Chapter 9: Aldehydes and Ketones

The Civet Cat is the original source of civetone, a sweet and pungent ketone used as a fixative in perfumery.
Aldehydes and ketones are found in many fragrant odors of many fruits, fine perfumes, hormones etc. Some examples are listed below.

- Cinnamaldehyde
- Formaldehyde
- Estrone
- Testosterone
Aldehydes and ketones are characterized by the presence of the **carbonyl group**, which is perhaps the most important functional group in organic chemistry. Aldehydes have at least one hydrogen atom attached to the carbonyl carbon atom. The remaining group may be another hydrogen atom or any aliphatic or aromatic group. The –CH=O group characteristic of aldehydes is often called a **formyl group**. In ketones, the carbonyl carbon atom is connected to two other carbon atoms.

The carbonyl group is in many compounds including carboxylic acids and their derivatives.
Nomenclature;

In the IUPAC system, the characteristic ending for aldehydes is \(-al\) from the first syllable of \textit{aldehyde}.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{O} & \quad \text{H–C–H} & \quad \text{CH}_3\text{–C–H} & \quad \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{–C–H} & \quad \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{–C–H} \\
\text{methanal} & \quad \text{(formaldehyde)} & \quad \text{ethanal} & \quad \text{(acetaldehyde)} & \quad \text{propanal} & \quad \text{(propionaldehyde)} \\
\text{(n-butyraldehyde)} &
\end{align*}
\]
In the presence of a double bond or an alcohol group, the aldehyde group takes priority.

3-methylbutanal

CH₃CHCH₂—C—H

CH₃

3-butenal

CH₂=CH—CH₂—C—H

2,3-dihydroxypropanal (glyceraldehyde)

CH₂—CH—C—H

OH    OH
For cyclic aldehydes the suffix –*carbaldehyde* is used. Most of the aromatic aldehydes have common names.

- **cyclopentanecarbaldehyde** (formylcyclopentane)
- **benzaldehyde** (benzenecarbaldehyde)
- **salicylaldehyde** (2-hydroxybenzenecarbaldehyde)
The ending of ketones is \(-\text{one}\) (from the last syllable of ketone). The chain is numbered so that the carbonyl carbon has the lowest possible number.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{propanone} & \quad \text{acetone} \\
\text{(ethy1 methyl ketone)} & \quad \text{(diethyl ketone)}
\end{align*}
\]
cyclohexanone

2-methylcyclopentanone

3-buten-2-one
(methyl vinyl ketone)

acetophenone
(methyl phenyl ketone)

benzophenone
(diphenyl ketone)

dicyclopentyl ketone
Some Common Aldehydes and Ketones

**Formaldehyde**, which is the simplest aldehyde, is manufactured by the catalytic oxidation of methanol. The annual world production is more than 46 billion pounds.

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{OH} \xrightarrow{\text{Ag catalyst, 600–700°C}} \text{CH}_2\equiv\text{O} + \text{H}_2
\]

*formaldehyde*
Acetaldehyde (CH$_3$CH=O) is manufactured mainly by the oxidation of ethylene over palladium-copper catalyst. About 1 billion pounds are produced each year.

\[
2 \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 + \text{O}_2 \xrightarrow{\text{Pd-Cu}_{100-300^\circ C}} 2 \text{CH}_3\text{CH}=\text{O}
\]

Acetone, the simplest ketone may be prepared using a similar method from the oxidation of propene.
Quinones; these compounds form a unique class of carbonyl compounds. They are cyclic conjugated diketones, the simplest being 1,4-benzoquinone. All quinones are colored and many occur naturally as pigments that can be used as dyes. Alizarin is the orange-red quinone that was used to dye the red coats of the British army during the American Revolution. Vitamin K is a quinone that is required for the normal clotting of blood.

![Chemical structures of alizarin and vitamin K](image)

- **Alizarin**
  - mp 290°C

- **Vitamin K**
  - mp −20°C
Synthesis of Aldehydes and Ketones

Aldehydes and ketones are mostly prepared by the oxidation of primary and secondary alcohols respectively. Chromium reagents such as pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC), are commonly used in the laboratory.

example

\[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH} \xrightarrow{\text{PCC}} (\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}^*\text{H}\]
Using an appropriate alcohol, write an equation to show how the following compounds can be made by oxidation.

\[ \text{CHO} \]
Aromatic ketones can be prepared by Friedel-Crafts acylation of an aromatic ring

\[
\text{benzene} + \text{benzoyl chloride} \xrightarrow{\text{AlCl}_3} \text{benzophenone} + \text{HCl}
\]

\[
\text{benzene} + \text{CH}_3\text{CCl} \xrightarrow{\text{AlCl}_3} \]

Methyl ketones can be prepared by the hydration of terminal alkynes, catalyzed by acid and mercury ion.

\[
\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{C}≡\text{CH} \xrightarrow{\text{H}^+, \text{H}_2\text{O}} \xrightarrow{\text{Hg}^{2+}} \text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{CCH}_3
\]

1-octyne \hspace{1cm} 2-octanone
What alkyne would be useful for the synthesis of 2-heptanone (oil of cloves)? Write the synthesis reaction.
Aldehydes and Ketones in Nature

- Benzaldehyde (oil of almonds) bp 178.1°C
- Cinnamaldehyde (cinnamon) bp 253°C
- Vanillin (vanilla bean) mp 80°C, bp 285°C
- Carvone (spearmint oil) bp 231°C
- Camphor mp 179°C
- Jasmone (from oil of jasmine)
The Carbonyl Group

The carbonyl carbon is sp$^2$–hybridized, the carbon-oxygen double bond consists of a sigma bond and a pi bond.

The three atoms attached to the carbonyl carbon lie on the same plane with bond angle of 120°.

The C=O bond distance is 1.24 Å, shorter than a C-O single bond in ethers and alcohols (1.43 Å).

The C=O bond is polarized
attack here by a nucleophile

\[ \text{C} = \; \overset{\delta+}{\text{C}} \; = \; \overset{\delta-}{\text{O}} \]

may react with a proton

(a)

(b)

(c)
Aldehydes and ketones that have a C=O bond, but no O-H bond, cannot form hydrogen bonds with one another, as alcohols. Aldehyde and ketones therefore have relatively higher boiling points than hydrocarbons, but less than alcohols. Low molecular weight aldehydes and ketones are water soluble as they can form hydrogen bonds with the water molecules but not with themselves.
Nucleophilic Addition to Carbonyl Groups

Nucleophiles attack the carbon atom of a carbon-oxygen double bond because that carbon has a partial positive charge. The pi-electrons of the C=O bond move to the oxygen atom.
Acids can catalyze the addition of weak nucleophiles to carbonyl compounds by protonating the carbonyl oxygen atom. This makes the carbonyl carbon more electrophilic and reactive by converting it to a carbocation thereby enhancing its susceptibility to attack by nucleophiles.

![Chemical reaction diagram]

A resonance-stabilized carbocation

Classification of Nucleophiles;
- Those that add reversibly are also good leaving groups and are conjugate bases of relatively strong acids
- Those that add irreversibly are poor leaving groups, and are conjugate bases of weak acids.
Addition of Alcohols: Formation of Hemiacetals and Acetals

Alcohols are oxygen nucleophiles, they add to the C=O bond, the OR group becoming attached to the carbon and the proton becoming attached to the oxygen.

The product is a **hemiacetal** which contains both alcohol and ether groups on the same carbon.

The addition process is reversible.
The mechanism of hemiacetal formation

aldehyde $\rightleftharpoons$ protonated aldehyde $\rightleftharpoons$ protonated hemiacetal $\rightleftharpoons$ hemiacetal
In the presence of excess alcohol, hemiacetals react to form acetals. Acetals have two ether functional groups at the same carbon atom.
Mechanism of acetal formation

Hemiacetal $\overset{\text{RO}}{\overset{\text{H}^+}{\underset{\text{H}^-}{\text{C} \cdots \text{OH}}}} \overset{\text{R}}{\overset{\text{H}}{\underset{\text{H}}{\text{C} \cdots \text{OH}}}} \overset{\text{R}'}{\overset{\text{H}^+}{\underset{\text{H}^-}{\text{C} \cdots \text{OH}}}} \overset{\text{RO} \cdots \text{H}}{\overset{\text{R}'}{\underset{\text{R}'}{\text{R}^+ \cdots \text{H}}}}$ resonance-stabilized carbocation

Acetal $\overset{\text{RO}}{\overset{\text{H}^+}{\underset{\text{H}}{\text{C} \cdots \text{OR}}}} \overset{\text{R}}{\overset{\text{H}}{\underset{\text{H}}{\text{C} \cdots \text{OR}}}} \overset{\text{R}'}{\overset{\text{H}^+}{\underset{\text{H}}{\text{C} \cdots \text{OR}}}}$
Aldehydes that have an appropriately located hydroxyl group in the same molecule may exist with cyclic hemiacetal, formed from intramolecular nucleophilic addition.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{5-hydroxypentanal} & \quad \iff \quad \text{hemiacetal form of 5-hydroxypentanal} \\
\end{align*}
\]
Ketones also form acetals. If glycerol is used as in the example below, the product is a cyclic acetal.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{O} + \text{HO—CH}_2\text{HO—CH}_2 & \xrightleftharpoons{\text{H}^+} \text{CH}_3\text{C—O—CH}_2\text{CH}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \\
\text{acetone} & \text{ethylene glycol} & \text{acetone—ethylene glycol acetal}
\end{align*}
\]
Question
Write the equation for the reaction of benzaldehyde with excess methanol and an acid catalyst.
The reverse of acetal formation if acetal hydrolysis. This is achieved by excess water in the presence of an acid catalyst.