DAMIETTA UNIVERSITY

CHEM-405:

PERICYCLIC REACTIONS

LECTURE 10

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Pericyclic Rearrangements Ene Reactions¹



 \succ The ene reaction shares some characteristics with both the Diels–Alder reaction and the [1,5] sigmatropic rearrangement.

- Like the Diels–Alder reaction:
 - -The ene reaction is always a six-electron reaction

-It has one four-electron component, **the** *ene*, and one two-electron component, **the** *enophile*. The two-electron component is a *pi* bond. The four-electron component consists of a *pi* bond and an allylic *sigma* bond.



The atom at the terminus of the *sigma* bond is **usually H**; the other five atoms involved in the ene reaction may be C or heteroatoms.

Because the ene reaction involves six electrons, it is suprafacial with respect to all components.

The suprafacial reactivity of the enophile means that the two new bonds to the enophile form to the same face. When the enophile is an alkyne, the two new sigma bonds in the product are cis to one another.



Pericyclic Rearrangements Ene Reactions¹



Ene reactions involving five C atoms and one H usually require very high temperatures (>200 °C) to proceed. The reaction occurs at much lower temperature if the H atom is replaced with a metal atom in the metalla-ene reaction. The metal may be Mg, Pd, or another metal.



➢ As with Diels-Alder reactions, electron-withdrawing groups on the enophile and electron-donating groups on the ene speed up the reaction.

> The **regiochemistry** with an unsymmetrical enophile **6.5** is such that the major product **6.6** has the alkene carbon attacking the β -position of the enone system and the **hydrogen atom going to the** α -position.



> Lewis acid catalysis 6.7 \rightarrow 6.8 has made the reaction much more amenable.¹



For most ordinary alkenes and enophiles, Lewis acid catalysis to make the enophile more electrophilic, or an intramolecular reaction (or both!), is necessary for an efficient ene reaction.²

Pericyclic Rearrangements The Carbonyl Ene Reactions¹

Carbonyl groups, particularly in aldehydes, can act as "enophiles" in ene reactions. In these reactions, allylic hydrogens of alkenes are transferred to carbonyl oxygens, and the carbon atoms of the carbonyls react with the double bonds, converting the carbonyl groups to alcohols.¹

the carbonyl ene reaction



The important interaction is between the HOMO of the ene system and the LUMO of the carbonyl group—and a Lewis-acid catalyst can lower the energy of the LUMO still further.

If there is a choice, the more electrophilic carbonyl group (the one with the lower LUMO) reacts.





Ene reactions with carbonyl groups can be catalyzed by dimethylaluminum chloride as in Eq. 29a.



Retro-Ene Reactions¹

A number of synthetically useful elimination reactions proceed thermally, with no base or acid required. These elimination reactions proceed through a **concerted** *retro-ene* **mechanism**. (The mechanism is sometimes called E_{i} .) The thermal elimination of acetic acid from alkyl acetates and the elimination of RSCOSH from alkyl xanthates (the *Chugaev reaction*) are **retro-ene reactions**.



Retro-ene reactions are partly driven by the **gain in entropy**. (Entropic contributions to ΔG° are much **more important at the high temperatures** required for ene reactions.)

Conclusions:



Ene reactions make one new sigma bond at the expense of one pi bond, like electrocyclic reactions, but they are fairly easy to distinguish from electrocyclic reactions otherwise. Look for allylic transposition of a double bond and transfer of an allylic H atom.

In a retro-ene reaction, a nonallylic H is transferred to an allylic position and one new pi bond at the expense of one sigma bond.

Retro-Ene Reactions¹



Homework: Write the mechanism of the previous reaction and the structure of any other by-products?

One carbonyl ene reaction is of commercial importance as it is part of a process for the production of menthol used to give a peppermint smell and taste to many products. This is an intramolecular ene reaction.



Homework: Write the mechanism of the first step reaction?



Homework: Write the mechanism of the previous reaction?