

Substitution Reactions

- Leaving group + nucleophile
- Leaving group is substituted by the nucleophile

S_N1

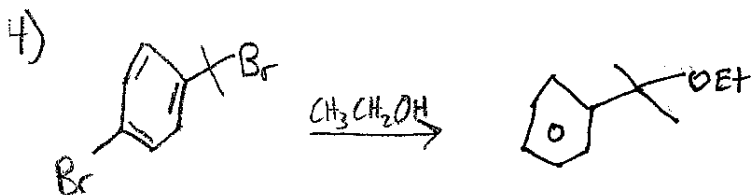
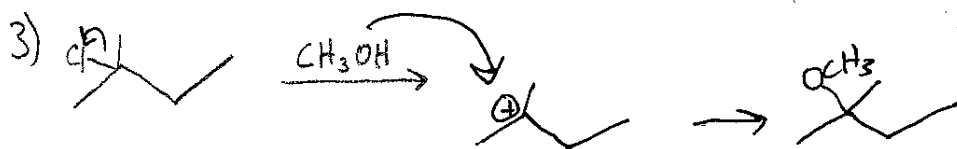
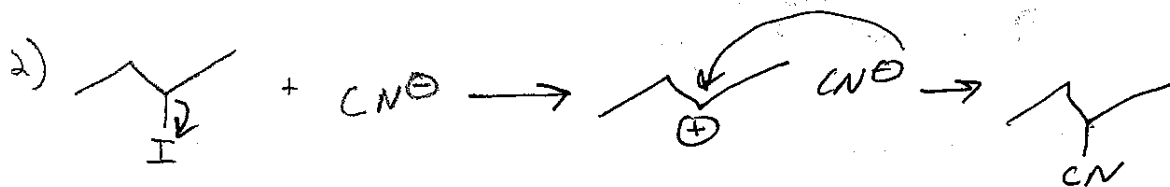
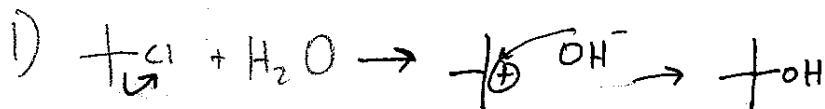
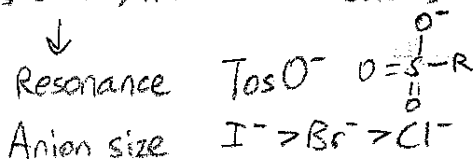
→ Polar, protic, unreactive Lewis Bases

- Leaving group + solvent are KEY
- Carbocation intermediate (2 step mechanism)
- Racemic product
- Reactivity: 3° > 2° = Benzylic = Allylic > 1° > Methyl

Rate = k[R-X]

Usually weak nucleophiles

Leaving Groups: Prefers stable, weak anion bases



S_N2

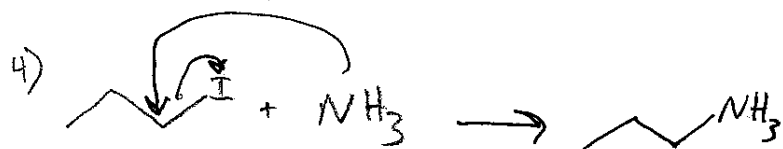
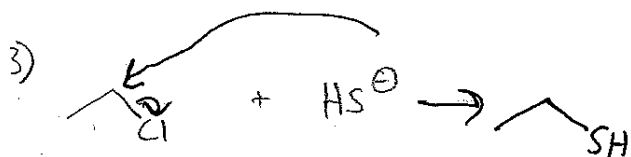
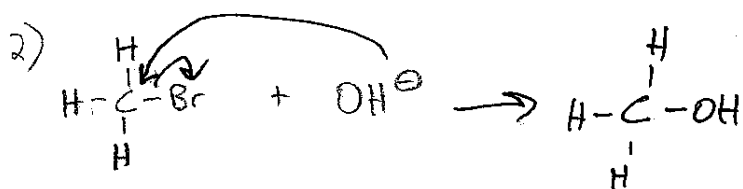
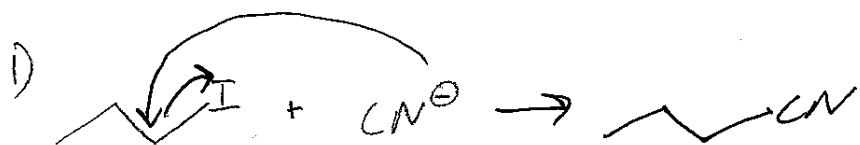
- Rate = $k[\text{nucleophile}][\text{R-X}]$
- Inversion of reaction center
- Does NOT like steric hindrance methyl > 1° > 2°
- No carbocation; one step mechanism
- More basic nucleophiles and stronger nucleophiles preferred

Good leaving groups preferred

- stable, weak base anions

Polar solvents preferred

- avoid solvents w/ H-bonding (aprotic)



Determine whether each would undergo S_N1 or S_N2 and then determine the product.

