Physical Organic Photochemistry and Basic Photochemical Transformations



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Electromagnetic Radiation



Electromagnetic Radiation





Electromagnetic Radiation



BDE (I	BDE (kcal/mol)		
с-с	83		
0-0	35		
С—Н	99		
0—н	111		
C—N	73		
с—о	86		
C=C	146		
C=0	180		

X-rays and gamma-rays lead to ionization UV/Vis for electronic absorption IR for nuclear vibrational motion (IR) μW for electron spin precession (EPR) Radio for nuclear spin precession (NMR)



 $\label{eq:stark-Einstein} \begin{array}{l} \text{Stark-Einstein law - molecule will absorb light to excite a single electron and} \\ \text{energy of light must match difference between S_0 and S^*} \end{array}$

High probability transitions usually occur with conservation of spin







Radiative decay to ground state (fluorescence or phosphorescence)

Non-radiative decay (heat or energy transfer)

Intersystem crossing to different manifold





Allowed and Forbidden Processes



Spin forbidden transitions alter electron spin angular momentum
Triplet states tend to be more photochemically active b/c they are long-lived

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How could one access T₁ exclusively?



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Sensitization

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D* + A → D + A*
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sensitizer	triplet energy (kcal/mol)
acetophenone	73.6
benzophenone	68.5
anthraquinone	62.2
biacetyl	54.9

Sensitizer should absorb at a different wavelength than acceptor molecule

Triplet energy of senitizer must be greater than that of acceptor

Two mechanisms for photosensitization

Quenching requires close contact between A* and Q

Olefins and dienes are often used as quenchers



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$$\tau_2$$
 = lifetime of A* with Q

Photoinduced electron transfer - leads to quenching of fluorescence



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	# molecules that undergo a process
$\Psi = $ quantum yielu =	# of photons absorbed by starting material



Φ = quantum yield = \cdot	# molecules that undergo a process
	# of photons absorbed by starting material

Photophysical rates must provide an excited species that persists long enough for photochemistry to occur

Rate of photochemistry from S₁ must outcompete fluorescence

Phosphorescence from T_1 to S_0 must be slow compared to photochemistry

Two or three energy surfaces are involved due to excited states

Three types of photochemical reaction diagrams

Diabatic photoreaction



Small gap between surfaces promotes crossing

Minimum on upper surface matches maximum on ground state surface

Frequent return back to SM results in low quantum yield

Diabatic photoreaction



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Adiabatic photoreaction



Transition to excited state, which has smaller energy barrier
 Initially generates product in excited state

Adiabatic photoreaction



Transition to excited state, which has smaller energy barrier

Initially generates product in excited state

Hot Ground State reaction (thermal)



Occurs when rate of internal conversion is much faster than photochemistry excited surface

Before energy is lost to collisions with solvent, chemistry in ground state occurs

Hot Ground State reaction (thermal)



Tendencies of S and T states

Singlet and triplet excited states often show different reactivity

Singlet

tend to have considerable zwitterionic character

undergo rapid, concerted reactions

stereospecific

must compete with facile photophysical processes

electrocyclic rearrangements

cycloadditions

sigmatropic rearrangements

Tendencies of S and T states

Singlet and triplet excited states often show different reactivity

Singlet	Triplet
tend to have considerable zwitterionic character	tend to have biradical character
undergo rapid, concerted reactions	triplet state is longer lived
stereospecific	stepwise reactions
must compete with facile photophysical processes electrocyclic rearrangements	no stereospecificity
	hydrogen abstraction
	additions to unsaturation
cycloadditions	homolytic fragmentation
sigmatropic rearrangements	radical rearrangements

Different products due to the fact that the ground state is a singlet state

Simple olefins do not absorb at easily-generated wavelengths, so additional chromophores are added



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Ratio controlled by absorption and quantum yield for isomerization

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Complete conversion to one isomer is difficult b/c both isomers absorb

Ratio controlled by absorption and quantum yield for isomerization

trans and cis stilbene absorb with the same efficiency at 313 nm

lifetime of $S_1(trans) = 68 \text{ ps}$

lifetime of $S_1(cis) = 1 ps$

- Φ (trans to cis) = 0.50
- Φ (cis to trans) = 0.35

Olefin isomerization is a powerful feature of photochemistry

The relative energy of two minima on S_o surface does not matter

E Key issue is how system exits from S_1 or T_1 onto S_0

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3-4 (impossible); 5 (difficult, reactive); 6-7 (facile, reactive); 8 or above (stable)

Cyclic trans olefins are used in situ for functionalization




Photoadditions/substitutions

Hydrogen abstration is frequent in these reactions:

Strength of bond being broken

Strength of bond being formed

Steric effects of approach

Solvent effects on reagent or transition state

Photoadditions/substitutions

Hydrogen abstration is frequent in these reactions:





Norrish Type II

Intramolecular H abstraction



Norrish Type II



Six-membered H abstracted preferntially

Seven- and five-membered H abstraction possible if six-membered position is blocked or disfavored



Norrish Type II



Norrish Type II



Stereospecificity of singlet and triplet states - Example: disproportionation in Type II reactions











C=O bond is a very strong bond, so there is a considerable driving force to reform it



Several factor control rate of this α -cleavage reaction

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Several factor control rate of this α -cleavage reaction

Rate of Type II reaction, phosphorescence, or ISC

Nature of R₁ and R₂

Stability of resulting radical

Me = 10^3 s^{-1} 1° alkyl = 10^7 s^{-1} Benzyl = 10^{10} s^{-1}

Ring strain













Electrocyclic Reactions



Reversal of Pericyclic Selection Rules

Electrocyclic Reactions





Electrocyclic Reactions





Orbital Symmetry Rules control what rearrangements are allowed



Orbital Symmetry Rules control what rearrangements are allowed





nodes

- 3 —
- $\begin{array}{cccc}
 2 & -- & LUMO \\
 1 & + & HOMO \\
 0 & + & \\
 \end{array}$

Orbital Symmetry Rules control what rearrangements are allowed



nodes

- 3 —
- 2 LUMO 1 1 HOMO 0 1

Orbital Symmetry Rules control what rearrangements are allowed







nodes







nodes









rare for antarafacial shift to occur

















Acyclic olefins tend to undergo isomerization rather than [2 + 2]



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Small and medium ring cyclic olefins do, however, generally undergo facile [2 + 2]



DeMayo reaction - [2 + 2] with 1,3-diketone followed by retro-aldol



DeMayo reaction - [2 + 2] with 1,3-diketone followed by retro-aldol



S₁ [4 + 2] is not allowed by orbital symmetry, but radical T_1 undergoes stepwise addition



Paterno-Büchi reaction - stereospecificity



Note that carbonyl/alkene [2 + 2] occurs from both S_1 and T_1 states

Paterno-Büchi reaction - stereospecificity



Paterno-Büchi reaction - regioselectivity with electron rich olefins



Paterno-Büchi reaction - regioselectivity with electron rich olefins



Oxygen radical is more electrophilic than carbon radical, so it adds first to form the more stable biradical



Paterno-Büchi reaction - electron poor olefins

Only occurs from S₁ state, so reactions are complete stereospecific

Products are not the expected adducts based on electron-rich alkene mechanism



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Carbon radical is more nucleophilic than oxygen, so it adds first to make the more stable biradical

Cycloadditions of alkenes with enones are efficient reactions as well







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