

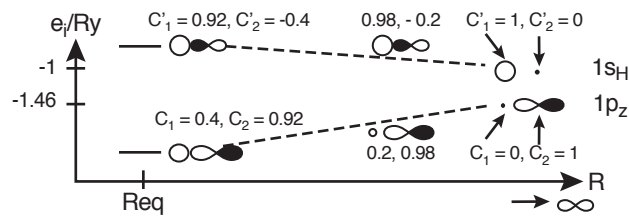
The Woodward-Hoffman rules

Simple theorem:

“The coefficients $c_i(R_n)$ are continuous functions of R_n ”

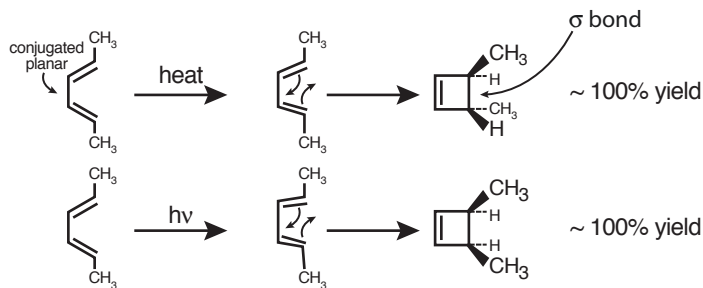
ex: O-H or H-F bonding

$$|\sigma\rangle = c_1|1s\rangle + c_2|2p_z\rangle$$



“MOs transform continuously during a chemical rx, and the highest occupied MO controls the barrier”

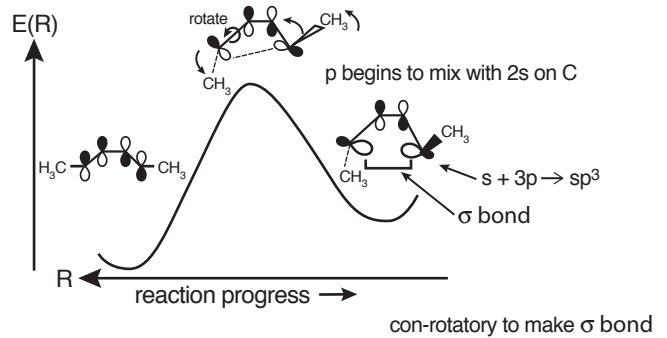
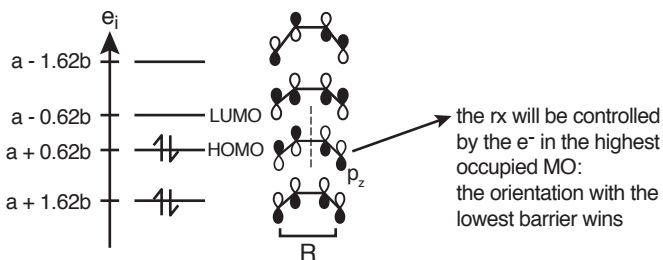
A more interesting reaction:



$4n \pi$ electrons ($n=1$)

Why so different? Why so stereoselective?

With heat:



With light:

