Paper II- Organic Chemistry

Chapter-I Structure and Bonding

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Resonance and Inductive Effects



Resonance Effect

Benzene Bond Lengths





Resonance Structures of Benzene

The 6 π -electrons are able to flow (or resonate) continulally around the π molecular orbital formed from the six p atomic orbitals on each of the 6 carbon atoms on the ring structure. This is represented by the two resonance structures below (which are identical or degenerate).

This flow of electrons leads to a very stable electronic structure, which accounts for benzenes low reactivity relative to alkenes. This stability is referred to as the *Resonance Stablisation Energy*.



The π -electrons are referred to as being conjugated.

Resonance Imparts Stability to Anionic Structures (and Cationic Structures – See Questions 3 and 4)



Relatively easy to form

The Resonance Arrow and its Physical Meaning

The resonance arrow is not an equilibrium arrow



The resonance arrow shows only the distribution of electrons.

Thus, for the two degenerate structures above, the implication is that there is an even distribution of the two electrons between the two oxygen atoms, at all times.



Experimentally it is found that both C-O bonds are the same length and are intermediate in length between the C-O single and double bond, as are the C-C bonds in benzene.

General Structure that will Display Resonance of Charges and Lone Pairs of Electrons



Some Important Aromatic Resonance Structures

Nitro Group: An Electron Withdrawing Group



Methoxy Group: An Electron Donating Group



...Note in a reaction mechanism we would not show the lone pairs on the carbons carrying the –ve charge...



These resonance structures allow us to rationalise (and predict) reactivity









Question 1: Resonances

On structure A draw on the curly-arrows that will lead to the bonding in the resonance structure B. Then place charges on structure B.



Answer 1: Resonances

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Question 2: Resonances

Cyclopentadiene can be deprotonated to the anion A. Anion A, the cyclopentadienyl anion, has 4 degenerate resonance structures. Complete the arrow pushing in C and identify structures D and E.



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Question 3: Resonances

Benzyl bromide undergoes C-Br bond cleavage to generate the benzyl cation A. Through resonance the positive charge can be delocalised through the ring. Identify resonance structures C and D and draw in the curly-arrows.



Answer 3: Resonances

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Question 4: Resonances

The 4-methoxybenzylic bromide A undergoes C-Br bond cleavage much more easily to generate the benzyl cation B, than does the C-Br bond in benzyl bromide in question 3. Indentify B and then draw in the curly arrows that lead to the resonance structure C.



bromide from Q3.

Answer 4: Resonances

The benzylic bromide A undergoes C-Br bond cleavage very easily to generate the benzyl cation B. Indentify B and then draw in the curly arrows that lead to the resonance structure C.



The reason that the C-Br bond is cleaved so readily, is due to the positive charge being able to delocalise through the aromatic ring and onto the oxygen atom. i.e. the charge is spread out over many atoms leading to a stable electronic structure.

Inductive Effects

Electronegativity Values

Н	С	Ν	0	F	
2.1	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	
	Si	Ρ	S	CI	
	1.8	2.1	2.4	3.0	
				Br	
				2.8	
				I	
				2.5	

Bond Polarisation and Inductive Effects





Inductive Effects are Short Range In Contrast to Resonance Effects



The polarised C-Cl bond transmits further polarisation through the $\sigma\mbox{-}bond$ framework,

But effect drops off quickly...

Important when considering substitution reactions in part 4 of this course

