Chapter 10: Alkyl Halides Part 3: Radical Reactions

Today Finish up Chapter 10

We will not cover 10.8 or 10.12.

## Synthetic Utility of Halogenation

- Radical chlorination and bromination are both useful.
- Recall that bromination is more selective.



The synthetic utility of halogenation is limited:

- Chlorination is difficult to control.
- Bromination requires a substrate with one site that is significantly more reactive than all others.

# **Allylic Halogenation**

- When an C=C double bond is present, it affects the regioselectivity of the halogenation reaction.
- Siven the bond dissociation energies below, which position of cyclohexene will be most reactive toward halogenation?



### **Allylic Halogenation**

When an allylic hydrogen is abstracted, it leaves behind an allylic free radical that is stabilized by resonance.



Sased on the high selectivity of bromination that we discussed, you might expect bromination to occur as shown:



What other set of side-products is likely to form in this reaction?

# Allylic Halogenation with NBS

Because of the reactivity of allylic hydrogens,

a milder brominating reagent can be used



• To avoid the competing halogen ADDITION reaction, NBS can be used to supply Br• radicals.

- •N-bromosuccinimide (NBS) selectively brominates <u>allylic</u> positions
- Requires light for activation
- Can be a source of dilute bromine atoms

#### NBS mechanism:









Advantage: the low concentration of Br<sub>2</sub> and HBr present cannot be added to the double bond

- Free radical conditions can also be used to form polymers.
- A polymer is a large molecule made by linking together repeating units of small molecules called <u>monomers</u>



Radical polymerizations generally proceed through a chain reaction mechanism.

- Free radical conditions are also frequently used to form polymers
- Recall that a polymerization process joins together many small units called monomers in a long chain



Chain Branching is inevitable in this process, and occurs by the following mechanism



Unbranched polyethylene is brittle and rigid (like a plastic bottle cap)

Polymers with varying properties are obtained by polymerizing substituted ethylene derivatives:



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#### **Review of Chapter 10 Reactions**

Radical reactions are synthetically useful, and will be applied to multistep syntheses throughout this course:



**Allylic Bromination** 



### Autooxidation vs. Antioxidation – Autooxidation

Autooxidation is the process by which compounds react with molecular oxygen.



The process is generally very slow.

## Autooxidation vs. Antioxidation – Autooxidation

- Light accelerates the autooxidation process.
- Dark containers are often used to store many chemicals such as vitamins.
- In the absence of light, autooxidation is usually a slow process.
- Compounds that can form a relatively stable C• radical upon H abstraction are especially susceptible to autooxidation.



#### Autooxidation vs. Antioxidation – Antioxidants





Butylated <u>hydroxyt</u>oluene (BHT) Butylated <u>hydroxya</u>nisole (BHA)

OH

OH

н

O

Natural Antioxidants
Vitamins C is hydrophilic.
Vitamin E is hydrophobic.



#### For Next Time....

Suggested Homework Problems Chapter 9 <u># 1,7,9,13,18,20,32-37, 41,44,52,57</u>

Suggested Homework Problems Chapter 10 # 1, 2, 12, 16, 23,24, 33, 42

Next Up Chapter 12!