#### **Reactions of carbanions:**

base strength:  $C_2H_5O^- > OH^- > CN^- > Cl^$ nucleophilic reactivity:  $CN^- > C_2H_5O^- > OH^- > Cl^-$ 

## 1- Reaction with an Electrophile:

## 2- Reaction with Alkyl halides:(e.g. S<sub>N</sub>2 reaction)

## **Example:** formation of the epoxide.

## **Example:** formation of vicinal dihalides.

$$CH_3 - C \equiv CH \xrightarrow{NaNH_2} CH_3 - C \equiv C : \xrightarrow{Sn2} CH_3 - C \equiv C - CH_3 \xrightarrow{Na} \xrightarrow{H_3C} H \xrightarrow{Br_2} \xrightarrow{H_3C} \xrightarrow{H_3C} \xrightarrow{CH_3} H \xrightarrow{Br_1} \xrightarrow{H_3C} \xrightarrow{CH_3} H \xrightarrow{R_1} \xrightarrow{R_1} \xrightarrow{R_2} \xrightarrow{R_3} H \xrightarrow{R_3} \xrightarrow{R_1} \xrightarrow{R_2} \xrightarrow{R_3} H \xrightarrow{R_3} \xrightarrow$$

## 3- Reaction with Carbonyl compounds:

$$\stackrel{\ominus}{\mathbb{R}}: + \stackrel{\frown}{\stackrel{\Box}{\mathbb{Q}}} \longrightarrow -\stackrel{\stackrel{}{\mathbb{Q}}}{\stackrel{-}{\mathbb{Q}}} \stackrel{\ominus}{\longrightarrow}$$

## Examples: formation of alcohol.

Nucleophilic attack on the ketone gives the alkoxide ion, which is the conjugate base of the 3° alcohol. 3° alcohols are produced from the reaction between carbon nucleophiles and ketones.

The reaction of carbanions with carbonyl compounds includes:

### **A.Enolate Reactions with Carbonyl Groups:**

## 1- Aldol Condensation: (reactants are aldehydes & ketones)

An aldehyde or ketone that has hydrogen next to the carbonyl group, an α-hydrogen, can form an enolate in a basic solution, and the enolate can react by nucleophilic addition at the carbonyl group of another molecule. This process is an essential synthetic procedure known as the Aldol Condensation. The final product from aliphatic aldehydes or ketones contains both a carbonyl and an alcohol group. The product is called an aldol.

## **Conditions of the aldol condensation:**

- 1-Two molecules of an aldehyde or ketone (at least one of them contrasted α-hydrogens).
- 2- Dilute base or dilute acid (dil. NaOH).
- 3- Form a  $\beta$ -hydroxyaldehyde or  $\beta$ -hydroxyketone.

#### **Example:**

#### **Examples:**

CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=0 
$$\stackrel{-}{\underset{H_2O}{\longrightarrow}}$$
 CH<sub>3</sub>CHCH=O + CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=O  $\stackrel{-}{\underset{Second molecule}{\longrightarrow}}$  CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH-OH CH<sub>3</sub>CHCH=O  $\stackrel{-}{\underset{Second molecule}{\longrightarrow}}$  CH<sub>3</sub>CHCH=O  $\stackrel{-}{\underset{Second molecule}{\longrightarrow}}$  CH<sub>3</sub>CHCH=O

second molecule

- The **aldol products react** readily with **acid** to undergo **dehydration** and give  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds that are also very useful in **synthetic organic and biological chemistry**.

Intramolecular aldol condensations are useful in the formation of cyclic  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones.

#### **Example:**

#### **Crossed-Aldol Condensation:**

The main aldol condensation involves the reaction between two aldehydes or ketones of the same structure. However, the procedure can be modified so that the enolate can react with another aldehyde of a different structure. The requirement is that the other aldehyde has to be more reactive than the first and it contains no  $\alpha$ -hydrogens.

Formaldehyde (CH<sub>2</sub>C=O), and benzaldehyde (PhCH=O), both meet these requirements and are useful in this procedure called **crossed-aldol** condensation. All three of the  $\alpha$ -hydrogens in acetaldehyde can react in a crossed-aldol condensation with formaldehyde.

#### **Examples:**

CH<sub>3</sub>CH=O 
$$\xrightarrow{\text{OH}}$$
 CH<sub>2</sub>CH=O  $\xrightarrow{\text{CH}_2=0}$  HOCH<sub>2</sub>-CHCH=O HOCH<sub>2</sub>

CH<sub>3</sub>CH=O + 3 CH<sub>2</sub>=O  $\xrightarrow{\text{OH}}$  HOCH<sub>2</sub> CCH=O HOCH<sub>2</sub>

Aromatic ketones bearing  $\alpha$ -hydrogens give ald reaction products readily, but in this case, the aldol product spontaneously loses water to form the unsaturated ketone.

When benzaldehyde is used in the crossed-aldol condensation the final product is the unsaturated aldehyde or ketone. Conjugation of the double bond with the aromatic ring is the reason for the spontaneous dehydration.

## **Examples:**

## 2-Claisen Condensation: (reactants are esters)

Esters give an aldol type reaction. The α-hydrogen of the ester is removed by the base to give the enolate. The enolate reacts with another molecule of the ester in an addition-elimination reaction characteristic of esters, which appears as displacement of the alkoxide. The resulting product is a B-ketoester.

## **Example:**

The  $\alpha$ -hydrogens in the product **B-ketoester** are more acidic than the  $\alpha$ -hydrogens in the starting ester. Thus a new enolate is formed that is more stable than the first enolate, thus helping the reaction go to completion.

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ CH_3C-CH_2-CO_2C_2H_5 \xrightarrow{C_2H_5O} CH_3C-CH-CO_2C_2H_5 \xrightarrow{\hspace*{1cm}} CH_3C-CH_2-CO_2C_2H_5 \xrightarrow{\hspace*{1cm}} H^+ \xrightarrow{\hspace*{1cm}} CH_3C-CH_2-CO_2C_2H_5 \end{array}$$

<u>Crossed-Claisen condensation:</u> Occurs when a highly reactive ester with no  $\alpha$ -hydrogens reacts with the enolate derived from another ester. Ethyl benzoate and ethyl formate are two frequently used esters that have no  $\alpha$ -hydrogens.

#### **Examples:**

## 3- <u>Dieckmann condensation:</u> (reactants are diesters)

Is the intramolecular chemical reaction of diesters with the base to give  $\beta$ -keto esters. Is intramolecular Claisen condensation and is useful for the preparation of five and six-membered rings.

### **Example:**

<u>Mechanism</u>: Deprotonation of an ester at the α-position generates an enolate ion which then undergoes a 5-exo-trig nucleophilic attack to give a cyclic enol. Protonation with a Brønsted-Lowry acid  $(H_3O^+)$  for example) re-forms the β-keto ester.

#### **Examples:**

## **B- Enolate Anion Alkylation Reactions**

General Reaction: when strong anhydrous bases such as (sodium hydride, sodamide, or lithium diethylamide  $LiN(C_2H_5)_2$ ), are used to prepare the enolate anions at low temperatures, the resulting enolate reacts very slowly with carbonyl groups and can be used as nucleophiles in the  $S_N2$  reaction with primary alkyl halides. In the resonance stabilized enolate, a negative charge exists on both a carbon and an oxygen. Both sites are possible nucleophiles in the reaction but the carbon nucleophile predominates because it is a stronger nucleophile, but minor products from O-alkylation are found.

#### **Example:**

#### 1- Reaction of Ethyl Acetoacetate with alkyl halides:

The  $\alpha$ -hydrogens of ethyl acetoacetate are acidic enough (pKa =11) to be removed by a variety of bases. The enolate anion can be used to displace a halogen in an alkyl halide. Hydrolysis of the product gives a B-ketoacid which loses  $CO_2$  by mild heating. A derivative of acetone is the final product.

#### Example:

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \text{CH}_3\text{CCHCO}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_5 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} C_2\text{H}_5\\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ \text{H}_3\text{CCHCO}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_5 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ \text{R} \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ \text{H}_3\text{O}^+ \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ \text{H}_3\text{O}^+ \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ \text{CH}_3\text{CCHCO}_2\text{H} \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ \text{CH}_3\text{CCHCO}_2\text{H}_5 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ \text{CH}_3\text{CCHCO}_$$

**Double alkylation** of **ethyl acetoacetate** in **sequential steps** can provide a synthesis of **highly branched derivatives** of **acetone after hydrolysis**.

#### **Example:**

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ CH_3CCH_2CO_2C_2H_5 \end{array} \xrightarrow{C_2H_5\bar{O}} CH_3C\bar{C}HCO_2C_2H_5 \xrightarrow{C_2H_5-Br} CH_3CCHCO_2C_2H_5 \xrightarrow{1)} CH_3CCHCO_2C_2H_5 \xrightarrow{0} CH_3CCCO_2C_2H_5 \xrightarrow{0} CH_3CCHCH_3 \\ C_2H_5 \end{array}$$

2-<u>The Michael Reaction:</u> (Enolate Addition) (reactants are α,β-unsaturated compounds)

Enolates may also be alkylated with  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl substrates. The enolate adds in the 1,4 fashion to give a unit extended by three carbon atoms in a process known as the Michael reaction. Many  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl systems may be prepared by the dehydration of aldol products. E.g. methyl vinyl ketone and acrylonitrile, two common units in the reaction.

#### **Examples:**

$$C_{2}H_{5}OCCHCOC_{2}H_{5}$$

$$C_{2}H_{5}OCCHCOC_{2}H_{5}$$

$$C_{2}H_{5}OCCHCOC_{2}H_{5}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{3}$$

$$CH_{3}CCHCO_{2}C_{2}H_{5}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{3}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{3}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{2}CCH_{3}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{2}CCH_{5}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{2}CCH_{5}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{2}CCH_{5}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{2}CCH_{5}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CCH_{5}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CH_{5}$$

$$CH_{2}CH_{2}CH_{$$

# 3- Robinson Ring-forming Reaction: (reactants are α,β-unsaturated carbonyl compounds)

A unique reaction that produces a new ring containing an  $\alpha,\beta$  - unsaturated ketone is the Robinson reaction. When an enolate derived from a ketone reacts with methyl vinyl ketone, the enolate adds in the Michael reaction, and then a second enolate in the ketone product is formed that cyclizes in an Aldol condensation to give the final product.

#### **Example:**

## 4- Reformatsky Reaction: (reactants are α-bromine)

Instead of forming the enolate from an  $\alpha$ -hydrogen, an  $\alpha$ -bromine atom can also be used. Zinc reacts with ethyl  $\alpha$  -bromoacetate to form a zinc enolate that reacts at the carbonyl function of aldehydes and ketones to produce  $\alpha,\beta$  -hydroxyester. The method is made easier by the addition of the bromoester to a mixture of zinc and the carbonyl compound.

## **Examples:**

**Note: Ethyl bromodifluoroacetate** is used frequently in Reformatsky procedures to **give high yields** of **alcohol** products.

## 5-Benzoin condensation:

Mechanism: steps 1-5: as in others, step 6: loss CN.

## 6-Perkins reaction: (reactants are anhydride compounds)

<u>Mechanism:</u> steps 1-2: as in others, step 3: protonation of the alkoxide ion to form an aldol-type compound, step 4: dehydration, the hydroxyl group, and neighboring hydrogen are removed as water, step 5: hydration.

$$C_{0}H_{5}-C_{0}=O+C_{0}H_{5}-C_{0}O\rightarrow C_{0}H_{5}-C_{0}O\rightarrow C_{0}O\rightarrow C_{0}H_{5}-C_{0}O\rightarrow C_{0}O\rightarrow C_{$$

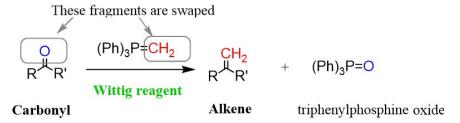
# 7- Knoevenagal reaction: (reactants are diethyl malonate)

#### **Example:**

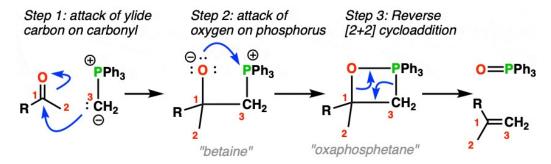
**Mechanism:** steps 1-2 as in other reactions, step 3: protonation: - alkoxide accepts a proton to form a hydroxyl compound, step 4: involves dehydration.

### 8- Witting's reaction: (reactants are phosphorous ylides (Ph)<sub>3</sub>P=CR<sub>2</sub>)

The reaction occurs between an aldehyde/ketone and phosphorous ylides to form substituted alkenes.



#### Mechanism:



#### **Examples:**

#### 4- Rearrangements of Carbanions:

Includes of:

## A. Homoallylic & Homobenzylic rearrangements:

The structures below represent allylic, homoallylic, and homobenzylic. The "homo" means that there is one additional carbon atom. Some interesting rearrangements occur with the homoallylic systems.

<u>Example:</u> shows a homobenzylic rearrangement where the carbanion interacts with the aromatic ring. The carbanion appears to be inserted between the ring and the carbon-containing the two methyl groups. The mechanism of the rearrangement is proven by the isolation of the cyclopropane structure when a para phenyl group is present.

$$H_3C$$
  $CH_3$   $OH$   $CO_2$   $OH$   $CO_3$   $COOH$   $COOH$   $CH_3$ 

#### Mechanism:

$$H_3C$$
 $CH_3$ 
 $H_3C$ 
 $CH_3$ 
 $CH_3$ 
 $CH_3$ 
 $CH_3$ 
 $CH_3$ 
 $COOH$ 
 $OOH$ 
 $O$ 

## **Example:**

#### **Mechanism:**

#### **B.** Benzil-Benzilic acid rearrangement:

## **Mechanism:**

## C.1, 2 aryls shift an adjacent carbon atom (carbon 1):

## D.1, 2 alkyls shift from N to carbanion:

## Example:

#### **Mechanism:**

## E. 1, 2 alkyls shift from S to carbanion:

## Example:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \oplus & \oplus \\ \text{MeSCH}_2\text{COPh} & \longrightarrow & \text{MeSCHCOPh} \\ \text{PhCH}_2 & & \text{PhCH}_2 \end{array}$$

## **Mechanism:**

## F. 1, 2 alkyls shift from O to carbanion:

# **Example:**

# Mechanism: