## Introduction to organic REACTION MECHANISMS



### 3.1 ACID-BASE REACTIONS <br> Brønsted-Lowry Acids and Base




# 3.1 ACID-BASE REACTIONS Lewis Acids 



### 3.2 CHEMICAL EQUILIBRIUM AND EQUILIBRIUM CONSTANTS

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathrm{aA}+\mathrm{bB} \xlongequal[\text { reverse reaction }]{\text { forward reaction }} \mathrm{cC}+\mathrm{dD} \\
\mathrm{~K}_{\text {equilibrium }}=\frac{[\mathrm{C}]^{\mathrm{c}}[\mathrm{D}]^{\mathrm{d}}}{[\mathrm{~A}]^{\mathrm{a}}[\mathrm{~B}]^{\mathrm{b}}} \\
\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}+\mathrm{HBr} \xlongequal{\text { ethene }} \xlongequal{\mathrm{K}_{\text {eq }}} \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Br} \\
\mathrm{~K}_{\text {equilibrium }}=\frac{\left[\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Br}\right]}{\left[\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right][\mathrm{HBr}]}=10^{8}
\end{gathered}
$$



$$
\mathrm{K}_{\text {equilibrium }}=\frac{\left[\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]}{\left[\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}\right]\left[\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH}\right]}=4.0
$$

### 3.2 CHEMICAL EQUILIBRIUM AND EQUILIBRIUM CONSTANTS <br> Le Chatelier's Principle



## 3.3 pH AND pK VALUES

$\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}$ and $\mathrm{pK}{ }_{\mathrm{a}}$

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathrm{HA}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \xlongequal{\mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{eq}}} \mathrm{~A}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+} \\
\mathrm{K}_{\text {equilibrium }}=\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{A}^{-}\right]}{[\mathrm{HA}]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]} \\
\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}=\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{eq}}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]=\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{A}^{-}\right]}{[\mathrm{HA}]}
\end{gathered}
$$



Table 3.1
$\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}$ and pK Values of Common Acids

| Acid | $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}$ | $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{a}}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| HBr | $10^{9}$ | -9 |
| HCl | $10^{7}$ | -7 |
| $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ | $10^{5}$ | -5 |
| $\mathrm{HNO}_{3}$ | $10^{1}$ | -1 |
| HF | $6 \times 10^{-4}$ | 3.2 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}$ | $2 \times 10^{-5}$ | 4.7 |
| $\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{COH}$ | $2 \times 10^{-5}$ | 4.7 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SH}$ | $3 \times 10^{-11}$ | 10.6 |
| $\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH}$ | $4 \times 10^{-13}$ | 12.4 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OH}$ | $3 \times 10^{-16}$ | 15.5 |
| $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{COH}$ | $1 \times 10^{-18}$ | 18 |
| $\mathrm{CCl}_{3} \mathrm{H}$ | $10^{-25}$ | 25 |
| $\mathrm{HC}_{\mathrm{C}} \mathrm{CH}$ | $10^{-25}$ | 25 |
| $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ | $10^{-36}$ | 36 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}$ | $10^{-44}$ | 44 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{4}$ | $10^{-49}$ | 49 |

## 3.3 pH AND pK VALUES

$\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$ and $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{b}}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{A}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{HA}+\mathrm{OH}^{-} \\
& \mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}=\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{eq}}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]=\frac{[\mathrm{HA}]\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]}{\left[\mathrm{A}^{-}\right]}
\end{aligned}
$$

Table 3.2
$\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$ and $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{b}}$ Values of Common Bases

$$
\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}+\mathrm{OH}^{-} \stackrel{\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}}{\rightleftharpoons} \underset{\text { strong base }}{\rightleftharpoons} \underset{\substack{\text { weak base }}}{\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2}^{-}+} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}
$$

$$
\mathrm{A}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{HA}+\mathrm{OH}^{-}
$$

$$
\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}=\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{eq}}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]=\frac{[\mathrm{HA}]\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]}{\left[\mathrm{A}^{-}\right]}
$$

| Acid | $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$ | pK ${ }_{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $4 \times 10^{-10}$ | 9.4 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2}{ }^{-}$ | $5 \times 10^{-10}$ | 9.3 |
| $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N}^{-}$ | $1.6 \times 10^{-5}$ | 4.8 |
| $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ | $1.7 \times 10^{-5}$ | 4.8 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ | $4.3 \times 10^{-4}$ | 3.4 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{-}$ | $3 \times 10^{-16}$ | -1.5 |

## 3.3 pH AND pK VALUES

$\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$ and $\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{b}}$


Table 3.3
$\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$ and $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}$, and $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{a}}$ and $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{b}}$ Values of Amines and Ammonium Ions

| Compound | $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}$ | $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{a}}$ | $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{b}}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ | $1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ | $5.5 \times 10^{-10}$ | 4.74 | 9.26 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ | $4.6 \times 10^{-4}$ | $2.2 \times 10^{-11}$ | 3.34 | 10.7 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ | $4.8 \times 10^{-4}$ | $2.1 \times 10^{-11}$ | 3.20 | 10.8 |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{NHCH}_{3}$ | $4.7 \times 10^{-4}$ | $2.1 \times 10^{-11}$ | 3.20 | 10.8 |

## 3.3 pH AND pK VALUES

Applying pK ${ }_{a}$ Values in Organic Acid-Base Reactions

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathrm{HA}+\mathrm{B}^{-} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{A}^{-}+\mathrm{HB} \\
\mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{eq}}=\frac{\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{HA}}}{\mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{HB}}} \\
\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{eq}}=\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{HA}}-\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{HB}} \\
\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}+: \mathrm{B}^{-} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{C}^{-}+\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{B} \\
\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{HỌ̣}:=\mathrm{H}=\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{C}:^{-}+\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{OH} \quad \mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{eq}}=10^{-9} \\
\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}+: \stackrel{-}{\mathrm{N}} \mathrm{H}_{2} \\
\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{C}:^{-}+\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{N}_{2} \quad \mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{eq}}=10^{11}
\end{gathered}
$$

### 3.4 EFFECT OF STRUCTURE ON ACIDITY <br> \section*{Effect of Periodic Trends on Acidity and Basicity}


sulfuric acid, a strong acid

ammonia
pK b 4.74
(weak base)

methane sulfonic acid,
a strong acid

ethylamine
pK 3.25
(weak base)

### 3.4 EFFECT OF STRUCTURE ON ACIDITY

## Effect of Resonance on Acidity and Basicity

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OH}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+} \quad \mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}=10^{-16} \\
& \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+} \quad \mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}=1.8 \times 10^{-5}
\end{aligned}
$$



Ethanoate ion (acetate), is resonance stabilized, which increases $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}$ relative to ethanol.

### 3.4 EFFECT OF STRUCTURE ON ACIDITY

Inductive Effects



2-chlorobutanoic acid

$\mathrm{pK}=2.86$
3-chlorobutanoic acid
$\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{a}}=4.82$
$\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{a}}=4.02$

### 3.4 EFFECT OF STRUCTURE ON ACIDITY

Effect of Hybridization on Acidity

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathrm{CH}_{3}-\mathrm{CH}_{3} & \mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2} & \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{C}- \\
\text { ethane } & \text { ethene } & \text { ethyne } \\
\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}=10^{-49} & \mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{a}}=10^{-44} & \mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{a}}=10^{-25}
\end{array}
$$

### 3.5 STANDARD FREE ENERGY CHANGES IN CHEMICAL REACTIONS

The Standard Free Energy Change and the Equilibrium Constant

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \Delta \mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{rxn}}^{\circ}=\Delta \mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{f}}^{\circ} \text { (products) }-\Delta \mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{f}}^{\circ} \text { (reactants) } \\
& \Delta \mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{rxn}}^{\circ}=-2.303 \mathrm{RTlogK}_{e q} \\
& \mathrm{R}=8.314 \mathrm{kj} \mathrm{kelvin}^{-1} \text { mole }^{-1}\left(1.987 \text { cal } \text { kelvin }^{-1} \text { mole }^{-1}\right) \\
& \mathrm{T}=\text { absolute temperature }(\text { kelvin })
\end{aligned}
$$

Table 3.4
Relation between $\Delta \mathrm{G}^{\circ}\left(\mathrm{kJ}\right.$ mole $\left.{ }^{-1}\right)$ and $\mathrm{K}_{\text {eq }}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

$$
X \rightleftharpoons Y
$$

| $\Delta G^{\circ}$ | $K_{e q}$ | $\% Y$ | $\Delta G^{\circ}$ | $K_{e q}$ | $\% Y$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0.00 | 1.0 | 50 | -4.3 | 5.67 | 85 |
| -0.50 | 1.22 | 55 | -5.45 | 9.00 | 90 |
| -1.0 | 1.50 | 60 | -7.30 | 19.0 | 95 |
| -1.5 | 1.86 | 65 | -9.65 | 49.0 | 98 |
| -2.1 | 2.33 | 70 | -11 | 99 | 99 |
| -2.7 | 3.00 | 75 | -17 | 999.9 | 99.9 |
| -3.4 | 4.00 | 80 | -22 | 9999.9 | 99.99 |

### 3.6 ENTHALPY CHANGES IN CHEMICAL REACTIONS

$$
\mathrm{mA}+\mathrm{nB} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{pX}+\mathrm{qY}+\text { energy }
$$

1. If heat flows out of the reaction into the surroundings, the reaction is exothermic, $\Delta \mathrm{H}^{\circ}{ }^{\mathrm{xnn}}<0$.
2. If heat flows into of the reaction from the surroundings, the reaction is endothermic, $\Delta \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{rxn}}^{\circ}>0$.

Standard conditions, $\Delta \mathrm{H}^{\circ}$, refer to measurements made at 298 K and 1 atm .

1. The standard enthalpy of formation $\left(\Delta \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{f}}{ }_{\mathrm{f}}\right)$ of a compound is the enthalpy change when the compound is formed in its standard state from the elements in their standard states. The superscript $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ indicates that the reaction occurs under standard conditions.
2. The standard state of any element or compound is its most stable form at 298 K and 1 atm pressure.
3. The standard enthalpy of formation of any element in its standard state is defined as 0 kJ mole ${ }^{-1}$.

$$
\Delta \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{rxn}}^{\circ}=\left[\mathrm{p} \Delta \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{f}}^{\circ}(\mathrm{X})+\mathrm{q} \Delta \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{f}}^{\circ}(\mathrm{Y})\right]-\left[\mathrm{m} \Delta \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{f}}^{\circ}(\mathrm{A})+\mathrm{n} \Delta \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{f}}^{\circ}(\mathrm{B})\right]
$$

### 3.7 BOND DISSOCIATION ENERGIES



### 3.8 INTRODUCTION TO REACTION MECHANISMS

## Concerted and Multistep Reactions



A one step, concerted reaction, has no reaction intermediates.

## Multistep reaction.

Step 1. An intermediate forms.

$$
\underset{\text { reactant }}{\mathrm{A} \xrightarrow[\text { intermediate }]{\text { Step 1 }}} \mathrm{M}
$$

Step 2. The intermediate is converted to product.

$$
\underset{\text { intermediate }}{\mathrm{M}} \xrightarrow[\text { product }]{\mathrm{Step} 2} \underset{ }{\mathrm{P}}
$$

The slowest individual step, is the rate-determining step.

## Types of Bond Cleavage

$$
\widehat{\mathrm{X}} \longrightarrow \mathrm{X} \cdot+\mathrm{Y}
$$

general reaction for homolytic bond cleavage

$$
\mathrm{X} \xrightarrow[\mathrm{Y}]{\longrightarrow} \mathrm{X}^{+}+: \mathrm{Y}^{-}
$$

general reaction for heterolytic bond cleavage

(a carbanion)
A carbanion can act as a Lewis base or as a "nucleus loving" species called a nucleophile.


A carbocation can act as a Lewis acid or as a "electron loving" species called an electrophile.


1. If $Y$ is a less electronegative element, such as a metal, the bond tends to break heterolytically to form a carbanion.
2. If Y is a nonelectronegative element other than carbon, a halogen atom, for example, the bond has the opposite polarity, and tends to break heterolytically to form a carbocation.


Figure 3.1 Structures of Reactive Carbon Intermediates

## The tert-butyl Carbocation


tert-butyl carbocation


In a tert-butyl carbocation, the central carbon is $\mathrm{sp}^{2}$ hybridized, and all four carbon atoms lie in the same plane.

## Carbon Radicals





increasing stability


## Methyl Radical

In a methyl radical (or any other), the central carbon is $\mathrm{sp}^{2}$ hybridized, and the single, unpaired electron is in a 2 p orbital orthogonal to the plane that contains the hydrogen atoms.

## Carbanions




primary


tertiary
$\longleftarrow$ increasing stability

### 3.10 FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE REACTION RATES

Four major factors affect the rate of a reaction, and hence the rate constant for the reaction.

1. The structure of the reactants.
2. The concentration of reactants.
3. Temperature.
4. The presence of catalysts.

## The Effect of Structure on Reactivity

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}+\mathrm{Br}_{2} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{Br} \quad \mathrm{k}_{\text {rel }}=1 \\
\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}-\mathrm{CH}_{3}+\mathrm{Br}_{2} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Br}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{CHBr}-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \quad \mathrm{k}_{\text {rel }}=60
\end{gathered}
$$

The Effect of Reactant Concentration on Reaction Rates

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{aA}+\mathrm{bB} \rightarrow \text { product } \\
& \mathrm{v}=\mathrm{k}[\mathrm{~A}]^{\mathrm{m}}[\mathrm{~B}]^{\mathrm{n}} \\
& \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{Cl}+\mathrm{OH}^{-} \rightarrow \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OH}+\mathrm{Cl}^{-} \\
& \text {rate, } \mathrm{v}=\mathrm{k}\left[\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{Cl}\right]\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

## The Effect of Temperature on Reaction Rates



Table 3.6 Effect of Temperature on Rates of a Substitution Reaction ${ }^{1}$

| Temperature ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | Rate Constant <br> $\left(\mathrm{L} \mathrm{mol}^{-1} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}\right)$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 35 | $2.6 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| 45 | $8.5 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| 55 | $2.6 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| 65 | $7.8 \times 10^{-4}$ |

1. The rate increases by approximately a factor of 3 for each $10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ increase in temperature.

## The Effect of Catalysts on Reaction Rates

$$
\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \xrightarrow{\mathrm{Pt} / \mathrm{C}} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{H}
$$

The catalyst is not consumed, even though it does interact with the reactant during the reaction. Although a catalyst increases the rate of a reaction, it does not change the equilibrium constant for the reaction.

### 3.11 REACTION RATE THEORY

Transition States

bond being formed bond being broken


## Reaction Coordinate Diagrams



Figure 3.4 Reaction Coordinate Diagram For an Exergonic Reaction

## Reaction Coordinate Diagrams and Reaction Mechanisms

Figure 3.5 Reaction Coordinate Diagram For a Substitution Reaction
(a) The reaction of iodomethane with bromide ion occurs in a single step. The activation energy reflects the stability of the transition state relative to the stability of the reactants.


Figure 3.5 Reaction Coordinate Diagram For a Substitution Reaction
(b) The transition state occurs at the highest energy position on the pathway of minimum energy; it is at a saddle point.
(b)

Transition State at Saddle Point


Figure 3.6 Energy Diagram for the Addition of HBr to an Alkene The first, rate-determining step in the addition of HBr to ethene is the attack of the electrons of the double bond on a proton to give a carbocation. The second step occurs at a faster rate because the activation energy of the second step is lower than for the first step.




Progress of Reaction

## Catalysis



Figure 3.7 Energy Diagram for a Catalyzed and an Uncatalyzed Reaction The activation energy for a catalyzed reaction is smaller than the activation energy for reaction in the absence of a catalyst. The catalyzed reaction may require a different number of steps than the uncatalyzed reaction.


## Transition State Structure: The Hammond Postulate

Figure 3.8 The Hammond Postulate
The location of the transition state along the reaction coordinate axis depends on the activation energy. Curve A for an exothermic process has an "early" transition state that is closer to the reactant side. Curve B is for a reaction with no difference in enthalpy between reactants and products. The transition state is in the middle. Curve C is for an endothermic process, which has a "late" transition state that is closer to the product side.


### 3.12 STABILITY AND REACTIVITY





primary

 —— increasing stability


more reactive in addition of $\mathrm{Br}_{2}$

more reactive in addition of $\mathrm{H}_{2}$

