## Summary of Alcohol Syntheses, Ch. 10 (and Review of Old Ones).

- Potassium (K) analogous.
- Key way to convert alcohol to alkoxide, reactive as S<sub>N</sub>2 nucleophile and E2 base.

2 R-OH  $\xrightarrow{1. \text{Na}}$  R-O-R'

- Alkoxide formation-S<sub>N</sub>2 route to ether
- The electrophile R'-X must be S<sub>N</sub>2 reactive, preferably 1° with a good leaving group

-Li is analogous for making RLi, which also act analogously.

-MgBr is spectator:  $R \bigcirc$  is key.

R'MgBr 
$$\xrightarrow{1. H_2CO}$$
  $\xrightarrow{H}$   $\xrightarrow{H}$  OH  $\xrightarrow{2. H_3O^+}$   $\xrightarrow{1^{\circ}}$  alcohol

1 carbon Mech extension

R'MgBr 
$$\xrightarrow{1. \text{ RCHO}}$$
  $\xrightarrow{R}$   $\xrightarrow{R'}$   $\xrightarrow{OH}$   $\xrightarrow{2^{\circ} \text{ alcohol}}$ 

Mech

Mech?

R'MgBr 
$$\frac{1. \text{ R(R'')CO}}{2. \text{ H}_3\text{O}^+}$$
  $\frac{\text{R}}{\text{R'}}$   $\frac{\text{All three Mech}}{\text{R groups}}$   $\frac{\text{R}}{\text{S'}}$  alcohol  $\frac{\text{R}}{\text{different.}}$ 

R'MgBr 
$$\xrightarrow{\text{1. RCO}_2\text{R}}$$
  $\xrightarrow{\text{R'}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{R}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{R}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{OH}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{R}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{R}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{OH}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{R}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{R}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{S'}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{Alcohol}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{m}}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{th}}$ 

At least 2 Mech R groups must be the same

8 O 1. R'MgBr OH R'MgBr 
$$\xrightarrow{1. \text{ R'MgBr}}$$
  $\xrightarrow{1. \text{ R'MgBr}}$   $\xrightarrow{1. \text{ OH}}$   $\xrightarrow{R'}$   $\xrightarrow{R'}$   $\xrightarrow{H}$   $\xrightarrow{H}$ 

2-Carbon Mech chain extension

Mech

Mech

NaBH<sub>4</sub> will Mech not react with esters

## **Review Routes to Alcohols**

10 
$$H_2O, H^+$$
 OH Markovnikov

11 R 
$$\stackrel{\text{1. Hg(OAc)}_2, H_2O}{\longrightarrow}$$
 OH Markovnikov

12 R 
$$\longrightarrow$$
 1. BH<sub>3</sub>-THF 2. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, NaOH R  $\longrightarrow$  OH anti-Markovnikov

## Summary of Mechanisms, Ch. 10

For Test:

1. 
$$R 
ightharpoonup Property of Hamiltonian Property$$

2. 
$$R 
ightharpoonup OR' 
ightharpoonup OH 
ightharpoonup Quantum Qua$$

mech: 
$$Z \ominus R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z = R Z =$$

3. 
$$\triangle \frac{1. R^{\Theta}}{2. H_3O^{\oplus}} R^{OH}$$

mech:  $R = R^{OH}$ 

#### 10.1,2 Intro, Classification

"Alcohol": OH attached to a saturated, sp<sup>3</sup>, "alkyl" carbon

1°, 2°, 3° Alcohols: based on whether the carbon with the OH is 1°, 2°, or 3°

"Phenol": OH attached to an aromatic

-Note: phenol, not phenyl

"Enol" or "vinyl alcohol": OH attached to an alkene

Problem: Classify each of the following either as a phenol, as a carboxylic acid, or as a 1°, 2°, 3°, or vinyl alcohol:

#### 10.3 Nomenclature

A. IUPAC, when alcohol is priority functional group and is part of the core name: x-alkanol

- Choose longest carbon chain that has the OH attached
- Remember to number!
- The oxygen itself does <u>not</u> count as a number

## 4-ethyl-3-heptanol

B. Cycloalkanols: The OH-carbon is automatically Number 1

C. <u>x-Alken-z-ol</u>. When an alkene is in the main carbon chain, you need two number descriptors, one for the alkene, the second for the alcohol.

- The OH still dictates the numbering
- The OH number gets moved right before the "ol"
- The alkene number goes in front, in front of the "alken" portion
- Note: you only put the OH number right in front of the "ol" when you have an alkenol (or alkynol)

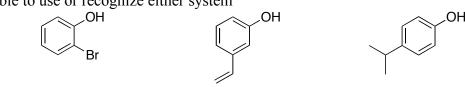
## D. Diols: x,y-alkanediol

E. Functional Group Priority:  $CO_2H > C=O > OH > amine > alkene > halide$ 

- When you have more than one functional group, the higher priority dictates the numbering
- The higher priority is used in the "core name"
- The lower priority group may be forced to be named as a substituent

#### G. Common Names: Alkyl alcohol

- H. Substituted Phenols
  - IUPAC: use numbers, with OH carbon #1
  - Common:
    - o Ortho: 2-position, adjacent
    - Meta: 3-position, two carbons away
    - o Para: 4 position
  - Skill: be able to use or recognize either system



IUPAC:2-bromophenol3-vinylphenol4-isopropylphenolCommonortho-bromophenol or o-bromophenolmeta-vinylphenol or m-vinylphenolpara-isopropylphenol or p-isopropylphenol

#### 10.4 Physical Properties: Dominated by H-Bonding

BP: Match the boiling point for the following structures: 35°, 137°, 187°

Water solubility: water solubility decreases as hydrophobic R gets longer

- In general,
  - o  $R \le 4$  carbons, ROH substantially water soluble
  - o  $R \ge 5$  carbons, ROH minimal water solubility

#### 10.5 Commercially Important Alcohols

• Toxic: All alcohols are "toxic" if swallowed in sufficient quantities

CH₃OH	ОН	OH
<ul> <li>Cheap</li> <li>Solvent</li> <li>Fuel</li> <li>100 mL → death</li> <li>15 mL → blindness</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>200 mL (7 oz) → death</li> <li>Least toxic alcohol</li> <li>Alcoholic beverages</li> <li>Fermentation</li> <li>Solvent</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Rubbing alcohol</li> <li>100 mL → death</li> <li>Kills germs on skin, but not absorbed</li> </ul>

#### 10.6 Acidity of Alcohols and Phenols

A. Alcohols are weak acids  $\rightarrow$  can be ionized by stronger bases

$$ROH + B \longrightarrow RO + BH$$

- goes to the right (alkoxide) only if RO  $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{}$  is more stable than B  $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{}$
- ex.  $\bigcirc$  NH<sub>2</sub>,  $\bigcirc$  CH<sub>3</sub>
- ex. If a <u>less</u> stable oxygen anion can convert to a <u>more</u> stable oxygen anion

### B. Acidity Table

Class	Structure	<u>Ka</u>	Acid Strength	<u>Anion</u>	Base Strength
Strong Acids	H-Cl	$10^2$	Most	Cl <sup>⊖</sup>	Least
Carboxylic Acid	ROH	10-5		R O⊖	
Phenol	OH	10 <sup>-10</sup>			
Water	H <sub>2</sub> O	10 <sup>-16</sup>		НО⊖	
Alcohol	ROH	10 <sup>-18</sup>		RO ⊖	
Amine (N-H)	RNH <sub>2</sub>	10 <sup>-33</sup>		RNH ⊖	
Alkane (C-H)	RCH <sub>3</sub>	10 <sup>-50</sup>	Least	RCH <sub>2</sub> ⊖	Most

#### Notes/skills:

- 1. Be able to rank acidity.
- 2. Memorize/understand neutral OH acidity ranking: RCO<sub>2</sub>H > H<sub>2</sub>O > ROH
  - Reason: <u>resonance</u> stabilization of the <u>anion</u>
- 3. Predict deprotonation (acid/base) reactions
  - Any weak acid will be deprotonated by a stronger base (lower on table)
  - Any weak acid will not be deprotonated by a weaker base (higher on table)
- 4. Predict ether/water extraction problems
  - If an organic chemical is neutral and stays neutral, it will stay in ether layer
  - If an organic chemical is ionized (by an acid-base reaction), it will extract into the aqueous layer

#### **Problems**

1. Draw arrow to show whether equilibrium favors products or reactants. (Why?)

$$\bigcirc_{OH + H} \stackrel{O}{\longleftarrow}_{OH} \longrightarrow H_2O + H_2O \stackrel{O}{\longleftarrow}_{O} \stackrel{Resonance}{Stability}$$

2. Which of the following will deprotonate methanol?

$H_2O$	CH <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Na	PhONa	NaOH	$NaNH_2$	CH <sub>3</sub> MgBr
No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

3. When the following are dissolved in ether and then treated with NaOH/water, which would extract out of the ether layer into the water layer?

OH
$$HO^{\bigcirc}$$

$$+ H_2O$$

$$+ H_2O$$

$$+ H_2O$$

$$+ H_2O$$
No, stays neutral, stays in ether

Yes, converts to anion, water soluble Yes, converts to anion, water soluble

10.6B Formation of Sodium, Potassium Alkoxides; 2-Step Conversion of Alcohols into Ethers via the Alkoxides

1	$ \begin{array}{ccc} R-OH & \xrightarrow{Na} & R-ONa \\ R-OH & \xrightarrow{K} & R-OK \end{array} $	<ul> <li>Potassium (K) analogous.</li> <li>Key way to convert alcohol to alkoxide, reactive as S<sub>N</sub>2 nucleophile and E2 base.</li> </ul>
2	R-OH 1. Na 2. R'-X	<ul> <li>Alkoxide formation-S<sub>N</sub>2 route to ether</li> <li>The electrophile R'-X must be S<sub>N</sub>2 reactive, preferably 1° with a good leaving group</li> </ul>

Reaction 1: Key source of nucleophilic/basic alkoxides

10.7 Synthesis of Alcohols: Review: See p. 2, from Alkyl Halides (S<sub>N</sub>2) and Alkenes

10.8 Organometallics: RM (M = Metal) = R  $\bigcirc$  M  $\oplus$ 

- 1. We will focus on the magnesium reagents RMgBr
- 2. RMgBr = "Grignard Reagents" (Victor Grignard)
- 3. Key: This is the way to make  $R \bigcirc$ , strong nucleophiles/bases
- 4. RMgBr are formed via redox reaction.
  - Mg gives up two electrons, is oxidized
  - Bromine is reduced to bromide anion
  - Carbon is reduced to carbanion

- 5. The formation of Grignard Reagents is completely general for all R-Halides:
  - 3°, 2°, and 1° alkyl halides all work well
  - Aryl and Vinyl halides as well as alkyl halides work well
  - RCl, RBr, and RI all work well
  - For class, we will normally use bromides, due to synthetic accessibility

# 6. View as carbanions: RMgBr = $R^{\bigcirc}$ Super Strong Bases and Nucleophiles

- The counterion metal is a spectator
- Stability-reactivity principle: very unstable → very reactive
- This great reactivity is very useful (as nucleophile)
- This great reactivity (as base) has implication for proper technical use (see following)
- 7. Solvent and handling: Grignard reactants RMgBr must be made, stored, and handled in special solvents under special conditions:
  - No water allowed

$$\circ$$
 R  $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{-}$  + H<sub>2</sub>O → R-H + HO  $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{-}$  Destroys carbanion

- No alcohol or amines or acids allowed either, or carbanion will just deprotonate them too
- If any chemicals with carbonyls are present, they too will react with the carbanion by nucleophile/electrophile reaction

$$R \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} + \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} R$$

- Grignards and other organometallics are made in either alkane or ether solvents.
  - These don't have any acidic hydrogens that protonate carbanions.
  - o These don't have any carbonyls that react with carbanions
- 8. Two perspectives for dealing with organometallics in general and RMgBr in particular
  - Mechanistic Thinking: R <sup>□</sup>
  - Predict-the-product thinking: R-MgBr: easier to see source and substitution product.

10.9 Addition of RMgBr to Carbonyl Compounds: Alcohols are Produced

$$\mathbb{R}^{\bigcirc} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\bigcirc}$$

Exothermic Addition of Carbon or Hydrogen Anions:

- $\sigma$  bond (made) stronger than  $\pi$  bond (broken)
- oxygen anion more stable than carbanion

#### Carbonyl is strongly electrophile

- -much stronger even than a 1° alkyl iodide!
  - 1. Breakable  $\pi$  bond
  - 2. Carbonyl polarity

### Additions of Grignard Reagents to Carbonyl Compounds

#### Pattern:

- 1. After reaction, the original carbonyl carbon will have one and only one C-O single bond
- 2. For formaldehyde, aldehydes, and ketones, one R group adds (reactions 4-6)
- 3. For esters or carbonyl chlorides ("acid chlorides"), two R groups add
  - o Replace not only the carbonyl p-bond, but also the "extra" C-O or C-Cl single bond
- 4. Product output:
  - o Formaldehyde (2 H's)  $\rightarrow$  1° alcohol
  - Aldehyde (1 H)  $\rightarrow$  2° alcohol
  - $\circ$  Ketone (0 H)  $\rightarrow$  3° alcohol. No need for all 3 attachments to be the same.
  - Ester  $(0 \text{ H}) \rightarrow 3^{\circ}$  alcohol. At least two common attachments at end.

#### **Predicting Grignard Reaction Products**

- 1. From carbonyl perspective:
  - The carbanion R' adds to the carbonyl carbon
  - The carbonyl =O gets replaced by –OH
  - For formaldehyde, aldehydes, and ketones: the two attachments on the original carbonyl carbon remain attached as spectators
  - For esters or acid chlorides: the one non-heteroatom attachment on the original carbonyl carbon remain attached as spectators.
    - o The "extra" heteroatom gets replaced by a second carbanion R'
- 2. From Grignard perspective:
  - Where R-MgBr begins, R-C-OH ends.
    - o In other words, the MgBr gets replaced by the carbonyl carbon

Note: Be sure that in the product, no carbon has more than one C-O bond

## Draw products from the following reactions.

1°, 2° or 3°?

1 
$$\frac{1}{2}$$
  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{$ 

5 Br 
$$\frac{1. \text{ Mg}}{3. \text{ H}_3\text{O}^+}$$
  $\frac{\text{OH}}{\text{CH}_3}$   $\frac{\text{OH}}{\text{CH}_3}$   $\frac{\text{OH}}{\text{CH}_3}$ 

10.9E Grignard Reaction with Ethylene Oxide (Simplest Epoxide)

#### Notes

- 1. Results in a 1° Alcohol
- 2. Predicting product: Two carbons end up in between the carbanion R' and the OH
- 3. Ethylene oxide and formaldehyde are complementary Grignard acceptors leading to 1° alcohols
  - o Ethylene oxide extends the carbon chain by two (relative to the original RMgBr)
  - o Formaldehyde extends the carbon chain by one (relative to the original RMgBr)
- 4. 2-Carbon ethylene oxide and 2-carbon ethanal give different products
  - $\circ$  Ethylene oxide  $\rightarrow$  the OH is 1° and the OH is two carbons removed from the carbanion R
  - o Ethanal→ the OH is 2° and the OH and carbanion R are both connected to the same carbon

Draw products from the following reactions.

#### **Reaction Mechanisms for Grignard Reactions**

## Formaldehyde, Aldehyde, or Ketone as Carbonyl Compound (Reactions 4, 5, and 6)

aldehyde or ketone or formaldehyde 
$$R'' = \frac{1 \cdot R' - OH}{2 \cdot H_3O} + R'' = \frac{OH}{R''} + \frac{OH}{R'$$

- 1. Two simple steps:
  - a. Addition
  - b. Protonation
- 2. Timing:
  - a. The carbanion is added first, at one step in time, under strongly anionic conditions
  - b. Later acid is added, in a second laboratory step. This provides a cationic environment
- 3.  $RMgBr = R-MgBr = R \ominus carbanion$ 
  - a. The <sup>①</sup> MgBr stuff is spectator, doesn't need to be drawn in
  - b. Ignore in mechanisms
  - c. In reality, it actually does play a nontrivial role, but we'll save that for grad school!

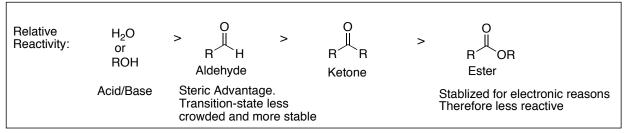
Draw mechanisms for the following reactions:

1 
$$\frac{1. \text{ PhMgBr}}{2. \text{ H}_3\text{O}^+}$$
  $\frac{OH}{Ph}$   $\frac{1. \text{ PhMgBr}}{2. \text{ H}_3\text{O}^+}$   $\frac{OH}{Ph}$ 

# Esters or Acid Chlorides: More Complex, Needs to Explain Two Additions and More Bond Breakings

- 1. Four Step Mechanism:
  - a. Addition
  - b. Elimination
  - c. Addition
  - d. Protonation
- 2. Timing:
  - a. The carbanion is added first, at one point in time, under strongly anionic conditions
    o The first three steps all occur under these anionic conditions
  - b. Acid is only added much later, in a second laboratory step. This gives a cationic
  - b. Acid is only added much later, in a second laboratory step. This gives a cationic environment.
  - c. Why don't you just protonate after the first step?
    - o There is no proton source available, and the elimination proceeds instead!
- 3. What if I add only one RMgBr?

## Why? Kinetics and Reactivity. **MEMORIZE**.



- Large differences in reactivity, with ketone > ester
- Elimination step 2 is also very fast
- Thus, under the anionic conditions, the addition is the slow step
  - o After it does happen, elimination and another addition happens bang-bang.

Draw Mechanism:

<u>Cyclic Ester:</u> The O-Carbonyl single bond breaks, but the other C-O single bond does <u>not</u> break -the result is formation of a dialcohol

Draw product and mechanism for the following:

#### **Ethylene Oxide Mechanism**

Draw product and mechanism for the following:

# More Grignard Practice. Including polyfunctional Molecules: (Know relative reactivity)

2 
$$H_3CO$$

1. PhMgBr (1.0 equivalent)

2.  $H_3O^+$ 

1. PhMgBr (1.0 equivalent)

Ph

5 BrMg 
$$\underbrace{\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1. \\ \hline 2. H_3 \\ \end{array}}_{OH}$$

7 
$$O$$
1.  $CH_3MgBr (excess)$ 
2.  $H_3O$ 
OH

8 BrMg 
$$\underbrace{\begin{array}{c} 1. & \bigcirc \\ \hline 2. & H_3 \bigcirc \end{array}}$$
 HO  $\underbrace{\phantom{\begin{array}{c}} \\ \\ \end{array}}$ 

#### Grignards in Synthesis: Provide Precursors.

- Think backwards from Targets to Reactants.
   Identify possible Grignards and Grignard acceptors
- Pattern:

d.

- 3° alcohol, all three attachments different ← Ketone Precursor
- 3° alcohol, two (or more) of the attachments identical ← Ester
- 2° alcohol ← Aldehyde
- 1° alcohol ← Formaldehyde or ethylene oxide

Ph-MgBr + O

<u>Provide Reagents for the Following Transformations.</u> You may use whatever reagents, including ketones or aldehydes or Grignards or esters, that you need.

- Key: Try to identify key C-C connection in the product that wasn't present to start with
- Try to identify the where the reactant carbons are in the final product
- Numbering your carbon chains is very helpful.
- Usually best to work backwards from the product

Br 
$$\frac{1. \text{ Mg}}{0}$$
 $2. \text{ H}$ 
 $3. \text{ H}_3\text{O}^+$ 

e.

## **Combining Grignard Reactions with Other Reactions**

1. Mg

O

2. 
3. 
$$H_3O^+$$

PhBr

4.  $H_2SO_4$ 
5.  $BH_3$ -THF
6. NaOH- $H_2O_2$ 

#### 10.10 Restrictions on Grignard Reactions

- RMgBr = R  $\bigcirc$  carbanion, highly unstable, highly reactive.
- Unstable in the presence of:
  - 1. OH's (get proton transfer reaction)
  - 2. Carbonyls (get Grignard-type nucleophilic addition)
- 1. Solvent limitations. RMgBr cannot be formed and used in the presence of
  - H2O

b.

- ROH
- Any solvent with a C=O

2. Substrate limitations. Any organohalide that also contains an OH or C=O bond can't be converted into a useful RMgBr, because it will self-destruct.

Which substrates could be converted into RMgBr, and subsequently reacted with CH<sub>3</sub>CHO?

- 3. Atmosphere/Glassware/Storage limitations. Make, store, and use in:
  - water-free dried glassware
  - moisture-free atmosphere. (Dried air, or else under nitrogen or argon atmosphere)
  - When stored for extended periods, must have very good seals so that no air can leak in.

## 10.11 Alcohols by Reduction of Carbonyls: H <sup>○</sup> Addition

9 O NaBH<sub>4</sub> or 
$$\frac{1. \text{ LiAlH}_4}{2. \text{ H}_3\text{O}^+}$$
 OH Mech Mech

10 O NaBH<sub>4</sub> or 
$$\frac{1. \text{ LiAlH}_4}{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}$$
 or  $\frac{1. \text{ LiAlH}_4}{2. \text{ H}_3\text{O}^+}$  OH Mech ketone  $\frac{1. \text{ LiAlH}_4}{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}$  OH  $\frac{1. \text{ LiAlH}$ 

11 O NaBH<sub>4</sub> will Mech not react with esters

1. LiAlH<sub>4</sub> OH 
$$H$$
 H esters

#### **Mechanism**

#### Aldehydes and Ketones

aldehyde or ketone or formaldehyde

$$NaBH_4 = H^{\bigcirc}$$

$$LiAlH_4 = H^{\bigcirc}$$

mech: 
$$H_3O^{\oplus}$$
 OH  $H_3O^{\oplus}$  OH  $H_3O^{\oplus}$ 

#### **Esters**

#### Cyclic Esters

#### **Notes:**

- Mechanisms are exactly like with Grignard reactions
- LiAlH<sub>4</sub> and NaBH<sub>4</sub> function as hydride anions H <sup>○</sup>
- For mechanisms, just draw H  $^{\bigcirc}$  rather than trying to involve the Li and Al and Na and B...

$$NaBH_{4} = Na \stackrel{\oplus}{H} \stackrel{\ominus}{H} \stackrel{\ominus}{H} \stackrel{H}{\longrightarrow} \stackrel{H}{\longrightarrow$$

- Boron is one row higher than aluminum, and in keeping with normal periodic patterns is more electronegative
  - $\circ$  Because boron is more electronegative, the BH<sub>4</sub>  $^{\bigcirc}$  anion is more stable, and less reactive.
    - The boron holds the H  $^{\bigcirc}$  more tightly.
  - $\circ~$  Aluminum being less electronegative doesn't attract and hold the H  $^{\bigcirc}~$  as well, and thus is considerably more reactive.

## Reactivity

	Aldehydes	Ketones	Esters
LiAlH <sub>4</sub>	Yes	Yes	Yes
NaBH <sub>4</sub>	Yes	Yes	No

## LiAlH<sub>4</sub> is much stronger, NaBH<sub>4</sub> much weaker

- 1. LiAlH<sub>4</sub> is strong enough to react with esters, NaBH<sub>4</sub> isn't
- 2. **Selective reduction**: if both an ester and an aldehyde/ketone are present:
  - LiAlH<sub>4</sub> reduces both
  - NaBH<sub>4</sub> selectively reduces the aldehyde/ketone but leaves the ester untouched
- 3. <u>LiAlH<sub>4</sub> is strong enough to react with and be destroyed by water or alcohol; NaBH<sub>4</sub> isn't</u>

$$LiAlH_4 + H_2O \rightarrow H_2(gas) + LiOH + AlH_3 + heat$$

- a. As a result, LiAlH<sub>4</sub> is harder to use and store
- b. Acid has to be added in a subsequent step with the LiAlH<sub>4</sub>; (thus, 2-step recipe)
- c. NaBH<sub>4</sub> can be run in alcohol solvent which serves as a proton source for protonating alkoxide
- d. Solvent restrictions, glassware must be dry, wet air must be excluded, etc.
- e. Because NaBH<sub>4</sub> is stable to water, it's easier to handle in air, easier to store, much easier to work with
- f. Default: for a simple aldehyde or ketone reduction, normally use NaBH<sub>4</sub> because it's so much easier
- 4. LiAlH<sub>4</sub> is strong enough to react with esters, NaBH<sub>4</sub> isn't

## Draw the products for the following reactions.

OCH<sub>3</sub> but NaBH<sub>4</sub> not 
$$H_2O$$
 Ph OH

 $C_8H_8O_2$ 

## Draw the mechanism for the following reaction.

7.