Chapter 19: Benzene and Aromatic Substitution Reactions

[Sections: 18.2, 18.6; 19.1-19.12]



• *if a continuous chain attached to a benzene ring exceeds 6 carbons, the benzene ring becomes a substituent off of the parent alkyl chain*

Problems: 1

Substitution versus Addition Reactions



- the net result is substitution on the aromatic ring by an electrophile
- the aromatic ring is able to supply electrons to the electrophile from the pi system
- the process is referred to as "electrophilic aromatic substitution" (EAS for short)

Common Electrophiles that Engage in Electrophilic Aromatic Substitution

• all sufficiently strong electrophiles engage in the two step EAS process, an addition step to form the arenium ion followed by an elimination step to form the aromatic substituted product

+	E ⁺ addition	E elimination H	E
Conditions for	arenium ion (sigma comple	ex)	
Generating E+	Active E ⁺	Product	Process Name
Br ₂ , FeBr ₃ (or AlBr ₃)	δ⁺ δ [−] Br −BrFeBr ₃	Br bromobenzene	Bromination H A L
Cl ₂ , FeCl ₃ (or AlCl ₃)	δ^+ δ^- CI — CI FeCI ₃	chlorobenzene	Chlorination $\begin{cases} G \\ E \\ N \\ A \\ T \end{cases}$
I ₂ , CuCl ₂	"I+"	iodobenzene	lodination
H ₂ SO ₄ , HNO ₃	⊕ = 0		-NO ₂ Nitration
H ₂ SO ₄ , SO ₃	О ∥⊛ О ^{≠S} `ОН	benzene sulfonic acid	—SO ₃ H Sulfonation
R—X, AIX ₃ (X=Cl, Br, I)	R [⊕]	alkylbenzene	Alkylation (Friedel- Crafts)
$\begin{array}{c} O \\ II \\ C \\ CI \end{array}, AICI_3 \\ A CI \\ acid chloride \end{array}$	O II R ^C ⊛	acylbenzene	—COR Acylation (Friedel- Crafts)

each set of conditions generates an electrophile (E+) that then reacts with the benzene ring
you MUST learn the conditions to generate each of the electrophiles and also what product each set of



Two Limitations of the Friedel-Crafts Reactions

1. Neither the Fridel-Crafts alkylation or acylation reactions will work with a benzene ring bearing a substituent more electron withdrawing than a halogen



2. Potential for rearrangements





Charles Friedel 1832-1899

James Crafts 1839-1917

• in the Friedel-Crafts alkylation reaction, as in any reaction involving a carbocation intermediate, rearrangement to a more stable carbocation is expected

• this is a limitation to the reaction that often prevents straight-chain alkyl groups from being substituted onto aromatic rings in a single step



• the Friedel-Crafts acylation reaction does NOT have competing rearrangements

• if the carbonyl group could be converted to a CH_2 group, this is a way to substitute straight-chain alkyl groups onto an aromatic ring using a two-step method

• this is considered to be a "reduction" reaction since hydrogen is added to the molecule

Clemmensen Reduction



• an "amalgam" of zinc and mercury metal in the presence of strongly acidic HCl will reduce a carbonyl group to a CH₂

Wolff-Kishner Reduction



• heating hydrazine (H_2NNH_2) in the presence of strongly basic KOH will reduce a carbonyl group to a CH_2

Example



Problems: 2

Effects of Substituents Already on the Benzene Ring



- the OH substituent **increases** the electron density of the aromatic pi system by **donating electrons** to the ring via resonance
- the OH substituent is termed an "electron-donating" group or an "electron-donor"
- the increased electron density results in faster reaction with electrophiles
- electron-donating groups, therefore, activate the pi system towards reaction with electrophiles



- the NO_2 substituent decreases the electron density of the aromatic pi system by withdrawing electrons from the ring via resonance
- the NO₂ substituent is termed an "electron-withdrawing" group
- the decreased electron density results in slower reaction with electrophiles
- electron-withdrawing groups, therefore, deactivate the pi system towards reaction with electrophiles



the effect of the electron-donating OH group is to build up electron density at the ortho and para positions of the ring. The electrophile reacts preferentially at those positions since those are the most electron rich positions and an electrophile is an electron-seeking species. All electron-donating groups behave similarly!
the effect of the electron-withdrawing NO₂ group is to decrease electron density at the ortho and para positions of the ring. The electrophile reacts preferentially at the meta position since those are the most electron-rich positions. Most electron-withdrawing groups behave similarly!



most electron-donating groups have a lone pair on the atom attached to the benzene ring
the lone pair pushes electron density into the ring via resonance interactions, increasing electron density • most electron-withdrawing groups have a positively charged, or partially-positively charged atom attached to the benzene

• the charge acts to pull electron density out of the benzene ring, depleting electron density

ELECTRON-WITHDRAWING GROUPS

⊛ <u>,</u>0







If all four of the aromatic compounds A-D were subjected to Br_2 , $AlBr_3$ under otherwise identical conditions, what would be the order of reactivity from fastest o slowest?

10. Planning the Synthesis of an Aromatic Compound



Plan a synthesis for each of the boxed aromatic compounds



• the order in which reagents are added is often critical to obtaining the desired product!

• if the disubstituted product is meta substituted, put an electron-withdrawing substituent on first

• if both substituents are electron-withdrawing, from a practical standpoint, put the less deactivating group on first(if the MORE deactivating group is put on first, the second reaction will be VERY SLOW)

• if the disubstituted product is ortho or para substituted, put an electron donating substituent on first

• if both substituents are electron-donating, from a practical standpoint, put the more activating group on first (if the MORE activating group is put on first, the second reaction will be FASTER)

11. How to Make Two Important Benzene Derivatives



Plan a synthesis for each of the boxed aromatic compounds

• there is no electrophile available to attach the NH₂ substituent in a single step

the NH₂ substituent can be formed by using the NO₂ electrophile since this attaches a N atom to the ring
reduction of the NO₂ substituent takes place using Fe°, Zn° or Sn° metal in HCl

• reduction of the NO_2 substituent to the NH_2 substituent forms the desired anilines via a two-step process

• NOTE that the NO₂ substituent is a powerful electron withdrawing substituent (meta director) while the NH₂ substituent is a powerful electron donating substituent (ortho,para director)







two-step method



Plan a synthesis for the boxed aromatic compound



there is no electrophile available to attach the CO₂H substituent in a single step
the CO₂H substituent can be formed by using the Friedel-Crafts alkylation reaction since this attaches a C atom to the ring
oxidation of the alkyl substituent (usually a methyl group) to the CO₂H substituent formsthe desired carboxylic acids via a two-step process
typically, KMnO₄ or the Jones reagent (Na₂Cr₂O₇, H₂SO₄, H₂O) are used forthe reaction
NOTE that the CO₂H substituent is an electron withdrawing substituent (meta director) while the alkyl substituent is a mild electron donating substituent (ortho,para director)

12. EAS on Benzene Rings with Two (or more) Aromatic Substituents



• *if the two substituent directing effects reinforce each other, the electrophile goes to the mutually beneficial site*





if the directing effects of the two groups are conflicting, the stronger electron donating group prevails electrophiles avoid reacting at the position between two other substituents due to large steric strain energy that would result



Problems: 9, 10

13. Some Common Explosives



14. Reactivity of Compounds Containg Benzene Rings AND C=C Bonds



HBr

an ordinary C=C bond has much greater reactivity towards electrophiles than does an aromatic ring
the aromatic ring must at least temporarily lose its stable aromaticity upon reaction with an electrophile. a C=C bond has no aromaticity to lose and is therefore more prone to reaction

remember that a benzylic carbocation is particularly stable due to resonance interactions with the aromatic ring.
therefore, a benzylic carbocation will be formed preferentially to an ordinary alkyl carbocation

Chapter 19 Essential Concepts

- 1. Know how to name substituted benzene rings using locant values, the ortho/meta/para terminology, and the commonly named derivatives on the first page of the notes.
- 2. Be able to draw the mechanistic steps for electrophilic aromatic substitution (EAS), including the resonance forms for the arenium ion.
- 3. Understand the importance and reason for the addition of Lewis acids to EAS reactions
- 4. You MUST know the conditions for generating the common electrophiles we discussed, the active electrophiles responsible for the undergoing EAS process, and the type of products they form.
- 5. Understand the limitations of the Friedel Crafts alkylation reaction and how the Friedel Crafts acylation reaction can ameliorate one of those limitations.
- 6. Know the outcome and reagents needed for the for Clemmensen and Wolff-Kishner reductions.
- 7. Understand the effect substituents on an aromatic ring have on the rate of further EAS reactions, and how/why they exert their directing effects.
- 8. You MUST know the common electron donating and electron withdrawing groups, whether they are ortho, para- or meta- directors AND their relative strengths.
- 9. Know how to add a NH2 and CO2H group to a benzene ring
- 10. Be able to apply the reactions we discussed towards the synthesis of substituted benzenes.
- 11. Understand the common features of explosive compounds and the development of the Nobel prize.
- 12. Know that benzene rings are inherently less reactive than ordinary C=C bonds.