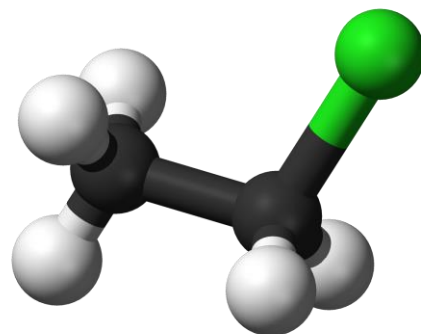


## Alkyl Halides – S<sub>N</sub>1 Reaction

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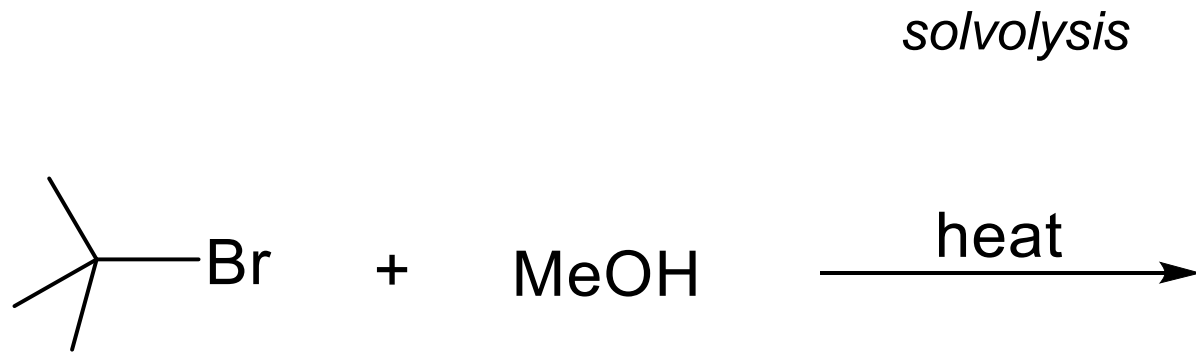
*Instructor: Asst. Prof. Dr. Tanatorn Khotavivattana*

*E-mail: [tanatorn.k@chula.ac.th](mailto:tanatorn.k@chula.ac.th)*

**Recommended Textbook:**

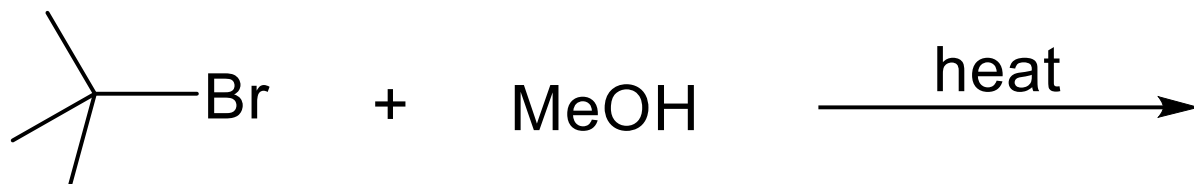
Chapter 6 in *Organic Chemistry*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, L. G. Wade, Jr., 2010, Prentice Hall (Pearson Education)

# First-Order Nucleophilic Substitution ( $S_N1$ )



Rate =

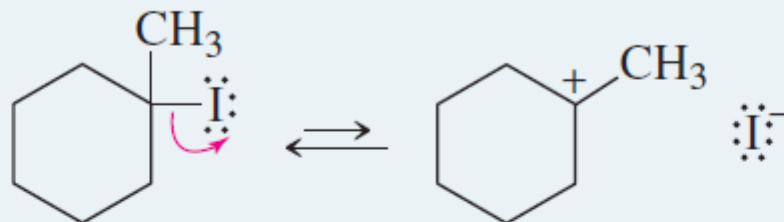
# S<sub>N</sub>1 - Mechanism



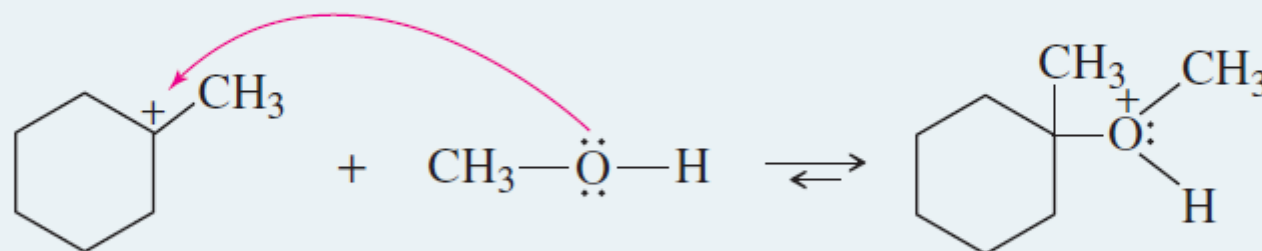
# S<sub>N</sub>1 - Mechanism

**EXAMPLE:** Solvolysis of 1-iodo-1-methylcyclohexane in methanol.

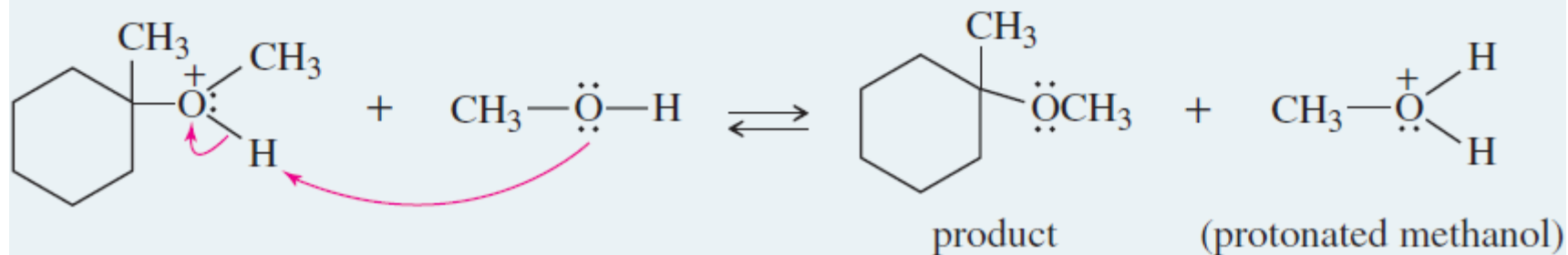
*Step 1:* Formation of a carbocation (rate-limiting).



*Step 2:* Nucleophilic attack by the solvent (methanol).

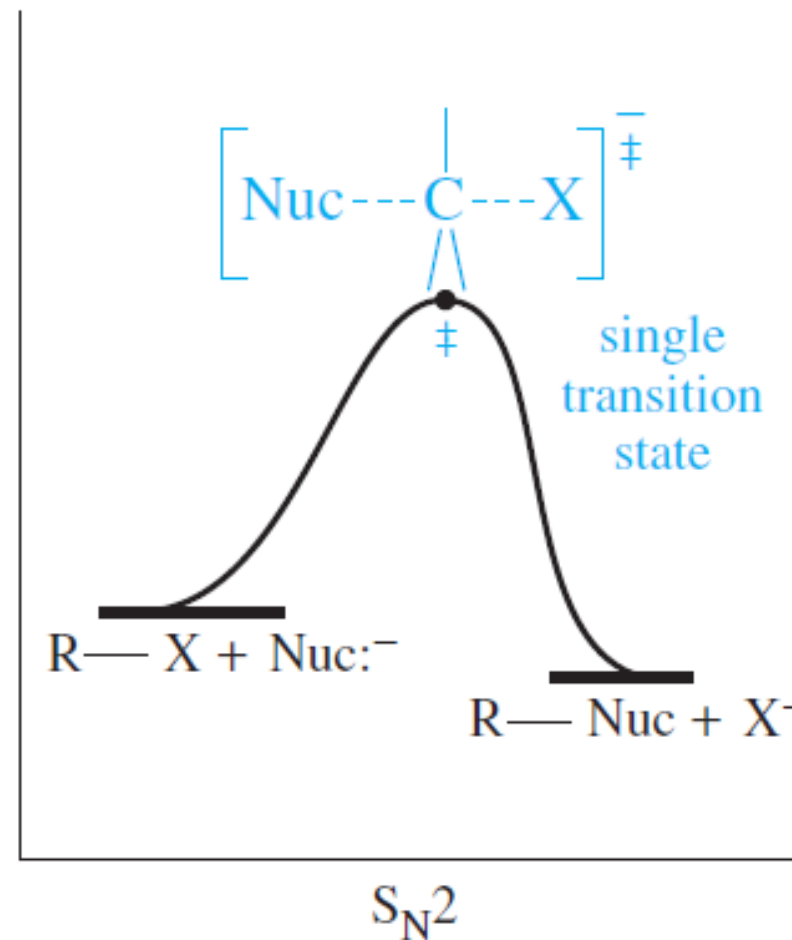
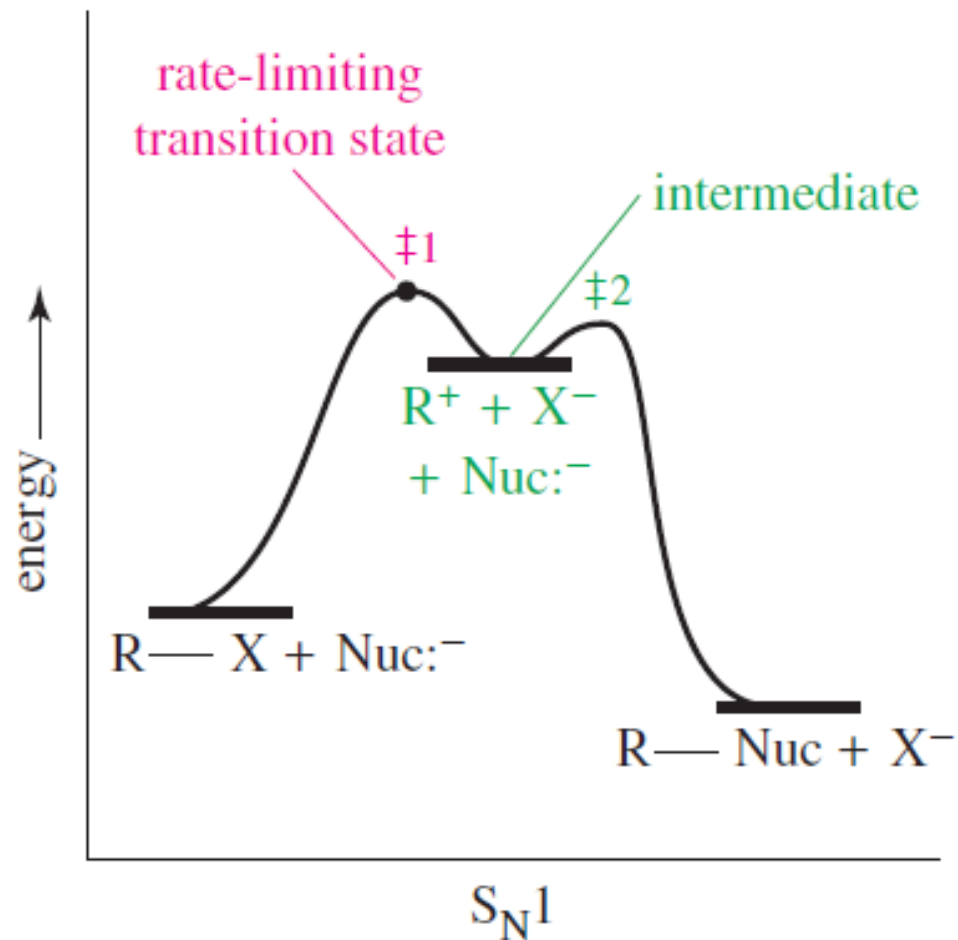


*Step 3:* Deprotonation to form the product.

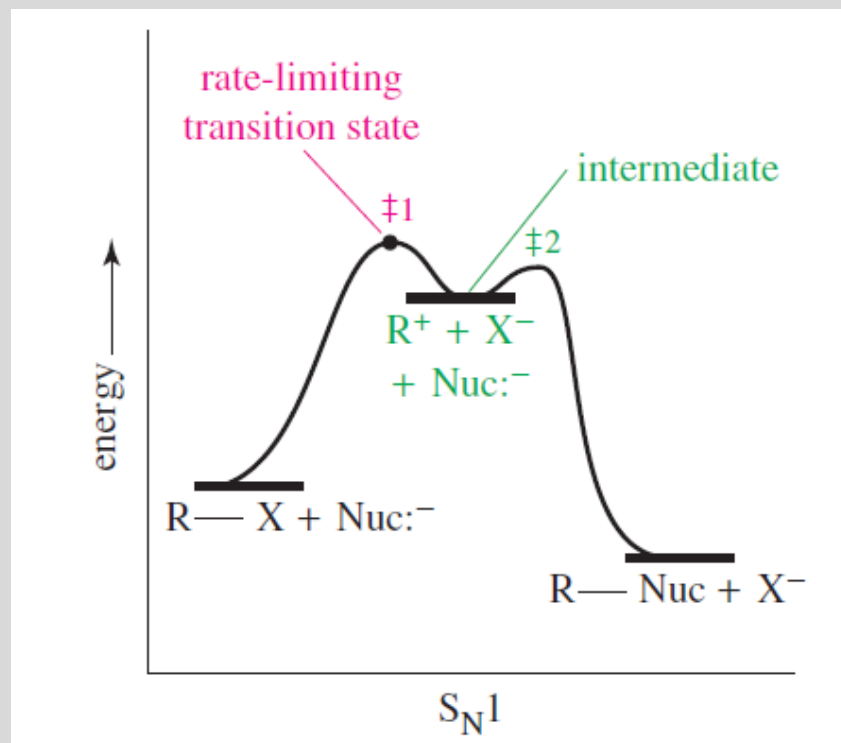


# S<sub>N</sub>1 - Mechanism

Reaction-energy diagram of S<sub>N</sub>1 vs. S<sub>N</sub>2 reaction

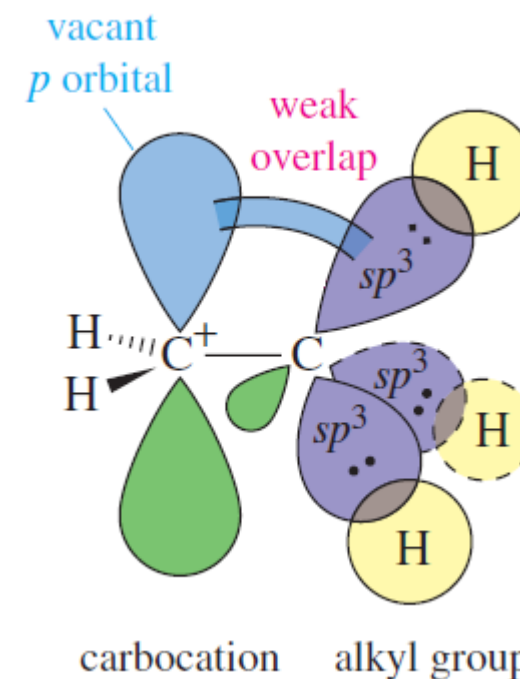
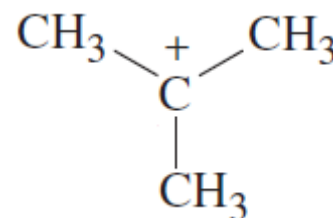


## Stability of the Carbocation Intermediate



## 1) Stabilization from Substituents

- Alkyl groups stabilize carbocations by donating electrons through sigma bonds (the \_\_\_\_\_ effect) and through overlap of filled orbitals with the empty p orbital of the carbocation (\_\_\_\_\_).



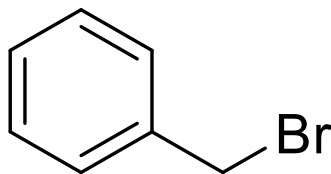
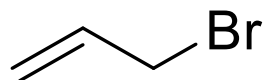
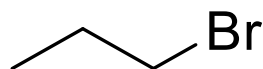
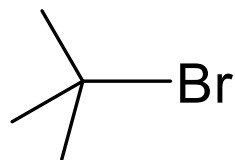
S<sub>N</sub>1 reactivity:    3°        2°        1°        CH<sub>3</sub>X

S<sub>N</sub>2 reactivity:    3°        2°        1°        CH<sub>3</sub>X

# Factors Affecting S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions:

## 1) Stabilization from Substituents

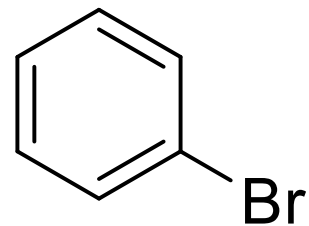
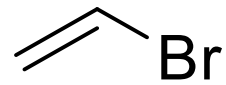
- **Allyl halides and Benzyl halides: Resonance stabilization**



# Factors Affecting $S_N1$ Reactions:

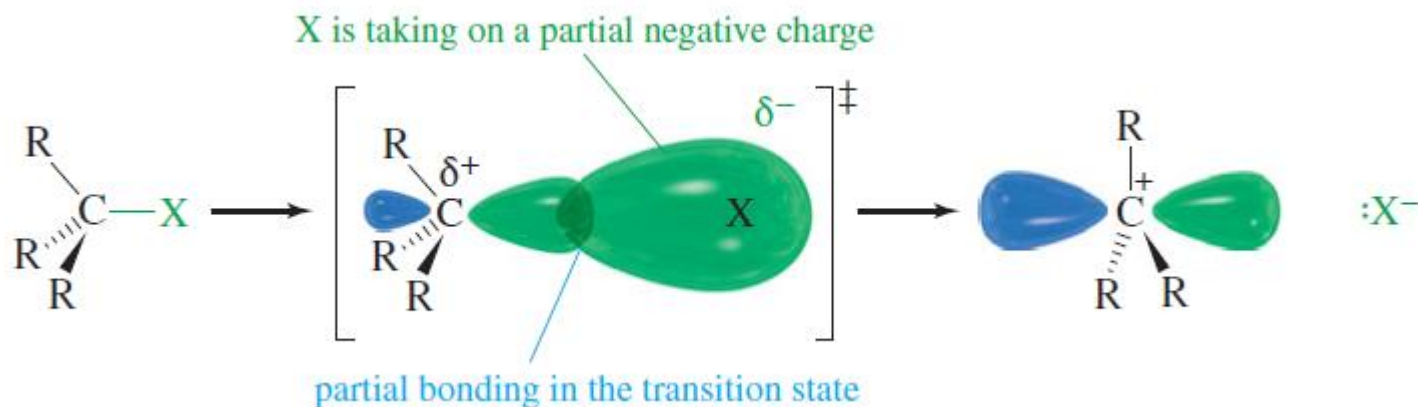
## 1) Stabilization from Substituents

- Vinyl halides and Aryl halides





## 2) Leaving-Group Effects



For good leaving group:

1. polarizable

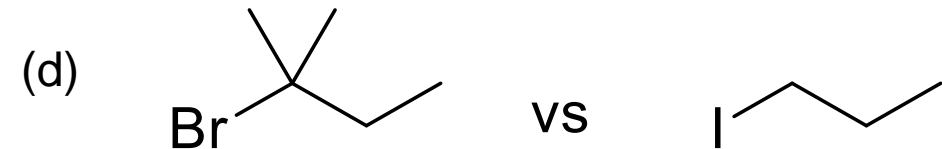
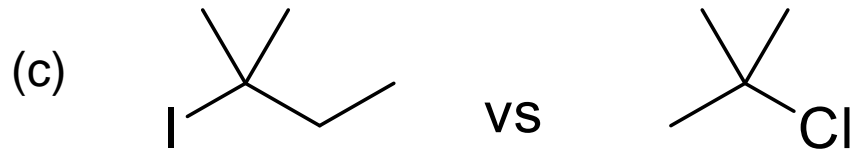
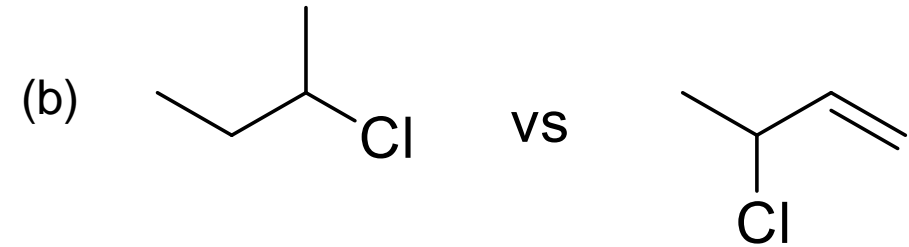
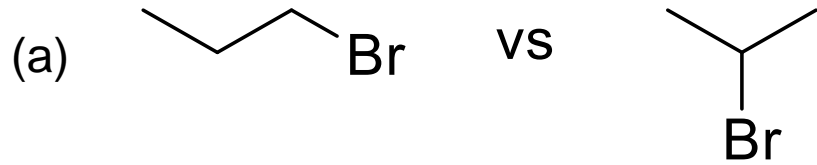
2. stable once it has left

TABLE 6-4 Weak Bases That Are Common Leaving Groups

<b>Ions:</b>	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{Cl}}\text{:}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{Br}}\text{:}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{I}}\text{:}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{O}}\text{--}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{S--R}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{O}}\text{--}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{S--}\ddot{\text{O}}\text{R}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{O}}\text{--}\overset{\text{O}^-}{\parallel}\text{P--}\ddot{\text{O}}\text{R}$
	halides			sulfonate	sulfate	phosphate
<b>Neutral molecules:</b>	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{O}}\text{--H}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{O}}\text{--R}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{N}}\text{--R}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{S}}\text{--R}$	$\text{:}\ddot{\text{P}}\text{--R}$	
	water	alcohols	amines	sulfides	phosphines	

# Factors Affecting S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions:

**Example 1** Which substrate will react faster by the S<sub>N</sub>1 mechanism.

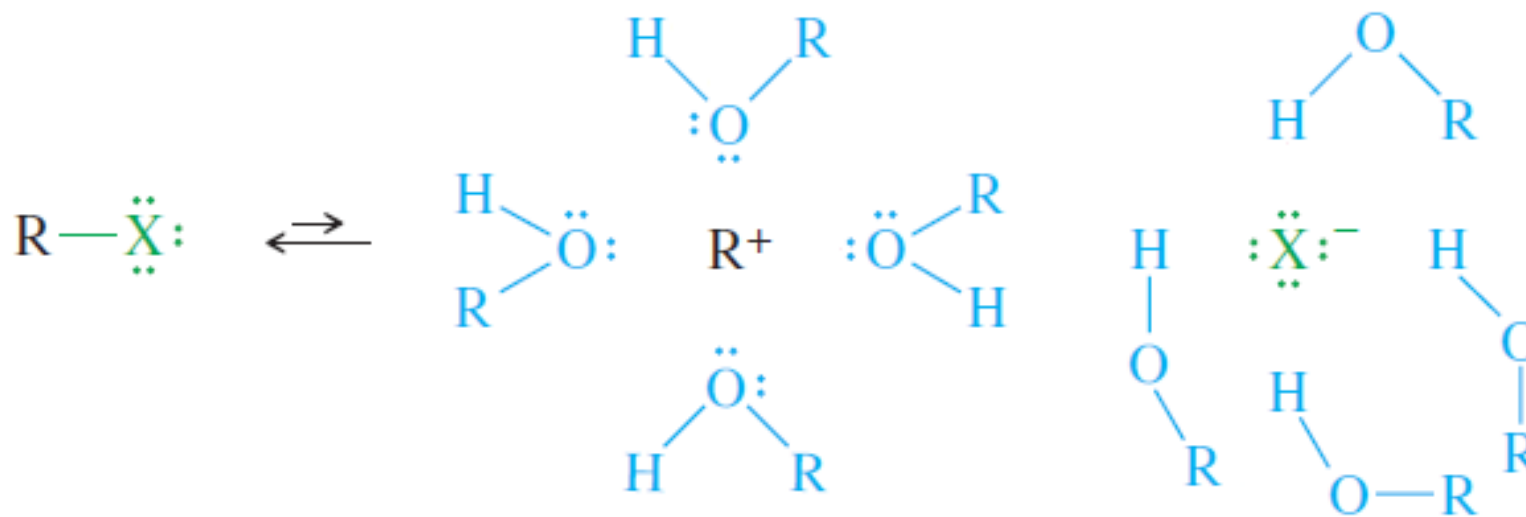


## 3) Solvent Effects

The S<sub>N</sub>1 reaction goes much more readily in **polar solvents** that stabilize ions.

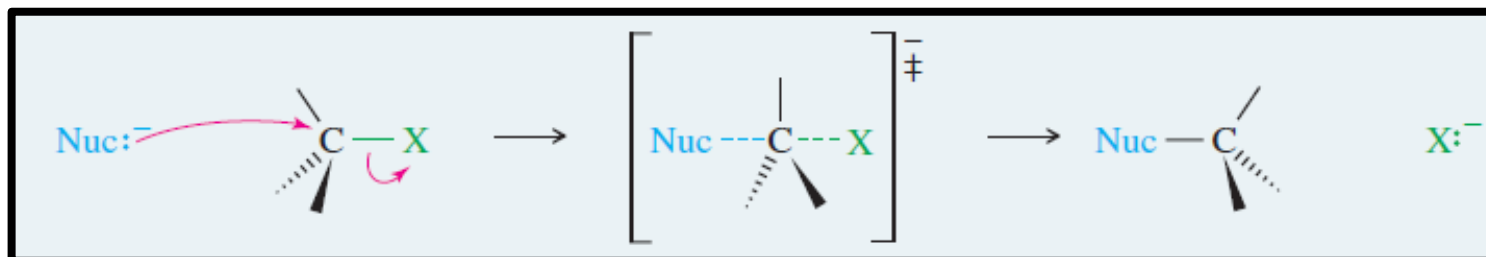
Dielectric Constants ( $\epsilon$ ) and Ionization Rates of *tert*-Butyl Chloride in Common Solvents

Solvent	$\epsilon$	Relative Rate
water	78	8000
methanol	33	1000
ethanol	24	200
acetone	21	1
diethyl ether	4.3	0.001
hexane	2.0	<0.0001



# Stereochemistry of the S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions

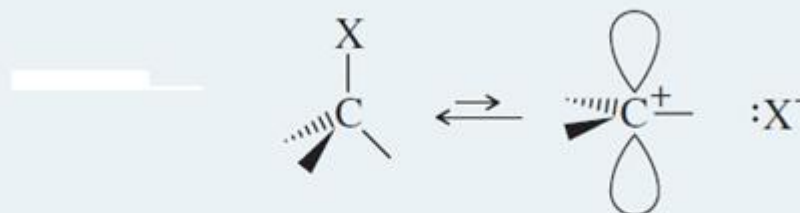
S<sub>N</sub>2: \_\_\_\_\_



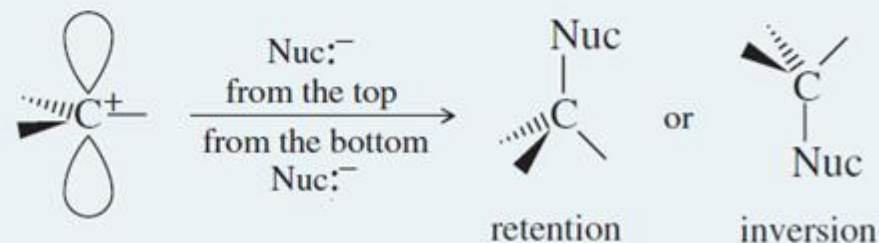
S<sub>N</sub>1: \_\_\_\_\_

The S<sub>N</sub>1 reaction involves ionization to a flat carbocation, which can be attacked from either side.

*Step 1:* Ionization of a tetrahedral carbon gives a flat carbocation.

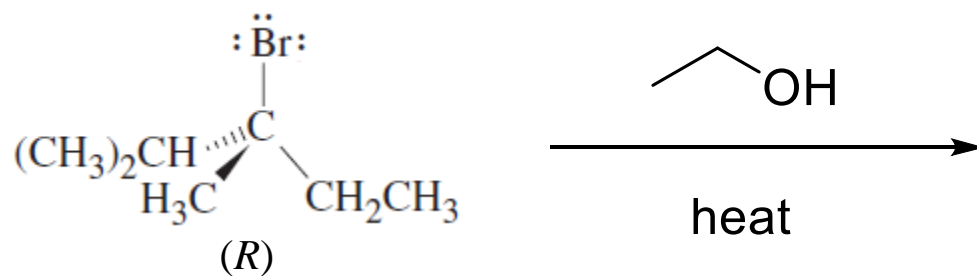
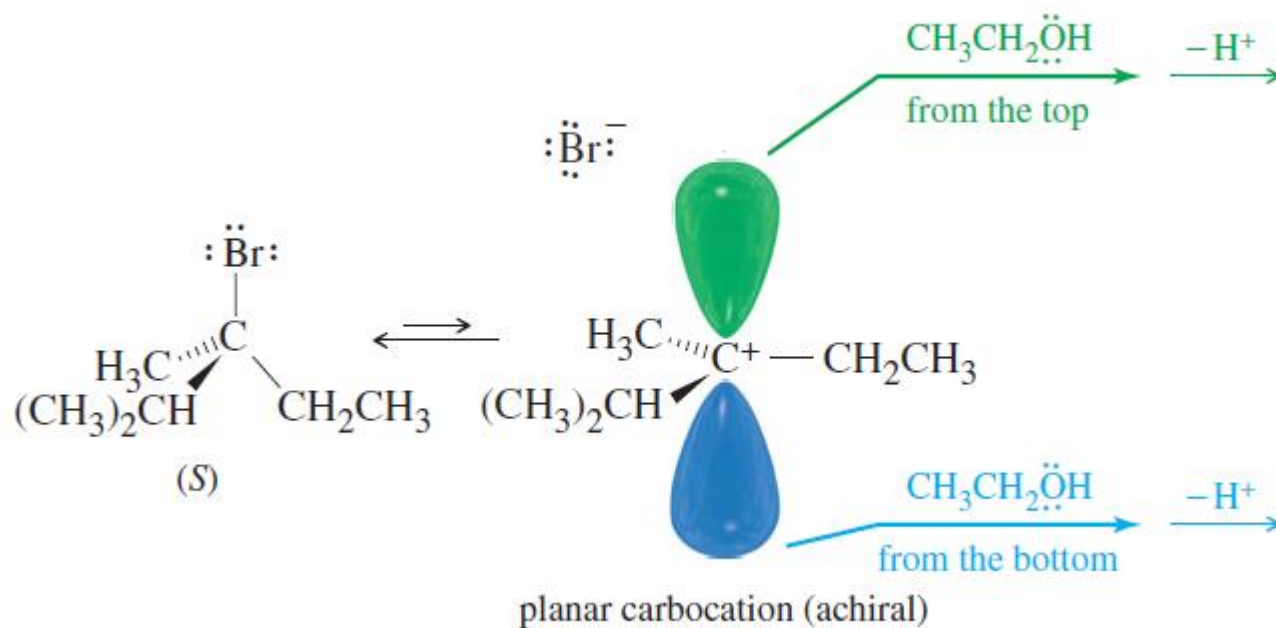


*Step 2:* A nucleophile may attack either side of the carbocation.

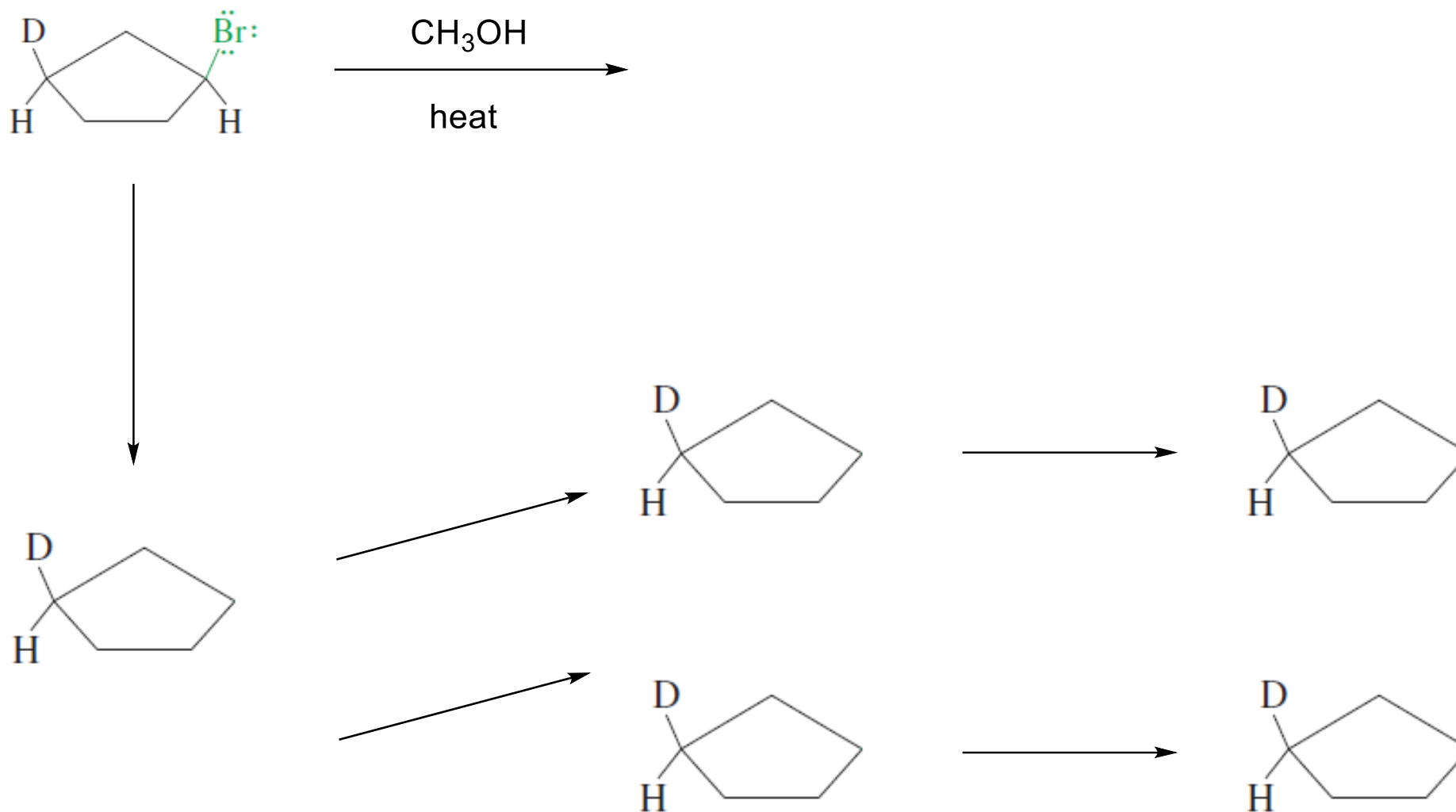


These two products may be different if the carbon atom is stereogenic.

# Stereochemistry of the S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions

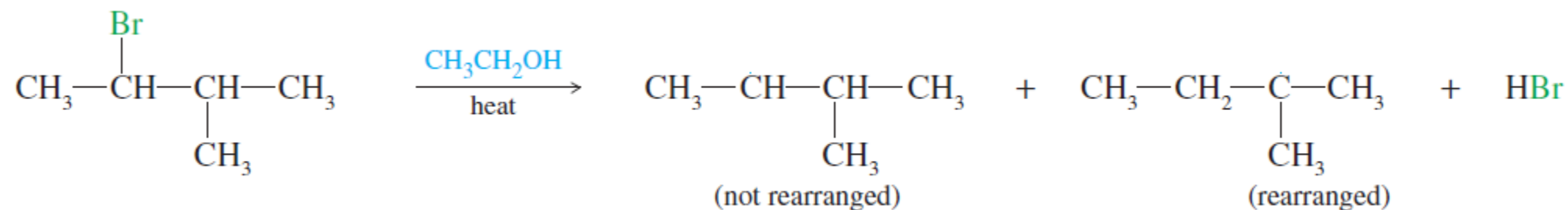


# Stereochemistry of the S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions



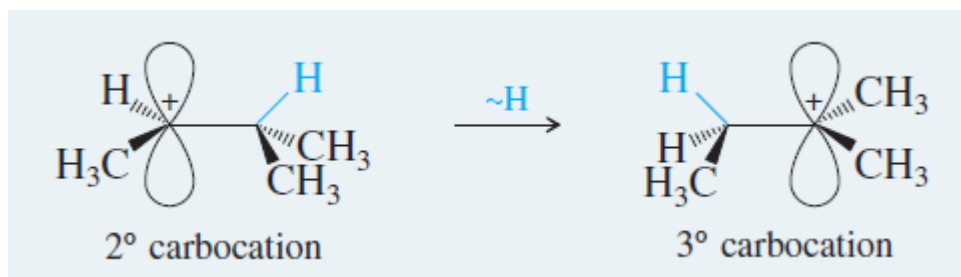
# Rearrangements in the S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions

- **Carbocations** frequently undergo structural changes, called **rearrangements**, to form **more stable ions**.
- Rearrangements are **not seen in S<sub>N</sub>2** reactions, where no carbocation is formed.

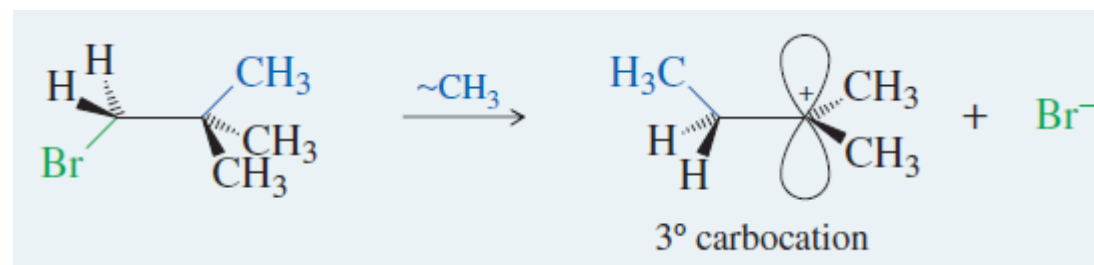


There are 2 main types of rearrangements

- **Hydride shift**

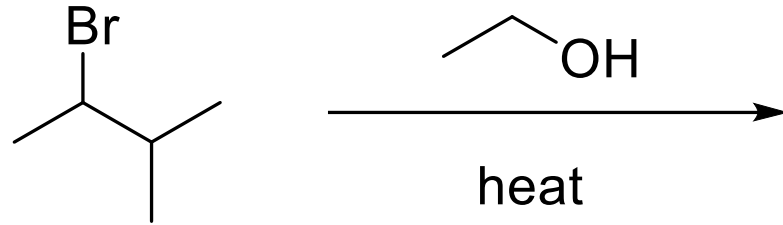


- **Alkyl shift**



# Rearrangements in the $S_N1$ Reactions

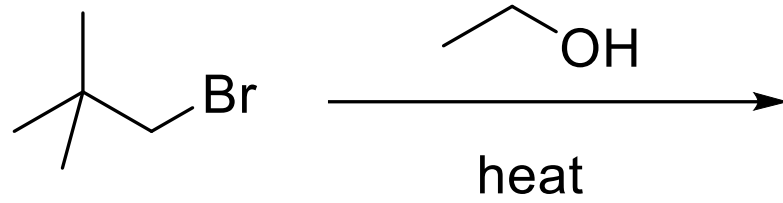
- Hydride shift



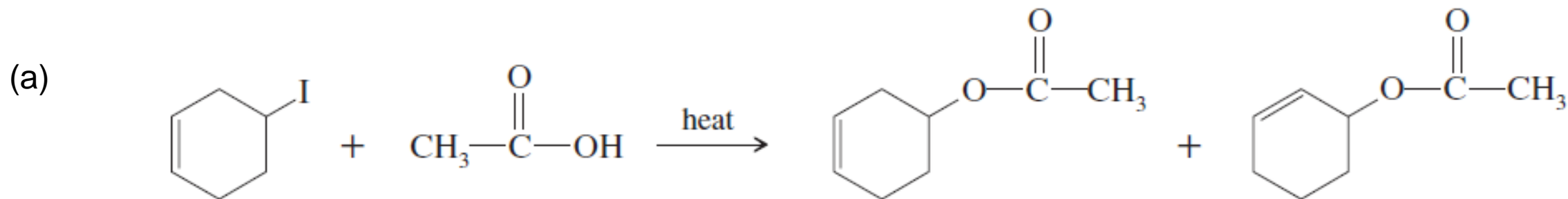


# Rearrangements in the $S_N1$ Reactions

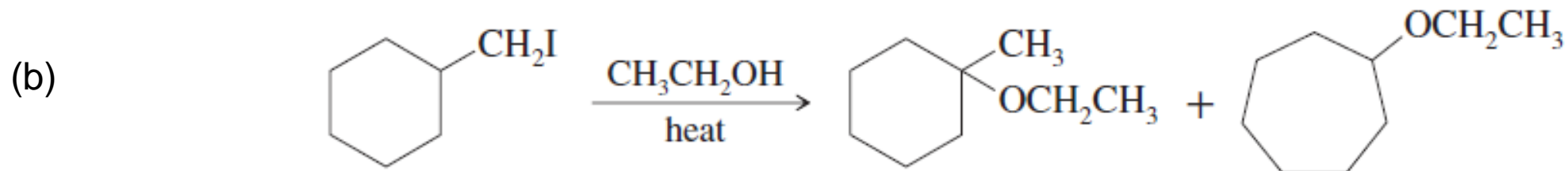
- Alkyl shift



**Example 2** Propose a mechanism involving a hydride shift or an alkyl shift for each solvolysis reaction.



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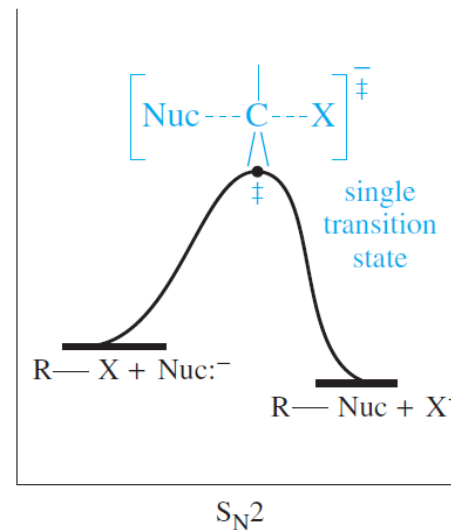
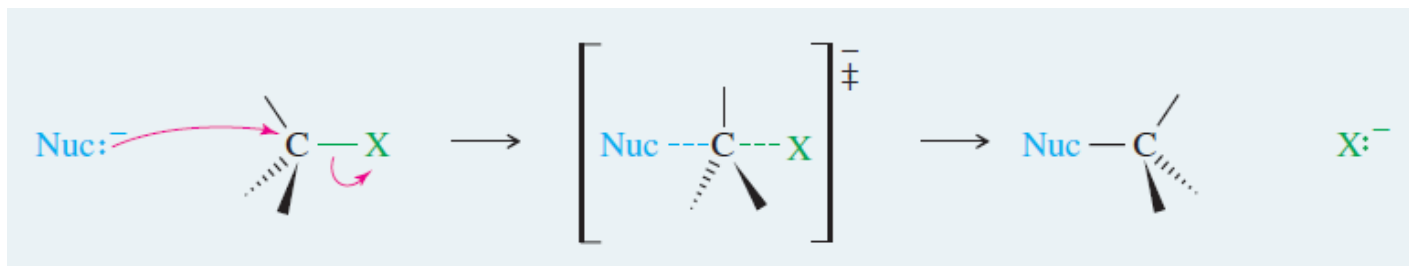


# Comparison of S<sub>N</sub>2 vs. S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions

## 1) Kinetic

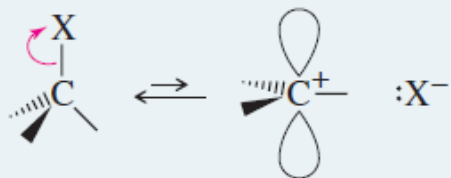
## 2) Nucleophile

S<sub>N</sub>2

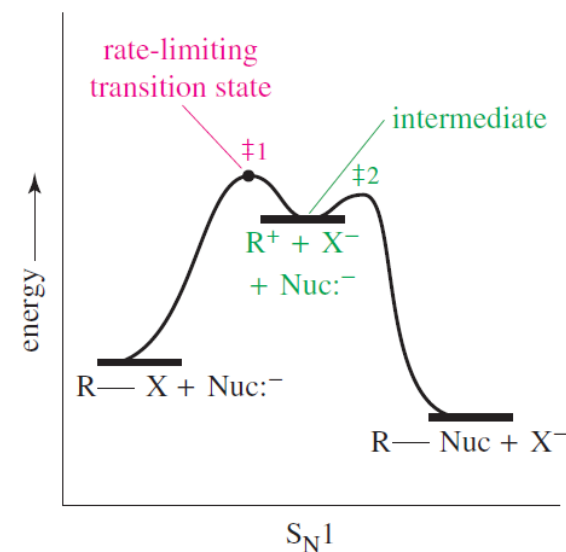
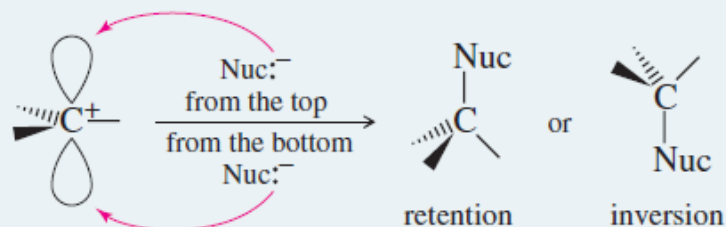


S<sub>N</sub>1

Step 1: Ionization of a tetrahedral carbon gives a flat carbocation.



Step 2: A nucleophile may attack either side of the carbocation.

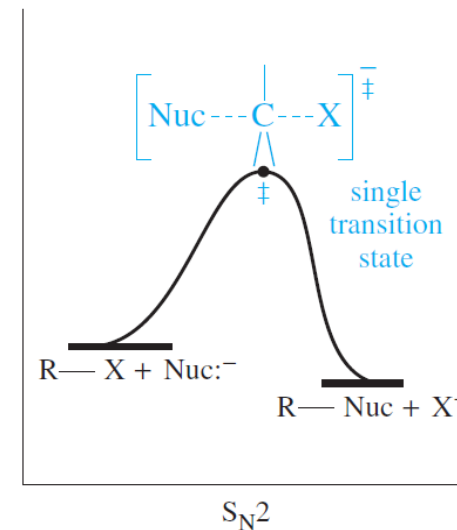
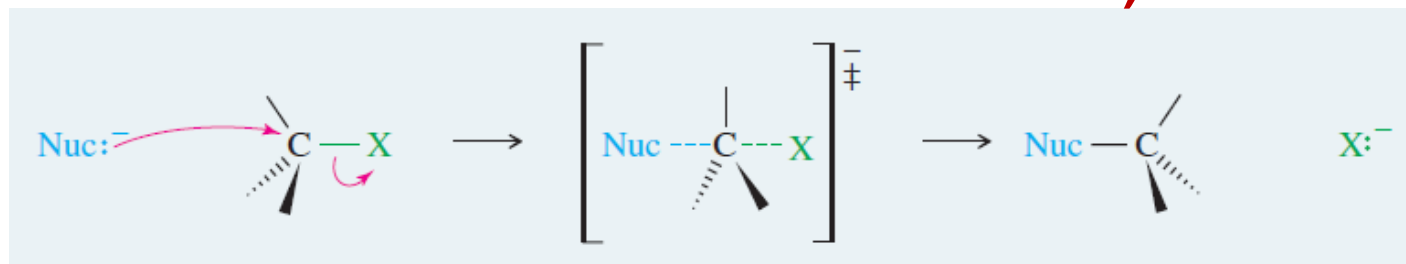


# Comparison of S<sub>N</sub>2 vs. S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions

## 3) Substrate

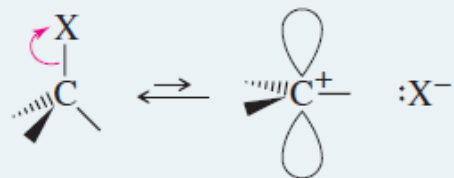
## 4) Solvent

S<sub>N</sub>2

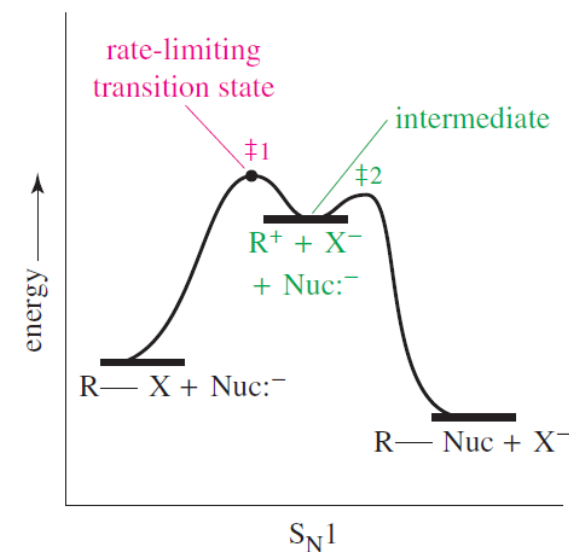
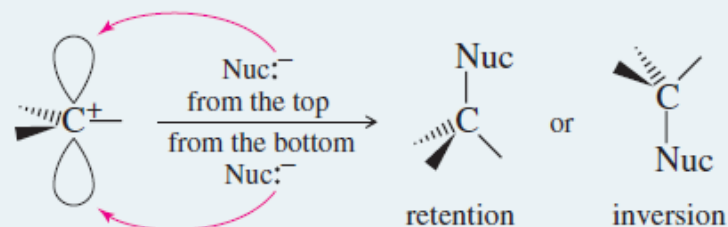


S<sub>N</sub>1

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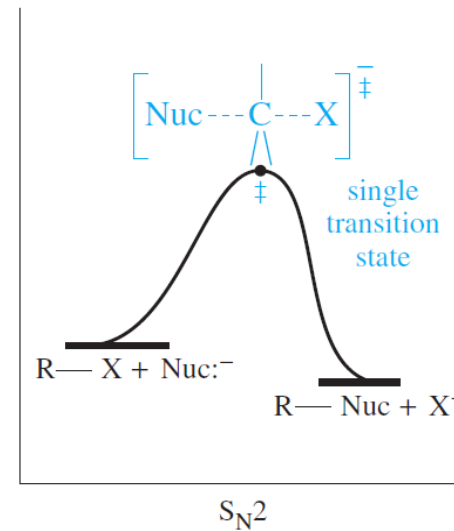
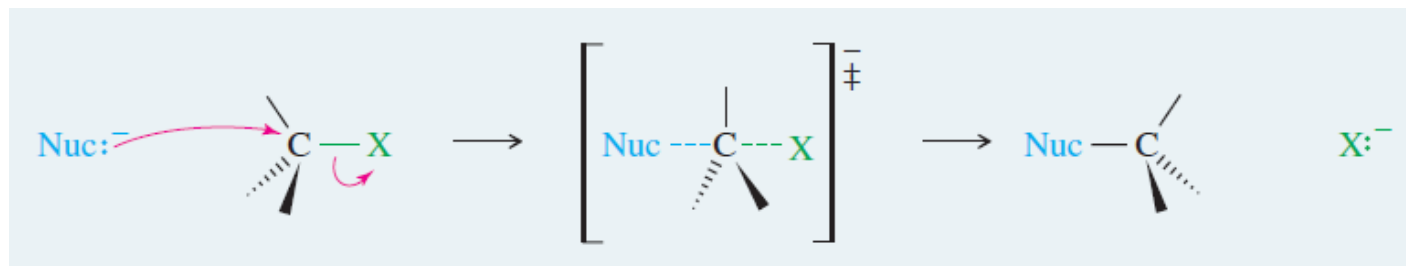


# Comparison of S<sub>N</sub>2 vs. S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions

## 5) Stereochemistry of the Product

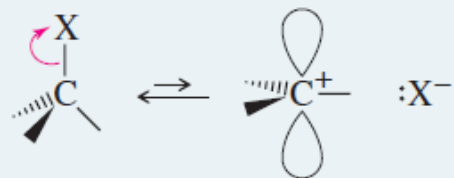
## 6) Rearrangements

S<sub>N</sub>2

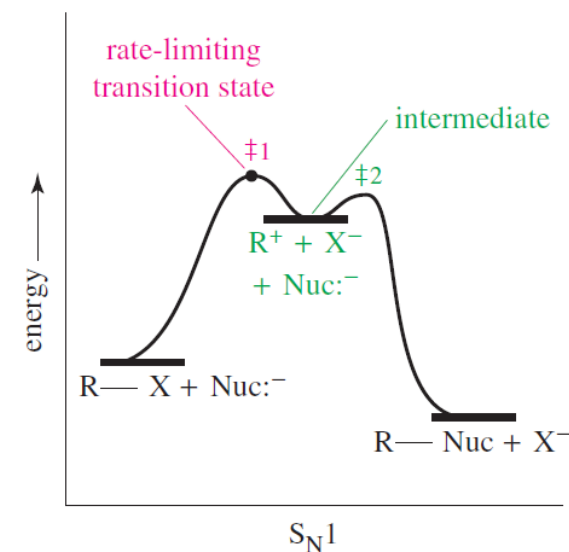
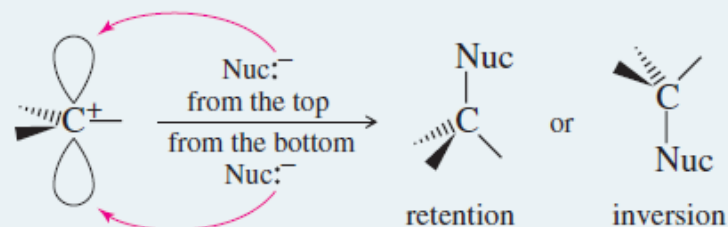


S<sub>N</sub>1

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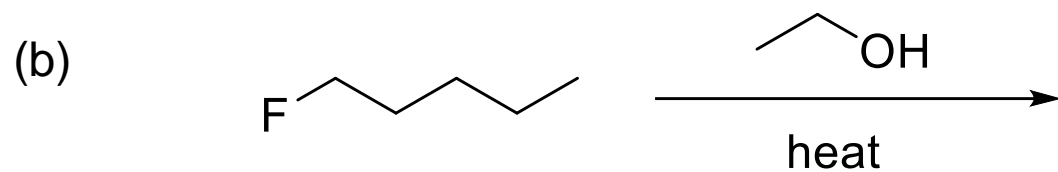
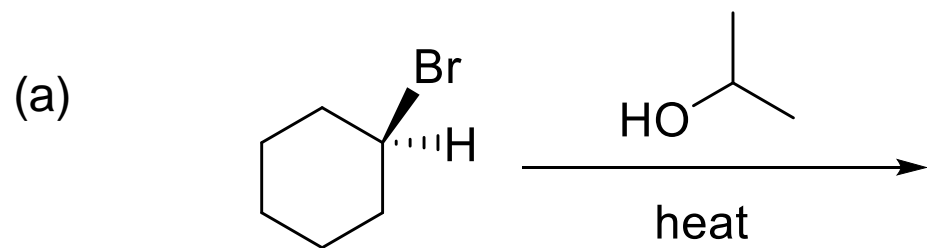


# Comparison of S<sub>N</sub>2 vs. S<sub>N</sub>1 Reactions

	S <sub>N</sub> 2	S <sub>N</sub> 1
<b>Promoting factors</b>		
nucleophile	strong nucleophile needed	weak nucleophiles are OK
substrate (RX)	CH <sub>3</sub> X > 1° > 2°	3° > 2°
solvent	wide variety of solvents	good ionizing solvent needed
leaving group	good one required	good one required
other		AgNO <sub>3</sub> forces ionization
<b>Characteristics</b>		
kinetics	second order, $k_r[\text{RX}][\text{Nuc}^-]$	first order, $k_r[\text{RX}]$
stereochemistry	complete inversion	mixture of inversion and retention
rearrangements	impossible	common

# Comparison of $S_N2$ vs. $S_N1$ Reactions

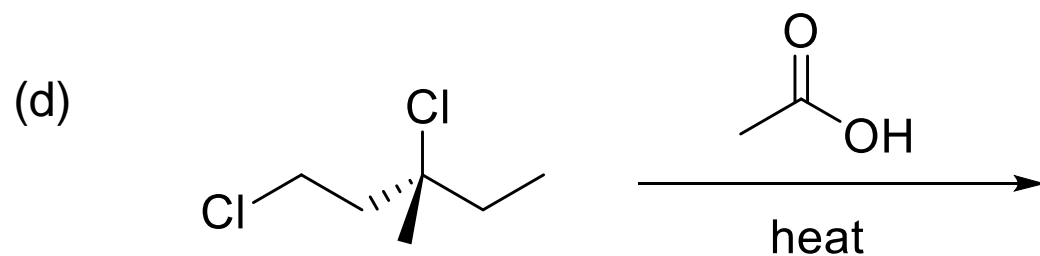
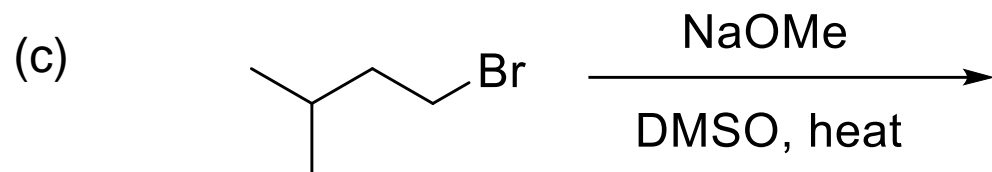
**Example 3** For each reaction, give the expected substitution product, and predict whether the mechanism will be predominantly  $S_N2$  or  $S_N1$ .





# Comparison of $S_N2$ vs. $S_N1$ Reactions

**Example 3** For each reaction, give the expected substitution product, and predict whether the mechanism will be predominantly  $S_N2$  or  $S_N1$ .



# Comparison of $S_N2$ vs. $S_N1$ Reactions

**Example 3** For each reaction, give the expected substitution product, and predict whether the mechanism will be predominantly  $S_N2$  or  $S_N1$ .

