

Supporting Information

Quantum Mechanical Predictions of the Stereoselectivities of Proline-Catalyzed Asymmetric Intermolecular Aldol Reactions

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Synthesis of aldols syn-2a and anti-2a. (S)- or (rac)-proline (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) in 10 mL of DMSO/cyclohexanone (4:1) was treated with benzaldehyde (1 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 4 days and worked up in the usual manner using aq. NH₄Cl solution and ethyl acetate. Chromatography on silica using hexane/ethyl acetate (5:1) furnished known aldols **syn-2a** (87 mg, 0.425 mmol, $[\alpha]_D = -63^\circ$) and **anti-2a** (87 mg, 0.425 mmol, $[\alpha]_D = +12^\circ$). ee-Determination: **syn**-diastereomer, Chiralpak AD, 5% i-PrOH/hexanes, t_r (**syn-2a**) = 14.7 min, area = 132463, t_r (**ent-syn-2a**) = 11.3 min, area = 18565; er = 7.1, ee = 75±5%. **anti**-diastereomer, Chiralpak AS, 5% i-PrOH/hexanes, t_r (**anti-2a**) = 13.8 min, area = 168010, t_r (**ent-anti-2a**) = 16.3 min, area = 13933; er = 12.1, ee = 85±5%.

To ascertain whether or not there is a potential epimerization under the reaction conditions, both diastereomers **anti-2a** and **syn-2a** were prepared and separated. Subsequently both diastereomers were exposed to the original reaction conditions (vide supra) in deutero-DMSO and the mixtures were monitored by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy over a period of 4 days. Within this time no interconversion of the diastereomers was detected.

Synthesis of aldol anti-2b. Similarly, (S)- or (rac)-proline (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) in 10 mL of DMSO/cyclohexanone (4:1) was treated with isobutyraldehyde (1 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 5 days and worked up in the usual manner using aq. NH₄Cl solution and ethyl acetate. Chromatography on silica using hexane/ethyl acetate (5:1) furnished known aldol **anti-2b** as a single diastereomer (116 mg, 0.68 mmol). ee-Determination: Chiralpak AD-RH, 20% H₂O (0.1% TFA)/CH₃CN, t_r (**anti-2b**) = 11.6 min, area = 128954, t_r (**ent-anti-2b**) = 7.4 min, area = 2236, er = 57.7, ee = 97±3%.

Synthesis of hydrazone 5. Aldol **anti-2b** (170 mg, 1 mmol) in EtOH (5 mL) was treated with p-toluenesulfonylhydrazide (380 mg, 2 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 1 h, concentrated, and chromatographed on silica using hexane/ethyl acetate (4:1) to give hydrazone **5** as a solid (314 mg, 0.93 mmol). Recrystallization from MeOH furnished crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography. The Flack parameter was 0.02(11) confirming the proposed absolute configuration.

5	6	-3.083781	-1.454777	-0.087018
6	1	0.849929	1.785777	1.667555
7	1	-2.399633	0.933536	-1.827212
8	8	-1.597047	-0.177370	1.348756
9	1	3.342782	-0.774019	-0.553742
10	1	1.577347	2.659759	0.299648
11	6	1.371186	1.665820	0.714169
12	1	-0.376212	3.467359	-0.347255
13	6	1.228396	-0.290304	-0.748573
14	1	2.573831	0.105349	1.629157
15	6	0.977584	-1.692046	-0.091925
16	6	-1.131835	2.690458	-0.194510
17	6	-0.666209	1.338833	-0.656681
18	6	-1.603367	0.464990	-1.254267
19	6	2.701625	0.107169	-0.537466
20	7	0.512765	0.902903	-0.226175
21	1	-2.043542	2.980637	-0.719447
22	1	-1.232824	-0.454099	-1.700268
23	1	0.985075	-0.404264	-1.807592
24	1	3.531717	1.458200	1.004674
25	6	2.655703	0.832251	0.814001
26	1	3.023663	0.793769	-1.330166
27	1	-3.193508	0.672924	0.443244
28	1	-1.352946	2.637611	0.880021
29	1	-3.738752	-1.814440	0.717061
30	1	-2.317555	-2.216721	-0.256014
31	1	-3.686137	-1.329749	-0.993349

HF=-671.686075

ZPE=0.263568

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -671.407661

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -671.462979

Transition state 3e

Center No.	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
		X	Y	Z
1	6	-2.340876	0.226928	-0.728952
2	1	2.700841	-2.420722	-1.404657
3	1	-0.022939	0.284317	2.760084
4	1	-4.209186	-0.847652	-1.102027
5	1	2.284331	-0.792549	-1.952608
6	6	2.777467	-0.860015	0.158114
7	1	3.662483	-0.249220	-0.019277
8	1	3.015297	-1.629054	0.902611
9	1	-1.290422	1.067907	1.759632
10	1	-2.756669	-1.417033	1.062183
11	6	-1.916028	-1.291824	0.384389
12	1	-1.825785	-2.104698	-0.331548
13	7	0.440244	-0.836350	0.375907
14	6	-3.858473	0.148710	-0.811619
15	6	-0.925575	0.110757	2.173077
16	6	-0.735696	-0.783377	0.990912
17	8	-1.852503	1.346253	-0.283054
18	1	-4.200758	0.872896	-1.561395
19	1	1.693198	0.216340	1.725454
20	6	1.615138	0.008136	0.657125
21	6	0.714549	-1.733155	-0.777853
22	6	1.610411	1.394739	-0.085310
23	1	-1.706040	-0.289290	2.824397
24	1	-1.848878	-0.186968	-1.628015
25	1	-4.305286	0.426852	0.148226
26	8	2.680651	1.978915	-0.102787
27	8	0.525400	1.839609	-0.655856
28	1	-0.501205	1.503941	-0.462187
29	1	0.516044	-2.764752	-0.465322
30	6	2.197735	-1.493866	-1.116429
31	1	0.052976	-1.496278	-1.614035

26	8	-2.314207	2.589552	-0.310030
27	8	-1.143568	1.519615	1.277617
28	1	-0.692574	0.537537	1.638036
29	1	-0.702100	-2.777764	-0.712813
30	6	-2.753133	-1.966268	-0.630989
31	1	-1.195554	-2.175363	0.893753
32	1	3.600009	-1.245612	0.483588
33	6	2.948870	-1.024648	-0.372631
34	1	2.554124	1.765520	-2.430259
35	6	2.273288	0.800368	-1.993906
36	1	3.019235	0.642308	1.891016
37	1	1.875311	0.908355	3.215431
38	1	1.522072	1.588625	1.631026

HF=-788.4239176

ZPE=0.332505

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -783.777762

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -783.835591

Transition state 4c

Center No.	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
		X	Y	Z
1	6	1.228810	1.805739	0.269788
2	1	-3.049918	-0.495726	2.923997
3	1	0.038450	-1.490428	-1.763058
4	6	2.076795	-2.090648	-1.231102
5	1	-2.951503	0.851059	1.780955
6	6	-3.002691	-1.078800	0.792356
7	1	-3.986954	-0.868195	0.374592
8	1	-2.959280	-2.134407	1.086446
9	1	1.184970	-0.151713	-1.730797
10	1	1.688965	-3.115469	-1.223394
11	6	1.631258	0.001900	0.859648
12	1	1.520363	0.104786	1.937588
13	7	-0.708218	-0.565294	0.590654
14	6	2.452042	2.610005	0.685027
15	6	0.890342	-1.084228	-1.217613
16	6	0.550680	-0.619953	0.163438
17	8	0.914379	1.841138	-0.990162
18	6	3.027933	-0.411041	0.396767
19	1	-1.761843	-1.629629	-0.910843
20	6	-1.909671	-0.778266	-0.242734
21	6	-1.085346	-0.238629	1.992073
22	6	-2.311758	0.435345	-1.157159
23	1	2.742948	-2.510768	0.798401
24	1	0.388959	1.946505	0.974359
25	1	4.057041	-2.193343	-0.330711
26	8	-3.448809	0.396906	-1.597744
27	8	-1.465726	1.390090	-1.429567
28	1	-0.406861	1.480594	-1.165423
29	1	-0.713781	-1.040871	2.642403
30	6	-2.618520	-0.175045	1.971786
31	1	-0.629355	0.698022	2.315594
32	6	3.044253	-1.881297	-0.049444
33	1	3.751146	-0.238778	1.200433
34	1	3.346793	0.213801	-0.449363
35	1	2.607767	-1.964942	-2.181186
36	1	3.308385	2.384920	0.043413
37	1	2.725866	2.443899	1.732673
38	1	2.211860	3.672177	0.552124

HF=-788.4118021

Zero-point correction= 0.329351

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -788.065450

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -788.125765

Transition state 5d

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	8		0.750660	-2.266789	0.694119
2	1		0.357907	-1.280061	1.183614
3	8		1.544560	-3.171138	-1.196242
4	6		-0.997063	0.393357	0.997148
5	1		-1.985163	1.832337	-1.403423
6	1		2.871530	0.504071	1.931471
7	6		-0.928964	2.113131	-1.329959
8	8		-0.122787	-0.267919	1.706429
9	1		3.882189	-2.240985	-1.106408
10	1		3.818798	1.281176	0.639771
11	6		3.223956	0.398746	0.902175
12	1		-3.601362	-3.271902	-0.346755
13	6		2.161170	-0.930115	-0.855757
14	1		3.675461	-1.687339	1.302990
15	6		1.404106	-2.232533	-0.425483
16	6		-3.553081	-2.204550	-0.148009
17	6		1.131593	1.237395	-0.140054
18	6		-0.149506	0.964767	-0.696882
19	6		3.675558	-1.211399	-0.813459
20	7		2.05071	0.289943	-0.008962
21	1		-3.384651	1.581834	0.626328
22	1		-0.226730	0.033999	-1.256082
23	1		1.813981	-0.686100	-1.861874
24	1		5.092749	-0.737696	0.818584
25	6		4.023288	-0.884875	0.644474
26	1		4.207432	-0.536929	-1.496360
27	1		-1.199663	1.403691	1.381780
28	6		-4.696093	-1.414185	-0.296384
29	1		-0.582588	2.249229	-2.365703
30	6		-2.346677	-1.638855	0.261320
31	6		-2.266466	-0.261412	0.522583
32	1		-5.633792	-1.863072	-0.613306
33	6		1.342574	2.572794	0.535138
34	1		-1.469944	-2.265239	0.388797
35	6		-0.777433	3.439611	-0.572101
36	1		-5.517592	0.573445	-0.116276
37	6		-3.423801	0.521390	0.385802
38	6		-4.630372	-0.047461	-0.022720
39	1		0.905606	2.505977	1.543499
40	6		0.692690	3.725795	-0.253142
41	1		2.406793	2.777110	0.676338
42	1		-1.349673	3.407482	0.364494
43	1		1.249196	3.875701	-1.188660
44	1		0.793550	4.652902	0.323218
45	1		-1.201863	4.257920	-1.165894

HF=-980.1582048

Zero-point correction= 0.382074

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -979.756153

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -979.823818

Total free energy in sol.

(with non electrost.terms) (a.u.) = -980.169627

