Chemistry 344: Spectroscopy Problem Set 3

Name (print): ______

(Not for credit)

TA Name (print): ______

I. For each of the following molecules, draw the most likely molecular ions (always a radical cation) that you would expect to be formed in an EI-MS experiment. For each case, calculate the m/z value for the molecular ion of the most abundant isotopomer and second most abundant isotopomer.



II. Using the mass spectrum of 1-propanol shown below, answer the questions that follow about its fragmentation. Remember that you are not expected to interpret all signals in a mass spectrum.



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A. Draw a structure of the most likely molecular ion formed and provide its m/z value.

B. Draw the structure of the ion responsible for the base peak at m/z = 31. Provide a fragmentation mechanism of the molecular ion that will lead to the base peak ion.

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C. Likewise, draw a likely structure for the ion that produces the next most intense signals at m/z = 59 and 42.

D. Why does the peak at m/z = 15 have such a low relative intensity?

III. Using the mass spectrum of 2,2,4-trimethylpentane shown below, answer the questions that follow about its fragmentation. Remember that you are not expected to interpret all signals in a mass spectrum.



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A. In this case, the molecular ion is of such a low intensity it is not detected. Draw the molecular ion of 2,2,4-trimethylpentane and determine its m/z value.

B. Draw a likely structure for the ion that produces the base peak signal at m/z = 57.

C. Draw a fragmentation mechanism that could produce the ion responsible for the signal at m/z = 56 from the base peak ion?

D. Draw likely structures for the ions that produces the signals at m/z = 43 and 41.



IV. Using the mass spectrum of 2-butanone shown below, answer the questions that follow about its fragmentation.

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A. Draw a structure of the most likely molecular ion formed and provide its m/z value.

B. Why is there a small peak at m/z = 73?

C. The dominant decomposition pathways for the molecular ion of an aliphatic ketone such as 2-butanone is by α -cleavage. Draw a fragmentation mechanism for both viable α -cleavage pathways and determine the m/z value for each product.

D. The fragmentation of the products in part B is responsible for the strong peaks at m/z = 29 and m/z = 15. Draw a fragmentation mechanism for this process and explain why it is so favorable?

V. The IR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, and MS spectra below correspond to the product of a reaction between butyryl chloride and methanol. Analyze each of the spectra, assign signals to structural features or fragments of the molecule, and answer the questions below.



A. What functional groups can you identify as being present or absent in the product of the reaction based upon the IR below?

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B. Is your IR analysis and prediction of likely functional groups consistent with the ¹³C-NMR spectrum below? Assign the signal at δ 174 to a likely carbon atom in the product molecule. Once you are certain of the structure by ¹H-NMR, it may be a good idea to return to this spectrum and assign the other ¹³C-NMR signals to their corresponding carbon atoms.



C. Use the ¹H-NMR spectrum below to conclusively determine the structure of the product molecule. Assign each of the ¹H-NMR signals to its corresponding H-atom.





D. The mass spectrum of the product molecule contains intense signals at m/z = 71, 59, and 43 all of which can arise from the α -cleaveage of the most likely molecular ion, draw a reaction mechanism for the reaction pathways that leads to these species.

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E. The McLafferty Rearrangement of the molecular ion leads to an ion responsible for the peak at m/z = 74, for an extra challenge and extra fun, draw this fragmentation. See page 902 in Loudon.

VI. In spectroscopy problem set 1, a few students came up with two plausible answers for the ¹H-NMR spectrum of $C_3H_4OBr_2$. One was the correct answer and the other is a molecule that has only been reported in a single computational/theoretical paper an nowhere else in the entire chemical literature. Both of the two proposed molecules are shown on the NMR below. 300 MHz ¹H NMR



A. Confirm that each of the molecules would have the appropriate coupling to produce the splitting pattern on the ¹H-NMR spectrum.

B. The identity of the correct $C_3H_4OBr_2$ species can be confirmed in several independent ways. Explain how the evidence presented below can confirm the identity of the correct molecular structure.



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iii. Computational Molecular Modeling (B3LYP/6-31G(d))

The structure of each possible molecule was optimized and an NMR calculation was performed to determine the approximate chemical shift of the H-atoms in each structure.



C. Identify the correct structure of $C_3H_4OBr_2$ and justify your answer based upon the evidence available.

VII. Use the GC-MS spectrum of the student product obtained from the Friedel-Crafts acylation of bromobenzene (shown on the subsequent page) to answer the following questions. (See Loudon p. 759 for details on the FC reaction) Only signals with intensity greater than 15% relative intensity to the base peak are shown for clarity.



A. Which of the peak(s) detected in the GC are the reactant(s)? Which of the peak(s) in the GC are the product(s)?

B. Which of the MS peaks contain bromine atoms? How can you tell?

- C. Identify the species most likely responsible for the following *m/z* signals:
 i. Peak #1 158, 156, 77, 51, 50
 - ii. Peak #2 200, 198, 185, 183, 157, 155, 76
 - iii. Peak #3 200, 198, 185, 183, 157, 155, 76
- D. What is the conversion percentage from reactant to the total products by GC?

E. What is the ratio of the major to minor product by GC?

F. Identify the major and minor isomer by the ¹H-NMR spectra provided.



