Chem 41c Final Exam

Stoltz, Spring 2008, June 9, 2004

The exam begins when you turn to page 2. You have 4 hours to complete the exam. This is a closed note and closed book exam with no collaboration. You may use the periodic table on the last page of this packet. You may not use any other materials. The exam has a total of 190 points and counts for 40% of your course grade. Good luck.

There are 17 pages in this exam packet.
The Exam is due by Friday June 13, 2008 by 5 PM.
Name:

1. Predict the major non-volatile products (if any) of the following reactions or sequences. Clearly mark your answers by placing a **box** around the compound that you believe to be the major product. (5 points each).

H₂NNH₂, KOH,
$$\Delta$$
HOCH₂CH₂OCH₂CH₂OCH₂CH₂OH
H

c.

d.

hint: one racemic non volitile product is formed

f.

g.

h.

i.

j.

a.

b.

c.

d.

3. Rank the following compounds in order of pK_a (particularly as related to the large-bold-italic \mathbf{H}). Which compound is most acidic? (10 points)

high pKa to low C>E>A>D>B

B is most acidic

4. Predict the products 1 and 2 of the following sequence. Draw a curved arrow mechanism for the conversion of 1 to 2. (10 points)

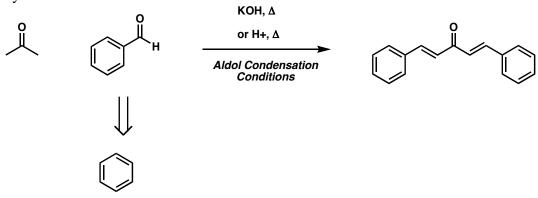
1. NaBH₄, EtOH

1. Na metal

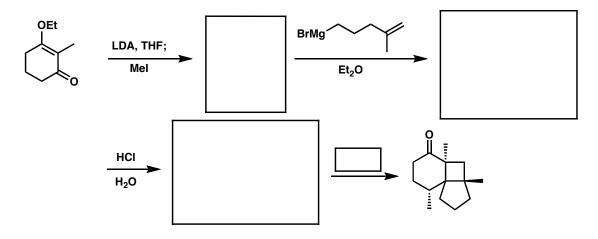
-mechanism for conversion of $1\rightarrow 2$:

5. Pd₂(dba)₃ (A) is a common Pd(0) starting material useful for many catalytic transformations. The structure of A is shown below as both an X-ray and a Chem Draw representation. The dba (dibenzylidene acetone) is a bidentate diene ligand an is readily exchanged with more strongly donating ligands like PPh₃ to form complexes such as **B** (see below). In a typical experiment, phosphines are readily exchanged for dba, and often the resulting complex is used in the same reaction flask for a catalytic transformation. The ligand exchange reaction is shown below. Your task is to 1) balance the equation, 2) give the formal oxidation state of the metal, the d^n description, and the electron count for both A and B, and 3) outline a simple synthesis of the dba ligand starting from compounds containing 3 carbons or less and/or benzene. (20 points)

Synthesis of dba:



6. a) Provide the missing reagents and intermediates in the following reaction sequence. You may disregard stereochemistry for this problem, and need not provide a rationalization for relative stereochemistry. (10 points)



b) The final step in problem 6a involves a pericyclic transformation. Please provide a frontier molecular orbital based description of the process and provide a rationale as to the mode of activation you chose (i.e., thermal or photochemical). (10 points)

ANSWER: See in class description of the photochemical 2+2 reaction.

7. a) Provide a detailed curved arrow mechanism for the following reaction. What drives the equilibrium to the product side? (10 points)

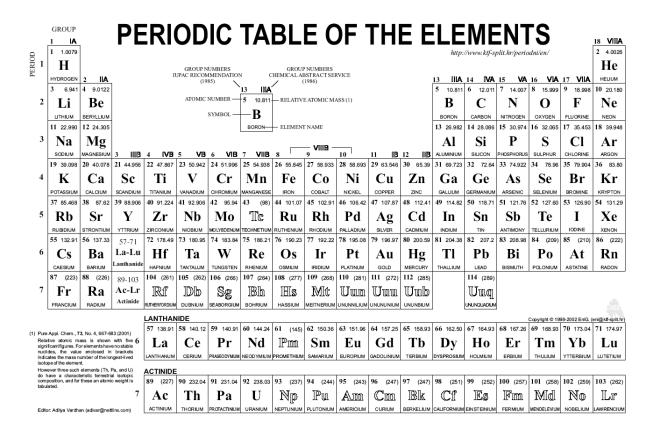
b) In contrast to part a of this problem, under the same conditions the following reaction $(3\rightarrow 4)$ is extremely slow. Why do you think this is the case? Provide an alternative method for preparing the methyl ester 4 from carboxylic acid 3 that you believe would be fast and high yielding. Provide a detailed curved arrow mechanism for your new synthesis of 4 from 3 and explain why the new method should be better. (10 points)

8. Design a retrosynthesis and a complete forward process for the synthesis of the following compound as a single diastereomer (in racemic form) starting from fragments of less than 6 carbons (or benzene). (20 points)

9. Propose the products to the following reaction scheme. (10 points)

Solution:

10. Your friend from Avery House appears to have not slept and stops you on the Olive walk and asks you about the reaction depicted below. He asks, "How can H₃O⁺ catalyze a redox process?" He poses this question to you because in the reaction below, it appears that C(1) is being oxidized and C(5) is being reduced all by the action of an acidic aqueous solution. Provide a detailed curved arrow mechanism for the following reaction that clarifies the process for your friend. Importantly, since no redox processes are occurring, your explanation will allow your friend to get much needed sleep. (10 points)



The End