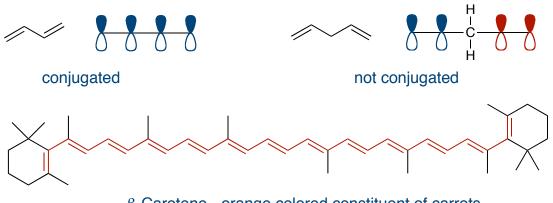


Chapter 14 - Conjugated Dienes and Ultraviolet Spectroscopy

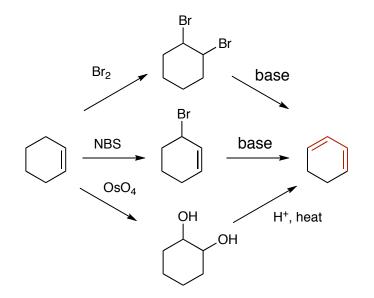
Conjugated Polyenes

Double bonds are conjugated when their pi-bond systems are contiguous. That is, all the porbitals are next to each other.



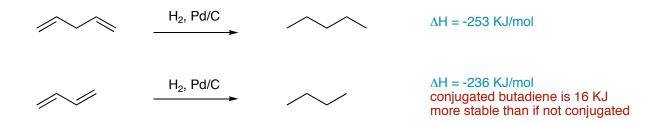
β-Carotene - orange colored constituent of carrots

The most general method to make dienes is by the elimination of allylic halides or dihalides. One can also dehydrate alcohols to generate two double bonds.



Stability

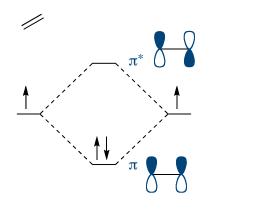
Conjugation provides more stability than would be predicted by just the energetics of the pibond. The overlap of orbitals from one alkene to the other lowers the energy. Any kind of delocalization of electrons (eg. you can draw resonance forms) afford greater stability. Diene stability can be measured by look at the heat of hydrogenation.

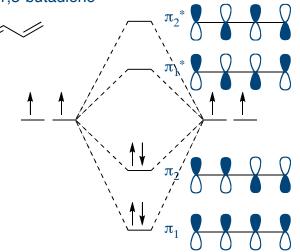


Molecular Orbitals

Conjugated pi-systems can be described using molecular orbital theory. It shows that the pi bonds of a conjugated system has a lot of overlap in the lowest filled orbitals. For example, in butadiene, the lowest energy molecular orbital has the same sign on each carbon above and below the sp² plane. Thus, we can think of a conjugated diene as a single pi-system with all four electrons spread out among the four carbons.

pi Molecular orbitals for ethylene and 1,3-butadiene

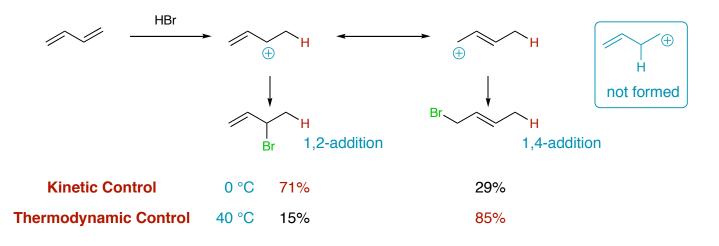




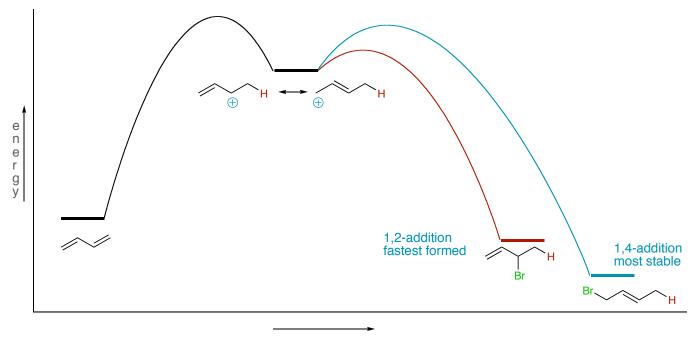
Note that in the lowest orbital all four carbons share the same sign above and below demonstrating that the electrons are shared equally throughout the structure.

Reactions of Dienes

Conjugated dienes react with electrophiles to form the product of the most stable carbocation intermediate. Since the carbocation is allylic, the nucleophile can add to two different carbons to afford the 1,2-product or the 1,4-product. Usually a mixture is obtained.



Product ratios can be controlled by the kinetics (which one forms faster, non-reversible, low temp) or the thermodynamics (which one is more stable, reversible, higher temp).



reaction progress

Daily Quiz

