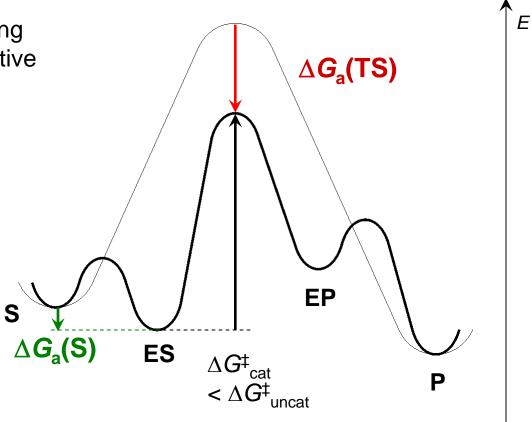
Enthalpic Catalysis: Specific Interactions with Transition States

More common:

Catalyst stabilizes rate-determining transition state with specific, positive interactions.

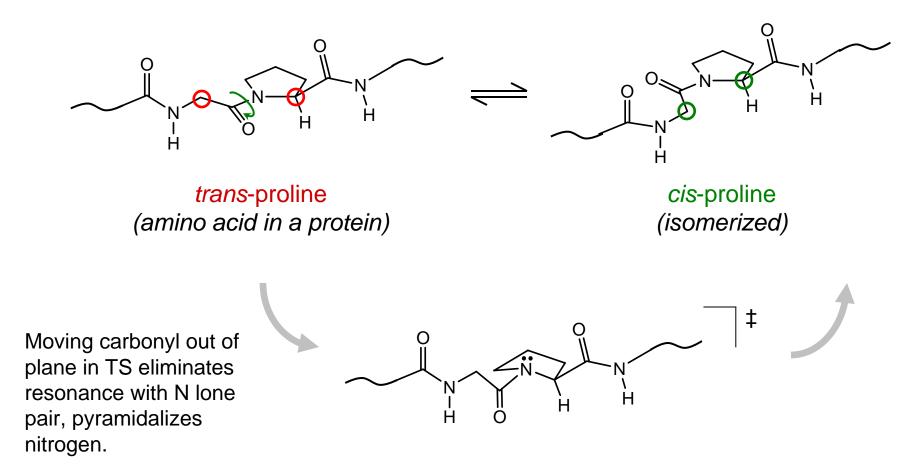


reaction coordinate

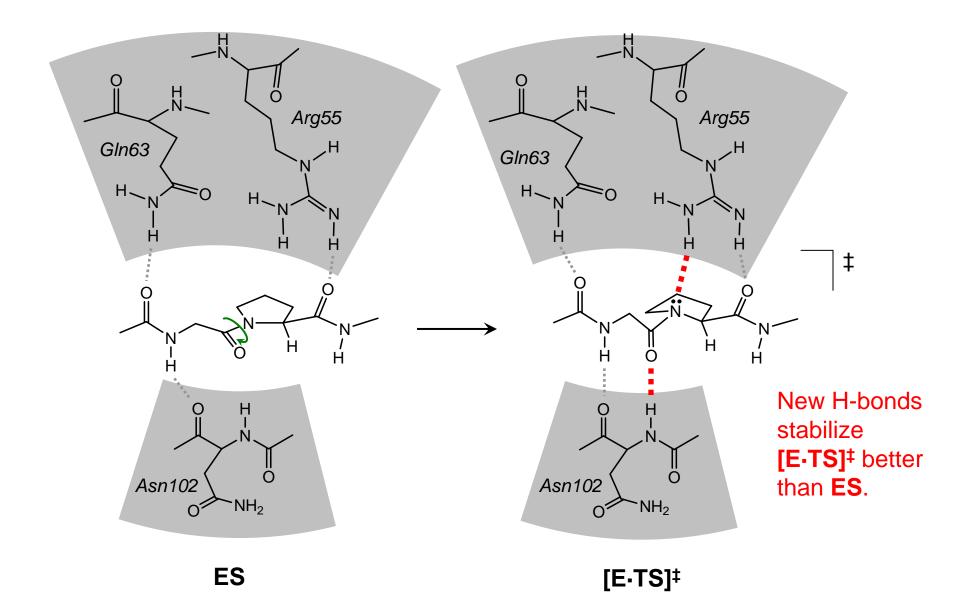
Enthalpic Catalysis: Specific Interactions with Transition States

Catalysts can stabilize existing transition state.

Example: cyclophilin A (a proline isomerase)

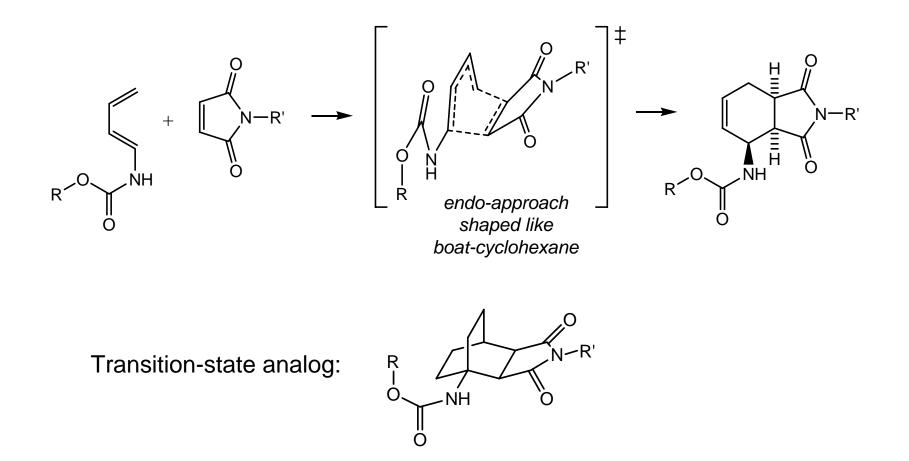


Enthalpic Catalysis: Cyclophilin A

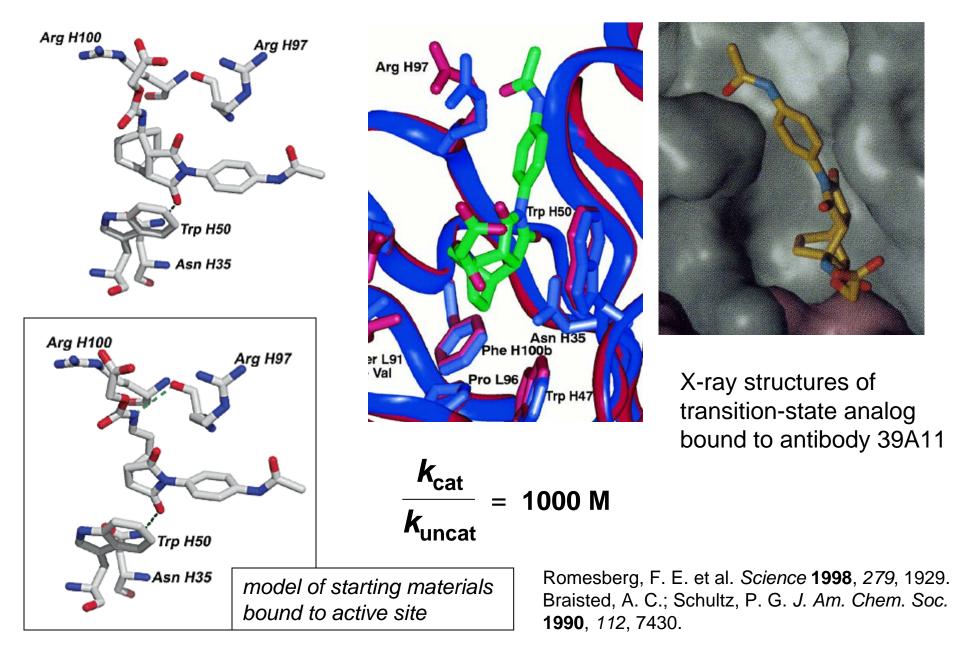


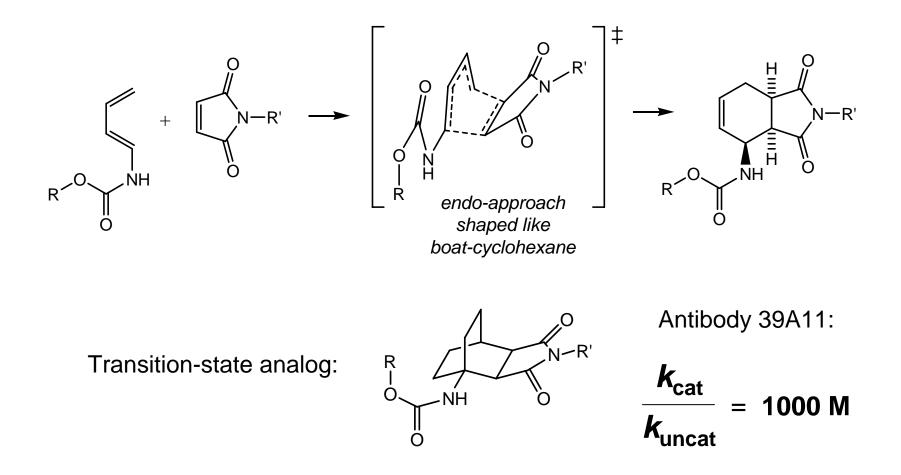
Eisenmesser, E. Z.; Bosco, D. A.; Akke, M.; Kern, D. Science 2002, 295, 1520-1523.

- In principle, anything that binds a transition state extremely well might be a good catalyst.
- But...we don't know exactly what transition states look like, so it's difficult to design catalysts.
- An alternative: Synthesize molecules that look like transition states, and find things that bind them well. These should be good catalysts.
- Antibodies bind antigens (foreign substances) really well.
- *Strategy:* Inoculate organisms* with transition-state analogs. When one shows immune response, isolate antibodies that bind analog. These antibodies should be great catalysts.



Hypothesis: Antibodies that bind this molecule should be good catalysts.



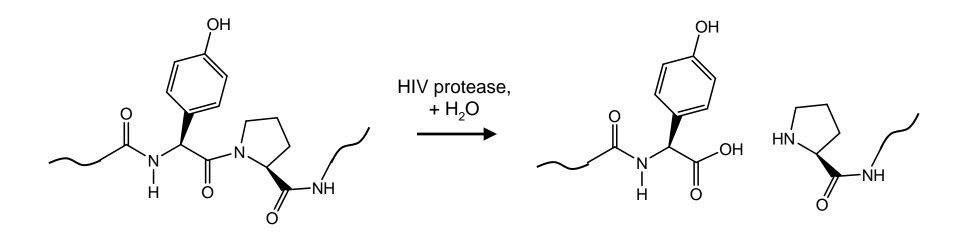


Conclusion: Antibodies that bind transition-state analogs are (sometimes) good catalysts.

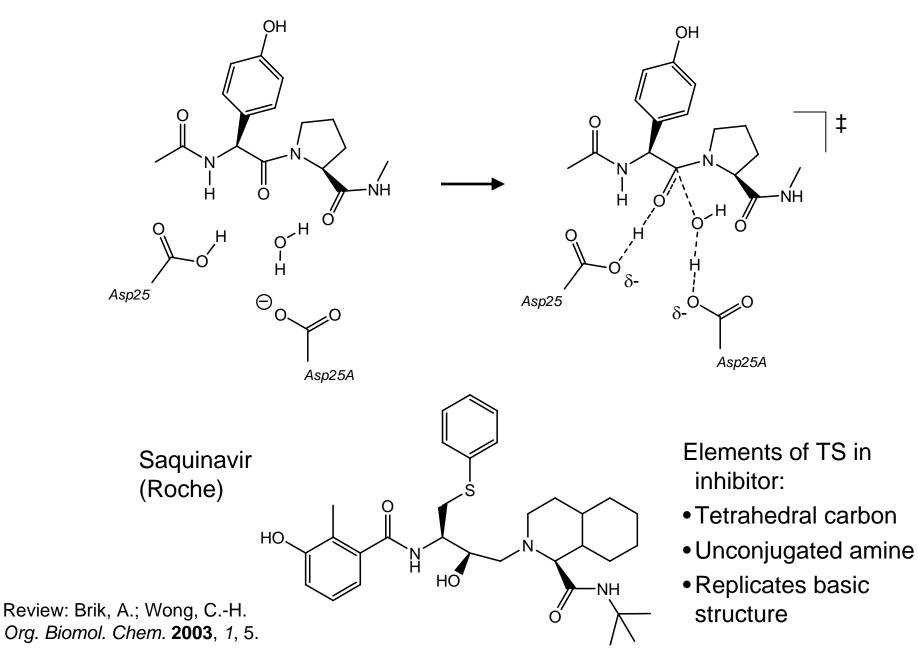
Transition-State Analogs as Enzyme Inhibitors

If catalysts (enzymes) have evolved to bind to a transition state, the best binders should be molecules that look like that transition state.

Example: HIV protease inhibitors.



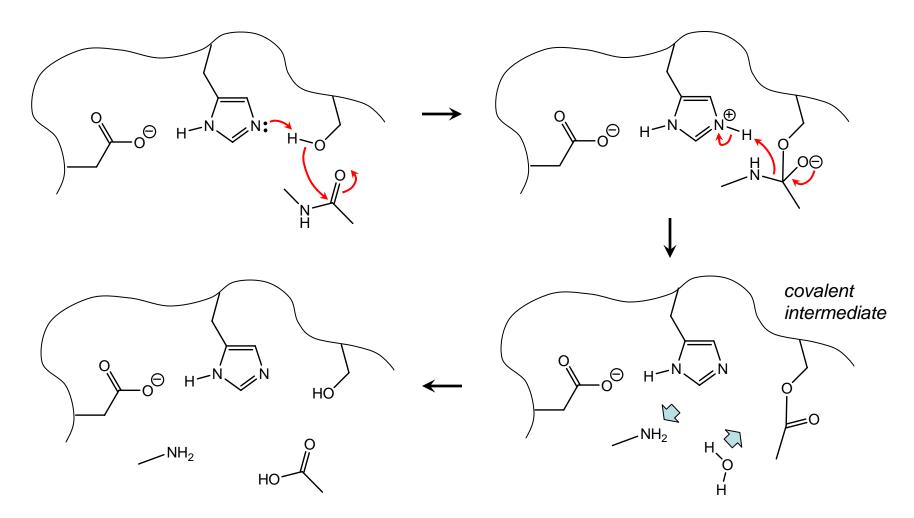
Inhibition of HIV Protease



Covalent Catalysis

More frequently, catalysts accelerate reactions by changing their mechanism.

Example: Serine proteases. (Digestive enzymes)



Why covalent catalysis predominates: Zhang, X.; Houk, K. N. Acc. Chem. Res. 2005, 38, 379.