



are heated, cinnamic acid is obtained,  
but when benzaldehyde, sodium acetate  
& pyridine are heated; it is not obtained.  
Thus, the alkali salt acts only as  
the catalyst.

The rxn is specific for aromatic  
aldehydes, which can't undergo self-condensation  
in the presence of the basic catalyst.

Meta-directing groups in the aromatic ring  
promotes the reaction.