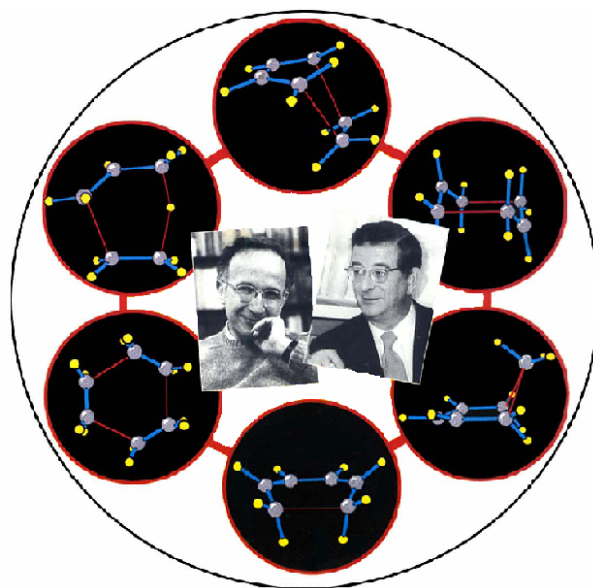


Work in Progress

25.01.08

# Heuristic chemistry

An approach to a new perspective on organic reactions



# Contents

- ❖ Introduction about heuristic
- ❖ Heuristics in sciences
- ❖ The  $6\pi$  electron case
- ❖ Summary and outlook

# What is a heuristic?

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

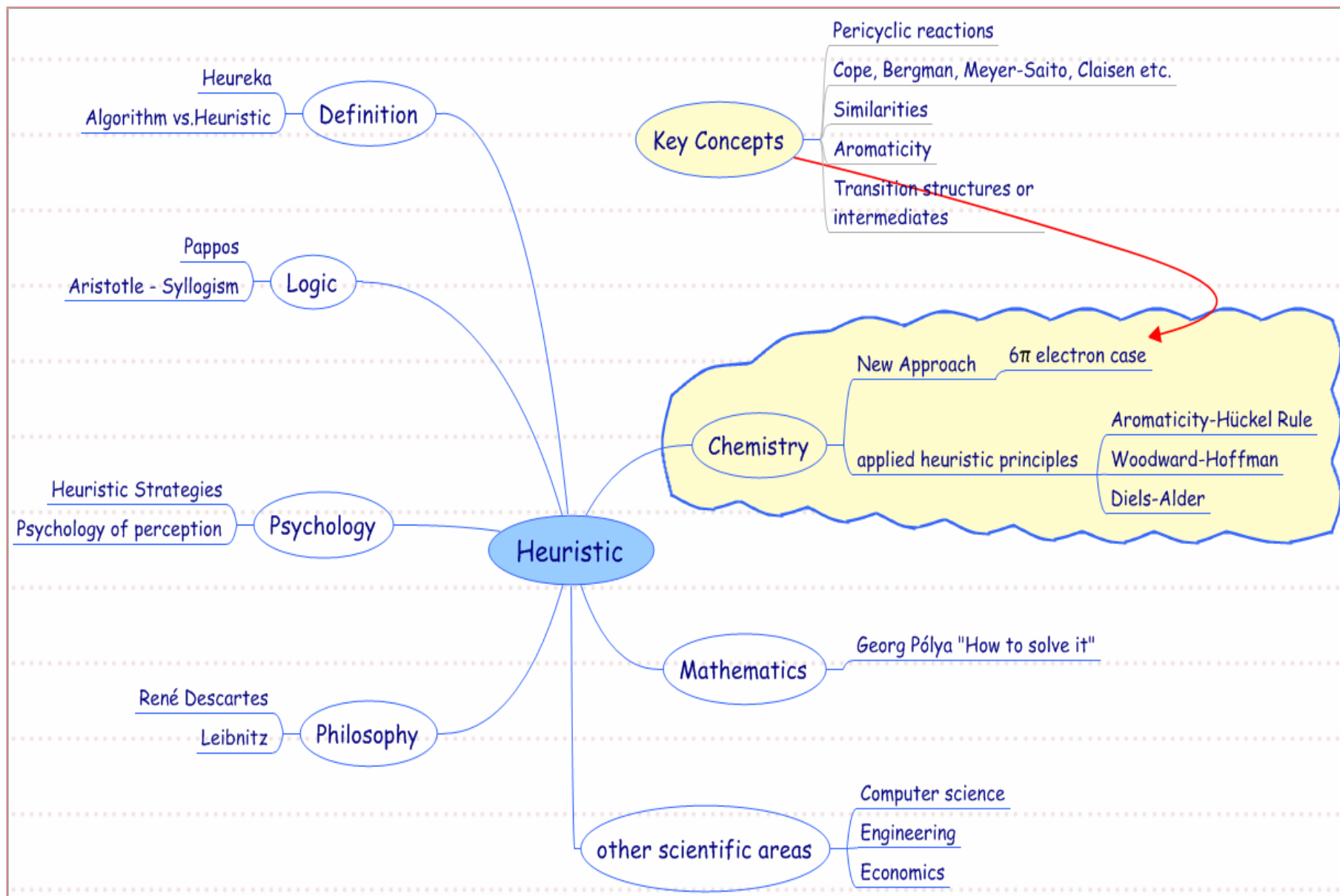
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- “heuristic” (greek) meaning “serving to find out or discover”
- “rules of thumb”, not to be compared with algorithm
- Strategies readily available to solve problems and to create new theories
- Information to lead problem-solving in human reasoning
- With simple heuristics individuals are able to make useful decisions and solve problems in a shorter time, with less knowledge and efforts.



*„Nichts ist wichtiger als die Quellen des Erfindens zu sehen, die meiner Meinung nach interessanter sind, als die Erfindung selbst“ (Leibnitz)*

Regel V: *„Die Methode besteht gänzlich in der angemessenen Anordnung und Disposition der Dinge, auf die wir unsere Aufmerksamkeit richten sollen.“ (R. Descartes)*

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

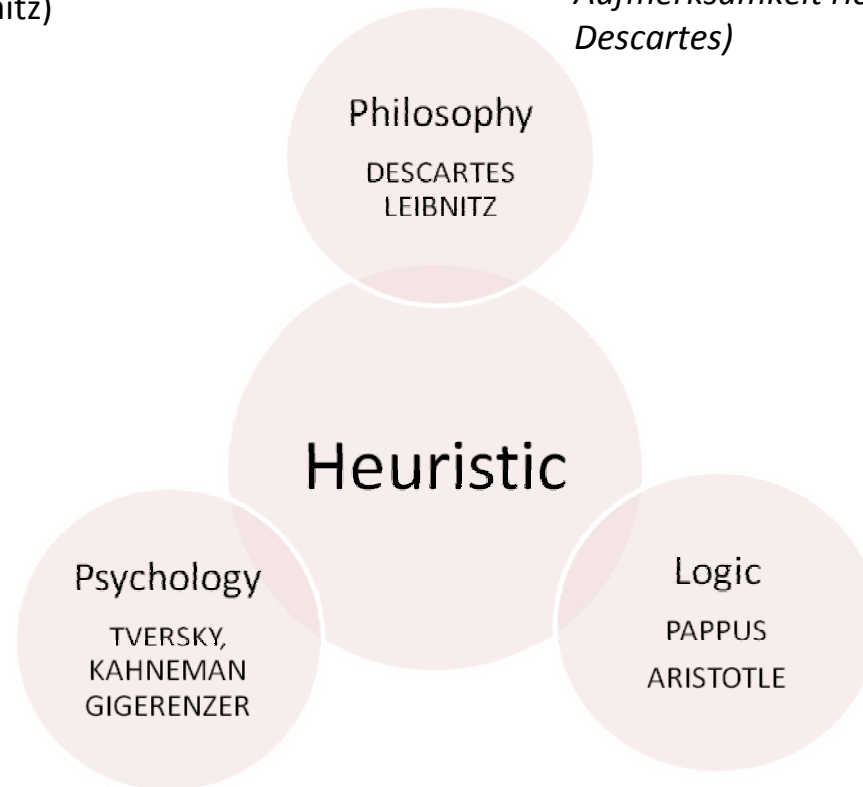
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

*„Heuristic as a cognitive process to judge probabilities of events.[...] But features given in the presentation of the probability and informations retrieved from the memory influence the response and induce bias.“ (Kahneman, Tversky)*



All men are mortal.  
Socrates is a man.  
Socrates is mortal.  
(Syllogism)

# Heuristic in mathematics

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- Georg Pólya „How to solve it“ (hungarian mathematician)
- Pólya's definition of heuristic methods: „reasoning not regarded as final and strict but as provisional and plausible only, whose purpose is to discover the solution of the present problem“



## Rules for solving problems by G. Pólya

- ⇒ If you are having difficulty understanding a problem, try drawing a picture.
- ⇒ If you can't find a solution, try assuming that you have a solution and seeing what you can derive from that ("working backward").
- ⇒ If the problem is abstract, try examining a concrete example.
- ⇒ Try solving a more general problem first (the "inventor's paradox": the more ambitious plan may have more chances of success).

• G. Pólya, *How To Solve It: A New Aspect of Mathematical Method*, Princeton University Press, Princeton 1945.  
J. Baron, *Thinking and Deciding*, Cambridge University Press, New York 2000.  
<http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/PictDisplay/Polya.html>

# Heuristic principles in organic chemistry

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- Aromaticity - Hückel rule ( $4n+2$ )
- Woodward-Hoffmann rules

*„Wenn eine neue Theorie nicht nur dieses entscheidende Experiment rational deutet, sondern aufgrund durchsichtiger Extrapolation andere, überraschende, der Intuition nicht zugängliche, aber leicht zu verifizierende experimentelle Ergebnisse vorhersagt, dann wird Wissenschaft zum ästhetischen Vergnügen und zur intellektuellen Genugtuung“ (Woodward/Hoffmann)*
- Diels-Alder reaction
- ...

E. Hückel, *Z. Physik*, **1931**, 70, 204.

R. Hoffmann, R. B. Woodward, *Chemie in unserer Zeit*, **1972**, 6, 167-74.

# Pericyclic reactions – the $6\pi$ electron case

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

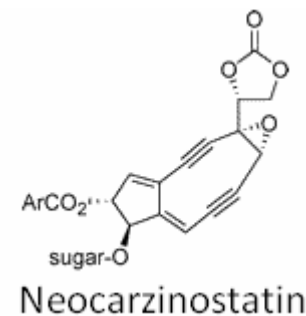
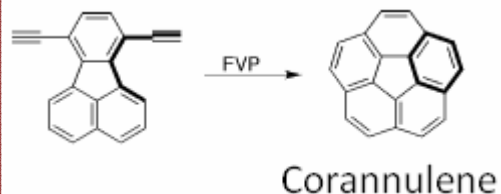
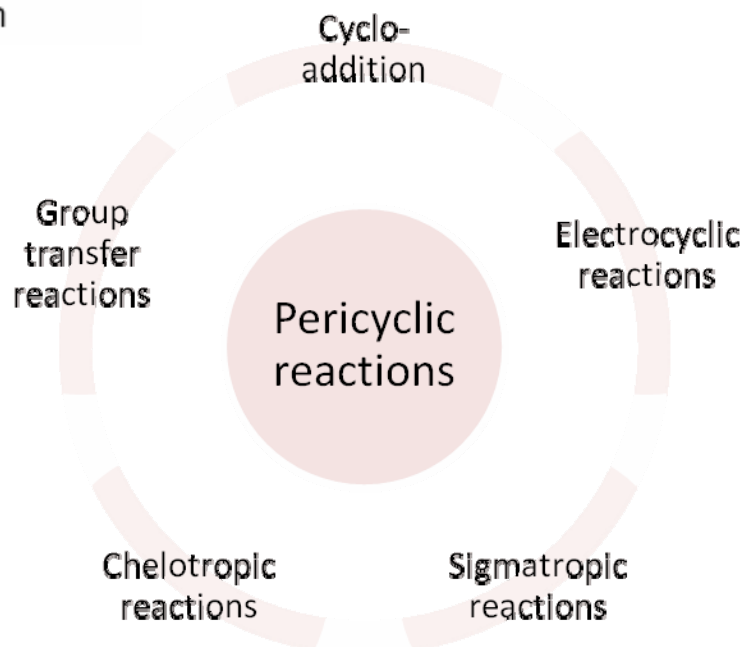
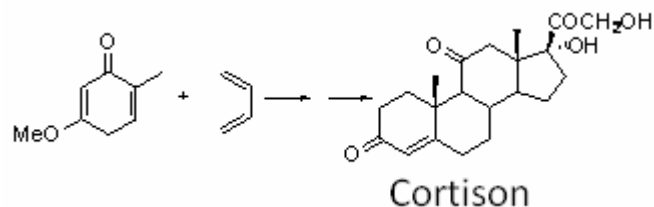
- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

## The $6\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules



M. Prall, A. Krüger, P. R. Schreiner, H. Hopf, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2001**, 7, 4386-4394.  
 R. B. Woodward et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1952**, 74, 4223-4251.



# Cope rearrangement 1940

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

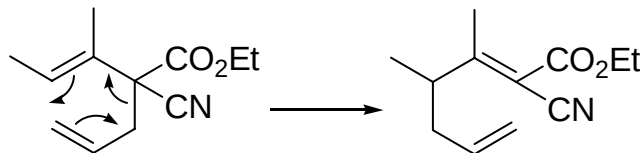
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- “...structural changes similar to those occurring in the familiar Claisen rearrangement of allyl phenol, enol and vinyl ethers.”



- With the development of the Hückel rule and the contributions of Evans, they considered an aromatic transition state for the Cope rearrangement.
- “...consequently a cyclic mechanism is regarded as probable.”

A. C. Cope, E. M. Hardy, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1940**, 62, 441-444.

A. C. Cope, K. E. Hoyle, D. Heyl, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1940**, 63, 1843-1852.

# Mechanistic discussion I

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

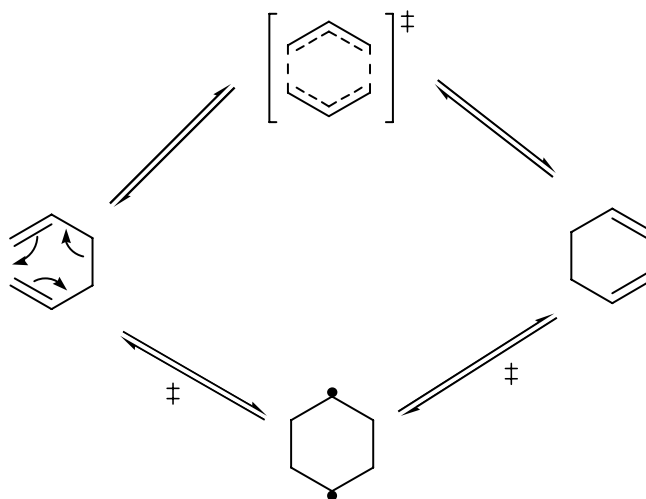
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- Grob, Schlink, Schies, and Doering, Roth suggested independently (20 years after Cope) a non-concerted way and a diradical intermediate as a mechanistic alternative to the concerted mechanism.
- Copes proposal of a synchronous transition state akin to an aromatic state has been accepted for a long time.



C. A. Grob, H. Link, P. W. Schiess, *Helv. Chem. Acta*, **1963**, 51, 483-492.  
W. von E. Doering, W. R. Roth, *Tetrahedron*, **1962**, 18, 67-75.

# Mechanistic discussion II

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

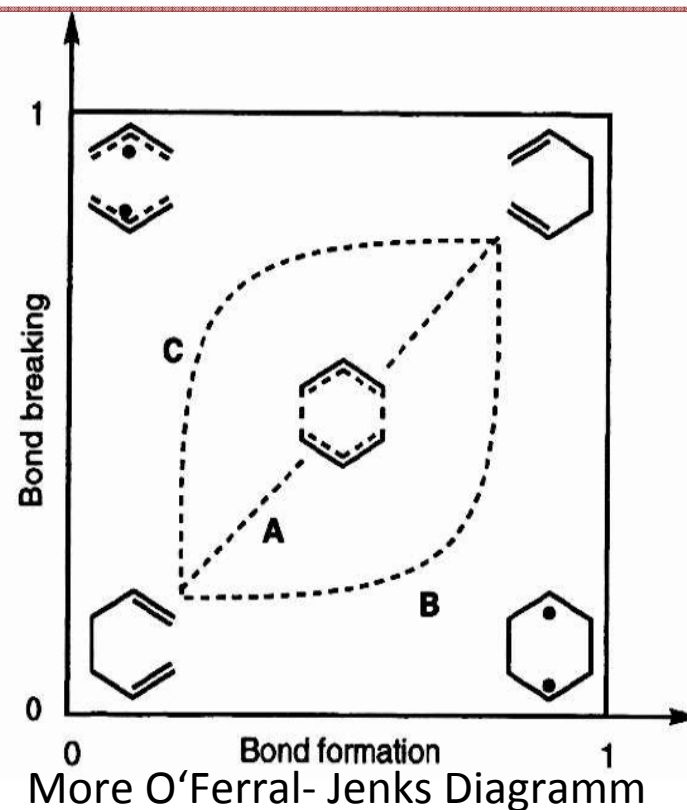
## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- A: concerted mechanism
- B: biradical mechanism (bond formation before bond breaking)
- C: biradical mechanism (bond breaking before bond formation)

$\Delta H^\circ_f \approx 55$  kcal/mole for the rate determining transition state diradical

$\Delta H^\circ_f \approx 77$  kcal/mole for the allylic diradical



⇒ Studies on the dissociation of the 3,4-bond into a pair of allylic radicals failed, because no predicted cross-products of the recombination have been observed.

W. von E. Doering, W. R. Roth, *Angew. Chem.*, **1963**, 1, 27-35.

W. von E. Doering, V. G. Toscano, G. H. Beasley, *Tetrahedron*, **1971**, 27, 5299-5306.

# Concerted or non concerted Cope reaction?

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

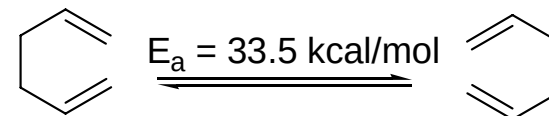
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

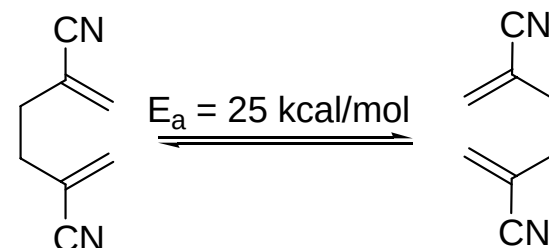
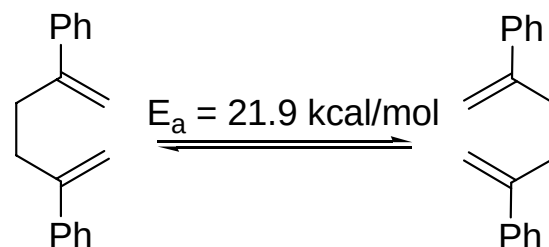
## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- Wehrli et al. and Dewar, Wade explored the influence of radical-stabilizing substituents such as cyano or phenyl in the 2- and 5-position of the Cope rearrangement.



- The rearrangement appears to be responsive to radical stabilizing substituents.



R. Wehrli, H. Schmid, D. Bellus, H.-J. Hansen, *Helv.* **1977**, 60, 4, 1325-1356.  
M. J. S. Dewar, L. E. Wade, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1977**, 4417-4424.

# Developments in the seventies

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

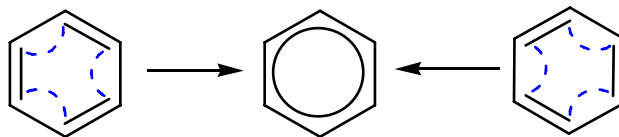
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

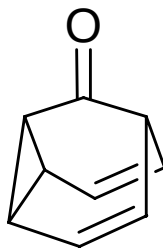
## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- “Symmetry-allowed reactions, though electronically favored, still proceed with sizable activations energies. Only the class of cyclopolyenes achieve a negative activation energy.”
- “...benzene is the transition state for the symmetry-allowed  $\pi 2_s + \pi 2_s + \pi 2_s$  cycloaddition in a cyclohexatriene”

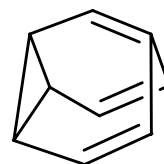


- “How can other structures be brought to such a stage of perfection???”
- Barbaralone, Semibullvalene (undergo degenerate Cope rearrangement)



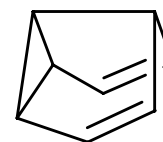
Barbaralone

$E_a = 9.3$  kcal/mol



Bullvalene

$E_a = 12.8$  kcal/mol



Semibullvalene

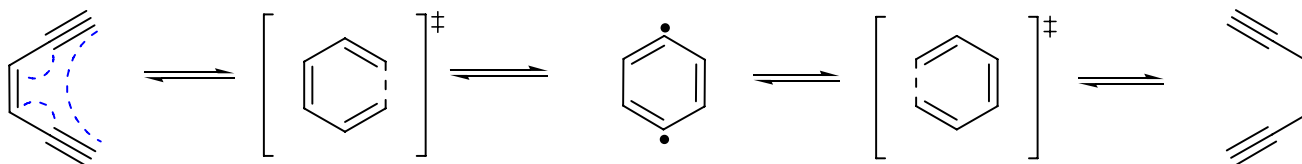
$E_a = 6.4$  kcal/mol

R. Hoffmann, W.-D. Stohrer, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1971**, 6941-6948.

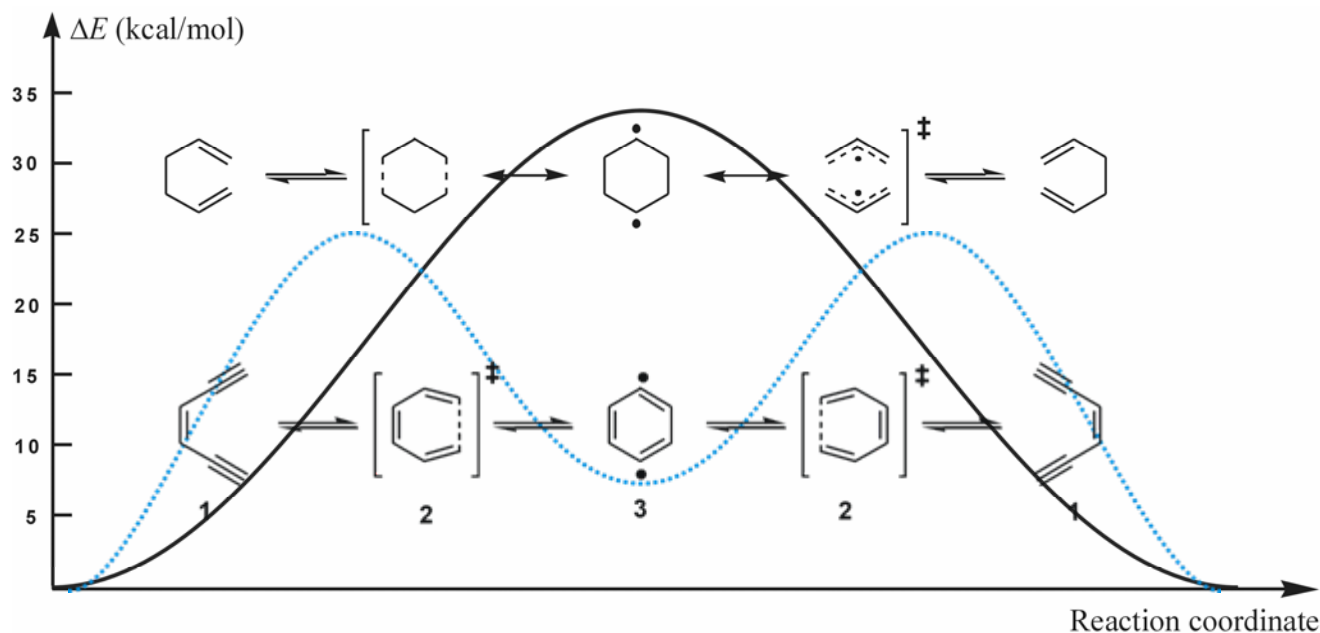
F. A. L. Anet, G. E. Schenk, *Tetrahedron Letters*, **1970**, 48, 4237-4240.

# How can the transition state become a minimum?

- Via a Biradical... (**Bergman Cyclization** (1972-1973))



- Bergman reported the thermal rearrangement of 1,5-diacetylenes via a diradical structure - 1,4-dehydrobenzene



R. G. Bergman, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, **1973**, 6, 25-31.

R. R. Jones, R. G. Bergman, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1971**, 660-661.

P. R. Schreiner, A. Navarro-Vazquez, and M. Prall *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2005**, 38, 29-37.

# How can they have monotonic kinetics?

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

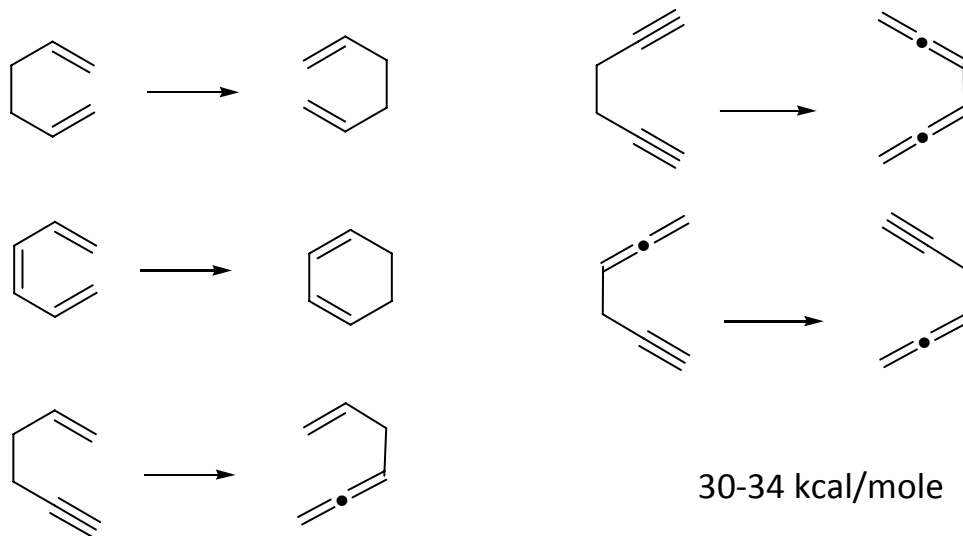
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

- “In fact, the concerted nature of the transition states, and their aromatic character, leads to the activation energy monotony, even in the presence of structural diversity.”
- The activation energy seems to be independent of the degree of unsaturation in each of the systems.



K. N. Houk, Yi Li, J. D. Evanseck, *Angew. Chem.* **1992**, *104*, 711-739.  
K. A. Black, S. Wilsey, K. N. Houk, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 5622-5627.

# What is the common principle?

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

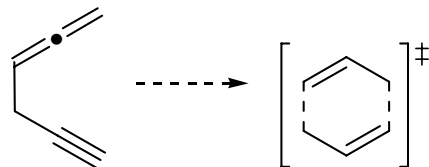
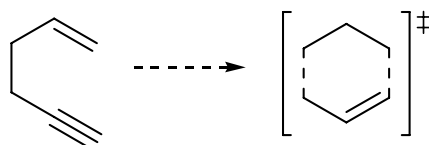
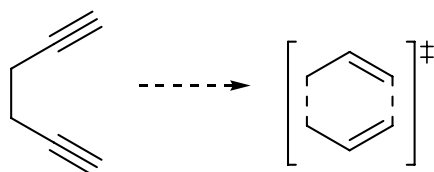
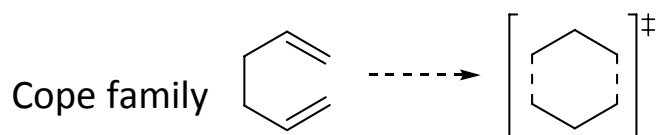
- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

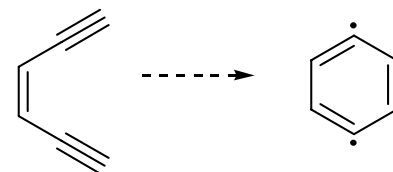
- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

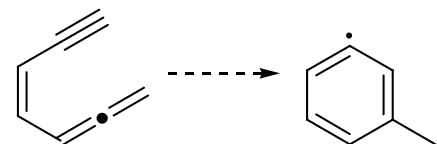
- Generalization
- Rules



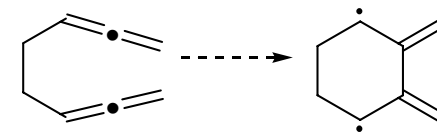
## Bergman cyclization



## Myers-Saito



## Cyclization of diallenes





# How to predict the TS or the intermediate?

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

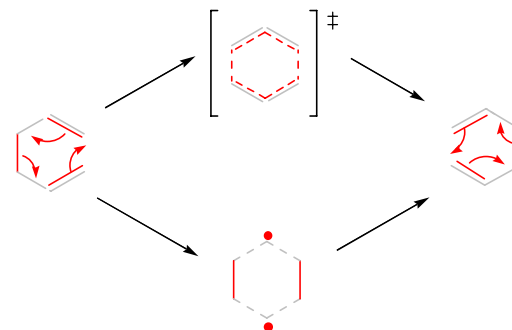
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

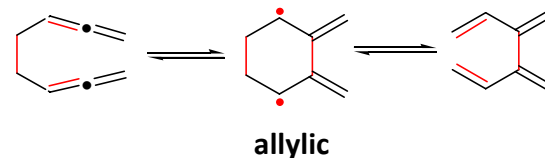
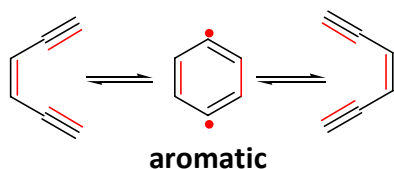
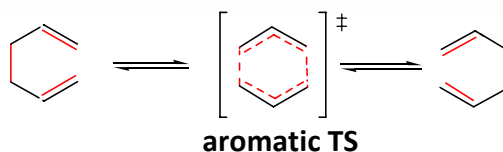
## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

„Minimum requirement for the Cope reaction is the common structural element, the double bond in the 1,5-position of acyclic systems.“



„...a non-concerted reaction takes place when biradical intermediates are stabilized either by allyl or aromatic resonance.“



# Types of reactions in the Cope family

## Heuristic

- Definition
- Overview

## Heuristic in sciences

- G. Pólya
- Chemistry

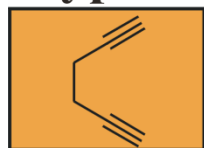
## The 6 $\pi$ electron case

- Cope
- Aromaticity
- Bergman

## Similarities

- Generalization
- Rules

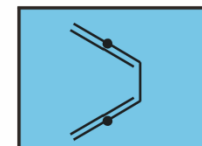
### Type 1



**Sbb:** 0.0

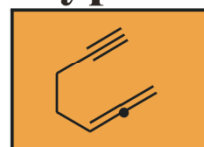


**lbb:** 33.2

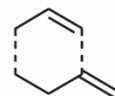


**Scb:** -4.6

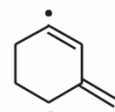
### Type 2



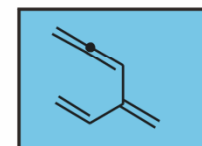
**Sbc:** 0.0



**lbc (TS):** 27.7



**lbc:** 12.0

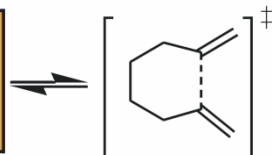


**Scd:** -17.3

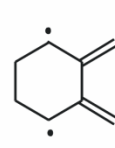
### Type 3



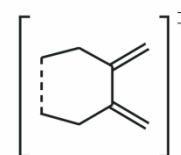
**Scb:** 0.0



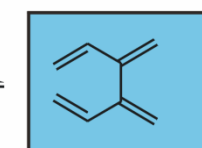
25.9



**lcc:** -9.5



11.7



**Sdd:** -30.4

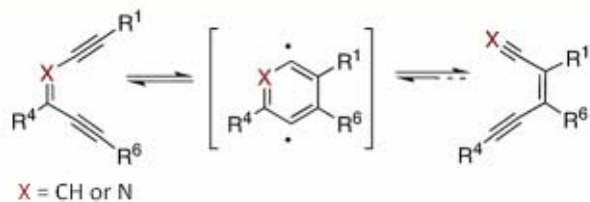
P. R. Schreiner, A. Navarro-Vasquez, M. Prall, *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2005**, 38, 29-37.

A. Navarro-Vasquez, M. Prall, P. R. Schreiner, *Org. Lett.* **2004**, 6, 2981-2984.

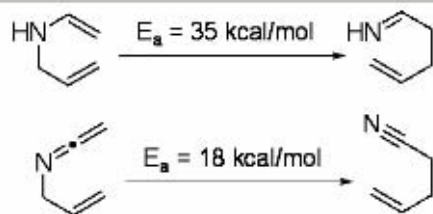
| Reactants |                              |                              |                              |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |          |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
|           | 36.7<br><br><b>laa</b> 0.0   | 33.4<br><br><b>lab</b> -2.2  | 28.6<br><br><b>lac</b> -15.4 | 44.1<br><br><b>lad</b> 15.4 | 34.3<br><br><b>lae</b> 7.9  | 30.7<br><br><b>laf</b> 0.0   | 30.7<br><br><b>lag</b> 2.2   | 26.4<br><br><b>lah</b> -7.9  |          |
|           | 33.4<br><br><b>lab</b> -2.2  | 33.2<br><br><b>lbb</b> -4.6  | 27.7<br><br><b>lbc</b> -17.3 | 42.6<br><br><b>lbd</b> 14.7 | 32.3<br><br><b>lbe</b> 3.5  | 30.1<br><br><b>lbf</b> -3.0  | 26.5<br><br><b>lbg</b> 0.0   | 23.8<br><br><b>lbh</b> -13.5 |          |
|           | 28.6<br><br><b>lac</b> -15.4 | 27.7<br><br><b>lbc</b> -17.3 | 25.9<br><br><b>lcc</b> -30.4 | 11.7<br><br><b>lcd</b> 0.0  | 32.5<br><br><b>lce</b> -8.8 | 32.5<br><br><b>lcf</b> -15.1 | 27.9<br><br><b>lcg</b> -14.7 | 24.4<br><br><b>lch</b> -22.8 |          |
|           | 44.1<br><br><b>lad</b> 15.4  | 42.6<br><br><b>lbd</b> 14.7  | 32.5<br><br><b>lcd</b> 0.0   | 32.5<br><br><b>ldd</b> 30.4 | 42.0<br><br><b>lde</b> 22.8 | 56.2<br><br><b>ldf</b> 15.1  | 37.8<br><br><b>ldg</b> 17.3  | 36.5<br><br><b>ldh</b> 8.8   |          |
|           | 34.3<br><br><b>lae</b> 7.9   | 32.3<br><br><b>lbe</b> 3.5   | 27.7<br><br><b>lce</b> -8.8  | 37.8<br><br><b>lde</b> 22.8 | 34.3<br><br><b>lee</b> 12.3 | 29.2<br><br><b>lef</b> 5.5   | 29.5<br><br><b>leg</b> 13.5  | 25.5<br><br><b>leh</b> 0.0   |          |
|           | 30.7<br><br><b>laf</b> 0.0   | 30.7<br><br><b>lbf</b> -3.0  | 30.1<br><br><b>lcf</b> -15.1 | 26.5<br><br><b>ldf</b> 15.1 | 25.8<br><br><b>lef</b> 5.5  | 15.4<br><br><b>lff</b> 0.0   | 40.9<br><br><b>lfg</b> 3.0   | 23.7<br><br><b>lfh</b> -5.5  |          |
|           | 12.7<br><br><b>lag</b> 2.2   | 5.8<br><br><b>lbg</b> 0.0    | 27.9<br><br><b>lcg</b> -14.7 | 45.0<br><br><b>ldg</b> 17.3 | 29.5<br><br><b>leg</b> 13.5 | 22.8<br><br><b>lfg</b> 3.0   | 34.0<br><br><b>lgg</b> 4.6   | 28.8<br><br><b>lgh</b> -3.5  |          |
|           | 26.4<br><br><b>lah</b> -7.9  | 23.8<br><br><b>lbh</b> -13.5 | 24.4<br><br><b>lch</b> -22.8 | 15.0<br><br><b>ldh</b> 8.8  | 25.5<br><br><b>leh</b> 0.0  | 24.0<br><br><b>lfh</b> -5.5  | 23.7<br><br><b>lgh</b> -3.5  | 20.3<br><br><b>lhh</b> -12.3 |          |
|           |                              |                              |                              |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              | Products |

## Summary....

- ❖ Heuristic as a strategy to guide thinking and problem solving
- ❖ Heuristic chemistry search for common principles and generalities to find “reaction families”.
- ❖ Heuristic principles concerning the structural element and the stability of intermediates for the  $6\pi$  electron case
- ❖ The purpose is now to find new unknown reactions with the help of the heuristic rule



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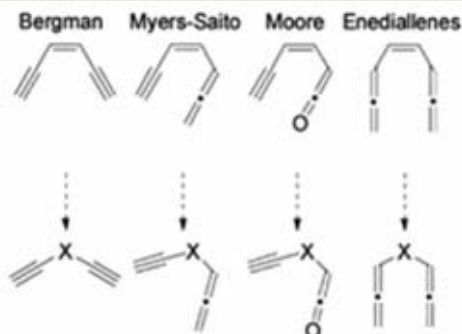
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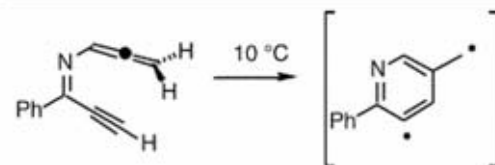
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## OUTLOOK

New rearrangements and structures?????

Thank you for your attention!

Questions????