Chapter 9: Aldehydes and Ketones



The Civet Cat is the original source of civetone, a sweet and pungent ketone used as a fixative in perfumery

Aldehydes and ketones are found in many fragrant odors of many fruits, fine perfumes, hormones etc. some examples are listed below.

Aldehydes and ketones are characterized by the presence of the **carbonyl group**, which is perhaps the most important functional group in organic chemistry. Aldehydes have at least one hydrogen atom attached to the carbonyl carbon atom. The remaining group may be another hydrogen atom or any aliphatic or aromatic group. The –CH=O group characteristic of aldehydes is often called a *formyl group*. In ketones, the carbonyl carbon atom is connected to two other carbon atoms

The carbonyl group is in many compounds including carboxylic acids and their derivatives.

Nomenclature;

In the IUPAC system, the characteristic ending for aldehydes is *-al* from the first syllable of *aldehyde*)

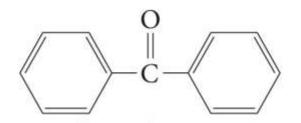
In the presence of a double bond or an alcohol group, the aldehyde group takes priority

For cyclic aldehydes the suffix – carbaldehyde is used. Most of the aromatic aldehydes have common names.

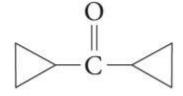
The ending of ketones is —one (from the last syllable of ketone). The chain is numbered so that the carbonyl carbon has the lowest possible number.

O

$$4$$
 3 \parallel_2 1
 CH_2 = CH - C - CH_3
3-buten-2-one
(methyl vinyl ketone)



benzophenone (diphenyl ketone)



dicyclopropyl ketone

Some Common Aldehydes and Ketones

Formaldehyde, which is the simplest aldehyde, is manufactured by the catalytic oxidation of methanol. The annual world production is more than 46 billion pounds.

CH₃OH
$$\frac{\text{Ag catalyst}}{600-700^{\circ}\text{C}}$$
 CH₂=O + H₂ formaldehyde

Acetaldehyde (CH₃CH=O) is manufactured mainly by the oxidation of ethylene over palladium-copper catalyst. About 1 billion pounds are produced each year.

$$2 \text{ CH}_2 = \text{CH}_2 + \text{O}_2 \xrightarrow{\text{Pd-Cu}} 2 \text{ CH}_3 \text{CH} = \text{O}$$

Acetone, the simplest ketone may be prepared using a similar method from the oxidation of propene.

Quinones; these compounds form a unique class of carbonyl compounds. They are cyclic conjugated diketones, the simplest being 1,4-benzoquinone. All quinones are colored and many occur naturally as pigments that can be used as dyes. Alizarin is the orange-red quinone that was used to dye the red coats of the British army during the American Revolution. Vitamin K is a quinone that is required for the normal clotting of blood.

Synthesis of Aldehydes and Ketones

$$C$$
 OH
 OH
 $OXIO$
 $OXIO$

Aldehydes and ketones are mostly prepared by the oxidation of primary and secondary alcohols respectively. Chromium reagents such as pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC), are commonly used in the laboratory.

example

$$(CH_3)_2CHCH_2-CH_2-OH \xrightarrow{PCC} (CH_3)_2CHCH_2-\overset{O}{\underset{\star}{\subset}} -H$$

Using an appropriate alcohol, write an equation to show how the following compounds can be made by oxidation.

Aromatic ketones can be prepared by Friedel-Crafts acylation of an aromatic ring

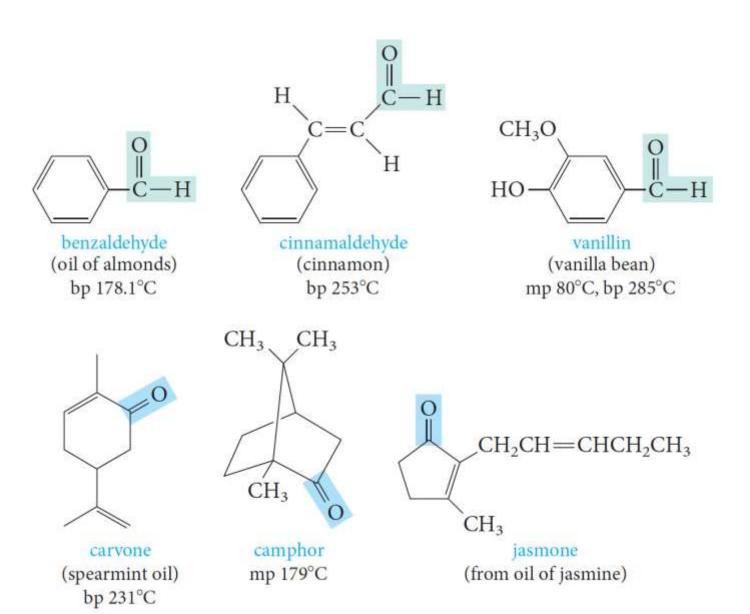
Methyl ketones can be prepared by the hydration of terminal alkynes, catalyzed by acid and mercury ion.

CH₃(CH₂)₅C
$$\equiv$$
CH $\xrightarrow{H^+, H_2O}$ CH₃(CH₂)₅CCH₃
1-octyne 2-octanone



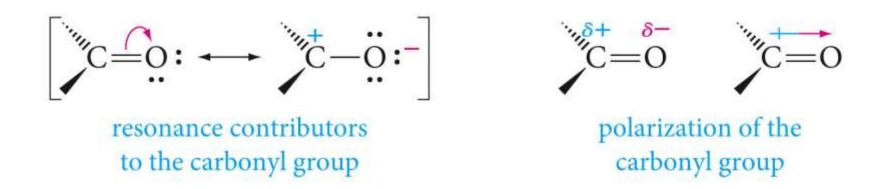
What alkyne would be useful for the synthesis of 2-heptanone (oil of cloves)? Write the synthesis reaction.

Aldehydes and Ketones in Nature





The Carbonyl Group

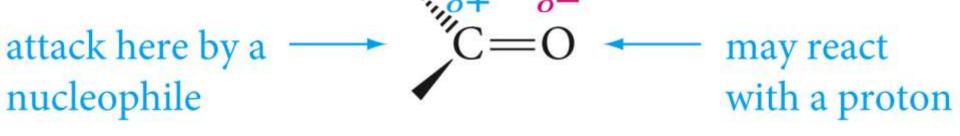


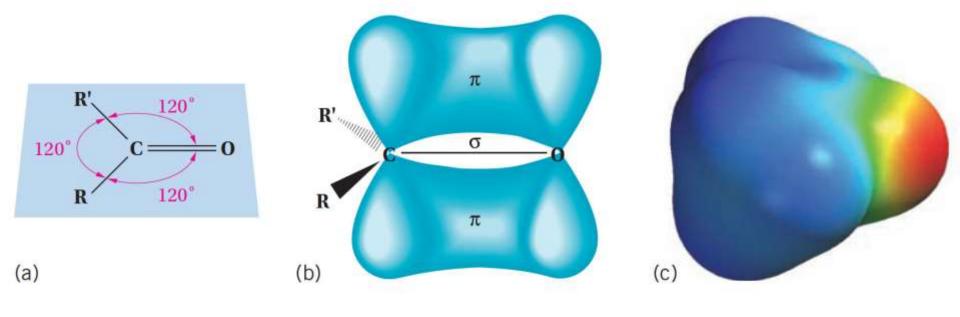
The carbonyl carbon is sp² –hybridized, the carbon-oxygen double bond consists of a sigma bond and a pi bond.

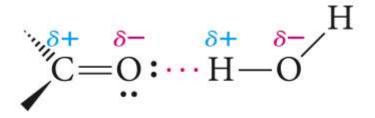
The three atoms attached to the carbonyl carbon lie on the same plane with bond angle of 120°.

The C=O bond distance is 1.24 Å, shorter than a C-O single bond in ethers and alcohols (1.43 Å)

The C=O bond is polarized







Aldehydes and ketones that have a C=O bond, but no O-H bond, cannot form hydrogen bonds with one another, as alcohols.

Aldehyde and ketones therefore have relatively higher boiling points than hydrocarbons, but less than alcohols.

Low molecular weight aldehydes and ketones are water soluble as they can for hydrogen bonds with the water molecules but not with themselves.

Clicker Question

Arrange Benzaldehyde (MW=106), Benzyl alcohol (MW=108) and p-Xylene (MW=106) in order of increasing boiling point?

- A. Benzaldehyde<Benzyl alcohol<p-Xylene
- B. Benzyl alcohol<Benzaldehyde<p-Xylene
- C. p-Xylene<Benzaldehyde<Benzyl alcohol
- D. p-Xylene<Benzyl alcohol<Benzaldehyde

Nucleophilic Addition to Carbonyl Groups

Nucleophiles attack the carbon atom of a carbon-oxygen double bond because that carbon has a partial positive charge. The pi-electrons of the C=O bond move to the oxygen atom

Acids can catalyze the addition of weak nucleophiles to carbonyl compounds by protonating the carbonyl oxygen atom. This makes the carbonyl carbon more electrophilic and reactive by converting it to a carbocation thereby enhancing is susceptibility to attack by nucleophiles.

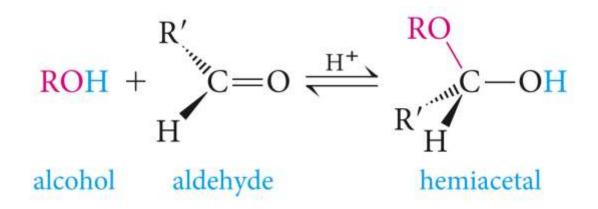
$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{Nu} \\
\text{C} = \text{O} : + \text{H}^{+} \iff \begin{bmatrix} \text{Nu} \\ \text{O} \\ \text{O} \end{bmatrix} & \text{O} \\
\text{a resonance-stabilized}
\end{array}$$

carbocation

Classification of Nucleophiles;

- Those that add reversibly are also good leaving groups and are conjugate bases of relatively strong acids
- Those that add irreversibly are poor leaving groups, and are conjugate bases of weak acids.

Addition of Alcohols: Formation of Hemiacetals and Acetals



Alcohols are oxygen nucleophiles, they add to the C=O bond, the OR group becoming attached to the carbon and the proton becoming attached to the oxygen.

The product is a **hemiacetal** which contains both alcohol and ether groups on the same carbon.

The addition process is reversible

In the presence of excess alcohol, hemiacetals react to form **acetals**. acetals have two ether functional groups at the same carbon atom.

Mechanism of acetal formation

RO
$$R' \stackrel{H^+}{\longrightarrow} RO$$

$$RO \stackrel{+}{\longrightarrow} RO$$

Reaction summary

Question

Write the equation for the reaction of benzaldehyde with excess methanol and an acid catalyst.

The reverse of acetal formation if acetal hydrolysis. This is achieved by excess water in the presence of an acid catalyst.

$$CH_3$$
 H_2O
 $CH=O+2 CH_3OH$
 OCH_3
 H_2O
 OCH_3

Addition of Water: Hydration of Aldehydes and Ketones

$$\begin{array}{c} H \\ C=O + H-OH \Longrightarrow \\ H \end{array} \begin{array}{c} HO \\ C-OH \\ H \end{array}$$
formaldehyde

Addition of Grignard Reagents and Acetylides

$$R-MgX + H-C-H \longrightarrow R-C-OMgX \xrightarrow[H_2O]{H} R-C-OH$$
formaldehyde a primary alcohol

$$R-MgX + R'-C-H \longrightarrow R-C-OMgX \xrightarrow[H_2O]{H_2O} R-C-OH$$
aldehyde
$$R = R' \longrightarrow R - C-OHgX \xrightarrow[H_2O]{H_2O} R-C-OHgX$$
a secondary alcohol

$$R-MgX + R'-C-R'' \longrightarrow R-C-OMgX \xrightarrow[R']{H_2O} R-C-OH$$

$$R''$$
ketone
$$R''$$

$$R''$$

$$R''$$
a tertiary alcohol

Example;

What is the product expected from the reaction of ethylmagnesium bromide and 3-pentanone followed by hydrolysis?

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ CH_3CH_2-C-CH_2CH_3 \longrightarrow CH_3CH_2-C-CH_2CH_3 \xrightarrow{H_2O} CH_3CH_2-C-CH_2CH_3 \\ + \\ CH_3CH_2MgBr \end{array}$$

Show how the following alcohol can be made from a Grignard reagent and a carbonyl compound:

Other organometallic reagents, such as organolithium compounds and acetylides, react with carbonyl compounds in a similar fashion to Grignard reagents.

Example

Addition of Hydrogen Cyanide; Cyanohydrins

$$C = O + HCN \xrightarrow{KOH} C - OH$$
a cyanohydrin

$$CH_{3}-C-CH_{3}+HCN \xrightarrow{KOH} CH_{3}-C-CH_{3}$$

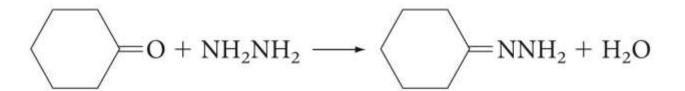
$$CN$$
acetone acetone cyanohydrin

$$\begin{array}{c}
NC \\
C = O: + T: C = N: \\
C = O: - CO: -$$

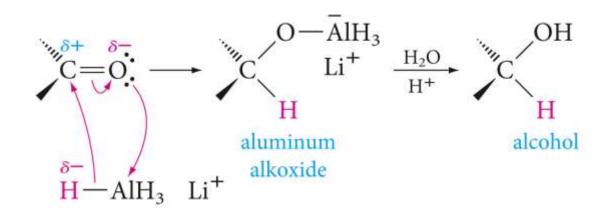
Apheloria corrugata (millipede) uses the cyanohydrin reaction for defense and as a deterrent of predators.

Addition of Nitrogen Nucleopiles

Table 9.1 Nitrogen Derivatives of Carbonyl Compounds			
Formula of ammonia derivative	Name	Formula of carbonyl derivative	Name
RNH ₂ or ArNH ₂	primary amine	C=NR or C=NAr	imine
NH ₂ OH	hydroxylamine	с=пон	oxime
NH ₂ NH ₂	hydrazine	C=NNH ₂	hydrazone
NH ₂ NHC ₆ H ₅	phenylhydrazine	C=NNHC ₆ H ₅	phenylhydrazone

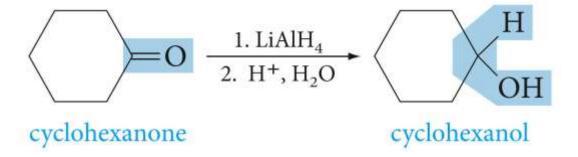


Reduction of Carbonyl Compounds



Aldehydes and ketones are easily reduced to primary and secondary alcohols respectively. Reduction can be accomplished in many ways, most commonly by metal hydrides.

Lithium aluminum hydride (LiAlH₄) and sodium borohydride (NaBH₄) are among the commonly used.



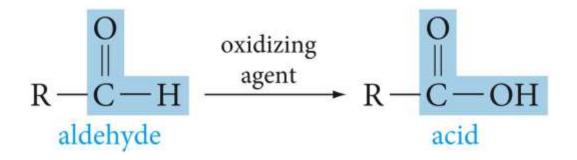
Because a carbon-carbon double bond is not readily attacked by nucleophiles, metal hydrides can be used to reduce a carbon-oxygen double bond to the corresponding alcohol without reducing the alkene.

CH₃-CH=CH-CH
$$\xrightarrow{\text{NaBH}_4}$$
 CH₃-CH=CH-CH₂OH

2-butenal 2-buten-1-ol

Oxidation of Carbonyl Compounds

Aldehydes are more easily oxidized than ketones. Oxidation of an aldehyde gives a carboxylic acid with the same number of carbon atoms.



Oxidation may be achieved by many oxidizing agents, such as KMnO₄, CrO₃, Ag₂O, and peracids.

$$CH_3(CH_2)_5$$
 CH=O $\xrightarrow{CrO_3, H^+}$ $CH_3(CH_2)_5$ CO₂H

Silver ion as an oxidizing agent is expensive but has the virtue that it selectively oxidizes aldehydes to carboxylic acids in the presence of alkenes.

A laboratory test that distinguishes aldehydes from ketones takes advantage of their different ease of oxidation. In the Tollen's silver mirror test, the silver-ammonia complex ion is reduced by aldehydes (but not ketones) to metallic silver according to the equation bellow.

O
$$||$$
RCH + 2 Ag(NH₃)₂+ + 3 HO⁻ \longrightarrow RC $-$ O⁻ + 2 Ag \downarrow + 4 NH₃ \uparrow + 2 H₂O aldehyde silver-ammonia complex ion anion mirror (colorless)

If the glass vessel in which the test is performed is thoroughly clean, the silver deposits as a mirror on the glass surface.



Ketones also can be oxidized, but require special oxidizing conditions.

