



Alpha Halogenation

Transcript

Instructor: Jessie Key

00:00:00:44 - 00:00:21:70

Instructor: Hello again, Doctor Jessie Key here. In this slide show, you'll be exploring alpha halogenation under both acidic and basic conditions and some of the interesting applications of alpha halogenation towards synthesis. Ketones and aldehydes are capable of undergoing halogenation at the Alpha position under acidic conditions.

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Instructor: In this example, ethanol is converted to two bromo ethanol with the use of bromine under acidic aqueous conditions. Using this methodology, several different halogens can be installed, including bromine, chlorine and iodine. However, fluorination is not common.

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Instructor: Notice that the byproduct of alpha halogenation is a hydrogen halide of the halogen used, a strong acid. This makes alpha halogenation autocatalytic as a strong acid byproduct can catalyze the reaction. The mechanism for acid catalyzed alpha halogenation can be broken down into two parts.

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Instructor: Part one, enol formation, and part two halogenation. Let's walk through this mechanism together showing the alpha bromination of propane to one propane one. First, a proton transfer step occurs where the carbonyl oxygen lone pair attracts a proton from the acid present.

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Instructor: In this case, the hydronium ion. A second proton transfer then occurs where water is used as a base to remove the alpha proton. This moves the Sigma bond electrons between Alpha carbon and the hydrogen to form a new Pi bond between the alpha carbon and the carbonyl carbon.

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Instructor: The Pi bond electrons of the carbonyl move up onto the carbonyl oxygen to give the enol intermediate. In the second part of the mechanism, halogenation, the enol intermediate performs a nucleophilic attack from the alpha carbon onto the bromine. We can show this with curved arrow notation by bringing down a lone pair of electrons from the oxygen atom to reform the carbonyl pi bond.

00:02:01:08 - 00:02:30:04

Instructor: This causes the enol π bond to attack one of the bromines of Br_2 , which breaks the bromine-bromine bond to eject off bromide as a leaving group. A final proton transfer occurs as water removes the extra proton on the carbonyl carbon to form a lone pair and remove the formal positive charge. When unsymmetrical ketones undergo α halogenation, there's a regiochemical preference for the halogenation at the more substituted α position.

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Instructor: This can be seen in the following example where the unsymmetrical starting material, 2-methyl pentan-3-one can form two possible products, 2-bromo-2-methyl pentan-3-one and 3-bromo-2-methyl pentan-3-one. The more substituted product, 2-bromo-2-methyl pentan-3-one, is the major product as its enol intermediate is more stable due to its greater substitution about the alkene bond. α bromo ketones obtained from α halogenation can be used to generate α,β unsaturated ketones.

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Instructor: E2 elimination can be performed using a variety of bases such as pyridine or potassium tert-butoxide. This example demonstrates the two-step conversion of 2-methyl cyclohexanone to the α,β unsaturated ketone, 2-methyl cyclohexene. In the first step, α halogenation occurs at the more substituted α position by using bromine under acidic aqueous conditions.

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Instructor: The second step features E2 elimination by using pyridine base to give the more substituted α,β unsaturated ketone, 2-methyl cyclohexene. α halogenation can also be performed under basic conditions but suffers from difficult to control polyhalogenation whenever there's more than one α proton present. In this example, when 2-methyl pentan-3-one undergoes α bromination using hydroxide and bromine, both available α protons are replaced and the dihalogenate product 2,3-dibromo-2,3-dimethyl pentan-3-one is formed.

00:04:16:37 - 00:04:37:79

Instructor: The mechanism for α halogenation under basic conditions first has proton transfer to form an enolate. This can be shown using curved arrow notation by starting an arrow at the lone pair of the base hydroxide's oxygen. The α proton is removed, and the σ bond electrons are moved to form a new π bond between α and carbonyl carbon.

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Instructor: The carbonyl π bond then moves to form a new lone pair on the carbonyl oxygen, which gives the enolate intermediate. In the second step, a nucleophilic attack occurs where the enolate's oxygen lone pair moves down to reform the carbonyl π bond. This allows the alkenyl π bond to be used to perform the nucleophilic attack on the bromine, breaking the bromine-bromine bond.

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Instructor: This generates the α halogenate product. Remember that if more than one α proton is present, this process will repeat uncontrollably in the presence of excess α halogen. While uncontrollable polyhalogenation is generally undesirable, there's one helpful application of it known as the haloform reaction.

00:05:25:69 - 00:05:56:34

Instructor: Methyl ketones can be tri halogenated using excess halogen and hydroxide, then hydrolyzed to a carboxylic acid using aqueous acidic conditions. The haloform reaction is therefore a handy method to convert from methyl ketones to carboxylic acids. The mechanism for the haloform reaction is actually just a nucleophilic acyl substitution where the tribromomethyl group generated by polyhalogenation serves as the leaving group.

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Instructor: The hydroxide nucleophile can perform nucleophilic attack at the carbonyl carbon, moving the carbonyl pi electrons up onto the carbonyl oxygen. When the tetrahedral alkoxide forms, its lone pair comes back down to reform the carbonyl pi bond, the carbon carbon bond between carbonyl and alpha carbon breaks and the tribromomethyl group is lost as a leaving group. Normally, carbon ions cannot serve as leaving groups, but in this case, the formal negative charge is stabilized enough by the electron withdrawing effects of the three attached halogens.

00:06:29:16 - 00:07:06:68

Instructor: Please note that the mechanism presented here is incomplete as under basic conditions, the carboxylic acid formed after loss of leaving group would be deprotonated by the strong base present, and therefore, a separate workup reprotonation would be required. In this video, you explored alpha halogenation under acidic conditions to give a monohalogenated product via an enol intermediate, and you saw how this could be paired with a subsequent elimination to yield alpha beta unsaturated ketones. As well, you saw that under basic conditions, polyhalogenation occurs via an enolate intermediate.

00:07:06:68 - 00:07:19:26

Instructor: When this reaction is performed with a methyl ketone, it can be paired with a subsequent nucleophilic acyl substitution to yield carboxylic acids. This is known as the haloform reaction.