WILEY Organic Chemistry Third Edition

David Klein

Chapter 17 Aromatic Compounds

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17.1 Introduction to Aromatic Compounds

Aromatic compounds or arenes include benzene and benzene derivatives



- Benzene derivatives were originally isolated from fragrant oils
- Most aromatic compounds are odorless

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17.1 Introduction to Aromatic Compounds

Aromatic rings are a common feature in drugs



17-3

17.1 Introduction to Aromatic Compounds

• Coal contains aromatic rings fused together and joined by nonaromatic functional groups



Benzene is generally the parent name for monosubstituted derivatives



• The following common names are accepted by IUPAC as parent names, and are frequently used:



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

WILEY

¹⁷⁻⁶

• If the substituent is larger than the ring, the substituent becomes the parent chain



1-Phenylheptane

 Benzene rings are represented with "Ph" (for phenyl) or with a "φ" (phi) symbol



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

• The common name for **dimethyl benzene** derivatives is **xylene**



ortho-Xylene (1,2-dimethylbenzene)

meta-Xylene (1,3-dimethylbenzene)

para-Xylene (1,4-dimethylbenzene)

 ortho, meta, and para are used for the location of substituents on disubstituted benzene rings

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

WILEY

• ortho, meta, and para are used for the location of substituents on disubstituted benzene rings





- 1. Identify the parent
- 2. Identify and Name the substituents
- 3. Number the parent chain and assign a locant to each substituent
 - Give the first substituent the lowest number possible
- 4. List the numbered substituents before the parent name in alphabetical order
 - Ignore prefixes (except iso) when ordering alphabetically

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

WII FY

- 1. Identify the parent chain (generally the aromatic ring)
 - Often a common name can be the parent chain



2. Identify and Name the substituents

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

- 3. Number the parent chain and assign a locant to each substituent
 - A substituent that is part of the parent name must be assigned locant NUMBER 1



WII FY

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

- 4. List the numbered substituents before the parent name in alphabetical order
 - Ignore prefixes (except iso) when ordering alphabetically

3,5-dibromophenol

• Practice with SkillBuilder 17.1

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-12

• Name the following molecules







• Name the following molecules







4-chlorobenzaldehyde or *p*-chlorobenzaldehyde 3-bromotoluene or *m*-bromotoluene 2-nitroanisole or *o*-nitroanisole

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17.3 Structure of Benzene

• In 1866, August Kekulé proposed that benzene is a ring comprised of alternating double and single bonds



• Kekulé suggested that the exchange of double and single bonds was an equilibrium process

Inc. All rights reserved. 17-15

FY

17.3 Structure of Benzene

• We now know that the two drawings are resonance contributors rather than in equilibrium



 Sometimes the ring is represented with a circle in it to avoid drawing resonance structures



WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

17-16

- Aromatic rings are remarkably stable
- Recall alkenes readily undergo addition reactions



Aromatic rings are stable enough that they do not undergo such reactions



• Heats of hydrogenation can be used to quantify aromatic stability.



- MO theory can help us explain aromatic stability
- The 6 atomic p-orbitals of benzene overlap to make 6 MOs





• The locations of nodes in the MOs determines their shapes based on high-level mathematical calculations





• The delocalization of the 6 pi electrons in the three bonding molecular orbitals accounts for the stability of benzene





• Not all fully conjugated rings have aromatic stability



• Some fully conjugated cyclic compounds react like normal alkenes

17-22



- aromatic compounds must meet two criteria:
 - 1. A fully conjugated ring with overlapping p-orbitals
 - Meets Hückel's rule: an ODD number of e⁻ pairs or 4n+2 total π electrons where n=0, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.
- The following compounds do not meet Huckel's rule:





Cyclooctatetraene

• Practice with Conceptual Checkpoint 17.8

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-23

- We can explain Hückel's rule using MO theory
- consider the MOs for cyclobutadiene, which has 4 π electrons:



Lacks a closed-shell electron configuration, and unstable. It is antiaromatic

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-24

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

WILEY

• A similar MO analysis for cyclooctatetraene suggests that it is also **antiaromatic**



• However, if the structure adopts a tub-shaped conformation, it can avoid being antiaromatic:



• The conjugation does not extend around the entire ring, so the system is neither aromatic nor antiaromatic. It is nonaromatic

• Predicting the shapes and energies of MOs can be simplified by drawing **Frost circles** to predict the relative MO energies



• **Frost circles** help to explain the 4*n*+2 rule:



 Note that the number of bonding orbitals is always an odd number - aromatic compounds will always have an odd number of electron pairs

17-28

• Practice with Conceptual Checkpoint 17.9

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

- Aromatic compounds fulfill two criteria
 - 1. A fully conjugated ring with overlapping *p*-orbitals
 - Meets Hückel's rule: an ODD number of e⁻ pairs or 4n+2 total π electrons where n=0, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.
- Antiaromatic compounds fulfill two criteria
 - 1. A fully conjugated ring with overlapping *p*-orbitals
 - 2. An EVEN number of electron pairs or 4n total π electrons where n=0, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.
- When a compound fails criteria #1, it is **nonaromatic**

• Annulenes are rings that are fully conjugated



- Annulenes can aromatic, antiaromatic or nonaromatic
- Practice with Conceptual Checkpoint 17.10

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-30

- Aromatic rings can contain carbanions or carbocations
- Consider a 5-membered ring



• 6π electrons must be present in order to be aromatic

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-31

• The cyclopentadienyl anion has a lone pair delocalized over each of the 5 carbon atoms, and is an aromatic anion



• The acidity of cyclopentadiene is attributed to the aromatic stability of its conjugate base



Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

FY

• Consider a 7-membered ring



• With 6 π electrons, one of the carbon atoms has an empty p orbital, and the compound is cationic.

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

WILEY

• The tropylium cation is an aromatic cation:



• Practice with SkillBuilder 17.2

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-34

• Heteroatoms (atoms other than C or H) can also be part of an aromatic ring





Pyridine

Pyrrole



• If the heteroatom's lone pair is necessary for aromaticity, it will be included in the **Hückel** number of π electrons



• If the lone pair is necessary for aromaticity, then the lone pair will not be as basic



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

• The difference in electron density can also be observed by viewing the electrostatic potential maps



• Practice with SkillBuilder 17.3

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-38

17.5 Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds

• Many polycyclic compounds are also aromatic





Phenanthrene

17.5 Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds

• The stabilization energy can be measured by comparing heats of hydrogenation:







Naphthalene

Anthracene

Phenanthrene

| TABLE 17.1 | STABILIZATION ENERGY FOR A FEW POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS | |
|-------------|---|---|
| COMPOUND | STABILIZATION ENERGY (KJ/MOL) | AVERAGE STABILIZATION ENERGY PER RING (KJ/MOL) |
| Benzene | 152 | 152 |
| Naphthalene | 255 | 128 |
| Anthracene | 347 | 116 |
| Phenanthren | e 381 | 127 |

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

- A carbon directly attached to a benzene ring is called a **benzylic position**
- Recall that aromatic rings and alkyl groups are not easily oxidized



Benzylic positions

ILEY



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

• However, benzylic positions are readily oxidized by chromic acid:



• The benzylic position needs to have at least 1 proton attached to undergo oxidation



• Permanganate can also be used as an oxidizing reagent



• Practice with Conceptual Checkpoint 17.17

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-43

• Benzylic positions are similar to allylic positions, and readily undergo free radical bromination



• **Benzylic bromides** are useful synthetic intermediates

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-44

• Benzylic bromides readily undergo SN1 substitution:



• Unhindered benzylic bromides undergo SN2 substitution as well:



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-45

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

WILEY

• Benzylic bromides are readily converted to the corresponding alkene(s) via E1 or E2 elimination:





Practice with SkillBuilder 17.4

WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-47

• Under forceful conditions, benzene can be reduced to cyclohexane



 However, alkenes can be selectively hydrogenated in the presence of a benzene ring:



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-48

• Benzene can be reduced via **Birch** reduction (chapter 9.5)



• The mechanism is similar to dissolving metal reduction of an alkyne



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

Benzene can be reduced via **Birch** reduction (chapter 9.5)



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

17-50

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

WILEY

• Benzene can be reduced via **Birch** reduction (chapter 9.5)



Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

WILEY

- Note that the **Birch** reduction does not completely reduce the benzene ring
- product has sp³ hybridized carbons on opposite ends of the ring



• The presence of an electron donating alkyl side group provides regioselectivity.



 An electron-donating group destabilizes the radical cation, and so reduction does not occur at a carbon possessing an electrondonating group.

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

II FY

• The presence of an electron-withdrawing group results in the opposite regioselectivity:



• Practice with SkillBuilder 17.5

| TABLE 17.2CHARACTERISTIC SIGNALS IN THE IR SPECTRA OF AROMATIC COMPOUNDS | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| ABSORPTION | FEATURE | COMMENTS | |
| 3000–3100 cm ⁻¹ | C _{sp²} —H stretching | One or more signals just above 3000 cm ⁻¹ . Intensity is generally weak or medium | |
| 1700–2000 cm ⁻¹ | Combination bands and overtones | A group of very weak signals | |
| 1450–1650 cm ^{–1} | Stretching of carbon- carbon bonds as well as ring vibrations | Generally three signals (medium intensity) at around 1450, 1500, and 1600 cm ⁻¹ | |
| 1000–1275 cm ⁻¹ | C—H bending (in plane) | Several signals of strong intensity | |
| 690–900 cm ⁻¹ | C—H bending (out of plane) | One or two strong signals | |

• IR spectrum for ethylbenzene



• Aromatic protons typically appear 6.5 to 8 ppm (chapter 15.5)



WILEY Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

• The integration and splitting of protons in the aromatic region of the ¹H NMR is useful for rings with multiple substituents:



 In ¹³C NMR, carbon atoms of benzene typically appear from approx. 100 to 150 ppm.



• The # of signals is helpful to determine the substitution pattern.

17-59

• Practice with Conceptual Checkpoint 17.22 – 17.23

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

WILEY

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

Buckyballs and Nanotubes

• Graphite consists of layers of sheets of fused aromatic rings



Buckyballs and Nanotubes

• Buckyballs are C₆₀ spheres made of interlocking aromatic rings





Buckyballs and Nanotubes

• Fullerenes can be made into tubes (cylinders) = **nanotubes**



- Single, double, and multi-walled carbon nanotubes have many applications:
 - Conductive Plastics, Energy Storage, Conductive Adhesives, Molecular Electronics, Thermal Materials, Fibres and Fabrics, Catalyst Supports, Biomedical Applications

Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

Klein, Organic Chemistry 3e

WILEY