

Organic Chemistry II with Dr Roche

Lecture Notes <http://crab.rutgers.edu/~alroche>

Email alroche@crab.rutgers.edu

Room Sci 311 (labs: Sci 328F/309/304A/318/319)

Phone 225-6166

Text (a) "Organic Chemistry" Wade, 4/5th Editions
 (b) Solution Manual, 4/5th Ed

 (organic model kit)

Do the problems in the book

Learn as you go along

Aim for understanding, not memorization

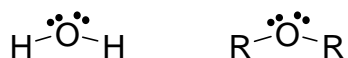
Ethers and Epoxides

Ethers are a class of compound of the general formula R-O-R'.

R and R' can be alkyl or aryl.

Structure

Ethers can be thought of as alkyl analogues of water.

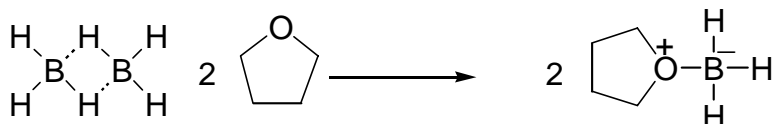


Uses

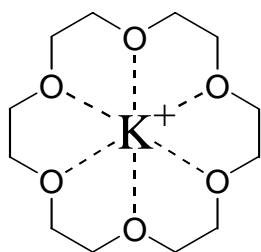
Since ethers are relatively unreactive and are strongly polar (due to the lone pairs on the oxygen), they are commonly used as solvents for organic reactions. (Diethyl ether and THF, the Grignard reaction).

Ethers will often form complexes with molecules that have vacant orbitals, enabling 'unstable' molecules to be used as reagents.

E.g. Hydroboration uses $\text{BH}_3 \cdot \text{THF}$



Crown ethers are macrocyclic ethers, which help to solvate metal cations, and thus allow inorganic salts to dissolve in organic solvents.



18-Crown-6

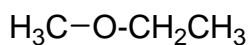
18-Crown-6 is the ideal size to incorporate a potassium ion, and allows organic solutions of ionic potassium salts to be prepared (purple benzene).

Nomenclature of ethers

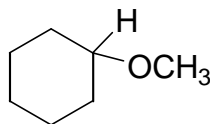
Common names of ethers add the suffix ether after naming the groups on either side of the oxygen.

IUPAC names ethers by taking the more complex alkyl group the root name, and naming the remaining part as an alkoxy group.

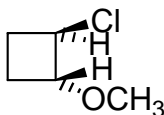
E.g.



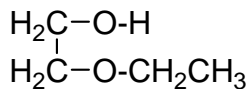
methoxyethane



methoxycyclohexane



trans-1-chloro-2-methoxycyclobutane



2-ethoxyethanol

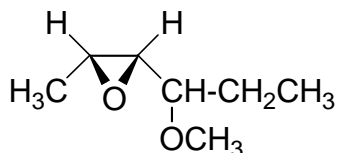
Cyclic Ethers

Naming these **heterocyclic** compounds depends on the ring size and number of oxygens.

(It *can* be confusing at first...)

Epoxides

These 3 membered rings are named using the term epoxy as a substituent.



cis-2,3-epoxy-4-methoxyhexane

(cis refers to the substituents, not the epoxide which must be cis/syn).

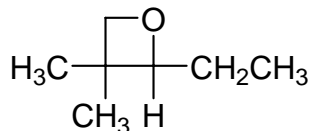
Epoxides have considerable ring strain.

Oxetanes

These are four membered rings with one oxygen.



oxetane



2-ethyl-3,3-dimethyloxetane

Oxetanes have ring strain, but not as much as epoxides.

Furans

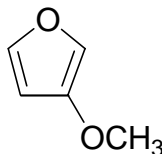
These are five membered rings with one oxygen and two double bonds.
(Furan is an aromatic molecule).



furan



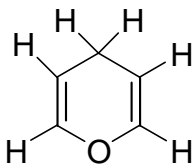
tetrahydrofuran
(THF)



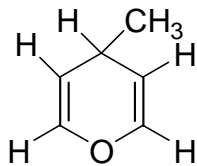
3-methoxyfuran

Pyrans

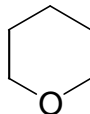
These are six membered rings with one oxygen and two double bonds.



pyran



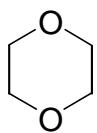
4-methylpyran



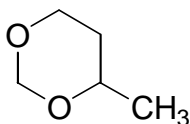
tetrahydropyran
(THP)

Dioxanes

These are six membered rings with two oxygens.



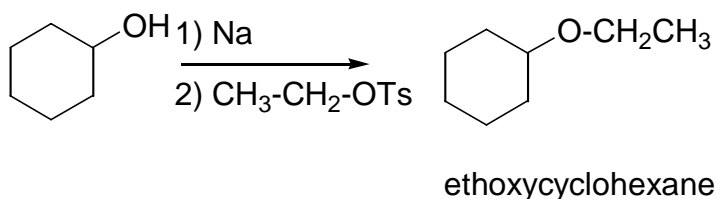
1,4-dioxane



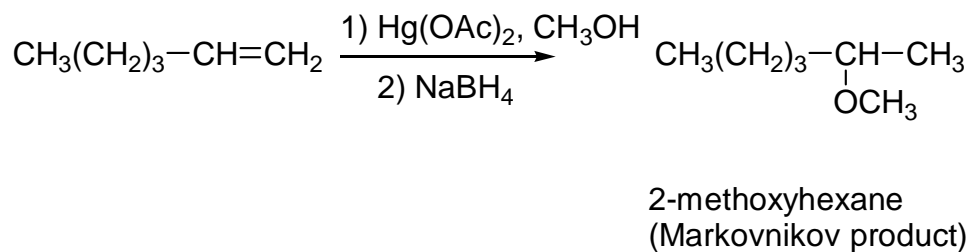
4-methyl-1,3-dioxane

Ether Synthesis (Recap)

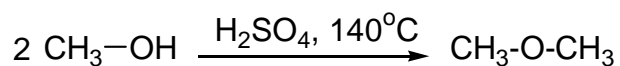
Williamson synthesis



Alkoxymercuration-Demercuration



Bimolecular dehydration of Alcohols



Reactions of Ethers

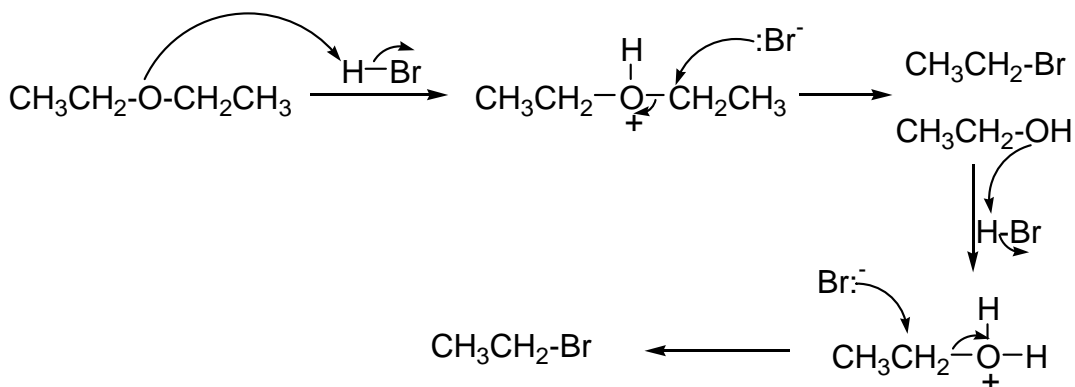
Typically ethers are stable and chemically inert, although they can undergo two types of reaction (cleavage, oxidation).

Cleavage

Ethers are cleaved by H-Br and H-I, generating the corresponding alkyl halides.

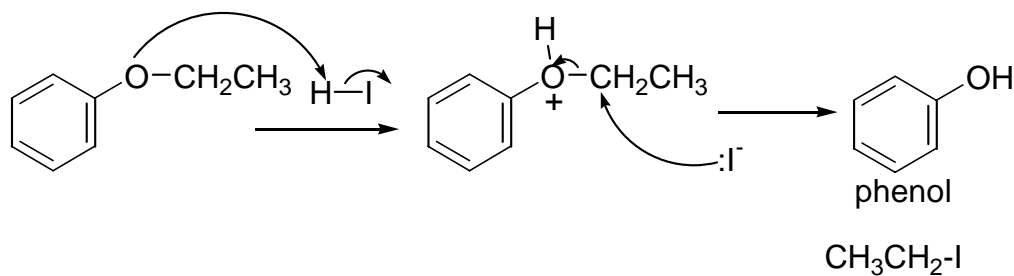


Ethers are stable to **bases**, but **acidic** conditions leads to the protonation of the ether oxygen, which then can undergo substitution reactions.



The alcohol produced reacts to generate a second molecule of alkyl halide.

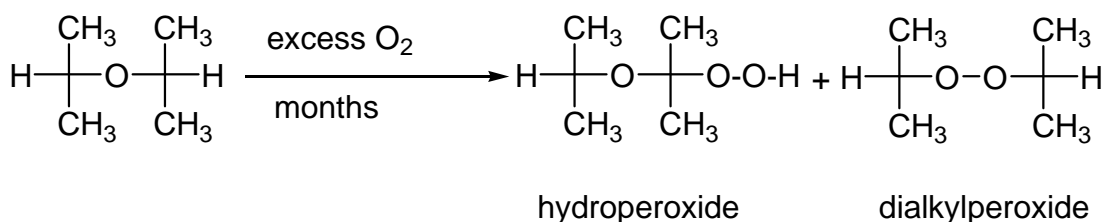
Phenyl ethers are slightly different, and cleave to give alkyl halides and phenols.



The reaction stops at the phenol stage since the sp^2 carbon of the C-O bond does not allow the required S_N1 or S_N2 reactions to generate the second molecule of aryl halide.

Oxidation of Ethers

Ethers may auto-oxidize if left in the presence of oxygen for extended periods of time (**Dangerous** in the laboratory).



The peroxides and hydroperoxides are unstable and explosive.

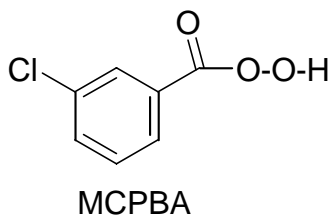
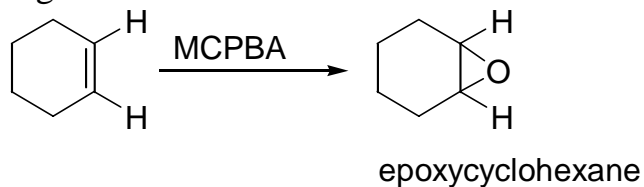
Epoxides

Unlike straight chain ethers, epoxides are very reactive (release of ring strain), and are useful intermediates because of their chemical versatility.

Synthesis

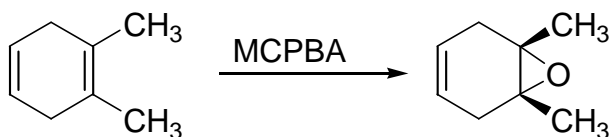
Recall alkene and peroxyacid \rightarrow epoxide and carboxylic acid

E.g.



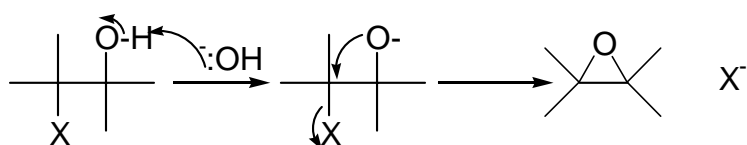
MCPBA is one of the most common epoxidising reagents.

Epoxidations work better for electron rich double bonds.

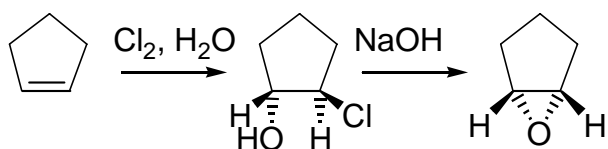


Synthesis from Halohydrins

When halohydrins are treated with base, an intramolecular cyclisation occurs, and epoxides are formed.



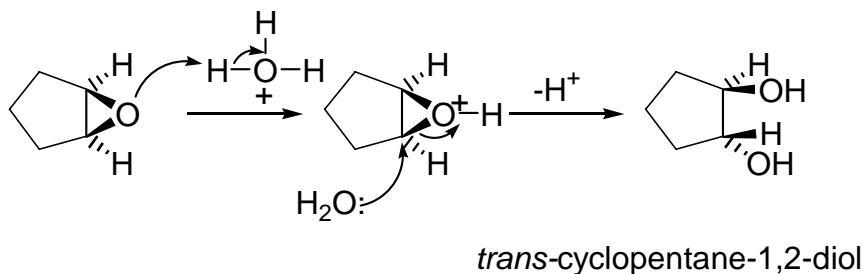
Recall that halohydrins are produced from alkenes by reaction with halogens in the presence of water. (Chlorine water or related reagents).



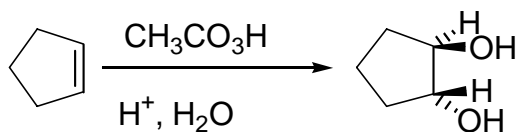
Acid Catalyzed ring Opening

Epoxides react to **release** their considerable (25kcal/mol) strain energy.

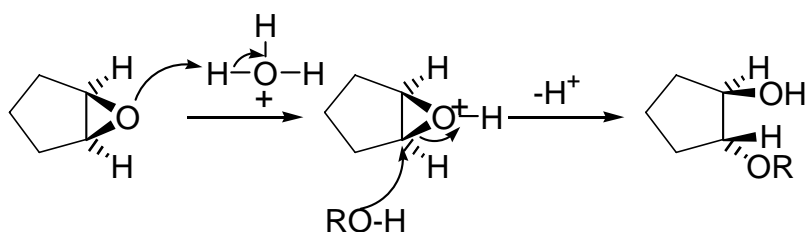
Recall that the acidic hydrolysis of epoxides gives **anti** diols.



This overall transformation (alkene \rightarrow anti 1,2-diol) can be achieved in one step by reaction with aqueous peroxyacids.

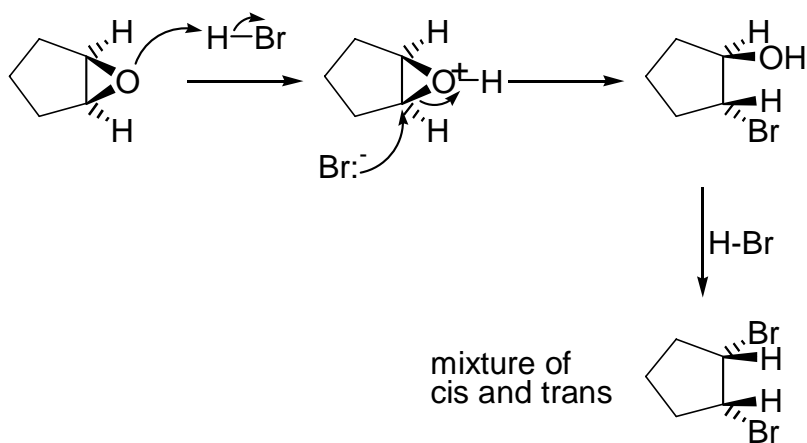


Epoxides can be ring opened by alcohols with acidic catalysis to generate alkoxy alcohols with **anti** stereochemistry.



Hydrohalic Acids

Epoxides react with H-X to produce halohydrins, which react further with H-X to generate 1,2-dihalides.



(However it is synthetically easier just to add X_2 to an alkene).

Base Catalyzed Ring Opening

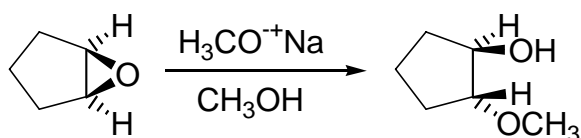
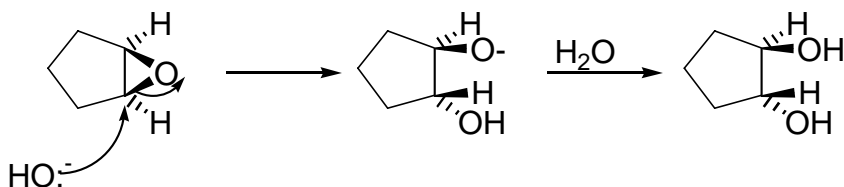
Normal ethers do not undergo nucleophilic substitution or eliminations because the alkoxide anion is not a good leaving group. (That is why acid catalysis is required).

Epoxides are different though. The release of strain when an epoxide is opened more than compensates for the poor leaving group ability, and so epoxides will open under nucleophilic conditions.

Figure 14-8

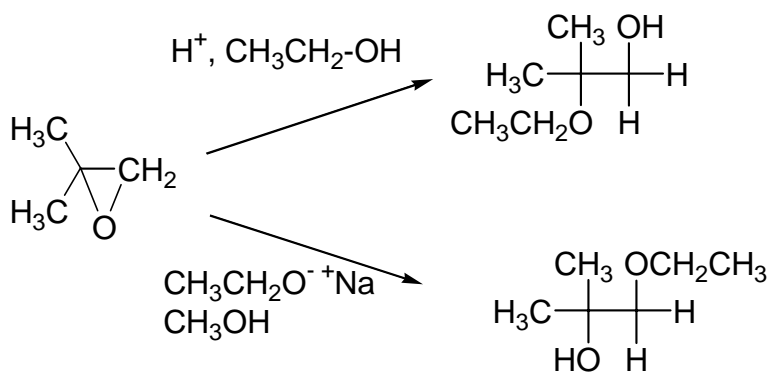
The strained epoxide has a lower E_a than the corresponding straight chain ether.

The reaction of hydroxide (or alkoxide) with a symmetric epoxide generates anti diols (or alkoxy alcohols) identical to those produced under acidic conditions.

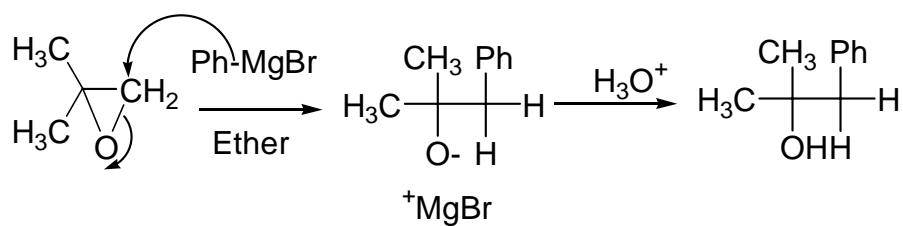


Orientation of Ring Opening

Unsymmetrical epoxides give products with different regiochemistry with **basic** opening compared to **acidic** opening.



Organometallic Reagents



Grignard and organolithium reagents also attack epoxides at the least hindered carbon to generate alcohols (after acidic workup).