# Aromatic and Heterocyclic Chemistry 4 Lectures

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- Advanced Organic Chemistry: Parts A and B; Francis A. Carey, Richard J. Sundberg
- Organic Chemistry; Jonathan Clayden, Nick Greeves, Stuart Warren, Peter Wothers
- Advanced Organic Chemistry: Reactions, Mechanisms and Structures; J. March
- Frontier Orbitals and Organic Chemical Reactions; I. Fleming
- Heterocyclic Chemistry; J. Joule, K. Mills, G. Smith
- Aromatic Heterocyclic Chemistry; D. Davies
- Reactive Intermediates; C. Moody and G. Whitham
- Aromatic Chemistry; M. Sainsbury
- **The Chemistry of C-C**  $\pi$ -Bonds Lecture notes; Dr Martin Smith

#### **Synopsis**

The Origin of Aromaticity and General Characteristics of Aromatic Compounds

- Examples of Aromaticity
- Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution
- Arynes
- Reactions with Metals: Ortho Metallation
- Introduction of Functional Groups
- Pyridine: Synthesis and Reactions
- Pyrrole, Thiophene and Furan: Synthesis and Reactions
- Indole: Synthesis and Reactions
- Reduction of Aromatics



- retains aromatic sextet of electrons in substitution reaction
- does not behave like a "normal" polyene or alkene
- benzene is both kinetically and thermodynamically very stable
- heats of hydrogenation



- benzene ≈150 kJmol<sup>-1</sup> more stable than expected (represents stability over hypothetical 1,3,5-cyclohextriene) termed the *empirical resonance energy (values vary enormously)* we know that delocalisation is stabilising, but how much more stabilising is the delocalisation in benzene should compare benzene with a real molecule we will use 1,3,5-hexatriene
- require a theory which explains the stability of benzene

## **Understanding Aromaticity**

Hückel's Rule: planar, monocyclic, completely conjugated hydrocarbons will be **aromatic** when the ring contains (4n +2)  $\pi$ -electrons (n = 0, 1, 2....positive integers)

Corollary

In planar, monocyclic, completely conjugated hydrocarbons will be **anti-aromatic** when the ring contains (4n)  $\pi$ -electrons (n = 0, 1, 2....positive integers)

## Hückel Molecular Orbital Theory (HMOT)

applicable to conjugated planar cyclic and acyclic systems

**\blacksquare** only the  $\pi$ -system is included; the  $\sigma$ -framework is ignored (in reality  $\sigma$ -framework affects  $\pi$ -system)

used to calculate the wave functions ( $\psi_k$ ) and hence *relative* energies by the LCAO method i.e.  $\psi_k = c_1 \varphi_1 + c_2 \varphi_2 + c_3 \varphi_3 + c_4 \varphi_4 + c_5 \varphi_5 \dots$ 



HMOT solves energy (E<sub>k</sub>) and coefficients c<sub>k</sub>

there are now many more sophisticated methods for calculating the stabilisation energy in conjugated systems; however, HMOT is adequate for our purposes.

## **Understanding Aromaticity**

## **HMOT** in Action

For cyclic and acyclic systems: molecular orbital energies =  $E_k = \alpha + m_j\beta$ 

 $\alpha$  = coulomb integral - energy associated with electron in an isolated 2p orbital (albeit in the molecular environment) -  $\alpha$  is negative (stabilising) and is the same for any p-orbital in  $\pi$ -system

 $\blacksquare$  β = resonance integral – energy associated with having electrons shared by atoms in the form of a covalent bond – β is negative (stabilising) and is set to zero for non-adjacent atoms.

(all overlap integrals S assumed to be zero, electron correlation ignored)

linear polyenes	m <sub>j</sub> = 2cos[jπ/(n+1)]	j = 1, 2n	(n = number of carbon atoms in
			conjugated system)
cyclic polyenes	m <sub>j</sub> = 2cos(2jπ/n)	j = 0, ±1, ±2	±[( <i>n</i> -1)/2] for odd <i>n,</i> ± <i>n</i> /2 for even <i>n</i>

### Ethene

- **u** two 2p atomic orbitals give  $2\pi$  molecular orbitals
- $\blacksquare m_j = 2\cos(\pi/3) \text{ and } 2\cos(2\pi/3) = 1 \text{ or } -1 \qquad E = \alpha \pm \beta$
- **stabilisation energy**  $\mathbf{E}_{stab} = 2\alpha + 2\beta$



- 1,3,5-hexatriene vs benzene
- six 2p atomic orbitals give  $6\pi$  molecular orbitals; n = 6, j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

m<sub>j</sub> = 2cos(π/7) = 1.80

energy  $E = \alpha + 1.80\beta$ 

 $2\cos(2\pi/7) = 1.25$ 

α + 1.25β

 $2\cos(3\pi/7) = 0.45...$ and the corresponding negative values  $\alpha - 0.45\beta$ .....etc



α + 0.45β

**stabilisation energy = E\_{stab} = 2(3\alpha + 3.5\beta) = 6\alpha + 7\beta** 

**stabilisation energy ethene = 2\alpha + 2\beta** 



**stabilisation energy = E**<sub>stab</sub>=  $2(\alpha + 2\beta) + 4(\alpha + \beta) = 6\alpha + 8\beta$ ; stabilisation energy w.r.t. 1,3,5-hexatriene =  $\beta$ 

HMOT predicts benzene is more stable than 1,3,5-hexatriene

**a** aromatic compounds are those with a  $\pi$ -system lower in energy than that of acyclic counterpart

**a** anti-aromatic compounds are those with a  $\pi$ -system higher in energy than that of acyclic counterpart

Frost-Musulin Diagram – Frost Circle

simple method to find the energies of the molecular orbitals for an aromatic compound

inscribe the regular polygon, with one vertex pointing down, inside a circle of radius  $2\beta$ , centred at energy  $\alpha$ 

each intersection of the polygon with the circumference of the circle corresponds to the energy of a molecular orbital



General Characteristics of Aromatic Compounds

- planar fully conjugates cyclic polyenes
- more stable than acyclic analogues
- bonds of nearly equal length i.e. not alternating single and double bonds
- undergo substitution reactions (rather than addition reactions)
- support a diamagnetic ring current good test for aromatic character of a compound

δ<sub>H</sub> = 5-6 ppm

 $\delta_{H}$  = 7.26 ppm aromatics  $\delta_{H}$  = 7-8 ppm



Hückel's rule [(4n +2) π-electrons for aromatic compounds [4n π-electrons for anti-aromatic compounds] holds for anions, cations and neutrals

Cyclopropenium cation

(4n +2), n = 0,  $2\pi$  electrons; stabilisation energy =  $2\alpha + 4\beta$  – stabilisation energy of allyl cation =  $2\alpha + 2.8\beta$ 



insoluble in non-polar solvents; 1 signal in <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub> = 11.1 ppm - aromatic and a cation
compare with cyclopropyl cation which is subject to rearrangement to the allyl cation



Cyclopropenium anion

(4n), n = 1,  $4\pi$  electrons – anti-aromatic

stabilisation energy  $E_{stab} = 4\alpha + 2\beta$ ; stabilisation energy of allyl anion =  $4\alpha + 2\sqrt{2\beta}$ 





rate of proton exchange: cyclopropane/cyclopropene = 10000 Benzene

1.54 Å **(**4n +2), n = 1, 6π electrons  $\delta_{H}$  = 7.26 ppm, planar molecule; bond length = 1.39 Å C-C sp<sup>3</sup>-sp<sup>3</sup> 1.50 Å 1.40 Å C-C sp<sup>3</sup>-sp<sup>2</sup>  $H \delta = 7.46$ 1.47 Å H δ = 7.01<sup>-</sup> C-C sp<sup>3</sup>-sp isoelectronic with pyridine 2.2 D 1.39 Å-- 🍗 1.46 Å C-C sp<sup>2</sup>-sp<sup>2</sup> Ή δ = 8.50 1.39 Å C-C benzene 1.34 1.34 Å C=C 1.21 Å C≡C **Cyclopentadienyl Anion** 

**4** (4n +2), n = 1, 6π electrons







 $pK_a H_2 O = 15.74$   $pK_a HNO_3 = -1.3$ 

- (4n +2), n = 1, 6 electrons
- cyclopentadienide anion is isoelectronic with furan pyrrole and thiophene

in each case the (one of the) lone pair(s) is parallel to the p-orbitals and part of the  $\pi$ -system

■ all 3 are aromatic, show ring currents and undergo electrophilic aromatic substitution



cyclopentadienyl cation

(4n), n = 1,  $4\pi$  electrons – anti-aromatic



cyclopentadienone



cyclobutadiene

(4n), n = 1,  $4\pi$  electrons – anti-aromatic

HMOT predicts triplet ground state for cyclobutadiene – cyclobutadiene is actually a singlet ground state and is rectangular not square

only possible to isolate at very low temperatures in an argon matrix



cyclobutadiene can be stabilised with very bulky substituents
stable up to 150 °C but very reactive towards O<sub>2</sub>





cyclooctatetraene

non-aromatic, alternating bond lengths, distorts to avoid planar anti-aromatic conformation,

normal reactivity of polyene









Ph

Θ

<mark>6π</mark> Ph

Ph

Ph

2π



Lactarius indigo, the indigo milk cap

[18]-Annulene

- (4n+2), n = 4, 18π electrons –aromatic
- ring large enough to be planar without steric congestion of inner protons
- 2 signals in <sup>1</sup>H NMR consistent with ring current





Electrophilic Aromatic Substitution - Substituent Effectssubstituent Y affects both the rate and regiochemistry of the reaction



electron donating groups activate the aromatic ring (i.e. substrate reacts faster than benzene) and are ortho and para directing

ACTIVATING group means that the reaction of the substituted benzene is faster than that of benzene itself Typical activating groups include: OH,  $O^2$ ,  $O^2$ ,  $R^2$ , HN,  $R^2$ , OR,  $NH_2$ ,  $NR_2$ , alkyl, Ph



electron withdrawing groups deactivate the aromatic ring (i.e. substrate reacts slower than benzene) and are meta directing

DEACTIVATING group means that the reaction of the substituted benzene is slower than that of benzene itself Typical deactivating groups include:  $R_3N^+$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $SO_3H$ , CN,  $O^-$ , 327, R, 327, OR, 327,  $NR_2$ 

halogens are mildly deactivating and direct ortho and para

#### Halogens

mildly deactivating as they are electronegative and withdraw electron density from the ring through the σ-framework (falls off with distance)

halogens direct ortho and para as they have lone pairs in high energy orbitals which stabilise the intermediates for ortho/para attack



MeO - overall electron donating on benzene ring



CI – overall electron withdrawing on benzene ring



increasing electronegativity

both oxygen and chlorine are electronegative

with anisole the  $\sigma$ -electron withdrawing of the oxygen is less than the  $\pi$ -donation of the oxygen 2p lone pair and anisole is activated with respect to benzene

with chlorobenzene the  $\sigma$ -electron withdrawing of the chlorine is greater than the  $\pi$ -donation of the chlorine 3p lone pair and chlorobenzene is deactivated with respect to benzene

Nitration of halobenzenes

- why does fluorobenzene react faster than than the other halobenzenes?
- why does fluorobenzene give the largest amount of the para isomer?



	product distribution %				
	ortho	meta	para	ne	
PhF	12	-	87	0.18	
PhCl	30	0.9	69	0.064	
PhBr	37	1.2	62	0.060	
PhI	38	1.8	60	0.12	

Nitration of toluene



Me is an electron donating group and hence an activating group

■ Wheland intermediate for *ortho / para* attack is stabilised by hyperconjugation –  $\sigma_{CH} \rightarrow \pi$ 

#### Nitration of dimethyl aniline



#### Ipso attack and reversible reactions

electrophilic aromatic substitution is generally an irreversible process all of the above arguments with regard to ortho, meta and para ratios have been based on the irreversibility of the process

- i.e. the reactions are under kinetic control but there are some exceptions
- not all electrophilic aromatic substitution reactions are under kinetic control
- sulfonation usual reaction conditions: conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> with SO<sub>3</sub>



sulfonyl group is electron withdrawing so we only have mono-substitution

**a** thigh temperatures with dilute  $H_2SO_4$  – sulfonation is reversible

attack by an electrophile at a position which already carries a non-hydrogen substituent is termed ipso-substitution



**Ipso attack** – attack at position already carrying a substituent



#### **Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution**

S<sub>N</sub>Ar – Addition – Elimination Mechanism

for halogens as leaving groups, rate of reaction usually follows  $k_F > k_{Cl} > k_{Br}$  (c.f. rate of S<sub>N</sub>2 reactions  $k_I > k_{Br} > k_{Cl} > k_F$ )



■ rate determining step is generally attack of nucleophile on aromatic ring therefore bond strength to leaving group is not so important in influencing the rate

■ fluorine is the most electronegative element and enhances the electrophilicity of the carbon being attacked increasing the rate of attack by the nucleophile



leaving group ability does depend on the nucleophile, nevertheless leaving groups can broadly be divided into three classes:

good: F, NO<sub>2</sub>, Me<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, OTs, Me<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> medium: Cl, Br, I, OR, OAr, SR, SO<sub>2</sub>R poor: NMe<sub>2</sub>, H

#### **Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution**

- electron withdrawing groups ortho/para to leaving group enhance rate
- electron donating groups ortho/para to leaving group retard rate
- substituents meta to the leaving group have less influence
- the activating group



vicarious Nucleophilic Substitution - (nucleophilic substitution of hydrogen)



**■** rate determining step is elimination of H-X (HCl) from σ-adduct



**L**G = Cl, Br, PhO, PhS, RO<sup>-</sup> etc; EWG = SO<sub>2</sub>Ph, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>OPh, POPh<sub>2</sub>, CN, CO<sub>2</sub>Et

Vicarious Nucleophilic Substitution

orientation of addition depends on: structure of the carbanion; structure of the arene; reaction conditions



for attack on nitrobenzene, as the bulk of the nucleophile increases the amount of *para* isomer increases



Х	R	yield / %	ortho	para
F	Н	63	74	26
Cl	Н	75	53	47
Cl	Et	68		100
Cl	Ph	93		100

removal of two hydrogen atoms from benzene leaving two electrons to be distributed between two orbitals gives rise to the various arynes



#### Evidence

- IR spectrum of benzyne in an argon matrix shows C-C bond is 0.05 Å shorter than in benzene
- Roberts isotope labelling experiment disproves direct substitution or S<sub>N</sub>Ar addition/elimination mechanism



1:1 mixture • =  ${}^{14}C$ 

trapping experiments



isolation of complexes



Structure of ortho-benzyne

best represented as an alkyne with a very strained triple bond



benzyne has a very small HOMO-LUMO gap (the "triple" bond is very weak)

the LUMO energy is very low and arynes are very electrophilic; they are uncharged their reactions tend to be dominated by orbital control (i.e. they are very "soft")

carbene like – two electrons in two orbitals

Generation

relative reactivity for formation of benzyne with alkyl lithiums by deprotonation is F > Cl > Br > I; actual rate of generation of benzyne depends on solvent, base and leaving group



■ lithium halogen exchange is very fast for Br and I and loss of X<sup>-</sup> is r.d.s. hence rate is Br>Cl>F



mildest method of benzyne generation involves hypervalent iodine intermediate





Orientation of attack on arynes from *ortho*-disubstituted substrates can be rationalised by a charge-control model
recently a more sophisticated model involving aryne distortion has been proposed.



Note: EWG and EDG in the above examples refer to inductive effects

aryne orbitals are orthogonal to the aromatic  $\pi$ -system hence substituents exert influence inductively through  $\sigma$ -framework

Orientation of attack on arynes from *meta*-disubstituted substrates



Note: EWG and EDG in the above examples refer to inductive effects



Cycloaddition reactions of benzyne



2+2 of benzyne is not completely stereospecific – probably a diradical mechanism



ene reaction (a group transfer reaction)



- *para*-benzyne
- the Bergman cyclisation





**\blacksquare** mechanism of action of calicheamicin  $\gamma_1^{I}$ 



DNA damage

#### Aromatic organometallics

Ortho-directed electrophilic aromatic substitution

ortho-lithiation by lithium halogen exchange – faster then deprotonation and generally requires an organolithium base an aryl / alkenyl bromide or iodide.





mechanism involves attack of alkyl lithium at the halogen *via* an intermediate "ate" complex

- reaction is an equilibrium process which favours the more stable anion (remember, anion order is sp<sup>3</sup>>sp<sup>2</sup>>sp
- the stability of the anion is in the order of the  $pK_a$  of the corresponding hydrocarbon)
- in the above example an sp<sup>3</sup> anion (butyl lithium) gives an sp<sup>2</sup> anion
- directed *ortho*-lithiation





temperature (°C) of *ortho*-lithiation with RLi in THF or ether

#### Aromatic organometallics

Directed ortho-lithiation

application: ortho-allylation



35

cooperation between two *ortho*-directors



#### Introduction of Functional Groups –Synthesis

- Friedel Crafts Alkylation
- polyalkylation and rearrangement predominate



with one equivalent of alkylating agent mixtures of products result as the initially formed monoalkyl arene is more reactive than the unalkylated arene – alkyl groups are electron donating


- Friedel Crafts Alkylation
- polyalkylation and rearrangement predominate
- with primary alkyl halides rearrangement occurs



primary carbocations are very unstable rearrangement to the secondary carbocation occurs



- Friedel Crafts Acylation
- requires a full equivalent of the Lewis acid
- mono-substitution predominates as introduced group is electron-withdrawing and deactivates aromatic ring



■ carbonyl group can then be removed if required (Clemensen reduction, Zn/HCl; Wolf-Kishner reduction, NH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> then KOH, heat; dithiane than Raney Ni) giving products of a selective Friedel-Crafts alkylation





Friedel Crafts Acylation

Fries rearrangement can give access to either the ortho- or para-isomer



AlkylationAcylationAlCl3catalyticstoichiometricRearrangementpossibleno, but loss of CO from  $R-C=O^+$  if  $R^+$  stable, e.g.  $Ph_3C^+$ substitution orderpolymono

- Synthesis of benzyl halides
- free radical bromination



Blanc chloromethylation – related to Fiedel-Crafts reactions



mechanism



## Introduction of functional groups

halogenation – standard method is by electrophilic aromatic substitution using a source of positive halogen generally in the presence of a Lewis acid

■ with activated aromatics Lewis acid activation of the electrophile is not required,

with benzene and with deactivated aromatics Lewis acid activation of the electrophile is required



halogenation can frequently be best achieved using Sandmeyer reactions (particularly good for introducing I and F as well as Cl, Br and CN)



diazonium salts - reactions



■ Halogenation / cyanation Sandmeyer - X = Br, Cl, CN





Iodination Sandmeyer – no copper salt required



Fluorination from diazonium salts – Baltz-Schimann reactions



Iodination other methods

■ Iodine less reactive electrophile than bromine or chlorine, therefore require activated substrate or presence of an oxidising agent (maybe generating I<sup>+</sup>), or more reactive interhalogen e.g. I-Cl

examples



■ Fluorination – Halex reaction – S<sub>N</sub>Ar-type example



Bamberger reaction to give *para*-fluoroanilines



- Phenols
- Diazonium route



Oxidation of Grignard reagents



Oxidation of organoboranes



Baeyer Villiger Oxidation



Dakin reaction – usually used on phenolic substrates



Aerial oxidation of *iso*-propylbenzenes followed by cumenehydroperoxide rearrangement



- Benzyl alcohols
- via Grignard reagents



reduction of benzaldehydes



- Benzaldehydes
- Organometallic route



Vilsmeir reaction – requires activated aromatics – very good with furan, thiophene, pyrrole and indole



- formyl chloride is too unstable to partake in Friedel Crafts reactions as it readily decomposes to CO and HCl
- Gattermann-Koch formylation good for alkyl benzenes, generally an industrial method



- Gattermann aldehyde synthesis
- Neither the Gattermann nor the Gattermann-Koch reactions can be used with aromatic amines



Reimer-Tiemann Synthesis – requires a phenolic substrate



Pyrrole gives 3-chloropyridine under Reimer-Tiemann reaction conditions



- Carboxylic acids
- Grignard route



Oxidation of alkyl benzenes



- Nitration
- standard nitrating mixture conc. sulfuric acid and conc. nitric acid is very harsh
- NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> is non-oxidizing and non-acidic compatible with many more functional groups
- Sulfonation
- **reversible** process sulfonated product formed with conc.  $H_2SO_4$
- desulfonation can be achieved using dilute H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

Pyridine

**properties** – pyridine is polarised by the presence of the nitrogen atom both through the  $\pi$ -system and  $\sigma$ -

framework

the lone pair on nitrogen is orthogonal to the  $\pi$ -system, and is the HOMO of pyridine; the LUMO of pyridine is an anti-bonding  $\pi$ -orbital

pyridine is electron poor and undergoes EARS only very slowly



pyridine is electron deficient at C-2 and C-4 and it is prone to attack by nucleophiles

HOMO of pyridine is nitrogen lone pair in **sp<sup>2</sup> orbital** 

■ synthesis of pyridines and derivatives – generally aim to make dihydropyridine and then oxidise it to the corresponding pyridine

dihydropyridines are readily prepared by the condensation of ammonia with 1,5-dicarbonyl compounds

■ 1,5-dicarbonyl compounds are readily prepared by addition of an aldehyde or ketone to an  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compound

$$(\mathbf{k}) \Rightarrow (\mathbf{k}) \Rightarrow ($$

Hantzsch pyridine synthesis



Pyridine synthesis with hydroxylamine – no oxidant required



*meta*-position least deactivated

Pyridines are nucleophilic (on nitrogen)



high energy intermediateelectrophile reacting withpositively charged nucleophile

Nitration of pyridine



pyridine *N*-oxides – much more susceptible to electrophilic attack at 2 and 4 positions (and to nucleophilic addition at 2 and 4 positions)





■ pyridine *N*-oxides – *N*-deoxygenation with rearrangement



pyridine N-oxides – conversion to chloro compounds



pyridones



nitration



### Heteroaromatics and Nucleophilic substitution



HOMO of pyridine is nitrogen lone pair

pyridine is electron deficient at C-2 and C-4 and is prone to attack by nucleophiles



### Chichibabin reaction



quinolines and isoquinolines



quinolines



Synthesis – Skraup synthesis



- synthesis of isoquinolines
- Bischler-Napieralski



quinoline and isoquinoline undergo EArS more readily than pyridine, with reaction occurring on the benzenoid ring
NO2



- pyrrole, thiophene and furan
- all three have aromatic properties
- in each case the (one of the) lone pair(s) is parallel to the p-orbitals and part of the  $\pi$ -system
- the aromatic heterocycles are electron rich



order of aromaticity is: thiophene > pyrrole > furan (enol ether like)

■ sulfur is the largest atom and hence is better matched for bonding to sp<sup>2</sup>-hybridised carbon atoms in a 5-membered ring leading to thiophene being the most aromatic

#### Reactions

electrophilic substitution – kinetic reaction at the 2-position is favoured over reaction at the 3-position

■ more reactive than benzene – e.g. pyrrole similar reactivity to aniline



substituents already present on the aromatic heterocycle exert less directing effect than the corresponding substituents in benzene



## Reactions

nitration



lithiation of 5-membered heterocycles

Iithiation occurs preferentially  $\alpha$  to the heteroatom due to inductive effect of heteroatom with, in some instances a DOM effect

If furan and thiophene can be readily metalled  $\alpha$  to the metal



■ with pyrrole itself, the *N*-deprotonation occurs first – the more ionic the N-metal bond the greater the percentage attack at nitrogen

with a more covalent N-M bond C-attack occurs.



**with pyrroles bearing an** *N*-EWG on nitrogen  $\alpha$ -metallation occurs



lithium halogen exchange occurs with aromatic heterocycles



selectivity can be achieved using LDA or butyllithium



no lithium halogen exchange with LDA as would make weak N-Br bond most acidic proton removed by directed metallation

indole



- more enamine-like than pyrrole
- $\blacksquare$  attack of electrophiles at the  $\beta$  position is the lowest energy pathway





attack at  $\beta$  position retains aromatic sextet of benzenoid ring

indole



- **i** f the  $\beta$ -position is blocked  $\alpha$ -attack occurs
- **α**-attack can occur *via* β-attack followed by rearrangement (• =  $CT_2$  i.e. a tritiated methylene group)



Synthesis

pyrrole - synthesis from 1,4-dicarbonyls, Paal-Knorr synthesis



**Γ** from α-amino ketones and carbonyl compounds with activated α-methylene groups – Knorr synthesis



Hantzsch pyrrole synthesis – from  $\alpha$ -chloroketones and carbonyl compounds



thiophenes – from 1,4-dicarbonyl compounds



from 1,2-dicarbonyl compounds – Hinsberg synthesis



from 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds


#### **Heteroaromatics**

■ Indoles – the Fischer indole synthesis



unsymmetrical ketones give mixtures of indoles: strong acids favour indole formation from the less substituted ene-hydrazine; weak acids favour indole formation from the more substituted ene-hydrazine





protonation at site of highest charge and largest HOMO coefficient



- Birch reduction heteroaromatics
- pyridine in the absence of added alcohol dimerisation of the intermediate radical anion occurs



pyridine - in the presence of added alcohol dimers are not formed



with sufficient electron withdrawing groups, the addition of a further electron to the initially formed radical anion occurs to give a dianion



- Birch reduction pyrroles, furans, thiophenes
- electron rich and hence require an electron withdrawing group



with enough electron withdrawing groups further reduction of the intermediate radical anion occurs to give a dianion



Hydride reductions – pyridinium salts



Simple pyrroles are only reduced by hydride reducing agents in the presence of acid



"Ionic hydrogenation" of furan and thiophene gives the saturated derivatives



- Hydrogenation complete reduction of the aromatic ring
- hydrogenation of aromatic ring occurs most readily with Pt, Rh and Ru catalysts; Pd is less active

alkynes/alkenes and many other functional groups can be readily reduced in the presence of aromatic rings



*Hydrogenolysis* of benzylic heteroatoms readily occurs under palladium catalysis; a cartoon mechanism is shown

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Pyridines are more easily hydrogenated than benzenoid aromatics



hydrogenation of pyrrole and furan is relatively straightforward; hydrogenation of thiophene is complicated by catalyst poisoning and the hydrogenolysis of the C-S bond with complete removal of sulfur

