Organic Reactions Summary Alkenes, alkynes and variations

For Use as a Study Guide

Beauchamp

Making alkenes and alkynes

a. mechanism using potassium t-butoxide, $KOC(CH_3)_3$, S_N2 at and E2 at 1°, 2° and 3° RBr,

Example reactions

b. Double elimination from dibromoalkanes to form alkynes and terminal acetylides used in many additional reactions $(S_N^2$ with RBr, C=O addition to aldehyses and ketones, and reaction with epoxides)

The zipper reaction moves a triple bond in an unbranched linear chain to the end and allows all of the above reactions.

c. mechanism using NaCC-R to make a bigger alkyne, S_N^2 at methyl, 1^o and 2^o RBr and only E2 at 3^o RBr,

Example reactions

d. mechanism using triphenylphosphine to make triphenylphosphonium salt, S_N^2 at methyl, 1° and 2° RBr and only E2 at 3[°] RBr, used to make a triphenylphosphonium ylid to make Z and E alkenes with aldehydes and ketones.

Schlosser Modification of the Wittig reaction to make E alkenes

Example reactions

e. Ohira-Bestmann modification of the Seyferth-Gilbert reaction (makes terminal alkynes from aldehydes and a special 'Wittig' reagent). Overall reaction from aldehyde to the terminal alkyne – simplified Ohira-Bestmann reaction

Possible mechanism – with mechanism details

f. ROH with sulfuric acid / heat. Synthesis of alkenes (our only useful E1 reaction. Rearrangement is possible).

g. Making Allylic Alcohols from Epoxides using LDA (E2 reaction using LDA + epoxides)

Reactions of alkenes, alkynes and conjugated variations

a. RBr from alkenes (anti-Markovnikov addition of HBr using free radical chemistry):

mechanism using HBr / ROOR / hv for free radical addition to alkane pi bonds (anti-Markovnikov addition = Br adds to less substituted position to form most stable free radical intermediate, and then H adds to more substituted position)

b. RBr from alkenes (anti-Markovnikov addition of HBr using borane chemistry):

mechanism using 1. BH₃ 2. Br₂ / CH₃O⁻⁻ for anti-Markovnikov addition of H-Br to alkane pi bonds (concerted, syn addition of H-BH₂ to alkene pi bond, followed by complex with Br_2 and migration of R group to Br)

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c. Alkenes with aqueous sulfuric acid. Alcohol synthesis (Markovnikov addition, rearrangements are possible).

d. Alkenes with alcohol + sulfuric acid. Markovnikov addition, ether synthesis (rearrangements are possible).

e. Alkenes with 1. Hg X_2 / H₂O 2. NaBH₄. Alcohol synthesis with minimal rearrangements (Markovnikov).

 S_N 2 nucleophilic attack by hydride at the mercury atom displaces acetate as the leaving group. Acetate can complex at boron taking the place of the transferred hydride. This keeps boron with an octet, which also is negatively charged.

Free radical dissociation of the weak Hg-C bond occurs. Other free radical reactions are possible here, but not emphasized in our course.

A hydrogen atom is abstracted from the mercury by the highly reactive carbon free radical. This forms mercury metal as one of the products. No stereoselectivity is observed here because of the sp^2 free radical carbon.

Example Reactions

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Example Reactions

g. Electrophilic addition of HCl, HBr, HI to alkenes = Markovnikov addition, synthesis of RX compounds with possibile rearrangements

There are two carbon choices for an electrophile to react with. Which carbon gives up the electrons and becomes a carbocation is based on the most stable carbocation that can form (leading to a regioselective reaction). Such a reaction is generally not stereoselective because the flat carbocation allows attack of the nucleophile to both faces. We expect three possible reactions from the carbocation, add a nucleophile, lose a beta proton or rearrange.

h. Electrophilic addition of HCl, HBr, HI to alkynes = Markovnikov addition, synthesis of RX compounds, can use 1 equivalent or 2 equivalents

i. Electrophilic addition of HCl, HBr, HI to conjugated diene or triene = Markovnikov addition, synthesis of RX compounds, can use 1 equivalent or 2 equivalents

j. Alkenes with Br_2 or Cl_2 . Synthesis of vicinal dihalide (anti addition).

k. Alkenes with Br₂/H₂O or Cl₂/H₂O. Synthesis of bromohydrin or chlorohydrin (anti + Markovnikov addition).

l. Alkenes with Br_2/ROH or Cl_2/ROH . Synthesis of bromo or chloro "ethers".

m. Alkenes with 1. BH₃ 2. H₂O₂/HO⁻. Hydroboration/oxidation = anti-Markovnikov alcohols.

The mechanism for this reaction is given at the beginning of this document.

n. Alkenes with 1. BH₃ 2. Br₂/CH₃O⁻. Hydroboration/bromination = anti-Markovnikov R-Br.

o. Alkynes with 1. HBR₂ 2. H₂O₂/HO⁻. Hydroboration/oxidation = anti-Markovnikov aldehydes.

p. Alkenes with $CHCl₃ / RO⁻-$ or $CHBr₃ / RO⁻-$. Carbene synthesis of dihalocyclopropanes.

q. Alkenes with CH_2I_2 / Zn (Simmons-Smith Rxn). Carbenoid synthesis of cyclopropanes. Example Reactions

Example Reactions (Simmons-Smith reaction)

r. Alkenes with meta chloroperbenzoic acid (mCPBA). Synthesis of epoxides.

Example Reactions (mCPBA)

s. Alkenes with OsO₄ or KMnO₄. "Syn" synthesis of vicinal diols.

Very expensive OsO₄ can be continually reoxidized with an inexpensive amine oxide (like morpholine Noxide)

Example Reactions

t. Alkenes with 1. O_3 / -78°C 2. CH₃SCH₃ or Zn. Synthesis of aldehydes or ketones.

u. Alkenes with 1. $O_3 / -78^{\circ}C$ 2. NaBH₄. Synthesis of alcohols.

Example Reactions

v. Alkenes with 1. O_3 / -78^oC 2. H₂O₂ / HO⁻. Synthesis of carboxylic acids or ketones.

w. Alkenes with Pd / H₂. Synthesis of "alkane" from "alkene" (hydrogenation). Simplistic mechanism:

x. Alkenes with Pd / D₂. Same hydrogenation reactions with deuterium from "alkene" (hydrogenation $w''D'' =$ deuterium).

y. Alkynes with aqueous sulfuric acid (plus some Hg⁺² catalyst). Synthesis via enols (Markovnikov addition).

y. HX addition to alkynes. Markovnikov addition.

z. Bromination (or chlorination) of alkynes. Bridging bromonium ion.

aa. 1. Hydroboration 2. oxidation of alkynes (anti-Markovnikov addition makes aldehydes or ketones via enolate).

bb. Catalytic hydrogenation reduces triple bond to "alkane".

cc. Catalytic hydrogenation with quinoline "poison" of Pd catalyst reduces triple bond to Z alkene (syn addition).

dd. Sodium metal + liquid ammonia reduction of triple bond to E alkenes.

ee. Zipper reaction moves triple bond to terminal position where it can be removed to form sp carbanion nucleophile.

ff. Formation of conjugate base + addition of aldehyde electrophile forms propargyl alcohol.

gg. Formation of conjugate base + addition of ketone electrophile forms propargyl alcohol.

hh. Formation of conjugate base + addition of methyl or primary RX electrophile forms a longer alkyne.

ii. Formation of conjugate base + addition of secondary electrophile reacts in a nonproductive E2 reaction.

jj. Use zipper reaction to move alkyne through a linear chain to the end position. Work up 4 ways: a. with mild acid to generate the terminal alkyne, b. with an MeX or primary RCH2X to make a longer alkyne, c. with an aldehyde or ketone compound (C=O) or d. with an epoxide.

kk. Formation of conjugate base + addition of epoxide electrophile forms an alkynyl alcohol via S_N2 reaction.

ll. Epoxides with terminal acetylides (followed by workup = neutralization).

mm. Epoxides with lithium diisopropyl amide (LDA, followed by workup = neutralization).

nn. Aldehydes and ketones with terminal acetylides.

oo. Aldehydes and ketones with secondary amines (enamine synthesis, alkylation, hydrolysis).

