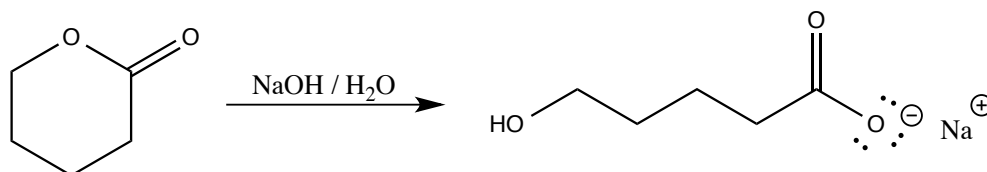


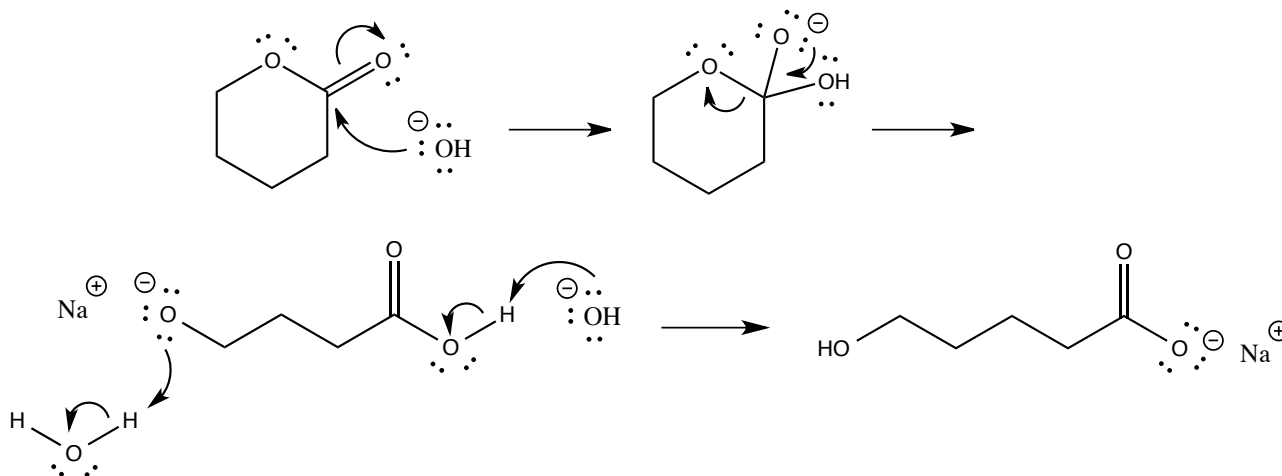
Chem 345 – Organic Reactions Chapter 21
Prepared by José Laboy, MS
[http: www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/clc](http://www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/clc) (Resource page)

Base Catalyzed Lactone Hydrolysis

Reaction:



Mechanism:



Lactones are cyclic esters and readily and irreversibly hydrolyze in alkaline media to produce a hydroxycarboxylate. Although carboxylic acids are weak acids they are completely ionized in basic media.