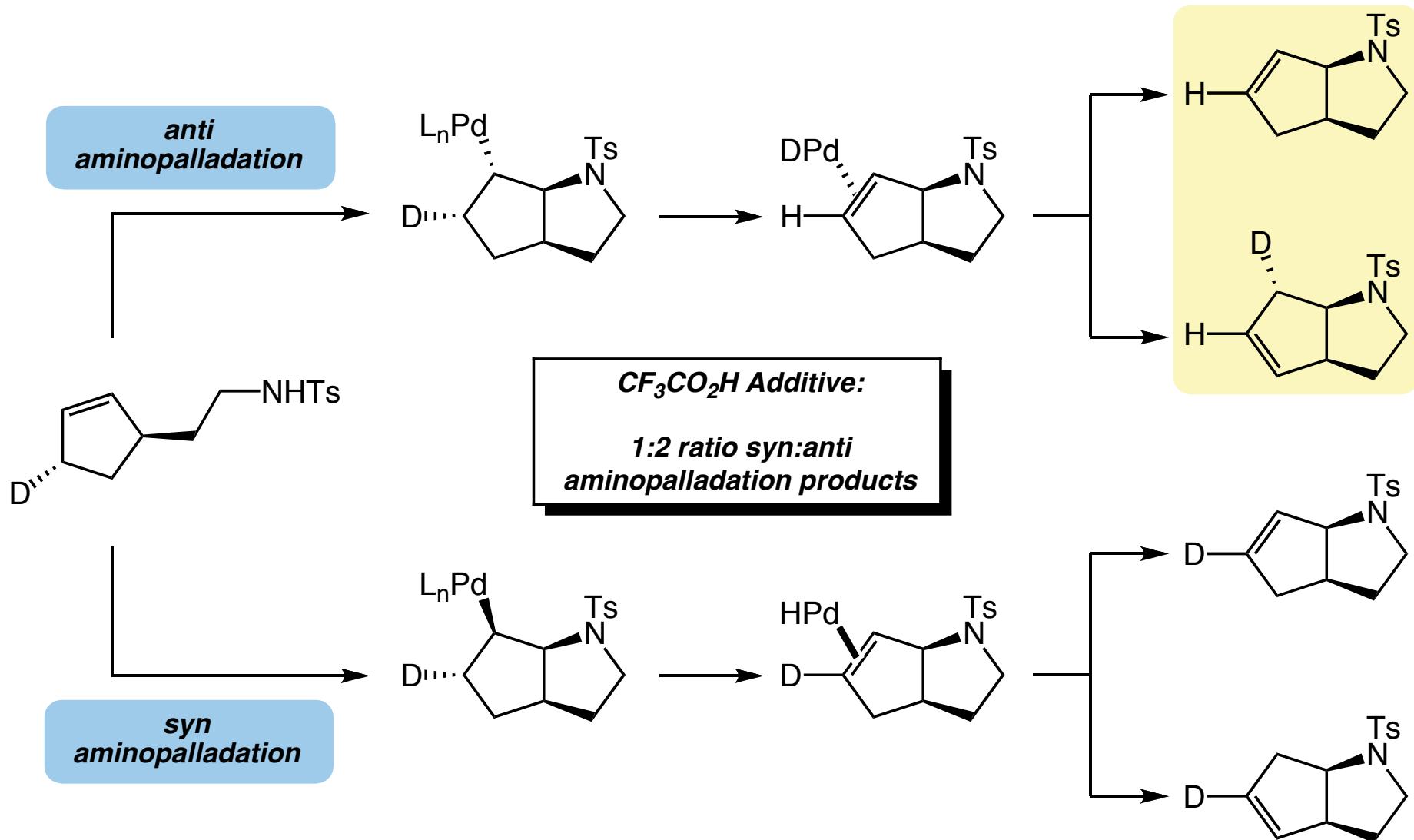
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

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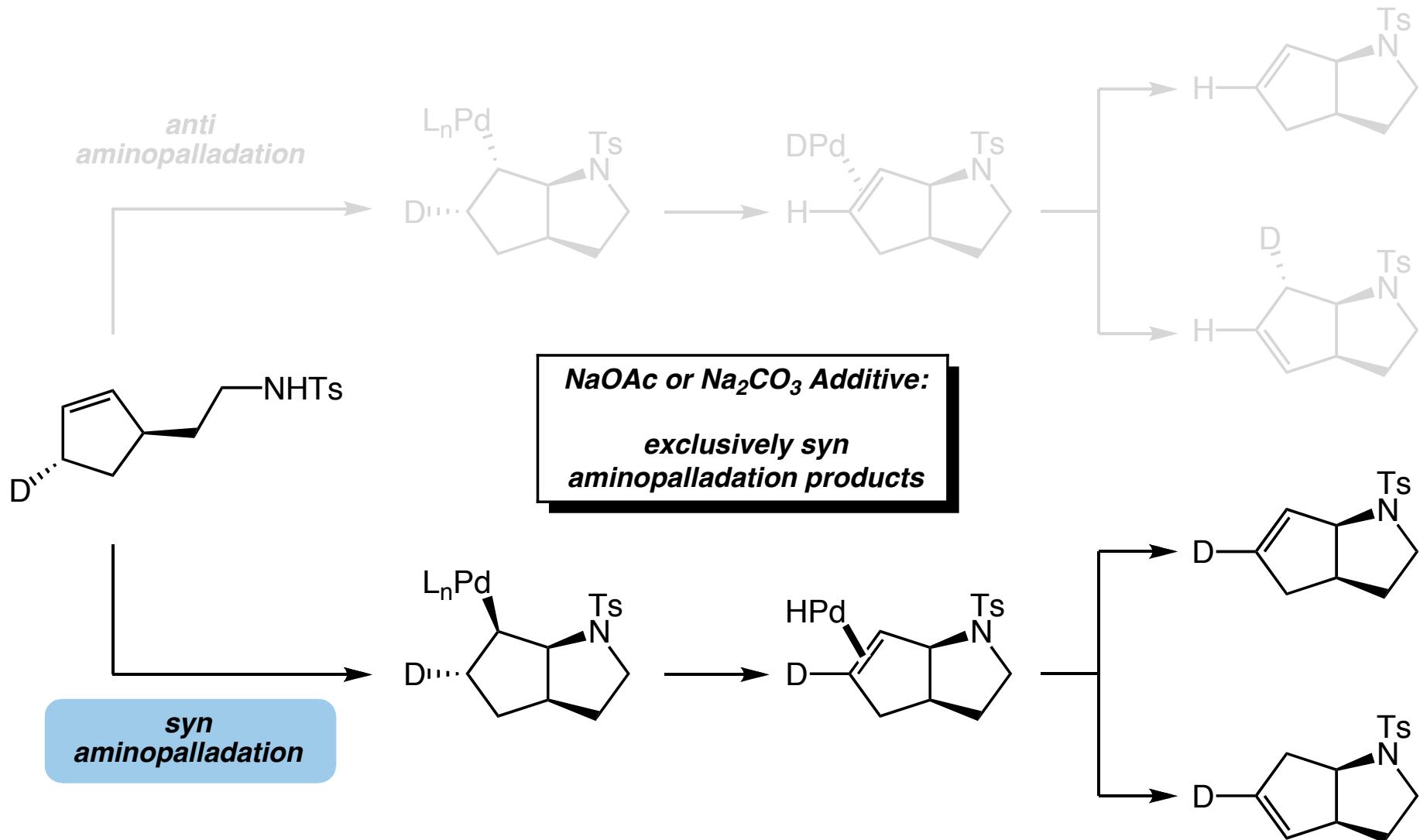
Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

Stahl Group Studies

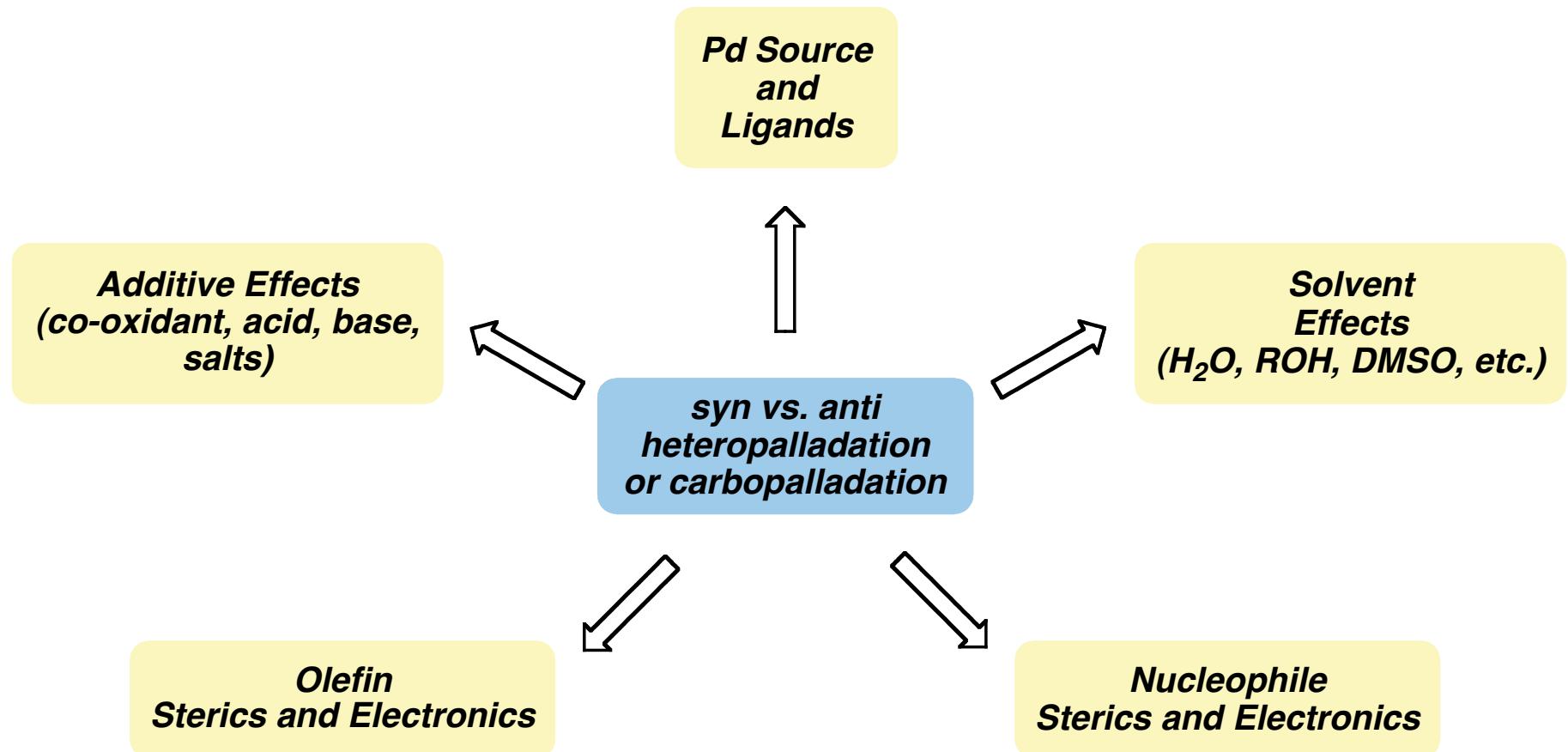


Stereochemistry of Oxidative Cyclizations

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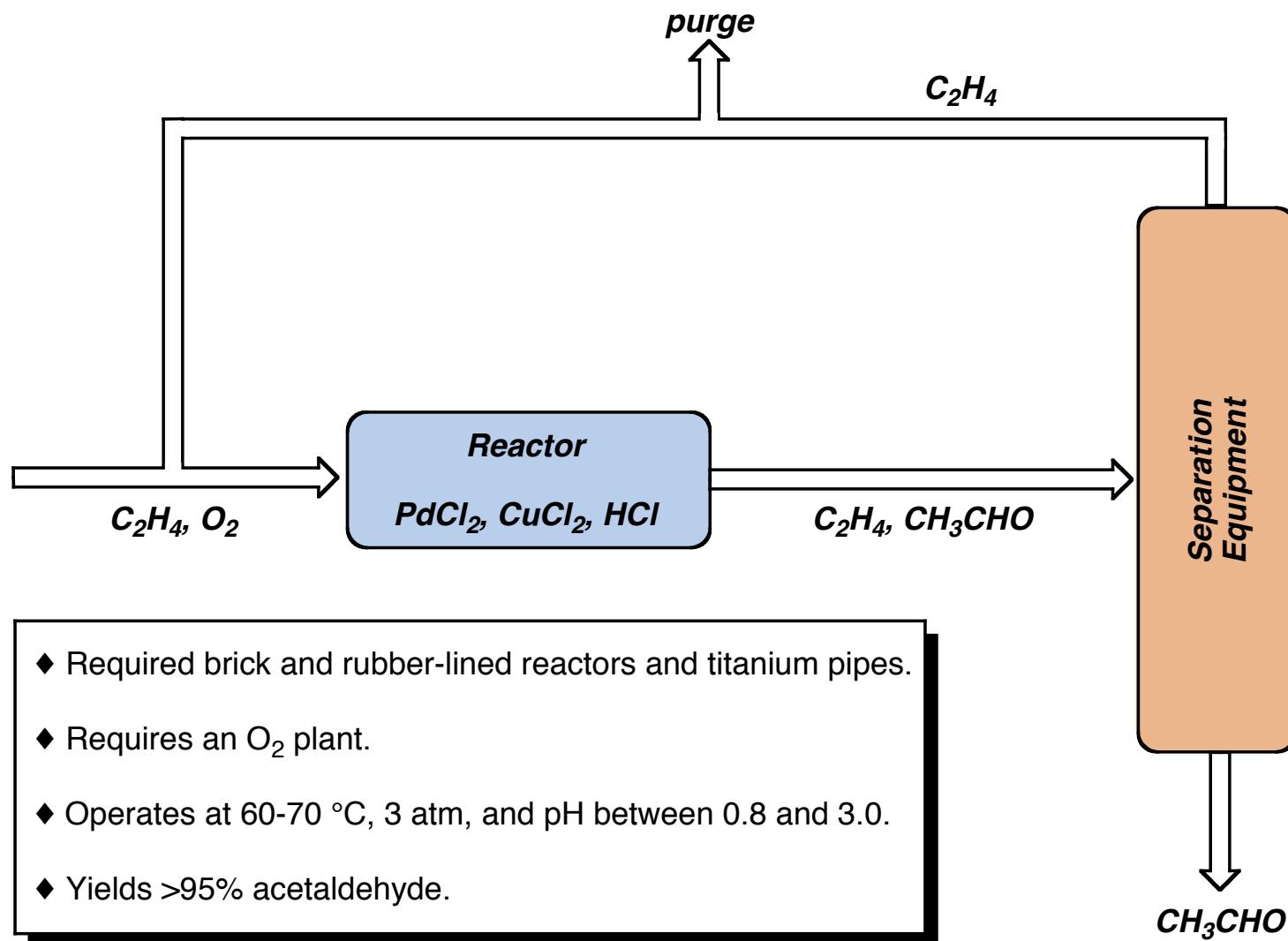


Conclusions



The Wacker Oxidation

One-Stage Process



*The Wacker Oxidation**Two-Stage Process*

- ◆ Required brick and rubber-lined reactors and titanium pipes.
- ◆ Uses ambient air as O₂ source and impure mixtures of ethylene.
- ◆ Operates at 90-100 °C, 10 atm.
- ◆ Yields >95% acetaldehyde.

