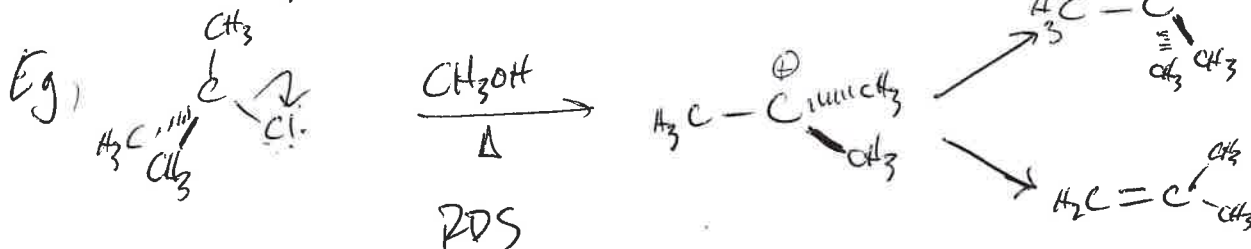


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Recall:  $S_N1/E1$  reactions



Fit reactivity trends into our understanding of other processes...

-  $3^\circ$   $R-X$  more reactive than  $2^\circ$   $R-X$  ( $1^\circ$  unreactive)

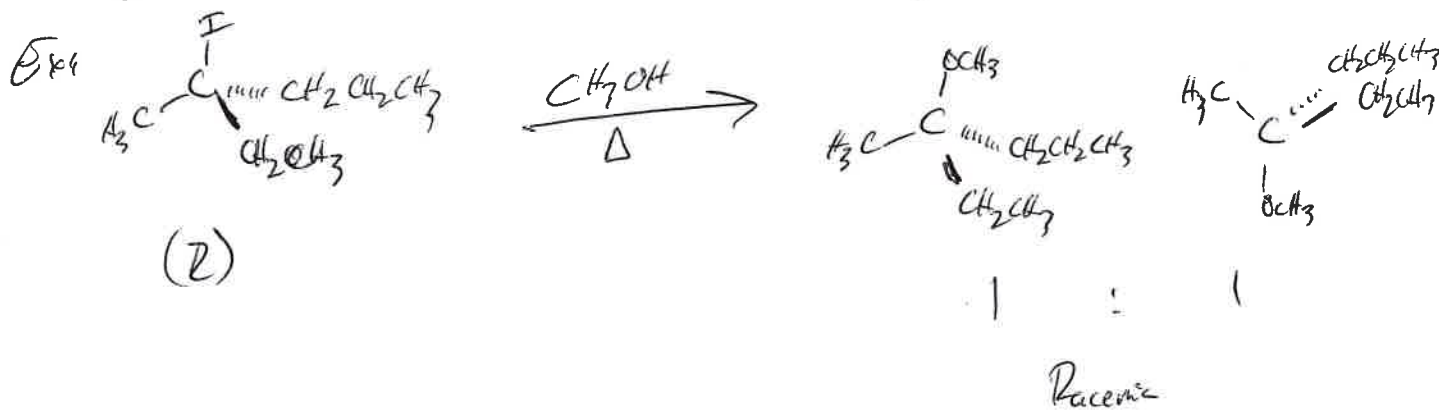
-  $R-I > R-Br$ , etc.

- polar protic solvents favorable

Stereochemistry

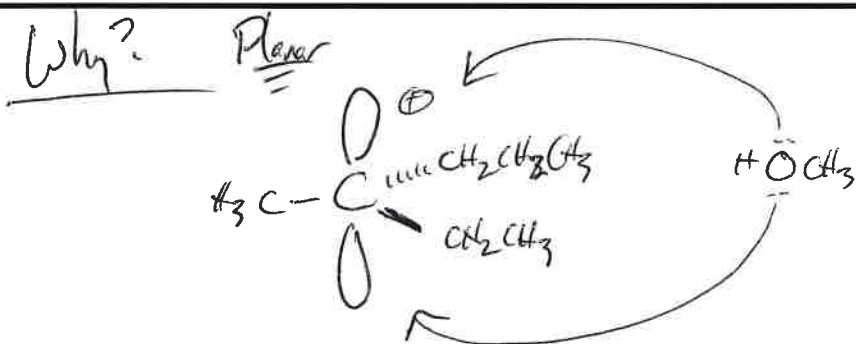
-  $S_N1$  - Expect (predict) loss of stereochemical integrity if

LG is attached to a stereogenic center



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Harlan Goering  
Complexity observed in  
some "SN1 rxns"  
Chemist at UW-Madison

What to predict for a specific alkyl halide under  
a specific set of conditions??

Some clear-cut predictions -

- 1° alkyl halide  $\Rightarrow$  No SN1 or E1

Usually expect SN2; E2 if strong base (esp. "bulky" base)

- 3° alkyl halide  $\Rightarrow$  No SN2

Strong base  $\rightarrow$  E2

Polar protic solvent  $\rightarrow$  SN1/E1

- 2° alkyl halides

anticipate multiple pathways but selectivity under certain  
conditions

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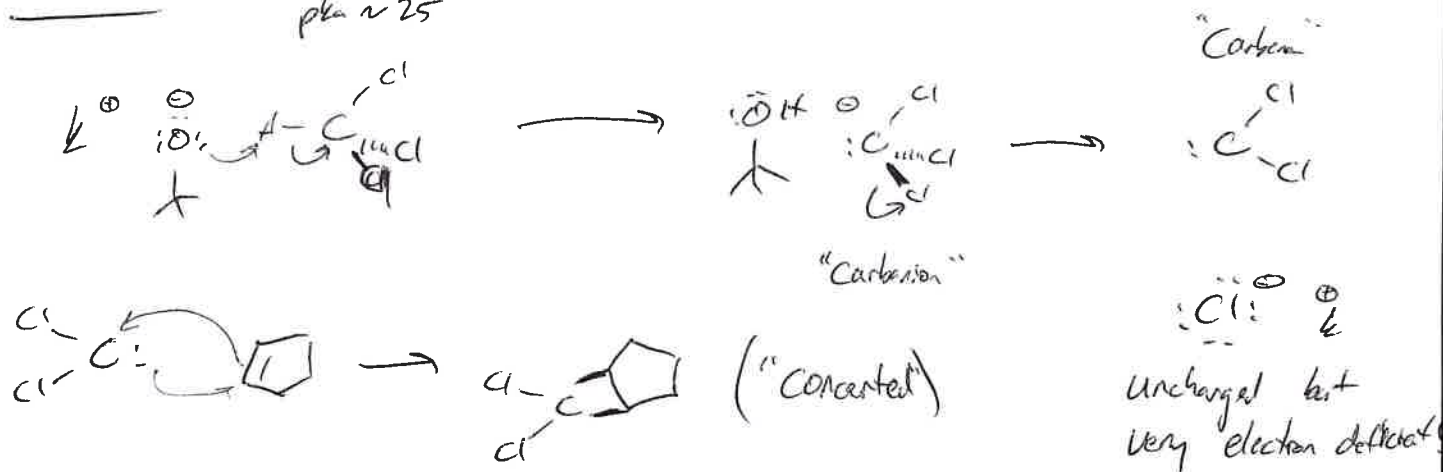
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Carbene

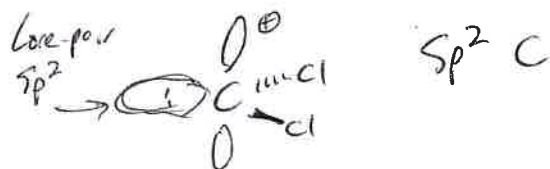


Mech

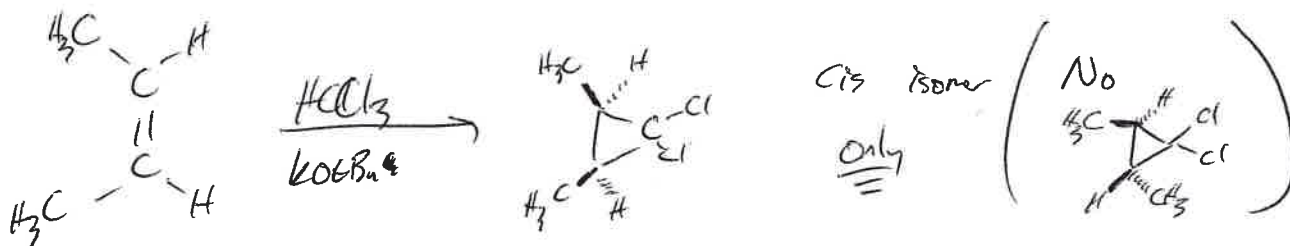
pk<sub>a</sub> ~ 25



Closer look @ carbene



Evidence for concerted rxn w/ alkene (stereoselective):



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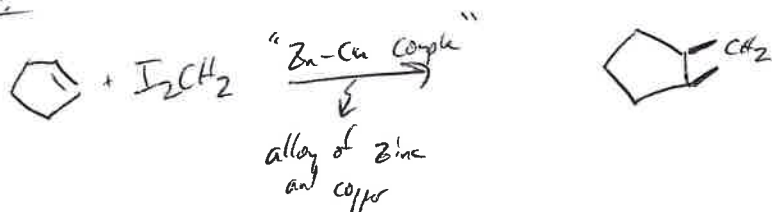
∴ strict stereochemistry interpreted to mean that both new ~~new~~ <sup>C-C</sup>  
 stereospecificity  
 bonds for @ same time

Practical considerations . . . . . Simplest carbene  $:\text{CH}_2$  - too reactive

∴ "Tame" reactive species via an "organometallic" reagent

Simpson - Smith Reagent ( $\text{Zn}$ )

Overall:



Mech:

