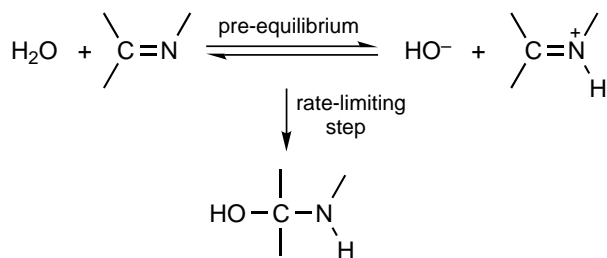


pre-equilibrium (prior equilibrium)

A rapidly reversible step preceding the *rate-limiting step* in a *stepwise reaction*. For example:



See also *kinetic equivalence*.

1994, 66, 1152; see also 1996, 68, 177