

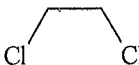
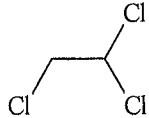
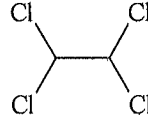
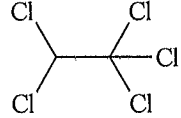
CHEM 331

Problem Set #4: Transformations and Kinetics

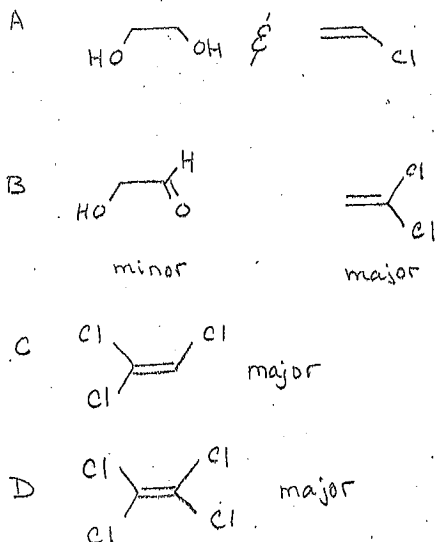
Hand in all worked solutions in a neat and organized format. Not all questions will be graded.

Due: Friday, Apr 13th.

1. Provide the dominant hydrolysis and non-reductive elimination products for each of the following compounds. Explain the observed trend in the k_B values reported below at 25°C for the base enhanced degradation pathway.

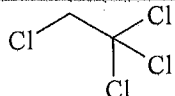
	A	B	C	D
				
k_B ($M^{-1}.s^{-1}$)	1.7×10^{-6}	1.6×10^{-3}	0.50	22
k_N (s^{-1})	3.0×10^{-10}	8.7×10^{-13}	1.6×10^{-10}	8.2×10^{-10}

Solution:



There are a couple of general rules to bear in mind with hydrolysis/elimination reactions of alkyl halides. Firstly, the neutral hydrolysis (as measured by k_N) involving H_2O as the nucleophile favours substitution products (i.e., alcohols), whereas the base catalyzed process (k_B) favours elimination products (i.e., alkenes). Secondly, for polyhalogenated aliphatics elimination is favoured over substitution. Finally, it is worth noting that the rate constants refer to loss of starting material and are not specifically associated with either substitution or elimination products. In the question we are asked to explain the trend in k_B values which clearly increase with the extent of chlorination for di- through pentachloroethane. The trend needs to be explained in terms of OH^- acting as nucleophile/base. If we take the approach that substitution is occurring the mechanism is likely shifting from 'S_N2-like' in the case of A to 'S_N1-like' in the case of D. S_N1 reactions are faster than S_N2 all else being equal given that S_N1 only occurs when the transition state leading to formation of the carbocation is lower than that of the pentavalent S_N2 transition state energy. However, given that elimination reactions tend to increase with increasing halogenation, the trend is best explained in terms of the increased acidity of the β-hydrogens. The acidity of these hydrogens is governed by the stability of the corresponding conjugate base (carbanion), which is influenced by the number and proximity of the electron withdrawing chlorine atoms present.

2. Use the following information for 1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane at 25°C to answer the following.

Pollutant	k_N (s^{-1})	k_B ($M^{-1}.s^{-1}$)
	2.60×10^{-8}	2.15×10^{-2}

- Provide the mechanism of the reaction that dominates at pH 8.5 and 25 °C.
- What is the half-life of 1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane at pH 7.0 and 25 °C.

Solution:

a) Since rate constants are given at 25 °C, there is no need to adjust for temperature here. We can compare k_N to $k_B[OH^-]$ at pH 8.5 to determine whether neutral hydrolysis or base catalyzed elimination dominates. At pH = 8.5 and 25 °C, we can write $pOH = 14.0 - 8.5$. Therefore, $[OH^-] = 3.16 \times 10^{-6} M$ and $k_B[OH^-] = 6.8 \times 10^{-8}$, which is greater than k_N . So, the elimination reaction yielding trichloroethene will dominate. The likely mechanism will be E2 (concerted bimolecular).

b) The half-life is determined from the pseudo first order rate constant (k_h), which is equal to $k_N + k_B[OH^-]$. At 25 °C, $k_h = 2.60 \times 10^{-8} + 2.15 \times 10^{-2} M^{-1} s^{-1} (1.00 \times 10^{-7} M) = 2.815 \times 10^{-8} s^{-1}$.

Therefore, $t_{1/2} = 0.693/2.82 \times 10^{-8} s^{-1} = 2.46 \times 10^7 s = \mathbf{285 \text{ days}}$.

3. Given the kinetic information below for the hydrolysis/elimination of 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane at 25°C, calculate the number of years required for 90% degradation via abiotic hydrolysis/elimination in the hypolimnion of a lake (T = 5°C, pH 8.8). (Note; pK_w at 5°C = 14.73).

	k_N (s ⁻¹)	E_a (kJ mol ⁻¹)	k_B (M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	E_a (kJ mol ⁻¹)
CHCl ₂ -CHCl ₂	1.6×10^{-11}	93	2.0×10^{-6}	78

Solution:

There are three parts to the solution here. The first is to adjust the given rate constants from 298 K to 278 K using the Arrhenius equation. The second part will involve making use of the pH to calculate the [OH⁻] and hence k_h at pH = 8.8. Finally, we will determine the time required for 90% degradation using the integrated first order rate equation and the fact that [TCE] at 90% degradation = 0.10 of the initial [TCE].

$$\ln\left(\frac{k_2}{k_1}\right) = \frac{-E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1}\right)$$

So, use the values of k_N at 298 and $E_a = 93,000 \text{ J mol}^{-1}$, we get

Then use this value of E_a to calculate the value of k_N at 10 °C (283 K).

$$\ln\left(\frac{1.60 \times 10^{-11} \text{ s}^{-1}}{k_N^{278}}\right) = \frac{-93,000 \text{ J mol}^{-1}}{8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}} \left(\frac{1}{298} - \frac{1}{278}\right) = 2.700$$

$$\therefore \frac{1.60 \times 10^{-11} \text{ s}^{-1}}{k_N^{283}} = e^{2.700} = 14.89$$

$$\text{So, } k_N \text{ at } 5^\circ\text{C} = (1.60 \times 10^{-11} \text{ s}^{-1})/14.89 = \mathbf{1.07 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}^{-1}}$$

Similarly for k_B , we get

$$k_B \text{ at } 5^\circ\text{C} = (2.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})/9.629 = \mathbf{2.08 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}}$$

$$\text{pOH} = \text{pK}_w - \text{pH} = 14.73 - 8.8 = 5.93$$

$$\text{Therefore, } [\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-5.93} = 1.17 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$$

$$\text{And, } k_h = k_N + k_B[\text{OH}^-] = (1.07 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}^{-1} + (2.08 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \times 1.17 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M})) = \mathbf{1.31 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}^{-1}}$$

Substituting this into the first order integrate rate equation and solving for time yields;

$$\ln\left(\frac{[A]_t}{[A]_0}\right) = -kt$$

Where $[A]_t/[A]_0 = 0.10$ and $\ln(0.10) = 1.105$

$$\text{So } t = (1.105)/1.31 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}^{-1} = 8.44 \times 10^{11} \text{ s} = \mathbf{2.68 \times 10^4 \text{ years.}}$$

4. The hydrolysis half-life for N-methylethanamide at 25°C and pH 7 is 3.78×10^4 years. Given that k_B is $5.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 25°C and k_N is negligible, calculate k_A in $\text{M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 25°C. Write a stepwise mechanism the acid catalyzed hydrolysis of this amide.

Solution: Given that in general, the overall observed rate constant for hydrolysis is;

$$k_h = k_A [\text{H}^+] + k_N + k_B [\text{OH}^-]$$

and for amide hydrolysis, $k_N \sim 0$, so we have;

$$k_h = k_A [\text{H}^+] + k_B [\text{OH}^-]$$

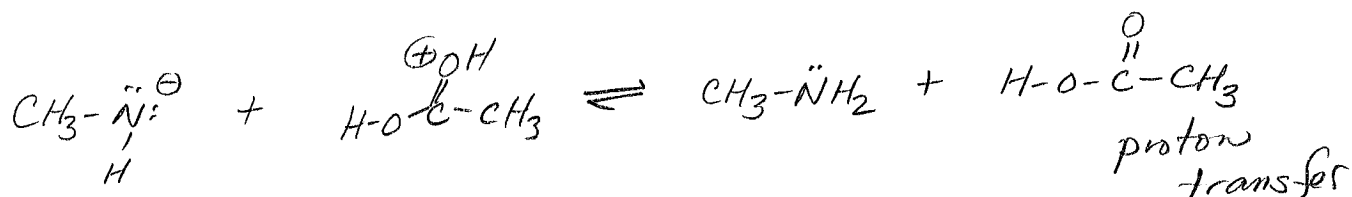
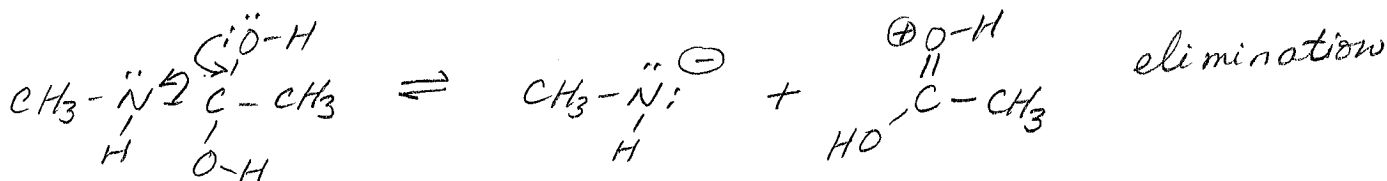
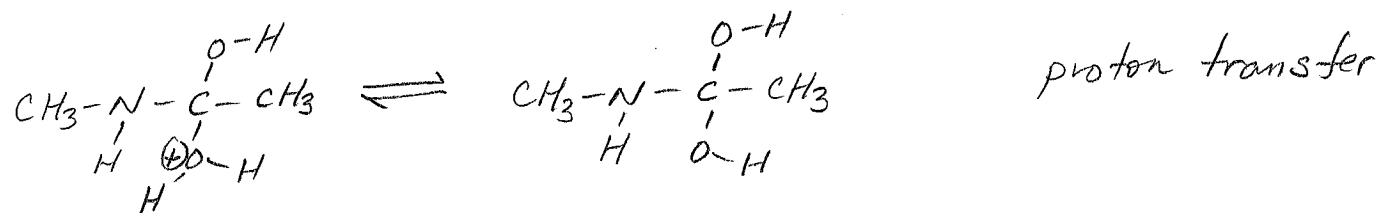
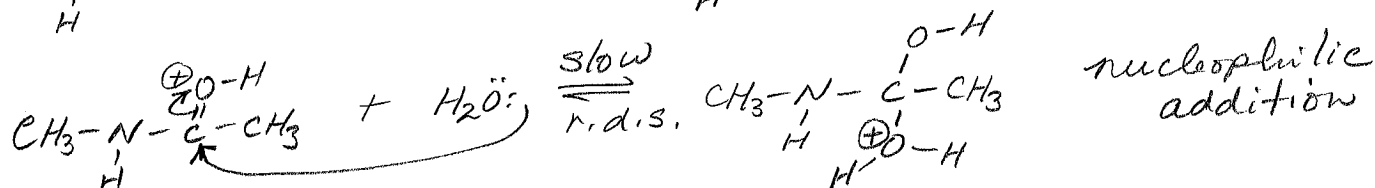
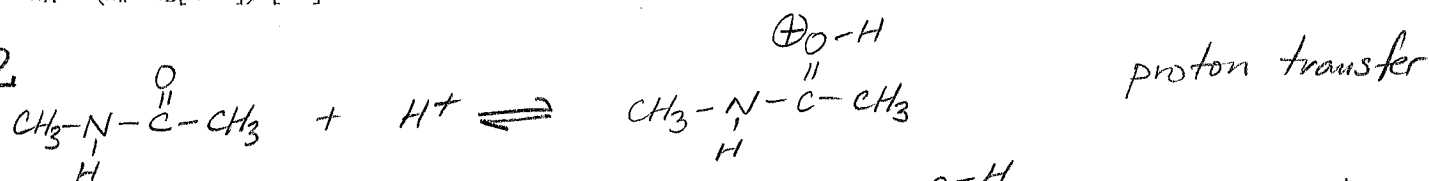
Since hydrolysis is a *pseudo* first order process (at least when $[\text{H}^+]$ and $[\text{OH}^-]$ are constant), we can relate the half-life to the value of k_h .

$$k_h = 0.693/t_{1/2} = 1.83 \times 10^{-5} \text{ yrs}^{-1} = 5.81 \times 10^{-13} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Therefore, we can determine k_A using the given pH and k_B values.

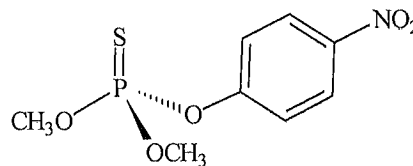
$$k_A = (k_h - k_B[\text{OH}^-]) / [\text{H}^+] = 3.1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

AAC2



5. A spill of methylparathion into Long Lake occurs during the month of June (pH 8.5 and 10°C), calculate the half-life from abiotic hydrolysis in years. Speculate on the mechanism of hydrolysis at this pH and temperature. The following data is found in the literature.

k_{hyd} (s ⁻¹) for methylparathion			
Temperature (°C)	pH 4	pH 5	pH 11
25	1.20 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.20 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.11 x 10 ⁻⁵
20	5.63 x 10 ⁻⁸		
10			9.16 x 10 ⁻⁷



Solution: There several components to this question including the effect of both pH and temperature on the hydrolysis of methylparathion. The effect of pH can be addressed by breaking down the observed hydrolysis rate constant into a neutral and base enhanced contribution (k_N and k_B).

$$k_h = k_A [H^+] + k_N + k_B [OH^-]$$

The effect of temperature can be addressed by applying the Arrhenius equation and calculating the activation energy (E_a).

$$\ln\left(\frac{k_2}{k_1}\right) = \frac{-E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1}\right)$$

k_B at 25°C:

The data indicate that there is no acid or base catalysis between pH 4 and 5 at 25°C, so $k_N = 1.20 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

We can use this fact and the hydrolysis rate at pH 11 to determine the value of k_B at 25°C.

$$k_B = \frac{(k_h - k_N)}{[OH^-]} = \frac{(1.11 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1} - 1.20 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1})}{1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}} = 0.01098 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1}$$

k_N at 10°C:

First use the values of k_N at 25 and 20 °C to calculate the activation energy for the neutral hydrolysis.

$$\ln\left(\frac{1.20}{0.563}\right) = \frac{-E_a}{8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}} \left(\frac{1}{298} - \frac{1}{293}\right)$$

$$\therefore E_a = \frac{-0.7568 (8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1})}{(-5.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1})} = 110.4 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

Then use this value of E_a to calculate the value of k_N at 10 °C (283 K).

$$\ln\left(\frac{1.20 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}}{k_N^{283}}\right) = \frac{-110,400 \text{ J mol}^{-1}}{8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}} \left(\frac{1}{298} - \frac{1}{283}\right) = 2.362$$

$$\therefore \frac{1.20 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}}{k_N^{283}} = e^{2.362} = 10.61$$

$$\text{So, } k_N \text{ at } 10^\circ\text{C} = (1.20 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1})/10.61 = 1.13 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

k_B at 10°C:

$$k_h = k_N + k_B [\text{OH}^-]$$

Using the values of the rate constants at 10 °C; $k_h = 9.16 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (from question) and $k_N = 1.13 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (from above) and $[\text{OH}^-] = K_w/[\text{H}^+] = 2.95 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ (using $\text{p}K_w = 14.53$ at 10 °C), we can calculate;

$$k_B = \frac{(k_h - k_N)}{[\text{OH}^-]} = \frac{(9.16 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1} - 1.13 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}^{-1})}{2.95 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}} = 3.07 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1}$$

k_h at pH 8.5 and 10 °C:

$$k_h = k_N + k_B [\text{OH}^-] = 1.13 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}^{-1} + 3.07 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} (10^{-14.53}/10^{-8.50}) = 1.42 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

So the half-life at this pH and temperature for abiotic hydrolysis is given by;

$$t_{1/2} = 0.693/k_h = 4.89 \times 10^7 \text{ s} = 155 \text{ years}$$

Mechanism and hydrolysis products:

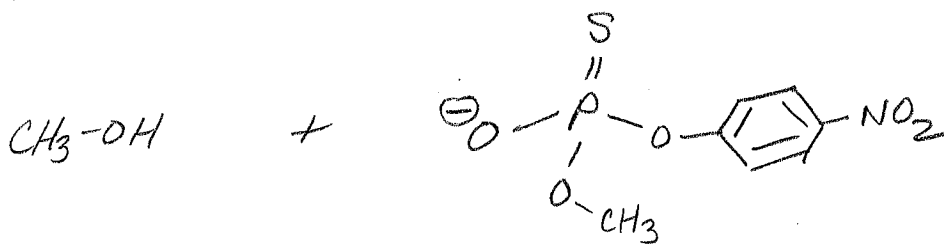
Hydrolysis of phosphate esters generally occurs via $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$ substitution at the alkyl carbon under conditions where H_2O is acting as the nucleophile and at the phosphorous centre when OH^- as the dominant nucleophile. In order to establish the dominant pathway under the specified conditions, we need to calculate the *isokinetic* pH (I_{NB}).

At the isokinetic pH, we can write $k_N = k_B [\text{OH}^-]$.

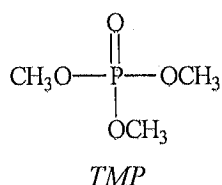
Rearranging yields, $[\text{OH}^-] = k_N/k_B = 3.68 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$

Since $\text{pH} + \text{pOH} = \text{p}K_w = 14.53$ (at 10 °C), we have $\text{pH} = 14.53 - 5.43 = 9.10$

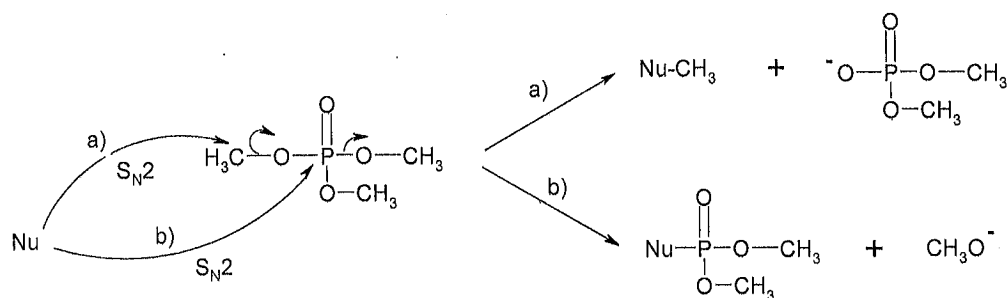
Since the pH of Long Lake is $< I_{\text{NB}}$, the dominant hydrolysis is occurring via H_2O attack on the alkyl group leading to the following as the dominant products;



6. The hydrolysis half-life of trimethylphosphate (TMP) in pure water is 438 days at 25°C and pH 7. Your colleague in oceanography, claims that in sterile seawater, she observed a half-life for TMP of only 44 days at 25°C and pH 7. Is this result reasonable? What is the major product of the abiotic transformation of TMP in seawater? Assume that seawater is 0.55 M NaCl. How fast will TMP be transformed by chemical reactions at 10°C and pH 8.0 in a leachate from a waste disposal site containing 0.25 M Cl⁻, 0.05 M Br⁻, and 10⁻⁴ M CN⁻. Calculate the approximate half-life of TMP under these conditions by trusting your colleague's measurements and by assuming that all relevant reactions exhibit about the same activation energy of 90 kJ.mol⁻¹. Use a value of 1.6 x 10⁻⁴ M⁻¹.s⁻¹ for the k_B of TMP at 25°C and pK_w at 10°C is 14.53



Solution: This question has several parts, which we will take in turn. We will first use the half-life data in pure water to determine the value of k_N and in turn, k_{H_2O} . Since k_B is given, we can check if k_h has contributions from both H₂O and OH⁻ at pH 7. We will then use the Swain-Scott approach to determine the rate constants for the other nucleophiles present in ground water (Cl⁻, Br⁻, CN⁻). Strictly speaking, this approach only applies when comparing different nucleophiles reacting with the same electrophile (this may not be the case with TMP, see figure below). We can then write the overall observed pseudo first order rate constant ($k_{obs} = \sum k_{Nu} [Nu]$). We will then adjust this rate constant for temperature effects using the Arrhenius equation and estimate the half life in ground water at 10°C using $t_{1/2} = \ln 2/k_{obs}$. A general reaction scheme that summarizes nucleophilic substitution reactions appears below;



- a) = 'soft' nucleophile (e.g., H₂O, Br⁻, CN⁻)
 b) = 'hard' nucleophile (e.g., OH⁻, Cl⁻)

So here we go....

Pure Water

Since the half-life in pure water is given at 25°C and pH 7, we can calculate the *pseudo* first order rate constant.

$$t_{1/2} = 438 \text{ days, so } k_h = 0.693/438 \text{ d} = 1.58 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}.$$

If we make the assumption that at pH 7 the reaction is dominated by nucleophilic attack by H₂O (i.e., $k_N \gg k_B [OH^-]$ at pH 7), then we can write;

$$k_h \approx k_N = k_{H_2O} [H_2O]$$

Therefore, $k_{H_2O} = k_h/[H_2O] = 1.58 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}/(55.5 \text{ M}) = 2.85 \times 10^{-5} \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1}$.

Since k_B is given as $1.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, we can compare this to our k_h (above) to check our assumption. At pH 7, the value of $k_B [\text{OH}^-] = 1.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Converting this to d^{-1} as follows,

$$k_B [\text{OH}^-] = 1.6 \times 10^{-11} \frac{1}{\text{sec}} \times \frac{60 \text{ sec}}{1 \text{ min}} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hour}} \times \frac{24 \text{ hr}}{1 \text{ d}} = 1.38 \times 10^{-6} \text{ d}^{-1}$$

we can see that $k_h \gg k_B [\text{OH}^-]$ and so $k_h \approx k_N$. Furthermore, we can calculate the isokinetic pH ($I_{NB} = 10.1$), which also confirms that H_2O is the dominant nucleophile at pH 7.

Seawater

$t_{1/2} = 44$ days at 25°C , pH 7

$$\text{So } k_{\text{obs}}^{\text{sw}} = 0.693/44 \text{ d} = 1.58 \times 10^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$$

Since seawater contains nucleophiles other than H_2O , it stands to reason that the half-life of TMP will be shorter in seawater than pure water.

Additional Nucleophiles in Groundwater

Now we want to determine the half-life of TMP in groundwater at 10°C at pH 8 containing 0.25 M Cl^- , 0.05 M Br^- and 0.0001 M CN^- .

$$\text{So, } k_{\text{obs}}^{\text{sw}} = k_{H_2O} [\text{H}_2\text{O}] + k_{\text{Cl}^-} [\text{Cl}^-] + k_{\text{Br}^-} [\text{Br}^-] + k_{\text{CN}^-} [\text{CN}^-] + k_B [\text{OH}^-]$$

Where we have decided to include the possibility that there is a contribution of OH^- at pH 8. Since all of the nucleophile concentrations are known, all we need to figure out are the specific rate constants for each nucleophile using the Swain-Scott approach and the nucleophilicity 'n' values in Table 13.3 of the text.

The Swain-Scott equation is given by;

$$\log \left(\frac{k_{Nu}}{k_{H_2O}} \right) = ns$$

Thus, we can rearrange for the a specific nucleophile rate constant as;

$$k_{Nu} = k_{H_2O} \times 10^{ns}$$

So,

$$k_{\text{Cl}^-} = k_{H_2O} \times 10^{ns} = 2.85 \times 10^{-5} \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} \times 10^{(3.0)(1.0)} = 0.0285 \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1},$$

where we have assumed that the susceptibility of the reaction to nucleophilic strength 's', is equal to unity (i.e., the similar to the susceptibility of methyl bromide, CH_3Br).

Similarly,

$$k_{\text{Br}^-} = k_{H_2O} \times 10^{ns} = 2.85 \times 10^{-5} \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} \times 10^{(3.9)(1.0)} = 0.226 \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1},$$

$$k_{\text{CN}^-} = k_{H_2O} \times 10^{ns} = 2.85 \times 10^{-5} \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} \times 10^{(5.1)(1.0)} = 3.59 \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1},$$

Since k_B is given as $1.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, we can convert this to 13.8 d^{-1} and include the contribution of OH^- acting as a nucleophile,

$$\text{At } 10^\circ\text{C, the } [\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-(\text{p}K_w - \text{pH})} = 10^{-6.53} = 2.95 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$$

Therefore the overall observed rate constant for loss of TMP is given by;

$$k_{\text{obs}}^{\text{GW}} = 2.85 \times 10^{-5} \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} (55.5 \text{ M}) + 0.0285 \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} (0.25 \text{ M}) + \\ 0.226 \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} (0.05 \text{ M}) + 3.59 \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} (0.0001 \text{ M}) + \\ 13.8 \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} (2.95 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M})$$

$$k_{\text{obs}}^{\text{GW}} = \mathbf{0.0203 \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C.}}$$

Temperature Change in Groundwater

To convert this pseudo first order rate constant to 10°C , we use the Arrhenius equation,

$$\ln\left(\frac{k_{T_2}}{k_{T_1}}\right) = \frac{-E_{\text{act}}}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1}\right)$$

where $T_1 = 298 \text{ K}$, $T_2 = 283 \text{ K}$ and $k_{T_1} = 0.0203 \text{ d}^{-1}$.

$$\text{So, } \ln\left(\frac{k_{T_2}}{0.0203 \text{ d}^{-1}}\right) = \frac{-90,000 \text{ J mol}^{-1}}{8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}} \left(\frac{1}{283 \text{ K}} - \frac{1}{298 \text{ K}}\right)$$

$$\text{and } k_{T_2} = 0.0203 \text{ d}^{-1} e^{-1.93} = 2.95 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$$

THEREFORE THE HALF-LIFE IN GROUNDWATER AT 10°C IS GIVEN BY;

$$\mathbf{t_{1/2} = 0.693 / (2.95 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}) = 240 \text{ days!}}$$

ASIDE (to check the assumption about the susceptibility term, 's');

Since we are told to assume the seawater is 0.55 M NaCl (i.e., ignore the other nucleophiles, which is reasonable since Cl^- is by far the most abundant anion),

$$k_{\text{obs}}^{\text{SW}} = k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} [\text{H}_2\text{O}] + k_{\text{Cl}^-} [\text{Cl}^-] = 1.58 \times 10^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$$

$$\text{So, } k_{\text{Cl}^-} = (k_{\text{obs}}^{\text{SW}} - k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} [\text{H}_2\text{O}]) / [\text{Cl}^-] = 2.59 \times 10^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1}$$

We can use this value to evaluate the sensitivity of TMP to nucleophilicity ('s') using the Swain-Scott approach;

$$\log\left(\frac{k_{\text{Cl}^-}}{k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}\right) = ns, \text{ where } n \text{ for } \text{Cl}^- \text{ is given as } 3.0 \text{ in Table 13.3, p. 498 text.}$$

Since k_{Cl^-} and $k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ are known we can calculate,

$$s = \frac{\log\left(\frac{k_{\text{Cl}^-}}{k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}\right)}{n} = \frac{2.96}{3.00} = 0.987 \cong 1.0$$

7. Under anaerobic conditions the following halogenated ethanes undergo a reaction known as *vicinal dehalogenation*.

a) Suggest an explanation for the observed trend in the *pseudo* first order rate constants (k_{obs}) increasing with increased halogenation.

b) What are the products in each case and why are they environmentally relevant?

Structure	k_{obs} (s^{-1})
$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}-\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$	$< 2 \times 10^{-7}$
$\text{CHCl}_2-\text{CHCl}_2$	1.2×10^{-6}
$\text{CCl}_3-\text{CCl}_3$	3.2×10^{-4}

Solution: The compounds form a series of symmetrical polychlorinated ethanes ($\text{CCl}_n\text{H}_{3-n}-\text{CCl}_n\text{H}_{3-n}$), where $n = 1, 2, 3$.

In general, the reduction rates of alkyl halides is inversely correlated with C-X bond strength and the reduction potential (i.e., electron accepting ability). This is consistent with the trend observed here, as the more polychlorinated ethanes have weaker C-Cl bonds due to steric crowding.

Remember any discussion of kinetic trends is really about the relative energy of the transition state (activated complex) involved in the rate determining step. These reductions are the result of the addition of an electron to the carbon-halogen bond. The one-electron reduction potentials for organic compounds in aqueous solution are not readily available, so we will take a more qualitative approach by considering the factors that influence the free-energy of the transition state.

Although the details of the mechanism are not fully understood, the first step is generally rate determining and involves accepting an electron to form a radical anion. This weakens the C-X bond as it becomes partially dissociated. Subsequent cleavage proceeds to yield a halide ion and carbon centred radical. Hence, the factors that may influence the energetics of the rate limiting transition state include the electron accepting ability of the substrate (which is related to the electronegativity of the halogens involved), the C-X bond strength and stability of the resulting carbon centred radical. In consideration of the observed trend above, it would appear that the dominant influence is a combination the C-Cl bond strength, and the electron acceptor abilities of the more highly chlorinated ethanes (i.e., $n=3 > n=2 > n=1$).

Reaction Products:

The dominant reaction for the polyhalogenated ethanes under anaerobic conditions is vicinal dehalogenation leading to ethenes. Other minor reductive pathways could include hydrogenolysis (hydrodechlorination) wherein a Cl is replaced with an H. Non-reductive pathways, such as hydrolysis and elimination may also compete, especially under non-reducing conditions.

The products of vicinal dehalogenation are environmentally relevant as the resulting halogenated alkenes are often more environmentally persistent and therefore have a greater tendency to bio-accumulate and magnify.

8. The rate constant for the chlorination of a series of substituted phenols correlate with the pK_a of the corresponding phenol. What does this suggest about the rate-determining step? What are the identified disinfection by-products of phenol?

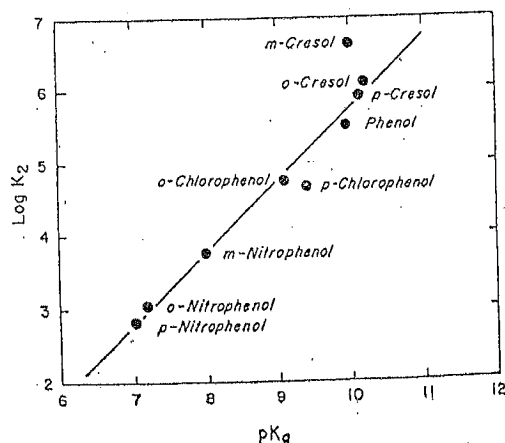


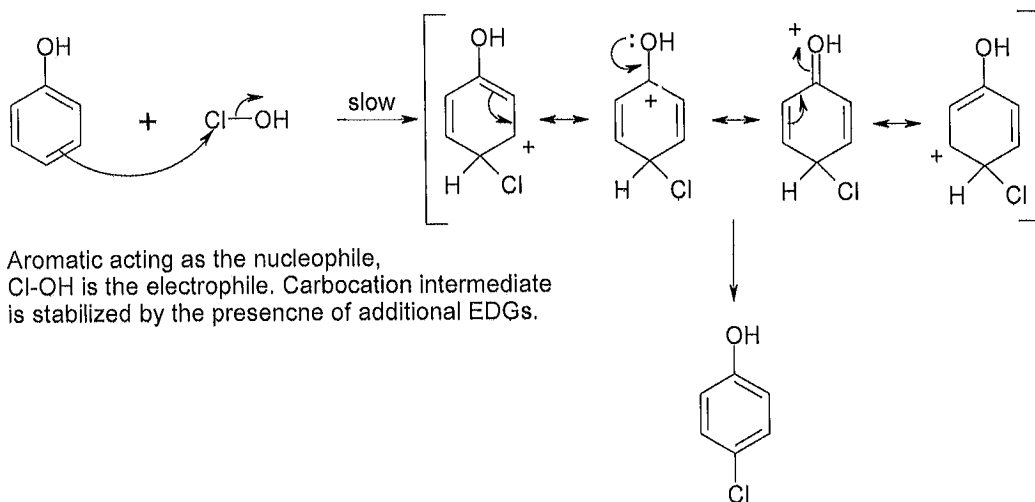
Figure 5.2. Effect of phenol acidities on the rate constants of their reactions with HOCl. From Soper and Smith (1926). Reprinted by permission of the Royal Society of Chemistry (U.K.).

From Reaction Mechanisms in Environmental Organic Chemistry, R.J. Larson & E.J. Weber, CRC Press, 1994, p.280.

Solution:

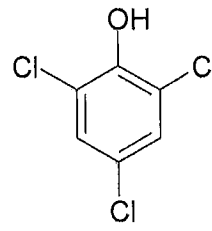
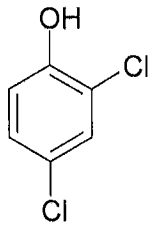
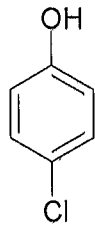
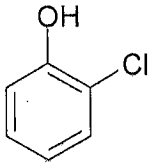
Since the rate of reaction increases linearly with the pK_a of the corresponding phenol, substituents which have an acid weakening effect (i.e., electron donating groups) decrease the activation energy of the rate determining step. We would therefore expect this reaction to have a $\rho < 0$ and experience a decrease in electron density in the transition state in the rate determining step.

This is consistent with an electrophilic aromatic substitution reaction (EAS) mechanism shown below for the parent compound, phenol.



Since the intermediate carbocation is stabilized by electron donating groups, the first step is the rate limiting step.

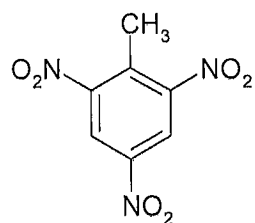
The disinfection by-products identified in the chlorination of phenol are;



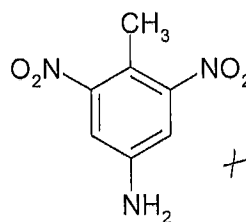
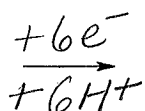
as well as chloroform (CHCl_3) and chloroacetic acids.

9. Identify each of the following reactions as either oxidation or reduction and write the balanced half reaction.

reduction
of nitro-
aromatic

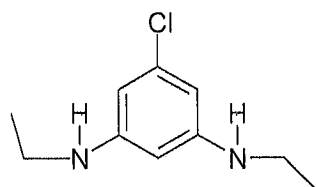


trinitrotoluene

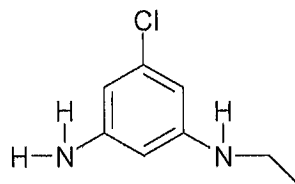
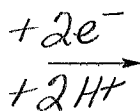


reduction
+ 2 H₂O

reductive
dealkylation

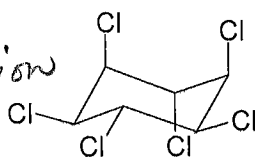


simazine

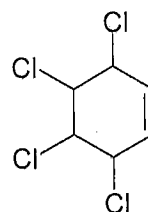
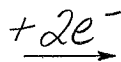


reduction
+ CH₃-CH₃

vicinal
dehalogenation

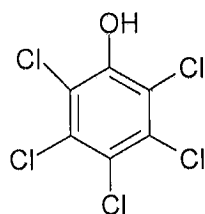


lindane

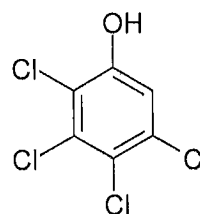
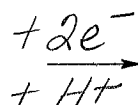


reduction
+ 2 Cl⁻

hydrogenolysis

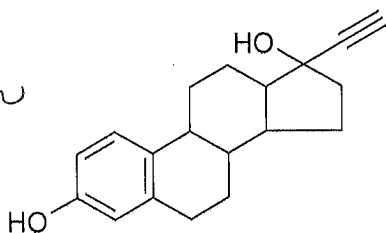


pentachlorophenol

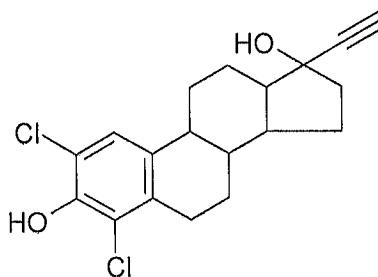


reduction
+ Cl⁻

phenolic
chlorination



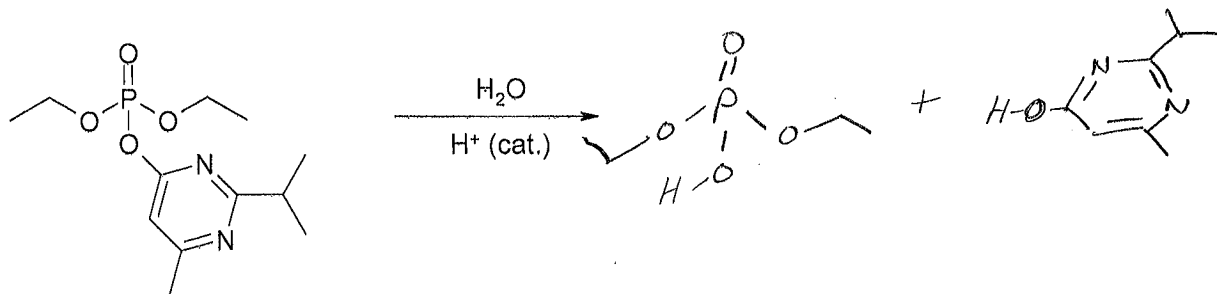
17-α-estradiol



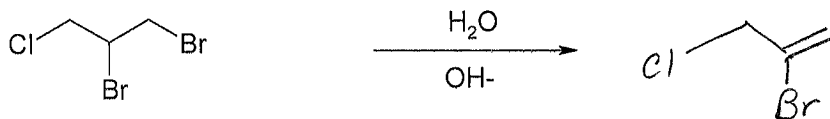
oxidation
+ 4e⁻
+ 2H⁺

10. Predict the major hydrolysis product/s and suggest a mechanism in each case.

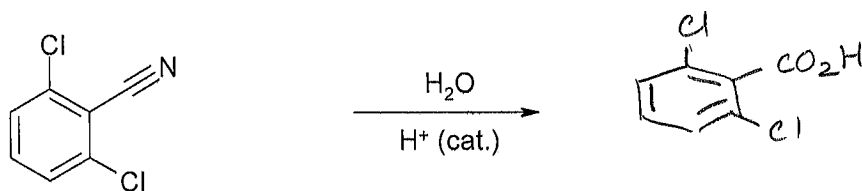
SN2



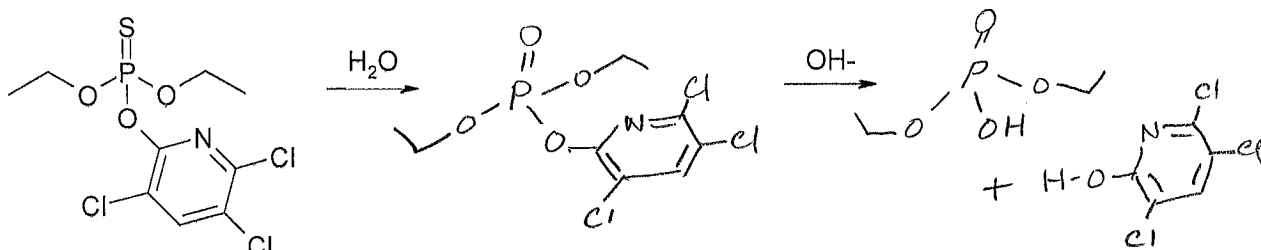
E2



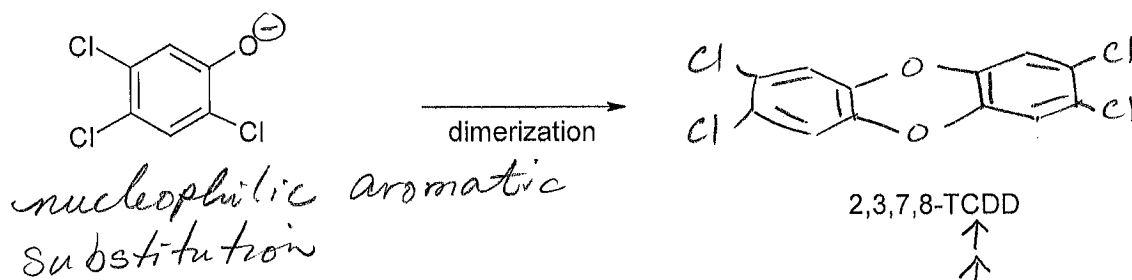
addition-elimination



SN2



SNAR



via

