Practice problems

Draw a potential energy diagram to illustrate: Use ΔG as the label for the y-axis.

- [a] an S_N1 reaction
- [b] an S_N2 reaction
- [c] an exothermic process starting from a reactive intermediate
- [d] an endothermic process leading to the formation of an intermediate
- [e] a kinetically controlled process wherein the product of thermodynamic and kinetic control are the same.
- [f] the Hammond postulate

In class you saw that at equilibrium, the ratio of the more to less substituted enolate formed by adding 2-methylcyclohexanone to LDA in THF at -78 °C is 90:10. Determine the energy difference between the two enolates under these conditions.

Analyze the following diastereoselective transformations.

- [a] Determine whether a re or a si face attack is illustrated.
- [b] Illustrate the preferred approach of the nucleophile to the substrate.
- [c] The first transformation is consistent with the Felkin-Anh model. The second is not. Suggest a reason why the second deviates. [Hint: Consider the substances formed from the Schlenk equilibrium of the Grignard reagent.]

Set up, but do not solve, the secular determinant and secular equations for trimethylenemethane. Use the numbering system illustrated.

In JOC, **1993**, 58, 1194-1198, one reads that the "Arrhenius function" for the transfer of a hydrogen atom from PhSH to $RC(\bullet)H_2$ is given by:

$$\log k = 9.41 - 1.74/(2.3RT)$$

- [a] Rearrange the Arrhenius equation into a form that is consistent with the Arrhenius function illustrated above.
- [b] What is the Arrhenius activation energy for the process?
- [c] What is logA?

Illustrate the Zimmerman-Traxler *transition state* needed to construct the following substance.

[a] Highlight the A^{1,3} strain that exists in the conformation illustrated below.

[b] Predict the product:

Indicate how to accomplish the following.

Show how to convert 3-methyl-2-butanone, a prochiral ketone, to (R)-2-hydroxy-3-methyl butane.

Provide a detailed conformational analysis that accounts for the following transformation. Pay particular attention to the stereo- and regiochemical outcome.