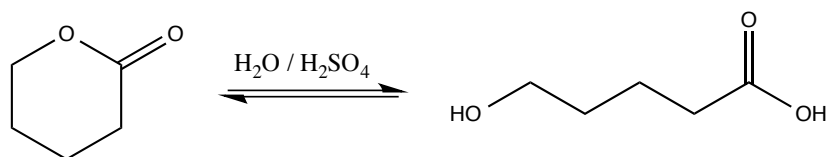
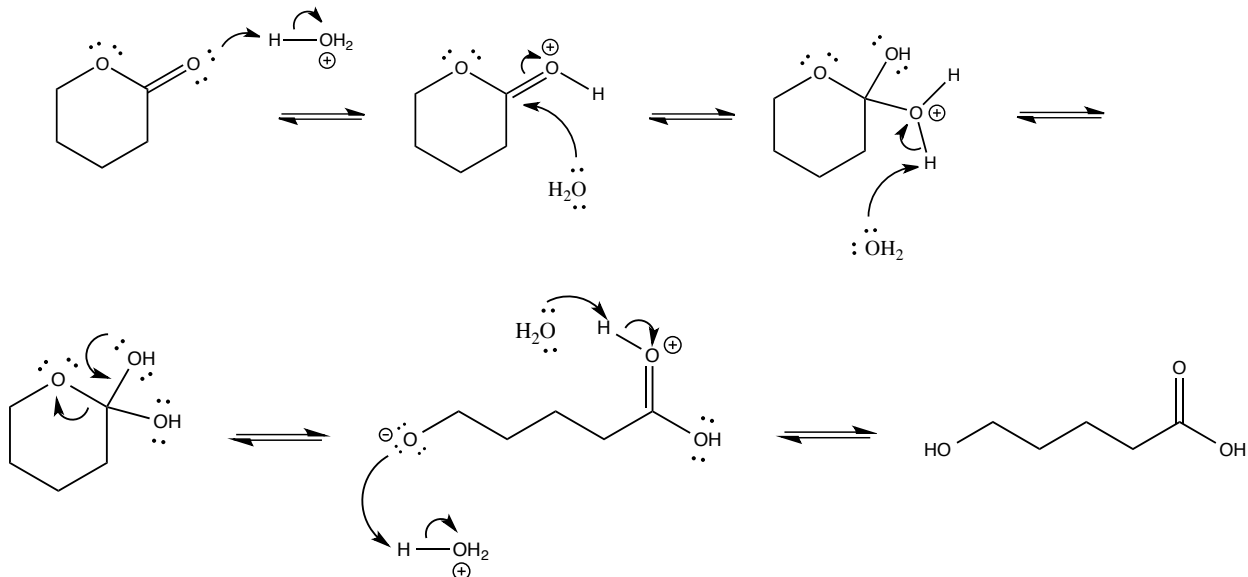


### Acid Catalyzed Hydrolysis of Lactones

Reaction:



Mechanism:



This reaction is the reverse of the Fischer esterification. It is under thermodynamic control but the use of a large excess of water pushes the equilibrium toward the hydrolysis product. The reaction is slower with five and six-membered ring lactones, smaller ring lactones hydrolyze faster.