Chapter 19. Aldehydes and Ketones: Nucleophilic Addition Reactions

Aldehydes and Ketones

- Aldehydes and ketones are characterized by the the carbonyl functional group (C=O)
- The compounds occur widely in nature as intermediates in metabolism and biosynthesis
- They are also common as chemicals, as solvents, monomers, adhesives, agrichemicals and pharmaceuticals

Naming Aldehydes and Ketones

- Aldehydes are named by replacing the terminal -e of the corresponding alkane name with -al
- The parent chain must contain the —CHO group
 - The —CHO carbon is numbered as C1
- If the —CHO group is attached to a ring, use the suffix See Table 19.1 for common names



2-ethyl-4-methylpentanal

ethanal

propanal

Naming Ketones

- Replace the terminal -e of the alkane name with one
- Parent chain is the longest one that contains the ketone group
 - Numbering begins at the end nearer the carbonyl carbon



2,4-hexandione

3-hexanone

4-hexen-2-one

Ketones with Common Names

IUPAC retains well-used but unsystematic names for a few ketones



Ketones and Aldehydes as Substituents

- The R–C=O as a substituent is an acyl group is used with the suffix -yl from the root of the carboxylic acid
 CH₃CO: acetyl; CHO: formyl; C₆H₅CO: benzoyl
- The prefix oxo- is used if other functional groups are present and the doubly bonded oxygen is labeled as a substituent on a parent chain



Preparation of Aldehydes and Ketones

Preparing Aldehydes

Oxidize primary alcohols using pyridinium chlorochromate Reduce an ester with diisobutylaluminum hydride (DIBAH)



Preparing Ketones

- Oxidize a 2° alcohol (see Section 17.8)
- Many reagents possible: choose for the specific situation (scale, cost, and acid/base sensitivity)

$$(CH_3)_3C \longrightarrow OH \xrightarrow{PCC} (CH_3)_3C \longrightarrow OH$$

4-*tert*-Butylcyclohexanol

4-tert-Butylcyclohexanone (90%)

Aryl Ketones by Acylation

Friedel–Crafts acylation of an aromatic ring with an acid chloride in the presence of AlCl₃ catalyst (see Section 16.4)



Methyl Ketones by Hydrating Alkynes

Hydration of terminal alkynes in the presence of Hg²⁺



Oxidation of Aldehydes and Ketones

- CrO₃ in aqueous acid oxidizes aldehydes to carboxylic acids efficiently
- Silver oxide, Ag₂O, in aqueous ammonia (Tollens' reagent) oxidizes aldehydes (no acid)



Hydration of Aldehydes

Aldehyde oxidations occur through 1,1-diols ("hydrates") Reversible addition of water to the carbonyl group Aldehyde hydrate is oxidized to a carboxylic acid by usual reagents for alcohols



Ketones Oxidize with Difficulty

- Undergo slow cleavage with hot, alkaline KMnO₄
- C–C bond next to C=O is broken to give carboxylic acids
- Reaction is practical for cleaving symmetrical ketones



Nucleophiles

Nucleophiles can be negatively charged (: Nu⁻) or neutral (: Nu) at the reaction site

Some negatively charged nucleophiles

H \ddot{Q} :- (hydroxide ion) H:- (hydride ion) R₃C:- (a carbanion) R \ddot{Q} :- (a carbanion) N \equiv C:- (cyanide ion)

Other Nucleophiles

The overall charge on the nucleophilic species is not considered

Some neutral nucleophiles

 $H\ddot{O}H$ (water) $R\ddot{O}H$ (an alcohol) H_3N : (ammonia) $R\ddot{N}H_2$ (an amine)

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Relative Reactivity of Aldehydes and Ketones

- Aldehydes are generally more reactive than ketones in nucleophilic addition reactions
- Aldehydes have one large substituent bonded to the C=O: ketones have two



Electrophilicity of Aldehydes and Ketones

Aldehyde C=O is more polarized than ketone C=O As in carbocations, more alkyl groups stabilize + character Ketone has more alkyl groups, stabilizing the C=O carbon inductively



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Nucleophilic Addition of H₂O: Hydration

- Aldehydes and ketones react with water to yield 1,1diols (geminal (gem) diols)
- Hyrdation is reversible: a gem diol can eliminate water



Addition of H-Y to C=O

Reaction of C=O with H-Y, where Y is electronegative, gives an addition product ("adduct")
 Formation is readily reversible



Nucleophilic Addition of HCN: Cyanohydrin Formation

Aldehydes and unhindered ketones react with HCN to yield cyanohydrins, RCH(OH)C=N



Nucleophilic Addition of Grignard Reagents and Hydride Reagents: Alcohol Formation

- Treatment of aldehydes or ketones with Grignard reagents yields an alcohol
 - Nucleophilic addition of the equivalent of a carbon anion, or carbanion. A carbon-magnesium bond is strongly polarized, so a Grignard reagent reacts for all practical purposes as R : ⁻ MgX +.



Mechanism of Addition of Grignard Reagents

Complexation of C=O by Mg^{2+,} Nucleophilic addition of R : -, protonation by dilute acid yields the neutral alcohol Grignard additions are irreversible because a carbanion is not a leaving group



Hydride Addition

- Convert C=O to CH-OH
- LiAlH₄ and NaBH₄ react as donors of hydride ion
- Protonation after addition yields the alcohol



Nucleophilic Addition of Amines: Imine and Enamine Formation

- RNH₂ adds to C=O to form imines, R₂C=NR (after loss of HOH)
- R₂NH yields enamines, R₂N—CR=CR₂ (after loss of HOH)

(ene + amine = unsaturated amine)



Nucleophilic Addition of Hydrazine: The Wolff–Kishner Reaction

Treatment of an aldehyde or ketone with hydrazine, H₂NNH₂ and KOH converts the compound to an alkane Originally carried out at high temperatures but with dimethyl sulfoxide as solvent takes place near room temperature



Nucleophilic Addition of Alcohols: Acetal Formation

- Two equivalents of ROH in the presence of an acid catalyst add to C=O to yield acetals, R₂C(OR')₂
- These can be called ketals if derived from a ketone



Formation of Acetals

- Alcohols are weak nucleophiles but acid promotes addition forming the conjugate acid of C=O
- Addition yields a hydroxy ether, called a hemiacetal (reversible); further reaction can occur
- Protonation of the —OH and loss of water leads to an oxonium ion, R₂C=OR+ to which a second alcohol adds to form the acetal

Summary

- Aldehydes are from oxidative cleavage of alkenes, oxidation of 1° alcohols, or partial reduction of esters
- Ketones are from oxidative cleavage of alkenes, oxidation of 2° alcohols, or by addition of diorganocopper reagents to acid chlorides.
- Aldehydes and ketones are reduced to yield 1° and 2° alcohols , respectively
- Grignard reagents also gives alcohols
- Addition of HCN yields cyanohydrins
- 1° amines add to form imines, and 2° amines yield enamines
- Reaction of an aldehyde or ketone with hydrazine and base yields an alkane
- Alcohols add to yield acetals