#### WILLIAM H. BROWN THOMAS POON

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CHAPTER FOUR

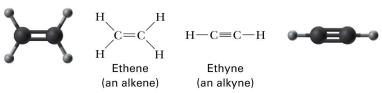
# Alkenes and Alkynes

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### **Unsaturated Hydrocarbons**

- Unsaturated Hydrocarbon: Contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds or benzene-like rings.
  - Alkene: contains a carbon-carbon double bond and has the general formula C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n</sub>.
  - Alkyne: contains a carbon-carbon triple bond and has the general formula C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n-2</sub>.



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### **Unsaturated Hydrocarbons**

• Arene: benzene and its derivatives (Ch 9)

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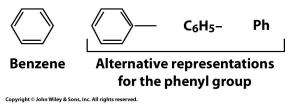
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### **Benzene and Phenyl Groups**

- We do not study benzene and its derivatives until Chapter 9.
  - However, we show structural formulas of compounds containing a phenyl group before that time.
  - The phenyl group is not reactive under any of the conditions we describe in chapters 5-8.



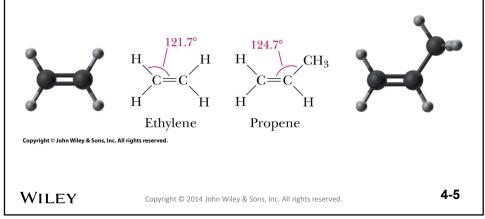
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#### **Structure of Alkenes**

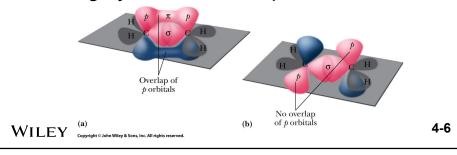
 The two carbon atoms of a double bond and the four atoms bonded to them lie in a plane, with bond angles of approximately 120°.



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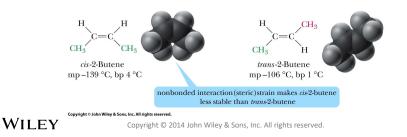
#### **Structure of Alkenes**

- According to the orbital overlap model, a double bond consists of one  $\sigma$  bond formed by overlap of  $sp^2$  hybrid orbitals and one  $\pi$  bond formed by overlap of parallel 2p orbitals.
- Rotating by 90°breaks the pi bond.



#### Cis-Trans Isomerism

- Because of restricted rotation about a C–C double bond, groups on adjacent carbons are either *cis* or *trans* to each other.
  - Because of nonbonded interaction strain between alkyl substituents of the same side of the double bond, a *trans* alkene is more stable than an isomeric *cis* alkene.



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#### **Structure of Alkynes**

- The functional group of an alkyne is a carboncarbon triple bond.
- A triple bond consists of:
  - One  $\sigma$  bond formed by the overlap of sp hybrid orbitals.
  - Two  $\pi$  bonds formed by the overlap of sets of parallel 2*p* orbitals.



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#### **Nomenclature of Alkenes**

- IUPAC Nomenclature of alkenes
  - Use the infix -en- to show the presence of a carbon-carbon double bond.
  - Number the parent chain to give the 1<sup>st</sup> carbon of the double bond the lower number.
  - Follow IUPAC rules for numbering and naming substituents.
  - For a cycloalkene, the numbering of the atoms of the ring the must begin with the two carbons of the double bond.

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#### **Nomenclature of Alkenes**

IUPAC nomenclature of alkenes

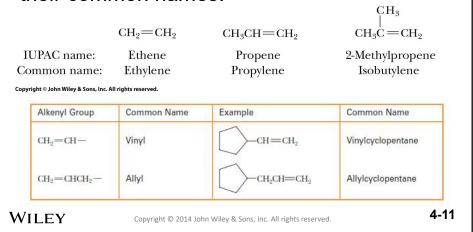
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#### **Nomenclature of Alkenes**

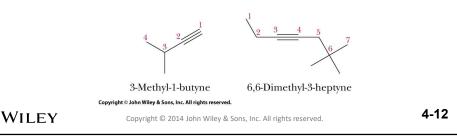
 Some alkenes, particularly low-molecularweight ones, are known almost exclusively by their common names.



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#### **Nomenclature of Alkynes**

- IUPAC nomenclature of alkynes
  - Use the infix -yne to show the presence of a carbon-carbon triple bond.
  - Number the parent chain to give the 1<sup>st</sup> carbon of the triple bond the lower number.
  - Follow IUPAC rules for numbering and naming substituents.



### Configuration: Cis-Trans

 The cis-trans system: Configuration is determined by the orientation of atoms of the main chain.

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#### Configuration: E,Z

- To Assign an E,Z configuration, first assign a priority to the substituents on each carbon of the double bond.
  - If the groups of higher priority are on the same side of the double bond, the configuration is ∠(German: zusammen, together).
  - If the groups of higher priority are on opposite sides of the double bond, the configuration is *E* (German: *entgegen*, opposite).



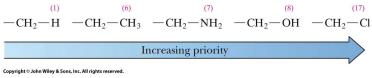
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### Configuration: E,Z

- · Priority rules
  - 1. Priority is based on atomic number; the higher the atomic number, the higher the priority.

2. If priority cannot be assigned on the basis of the atoms bonded directly to the double bond, look to the next set of atoms; priority is assigned at the first point of difference.



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### Configuration - E,Z

3. Atoms participating in a double or triple bond are considered to be bonded to an equivalent number of similar atoms by single bonds.

$$-CH = CH_2 \xrightarrow{\text{is treated as}} -CH - CH_2 \text{ and } -CH \xrightarrow{\text{is treated as}} -CH - CH_2$$

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### Configuration - E,Z

• Example: Name each alkene by the E,Z system and specify its configuration.

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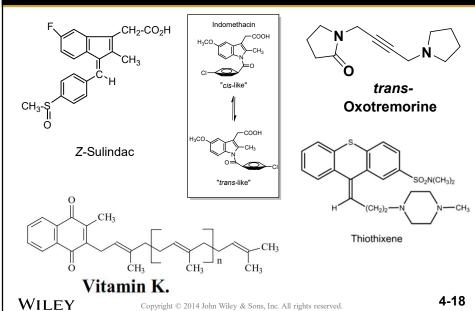
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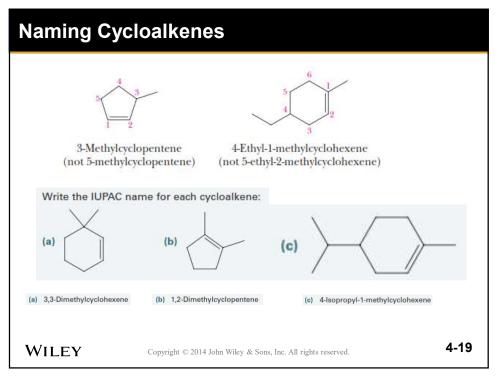
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## MC Drugs example of Cis/Trans "like" & Alkynes





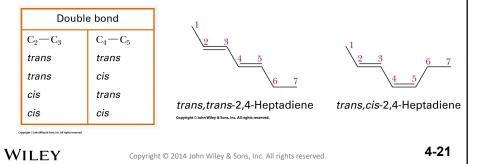
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### Cis-Trans Isomerism

- The configuration of the double bond in cyclopropene through cycloheptene must be *cis*.
   These rings are not large enough to accommodate a trans double bond.
- Cyclooctene is the smallest cycloalkene that can accommodate a *trans* double bond.

#### Cis-Trans Isomerism

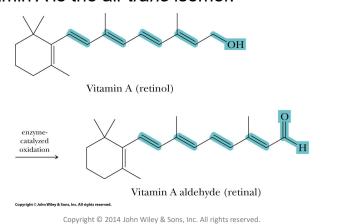
- · Dienes, trienes, and polyenes
  - For an alkene with n carbon-carbon double bonds, each
    of which can show cis-trans isomerism, 2n cis-trans
    isomers are possible.
  - Consider 2,4-heptadiene; it has four *cis-trans* isomers, two of which are drawn here.



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#### Cis-Trans Isomerism

- Vitamin A has five C-C double bonds.
- Four of the five can show *cis-trans* isomerism.
- Vitamin A is the all-trans isomer.



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#### **Physical Properties**

- · Alkenes and alkynes are nonpolar compounds.
  - The only attractive forces between their molecules are dispersion forces.
- The physical properties of alkenes and alkynes are similar to those of alkanes of similar carbon skeletons.
  - Those that are liquid at room temperature are less dense than water (1.0 g/mL).
  - They dissolve in each other and in nonpolar organic solvents.
  - They are insoluble in water.

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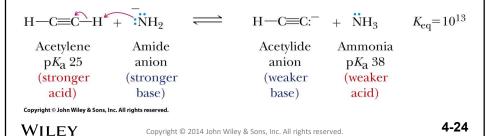
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### The Acidity of Terminal Alkynes

 One of the major differences between the chemistry of alkynes, and alkanes and alkenes is that the hydrogen atom of a terminal alkyne is sufficiently acidic (pK<sub>a</sub> 25) that it an be removed by a strong base such as sodium amide, NaNH<sub>2</sub>, to give an alkyne anion.



#### The Acidity of Terminal Alkynes

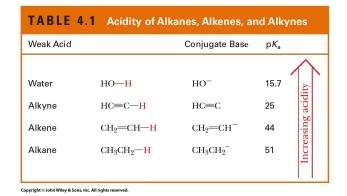
• Because water (p $K_a$  15.7) is a stronger acid than acetylene or a terminal alkyne, hydroxide ion is not a strong enough base for an acid-base reaction with a terminal alkyne.

$$H-C \equiv C-H + \stackrel{-}{\circ}OH \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad H-C \equiv C:^{-} + H-OH \\ pK_a 25 \qquad pK_a 15.7 \\ \text{(weaker (weaker acid) base) base)} \qquad \text{(stronger base)} \qquad \text{(stronger acid)} \\ \text{Copyright } \circ \text{John Wiley \& Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.} \qquad \qquad \textbf{4-25}$$

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### The Acidity of Terminal Alkynes

• The  $pK_a$  values for alkane and alkene hydrogens are so large that no base is strong enough to remove a hydrogen from either of these classes of compounds.



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#### The Acidity of Terminal Alkynes

- How do we account for the acidity of a terminal alkyne compared to an alkane or alkene?
- To answer this question, we must focus on the stability of the anion derived from each class of hydrocarbon.
- The lone pair of electrons of an alkane anion lies in an sp<sup>3</sup> hybrid orbital, which has 25% s character.
- For an alkene anion, the lone pair lies in an  $sp^2$  hybrid orbital, which has 33% s character.
- For a terminal alkyne anion, the lone pair lies in an *sp* hybrid orbital, which has 50% *s* character.

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### The Acidity of Terminal Alkynes

- The greater the s character of the orbital bearing the negative charge, the greater the stability of the anion, and thus the greater acidic the hydrogen removed.
- Of the series of compounds alkane, alkene, and alkyne, the carbon of a terminal alkyne is the most electronegative (50% s character). Therefore, a terminal alkyne anion is the most stable of the series, and a terminal alkyne is the most acidic.

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