CHEM 202

Semester 1, 2025

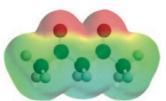
Constructing Carbon Frameworks

(More Chemistry of Carbonyl Compounds)

Lecturer: Prof. Nigel T Lucas

nigel.lucas@otago.ac.nz Room 3n10 Ph: 479 5377





Syllabus 1

- 1 Electron Rich Carbon (6th Ed, Ch 11; 7th Ed, Ch 12; 8th Ed, Ch 11)
 - Metal-hydrogen exchange
 - Metal-halogen exchange
- 2 Reactions of Organometallic Compounds

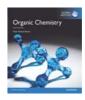
(6th Ed, Ch 11,18; 7th Ed, Ch 12,17; 8th Ed, Ch 11,16)

- > Organolithium and organomagnesium compounds
 - Basic reactions, nucleophilic reactions
- Organocopper compounds
 - Alkylation, acylation, conjugate addition
- Reactions of Enolates (6th Ed, Ch 19; 7th Ed, Ch 18; 8th Ed, Ch 17)
 - Alkyl halides
 - 1,3-Dicarbonyl enolates (malonic ester, acetoacetic ester syntheses)
 - Carbonyls
 - Aldehydes and ketones (aldol reaction/condensation)
 - Esters (Claisen condensation)



Organic Chemistry

Bruice 7th Edition



Bruice 8th Edition

Syllabus 2

4 Electron Rich Carbons with Attached Heteroatoms

(6th Ed, Ch 18; 7th Ed, Ch 17; 8th Ed, Ch 16)

- > General considerations
- Sulfur ylids
 - Preparation, reactions, mechanisms
- Phosphorus ylids
 - Preparation
 - Wittig reaction
 - Stereochemistry, mechanism, phosphonates
 - Applications

5 Summary

- General synthesis problems
- > Examination discussion

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1.1 Introduction

A vast majority of organic compounds can be considered as an arrangement of carbon atoms ('framework') containing various functional groups (e.g. OH, CI).

An important aspect in considering the synthesis of organic compounds is to be able to use methods for creating the carbon skeleton by **forming carbon–carbon** bonds.

This type of bond formation, in particular using **carbonyl-containing reactants**, is the central focus of this CHEM 202 module.

1.2 How can you create a C-C?

Combine reactive species:

Charged (polar)

Uncharged (e.g. radicals, concerted reactions)

This module will focus on the first (i.e. charged) approach to C–C bond formation

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1.3 Electron Rich Carbon

Can be an ionic species where the carbon system contains a full negative charge (i.e. **carbanion**), or a carbon in a polar covalent bonding array (i.e. δ –):

$$-C: M^{+} \qquad -C-M$$
carbanion polar covalent

Carbanions are:

- quite *reactive*, prepared and reacted without delay
- usually associated with very electropositive metal cations (Na⁺, K⁺) to achieve electroneutrality
- can be stabilised by attaching electron-withdrawing groups which delocalise the charge

1.3 Electron Rich Carbon

Electron rich carbons which do not have stabilising substitution, are often associated with metals which are less electropositive

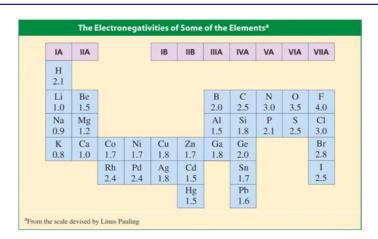
 are able to reduce the negative charge on carbon by partial covalent bond formation (Li, Mg, Hg, Zn, B):

carbon (C)	2.5
sodium (Na)	0.9
mercury (Hg)	1.5
zinc (Zn)	1.7

$$-C: Na^{+} \qquad -C - Zn$$

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1.3 Electron Rich Carbon – Other Organometallics



1.3 Preparation of Electron Rich Carbons

How do you prepare electron rich carbon?

> metal-halogen exchange

$$R-X + M \longrightarrow R-M = Li, Mg$$

> metal-hydrogen exchange

$$\begin{array}{c|c} -C & -H^+ & -C & M^+ \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- use a base to remove H⁺
- the C-H bond must be easy to cleave
 - → implies that the substrate must be acidic

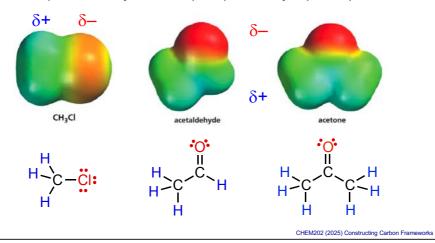
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1.4 Electron Poor Carbon

Electron poor carbons are:

- > often part of a neutral molecule
- > classified as electrophiles

Typical examples are alkyl halides (R–X), carbonyls (>C=O)



1.5 Combination of Electron Rich & Poor Carbons

The most common method for making carbon–carbon bonds is to create a reactive, electron rich carbon system

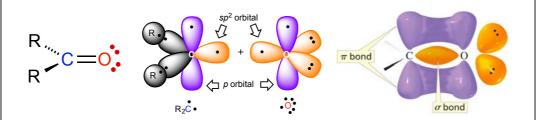
- > usually associated with a metal (i.e. organometallic)
- > reacted with a wide range of electrophiles

Alkylation

Hydroxyalkylation

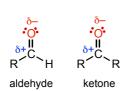
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Revision: Carbonyl Compounds

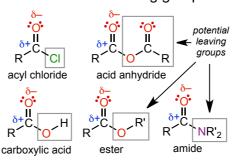


With a very poor leaving group:

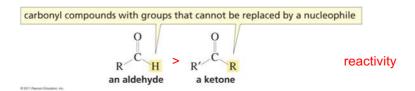
$$(R = alkyl, aryl)$$



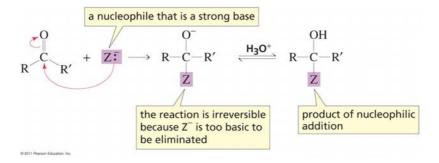
With a **better** leaving group:



Revision: Carbonyl Compounds with Poor Leaving Groups



Aldehydes and ketones undergo nucleophilic addition:

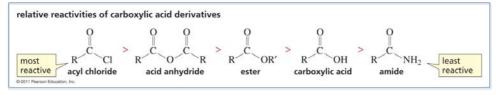


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Revision: Carbonyl Compounds with Good Leaving Groups

Nature of the substituents influences δ + on the carbonyl carbon.

More electron withdrawing → more reactive with nucleophiles

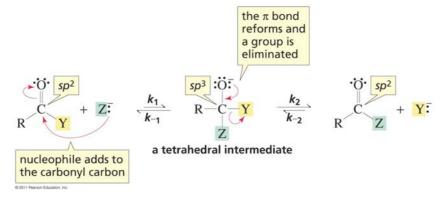


Inductive effects:

Mesomeric (resonance) effects:

Revision: Carbonyl Compounds with Good Leaving Groups

Carboxylic acid derivatives undergo nucleophilic (acyl) **substitution**:



relative basicities of the leaving groups

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2.1 Organometallic Compounds

 where there is considerable ion association (or polar covalent bonding), the nett negative charge on the organic (R) component of RM is substantially reduced.

$$R^-M^+$$
 R^-M

- arrangement can be achieved by using less electropositive metals (e.g. Li, Mg, Cu) and thus organometallic compounds (RM), where R is a simple alkyl or aryl group without any additional anion stabilising groups, can be prepared and used for synthesis.
- typically, they exist as a mixture of clusters $(RM)_n$ in solution in a dynamic equilibrium which is sensitive to temperature and solvent.
 - despite these complications, organometallics of this type are very useful for organic synthesis and for the purposes of simply understanding reactions, can be usefully considered as RM.

2.2 Synthesis of Electron Rich Carbons

The preparation organometallic compounds with (very) electron rich carbons can be by **metal-halogen exchange**.

$$R - X + M \longrightarrow R - M$$

$$CH_3I + 2Li \longrightarrow CH_3Li + LiI$$

$$methyllithium$$

$$CI + 2Li \longrightarrow n-butyllithium (BuLi)$$

$$M = Li, Mg$$

$$Li \mapsto LiCI$$

$$n-butyllithium (BuLi)$$

phenylmagnesium bromide

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2.2 Metal-Halogen Exchange: Grignard reagents

Organomagnesiums are known as **Grignard reagents** (after the discoverer of these compounds). The Grignard reaction is a redox process.

Alkyl Grignard Reagents

$CH_3CH_2MgBr \equiv H \cdot V C \rightarrow + MgBi$ H_3C

filled sp^3 hybridised orbital tetrahedral geometry at C⁻

Aryl Grignard Reagents



filled *sp*² hybridised orbital trigonal planar geometry at C⁻

2.3 Common Organolithium/-magnesiums (RM)

Some important organometallic reagents are commercially available (usually as solutions):

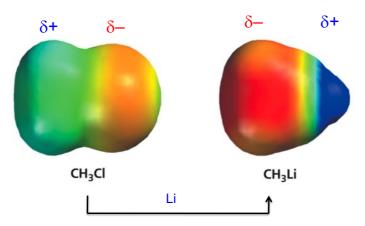
$$CH_3Li$$
 $n ext{-BuLi}$ $PhLi$ $PhMgBr$ Li CH_3Li $PhMgBr$

More complex compounds are obtained by *metal-halogen exchange*, *metal-hydrogen exchange* or *transmetallation*, e.g.

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2.4 Electron Rich from Electron Poor Carbons

Compare the electrostatic potential maps of an alkyl halide and alkyllithium:



Note the reversal of polarity (umpolung)

2.5 Reaction Conditions

Usually the electron rich carbon systems are quite reactive. Avoid:

- ➤ air
- > water
- high temperatures
 - → Operate under an **inert atmosphere** (argon or nitrogen)

Common solvents

diethyl ether	Et ₂ O
tetrahydrofuran	THF
toluene	

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2.6 Properties of Organolithium and –magnesiums

Organolithium (RLi) and -magnesium (RMgX) compounds are surprisingly soluble in non-polar organic solvents, e.g. ether, THF, hexane.

NMR chemical shifts reflect the high electron density on the R moiety:

CH₃Li

¹H NMR: δ ¹³C NMR: δ



CH₃Li

RLi compounds are usually more reactive than RMgX, but for many reactions they are comparable.

2.7 Reactions of Organometallics (RM) – Basic

Organolithium and Grignard reagents are usually very **basic** (irreversible) and **nucleophilic**.

I. Basic Reactions

RM +
$$H_2O$$
 \longrightarrow RH + MOH
p $K_a = 15.7$ p $K_a = 60$

Keep away from water!

tert-BuLi is very reactive and is pyrophoric (spontaneously combusts in air)

$$H_3C-NO_2 + n-BuLi$$
 LiCH₂NO₂ + $n-BuH_{(g)}$
 $pK_a = 10$ $pK_a = 60$

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2.8 Reactions of Organometallics (RM) - Nucleophilic 1

II. Nucleophilic Reactions

Not very efficient with alkyl halides. Better yields using epoxides.

$$RM + \bigvee_{\delta^{+}}^{\delta^{-}} \bigvee_{\delta^{+}}^{C} \bigvee_{\delta^{+}}^{C} \bigcap_{\delta^{+}}^{C} \bigcap_{\delta^$$

 $S_N 2$ reactivity profile (methyl >1° > 2° >> 3°):

2.8 Reactions of Organometallics (RM) - Nucleophilic 2

Organolithium and Grignard reagents **add** to the carbonyl of aldehydes and ketones. Acidic work-up of the addition product gives an alcohol

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2.8 Reactions of Organometallics (RM) – Nucleophilic 2

Nucleophilic addition gives access to primary (1°), secondary (2°) and tertiary (3°) alcohols :

2.8 Reactions of Organometallics (RM) – Nucleophilic 3

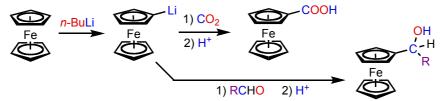
Organolithium and Grignard reagents also participate in nucleophilic acyl substitution with carboxylic acid derivatives. The ketone formed can react with a second equivalent of RM (addition).

2.8 Reactions of Organometallics (RM) - Nucleophilic 4

RM reagents react similarly with the carbon atom of CO₂ to give upon acidification, a carboxylic acid. Note that the carbon chain has increased in length by one carbon.

2.8 Reactions of Organometallics (RM) – Examples

> the cyclopentadienyl ring of ferrocene can be lithiated



> synthesis of an ant alarm pheromone

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2.9 Organocopper Compounds – Preparation

Organocopper reagents (organocuprates) can be prepared by reaction of an organolithium reagent with copper(I) iodide in diethyl ether (or THF).

- very useful to synthetic chemists as they are a complementary reagent to RLi / RMgX
- > are less basic than RLi / RMgX
- react selectively with alkyl and aryl halides, but not with saturated carbonyls

2.9 Organocopper Compounds – Alkylation

RX +
$$R'_2$$
CuLi \longrightarrow R $-R'$ + R' Cu + LiX

Organocopper reagents can replace halogens in compounds that contain carbonyl groups (compare to organolithiums, Grignard → addition to C=O)

$$H_3C$$
 CH_3
 CH_3
 CH_3
 CH_3
 CH_3

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2.9 Organocopper Compounds – Acylation

Carboxylic acid chlorides can react with organocopper reagents in a nucleophilic acyl substitution reaction:

2.9 Organocopper Compounds - Conjugate Addition

Many copper-containing organometallic compounds add to α,β -unsaturated ketones in smooth 1,4-additions.

$$\begin{array}{c} O & A & A \\ A &$$

$$+ (CH_3)_2 CuLi$$

$$+ (CH_3)_2 CuLi$$

$$+ CH_3 Li$$

$$+ CH_3 Li$$

$$+ CH_3 Li$$

$$+ CH_3 Li$$

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2.9 Organocopper Compounds – Conjugate Addition

When there is a good leaving group in the β -position of an enone, nucleophilic **substitution** can occur. This can be followed by **1,4-addition** of another equivalent of R₂CuLi.

$$AcO$$

$$AcO$$

$$+ (CH3)2CuLi$$

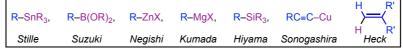
2.10 Other Organometallics - Pd-catalysed Coupling

In recent years, many new methods using transition metals to carry out coupling reactions have been developed; those that involve organopalladium intermediates are the most heavily studied.

- ➤ Pd is used *catalytically* not stoichiometrically (typically 1-5 mol% Pd)
- > catalytic use has economic and environmental advantages
- ➤ the most common general process is Pd-mediated cross-coupling with aryl/alkenyl halides, forming as new C–C bond.

$$R - M + \begin{cases} OR \\ OR \\ X \end{cases} = \begin{cases} CI \\ PPh_3 \\ CI \end{cases} PPh_3$$
Reactivity: $X = I > Br > CI$

$$R = alkyl, alkenyl, aryl$$



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2.10 Other Organometallics - Pd-catalysed Coupling

- > examples of Pd-catalysed couplings:
 - Suzuki coupling (via a boronic acid)

• Sonogashira coupling (via a copper acetylide from terminal alkyne)

Heck coupling (alkene)