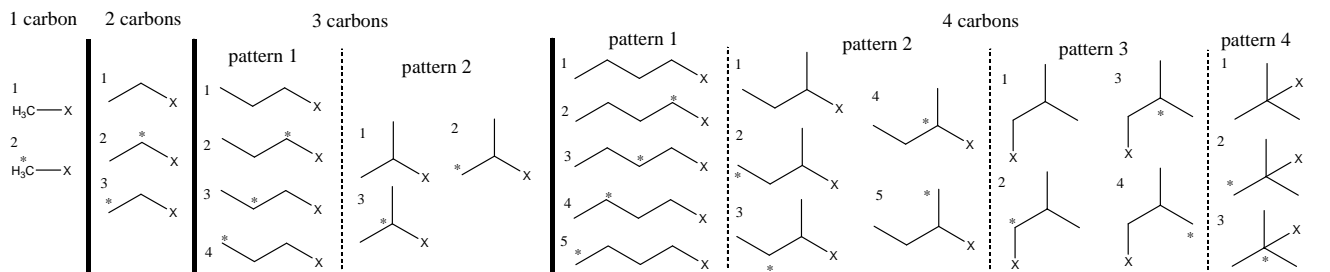
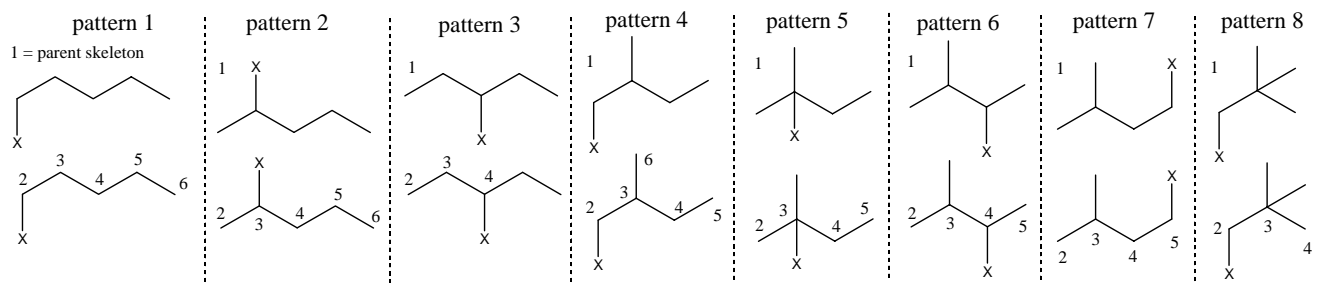


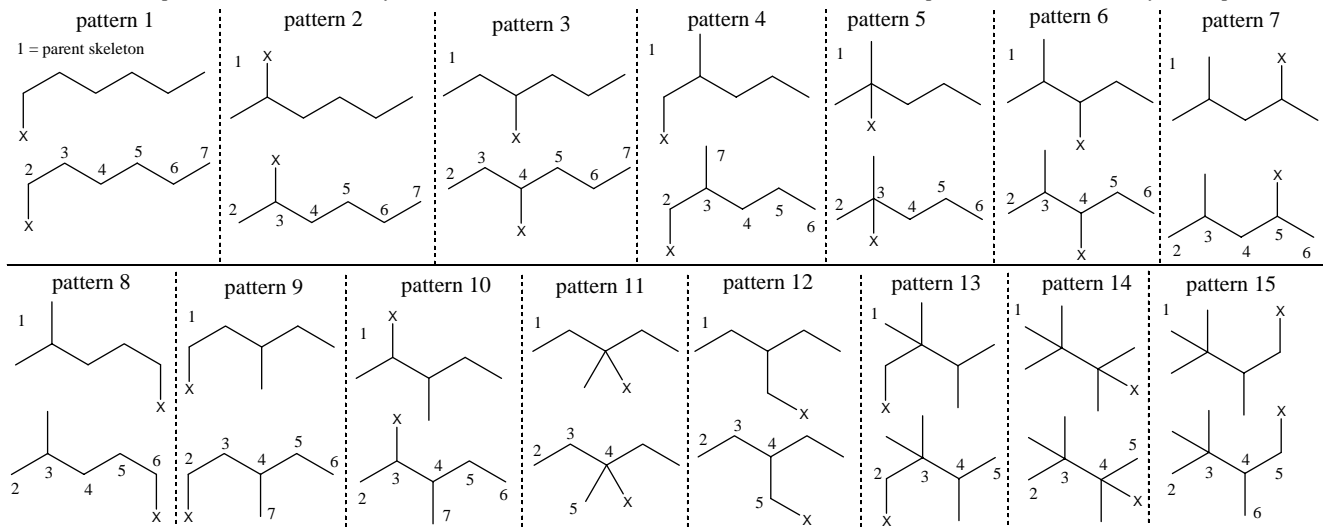
The following carbon skeletons represent parts of structures that can be made with or without ¹⁴C labeled positions. C1 – C4 carbon skeletons are all shown, with “*” to indicate the location of any ¹⁴C label. In structures with 5 carbon atoms, or more, the first structure drawn represents the parent skeleton and the second structure shows all of the different positions that a single ¹⁴C label could be inserted (a number indicates each different possibility). "X" represents a simple functional group or a point of attachment in a functional group pattern that could have more than one carbon portion. (See the last page for several examples of functional group patterns that could have 2 or more branches.) Synthetic targets can be randomly generated by drawing out a number for the carbons in the skeleton (1-7), then picking a random pattern, then picking a random isomer with or without a ¹⁴C label. This can be done once, twice or 3 times for each branch in the selected functional group pattern (which can also be picked at random). The possibilities are effectively endless for organic synthesis problems (there are about 420 skeletal patterns, including ¹⁴C labels). These problems are relatively straight forward because there is only 1 functional group. More than one functional group may require protection/deprotection steps and the difficulty of such synthetic problems can rapidly go up. Some patterns may have limitations due to steric crowding.



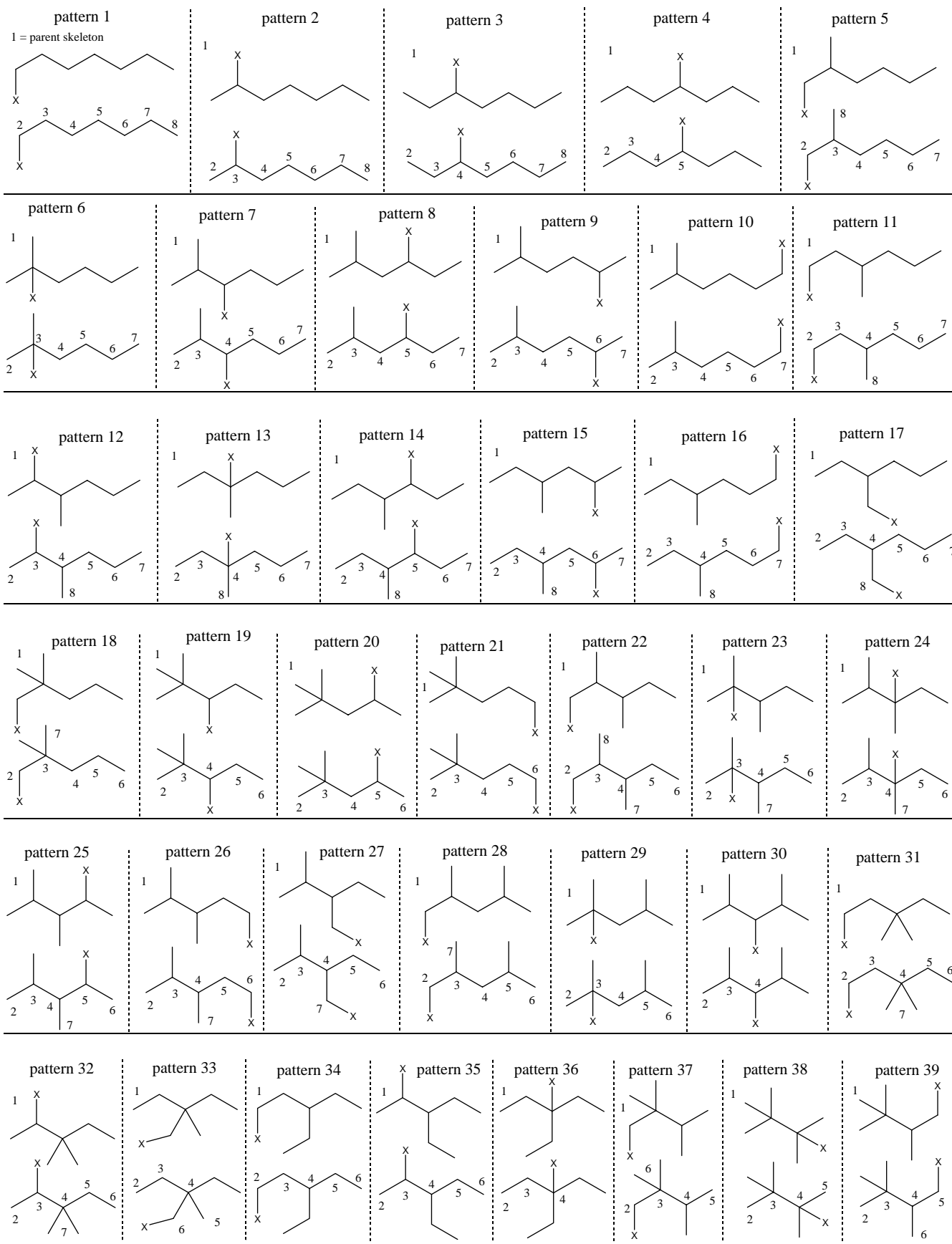
5 carbons: 1 = parent skeleton without any ¹⁴C label, numbers = skeleton location with a ¹⁴C label at that position (for reference in synthesis problems)



6 carbons: 1 = parent skeleton without any ¹⁴C label, numbers = skeleton location with a ¹⁴C label at that position (for reference in synthesis problems)

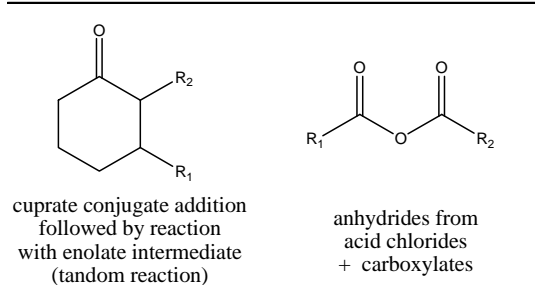
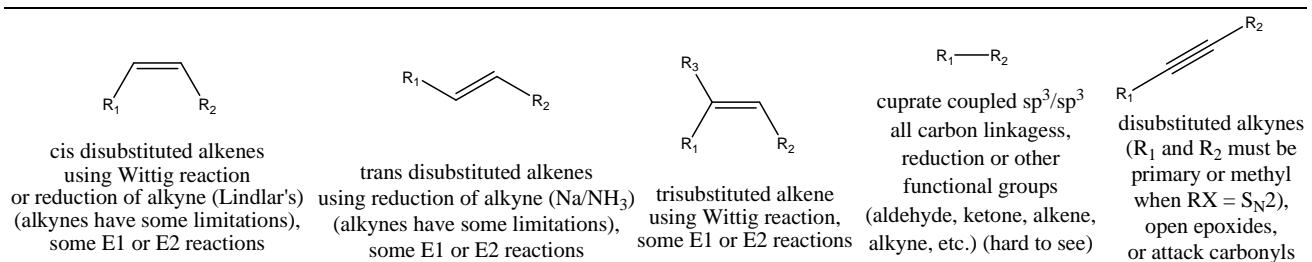
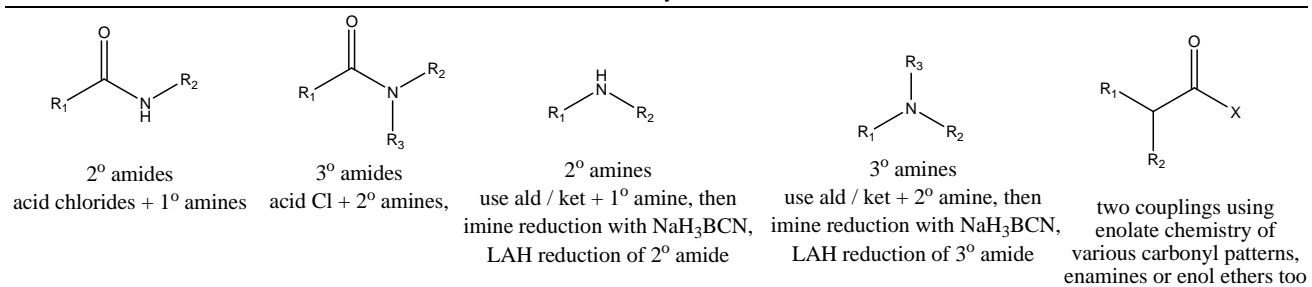
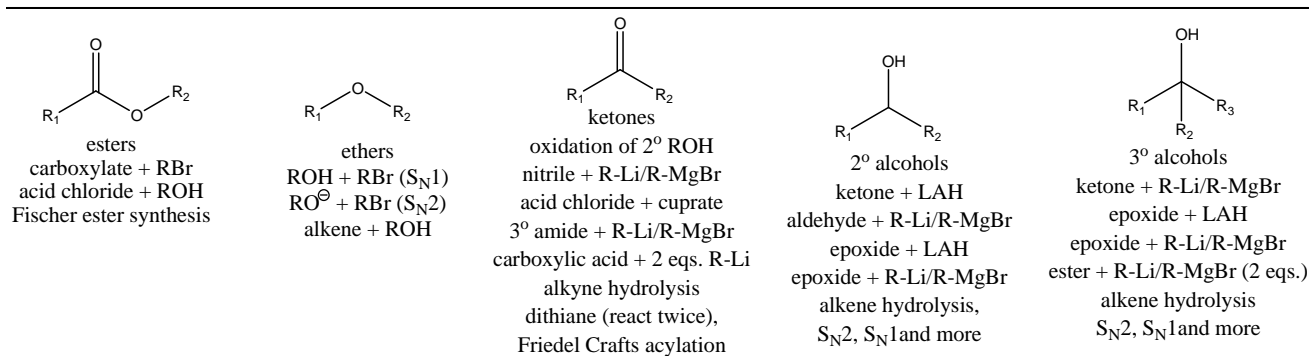


7 carbons: 1 = parent skeleton without any ¹⁴C label, numbers = skeleton location with a ¹⁴C label at that position (for reference in synthesis problems)

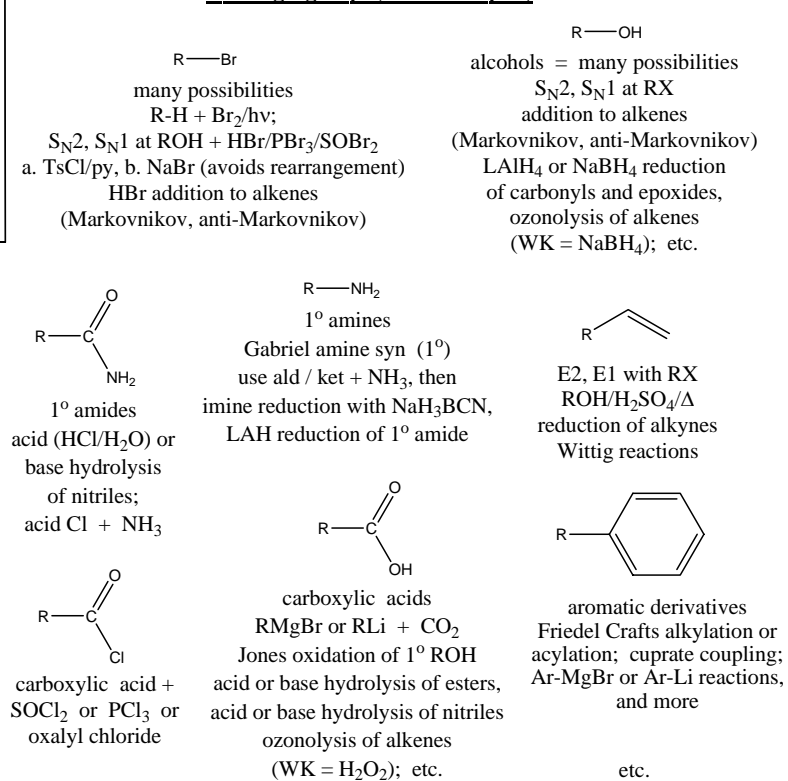


Connecting 2 or 3 patterns from above in the functional groups below.

Several of the patterns below may require an additional 1 or 2 carbon atoms at the connecting point, in addition to the R₁ and R₂ patterns.

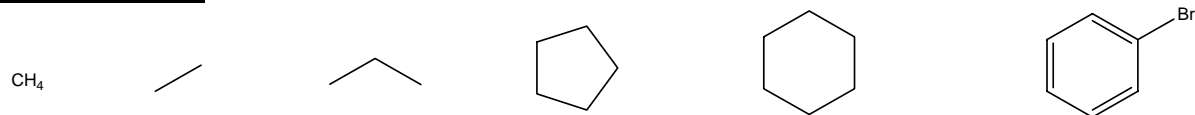


X = single groups (a few examples)



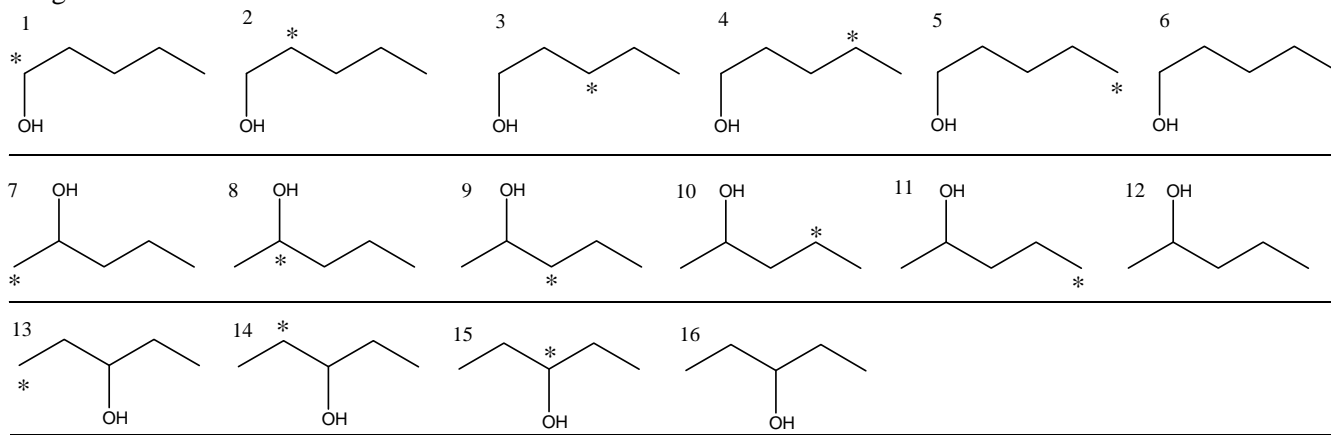
Use clues in the target molecule (TM) to determine what the last step could have been. Once you work back one step, use clues in that molecule (TM-1) to determine how you could work back one additional step (TM-2). Repeat this process until you get to the necessary starting conditions (TM-n), i.e. allowable ¹⁴C starting units (*CH₄, *CO₂, Na*CN where "*" indicates a radioactive ¹⁴C isotope) and other allowed starting materials. Until aromatic chemistry is covered bromobenzene is also available. You may use any reagents learned in our course. Many of the simpler starting structures below were prepared in the above reactions (1C, 2C and 3C examples).

Starting Structures:

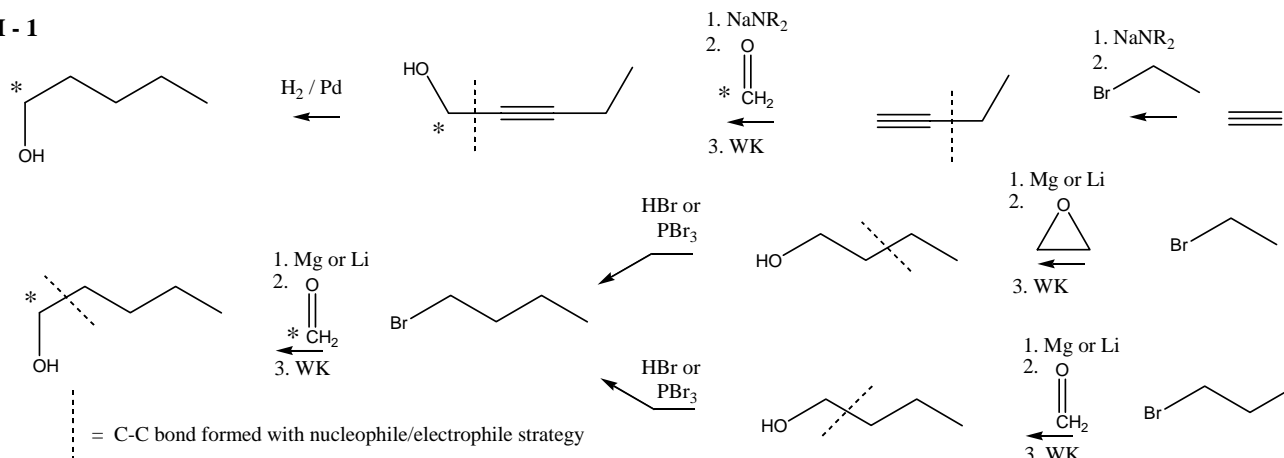


Examples – Target Molecules (TM - #)

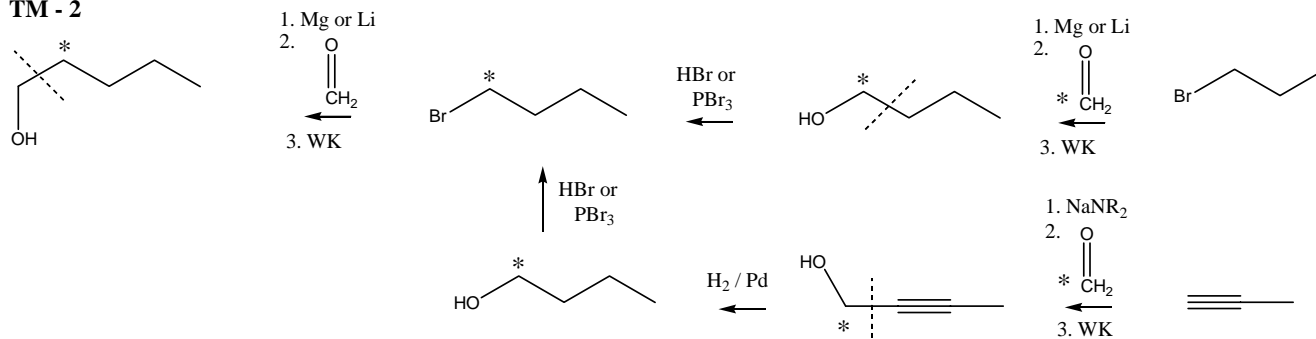
Straight chain C5 alcohols

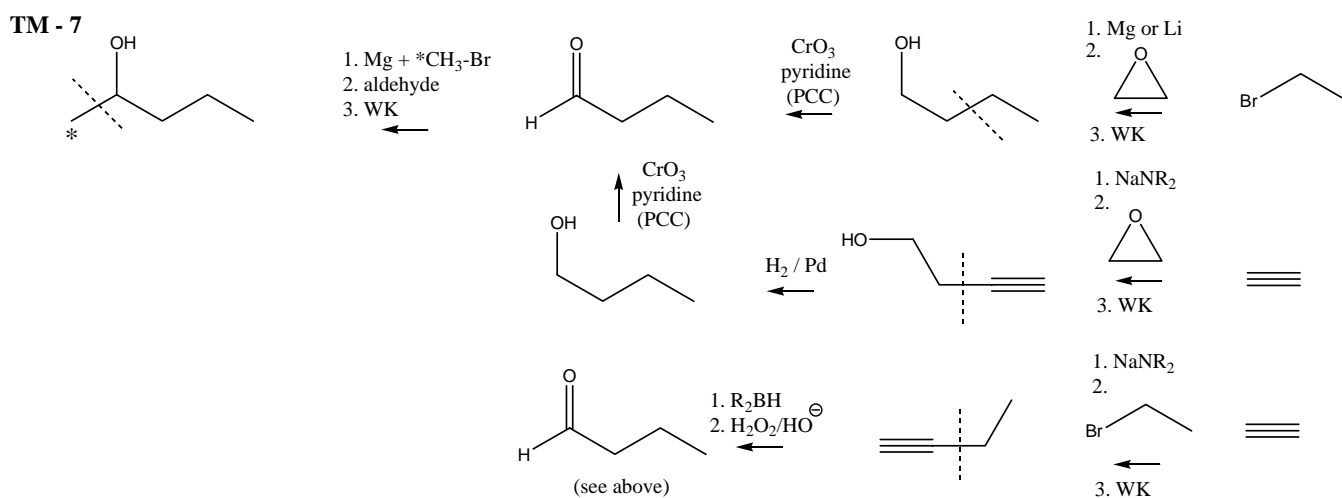
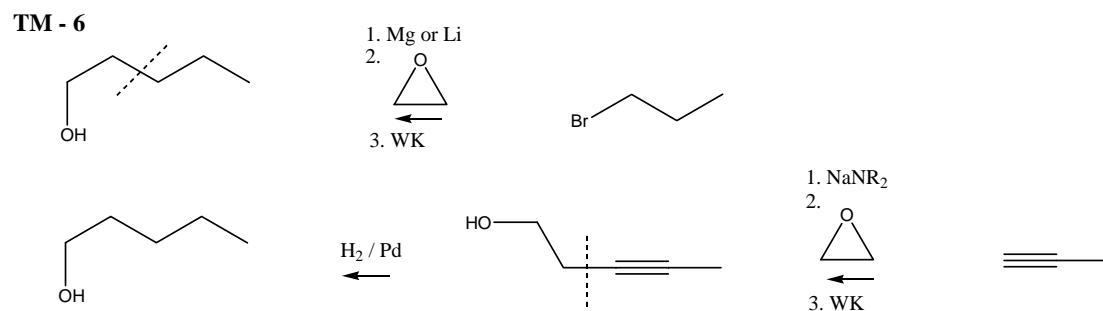
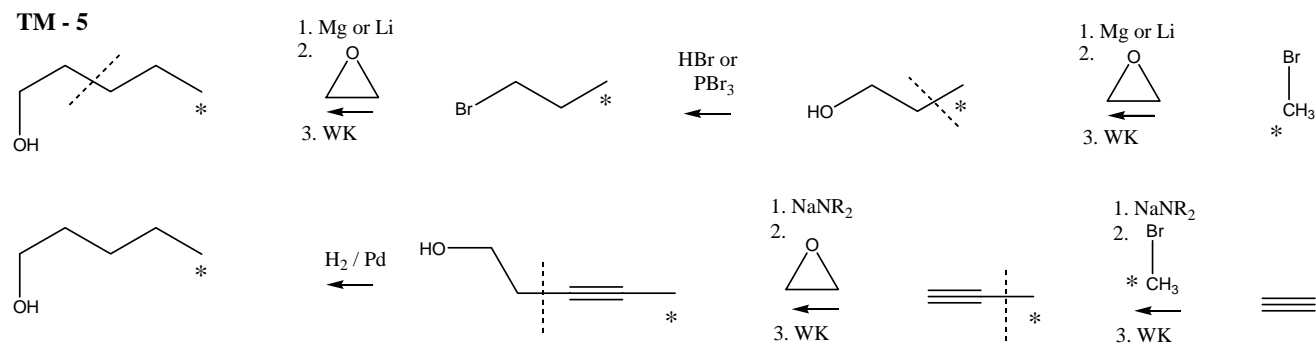
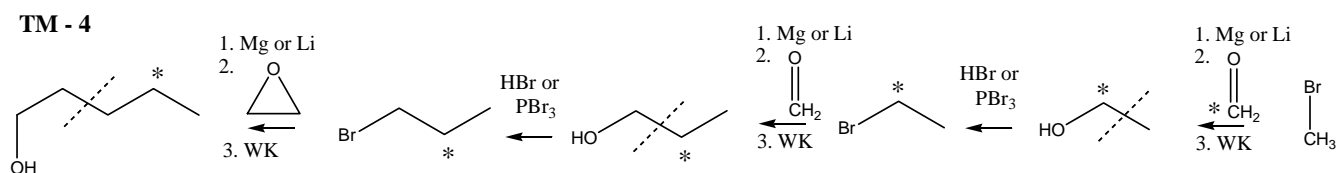
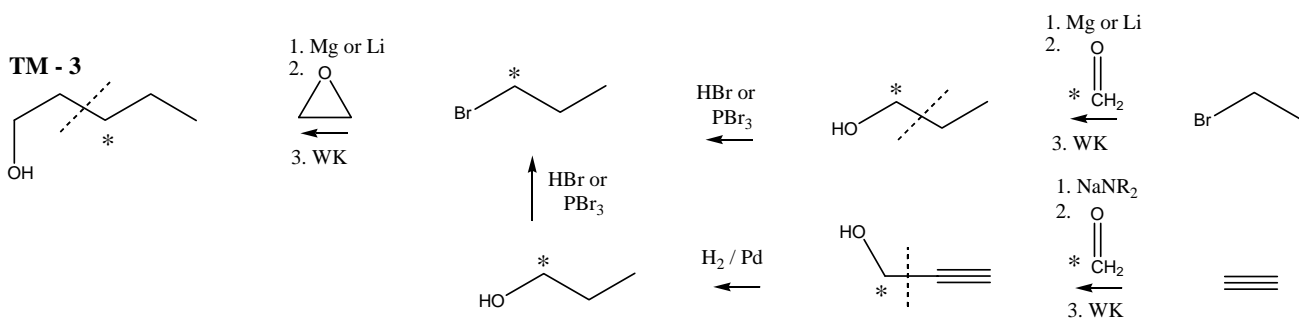


TM - 1

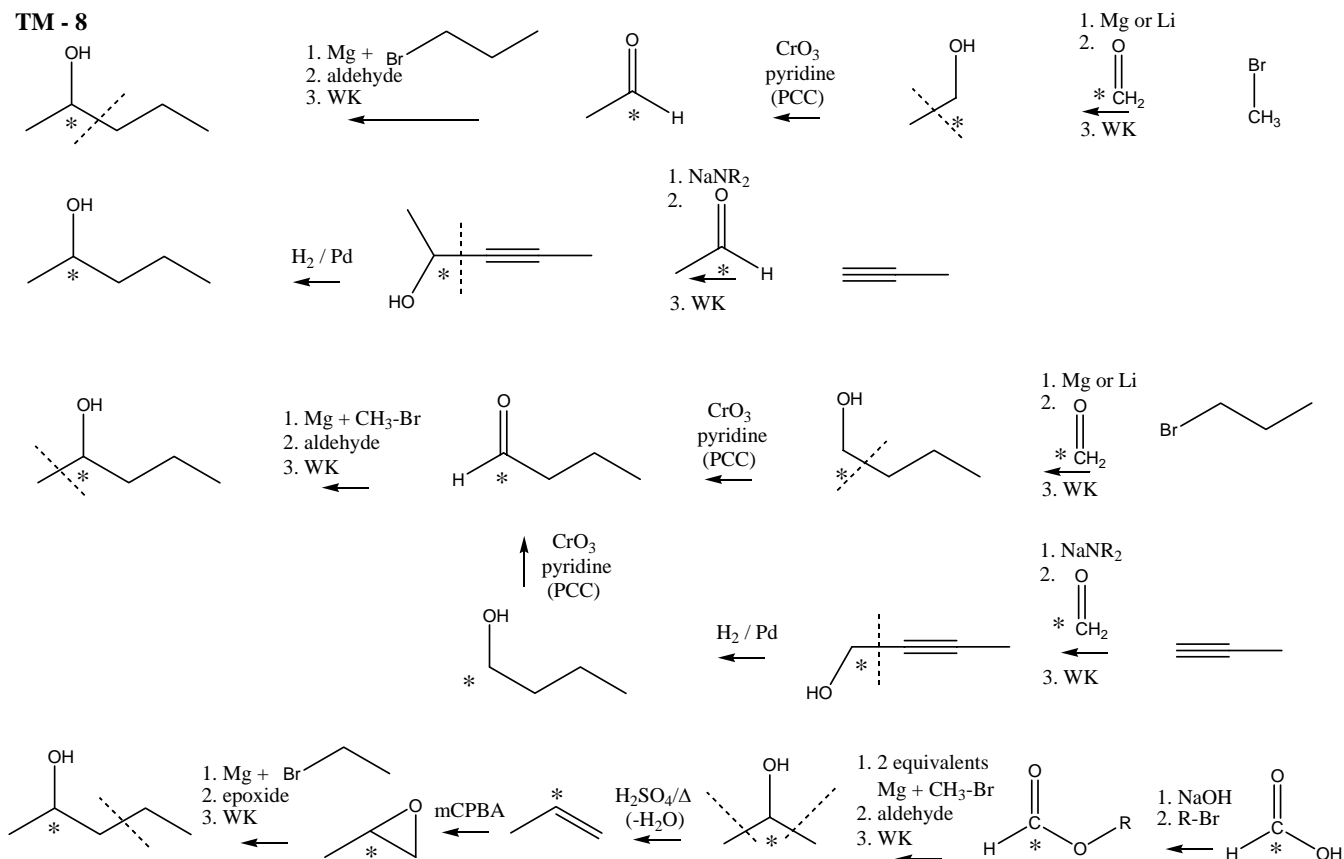


TM - 2

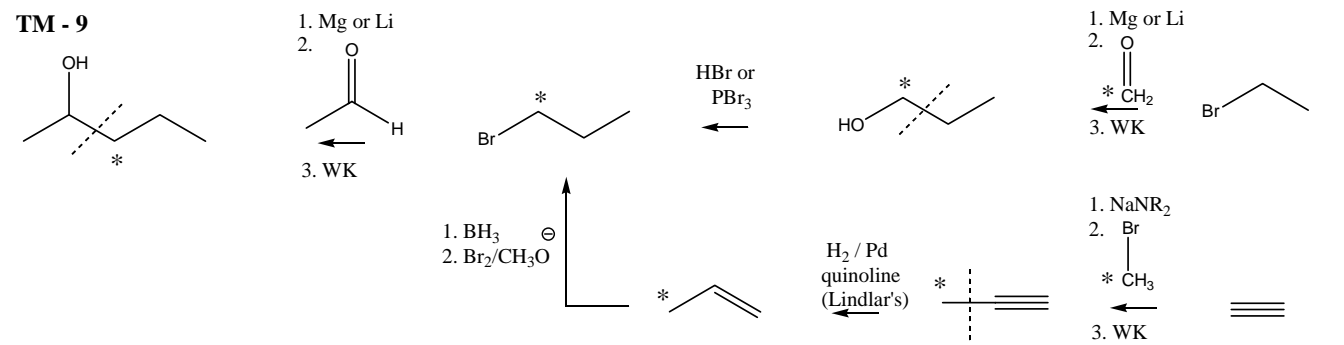




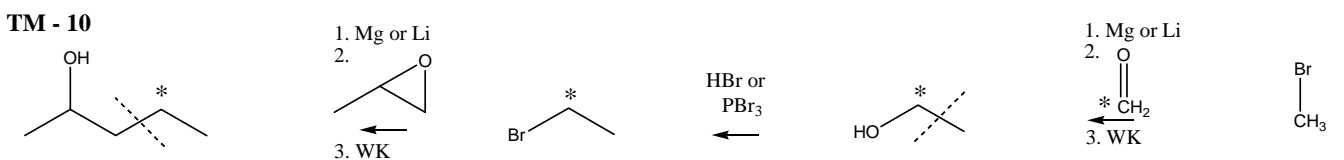
TM - 8



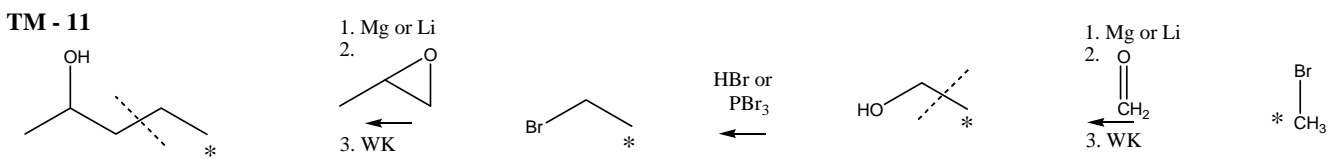
TM - 9



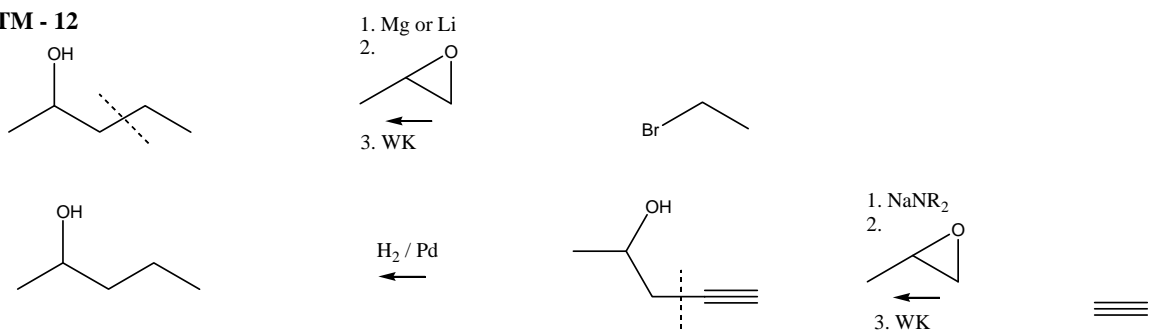
TM - 10



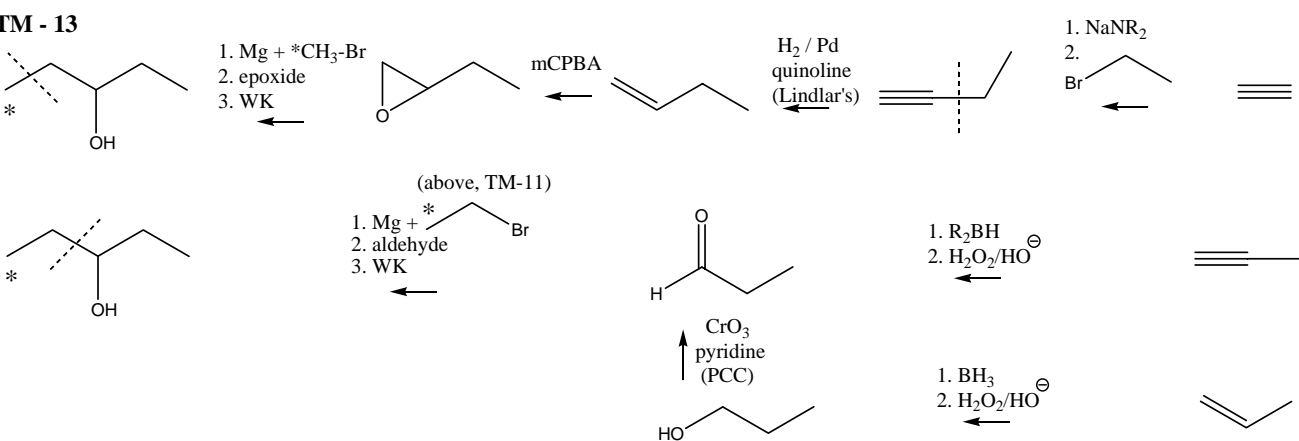
TM - 11



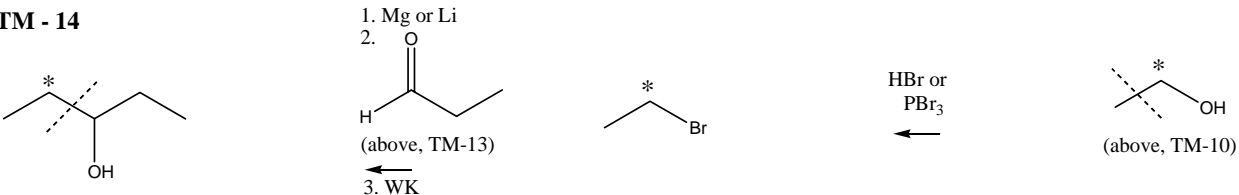
TM - 12



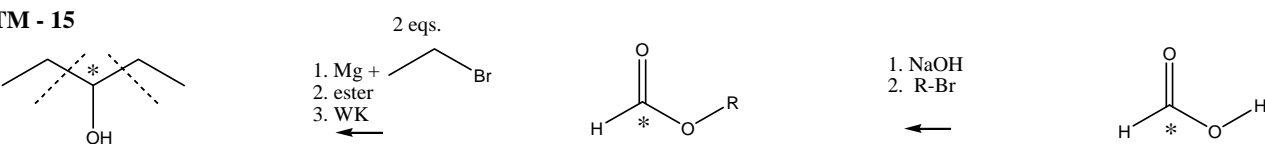
TM - 13



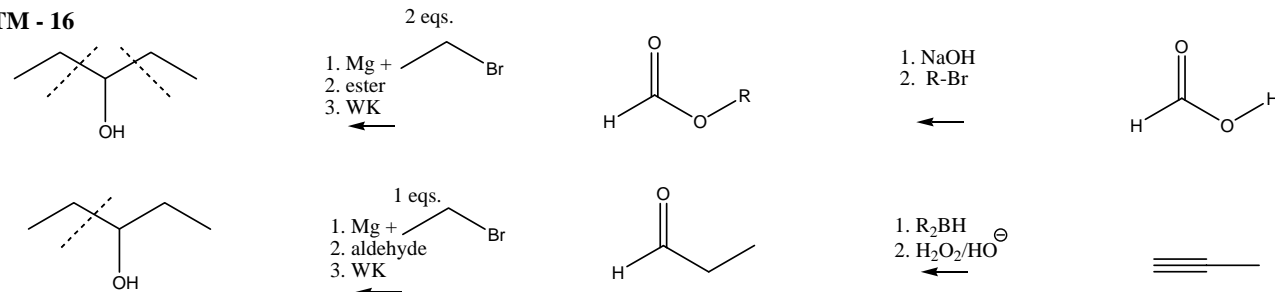
TM - 14



TM - 15

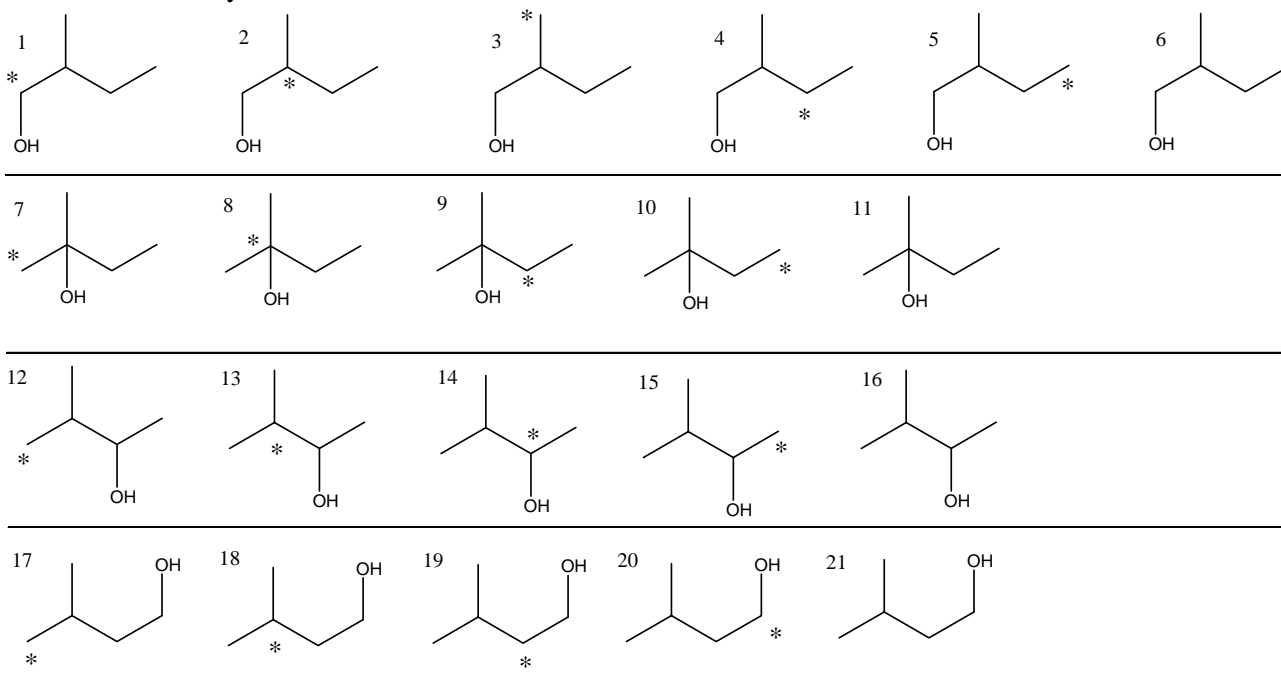


TM - 16

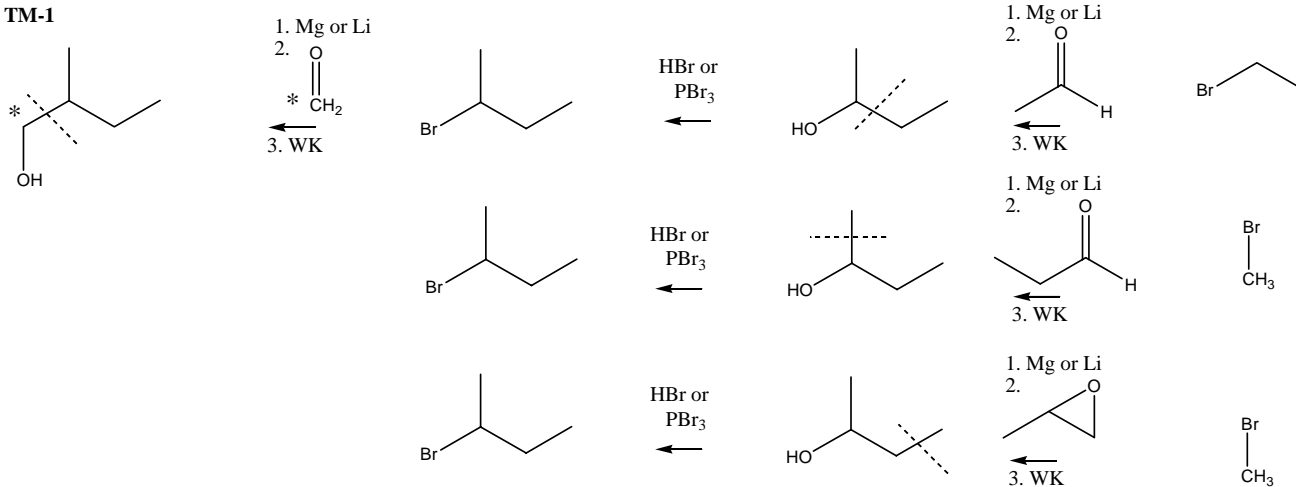


Examples – Target Molecules (TM - #)

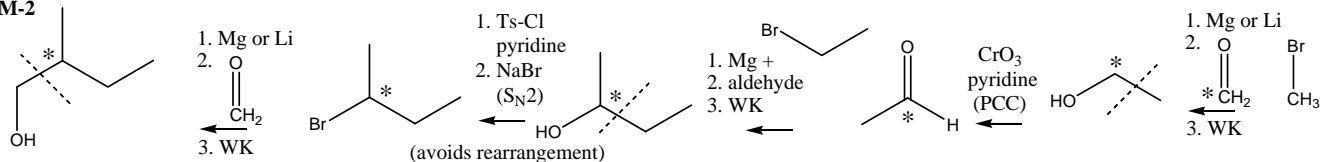
4C chain with methyl branch alcohols



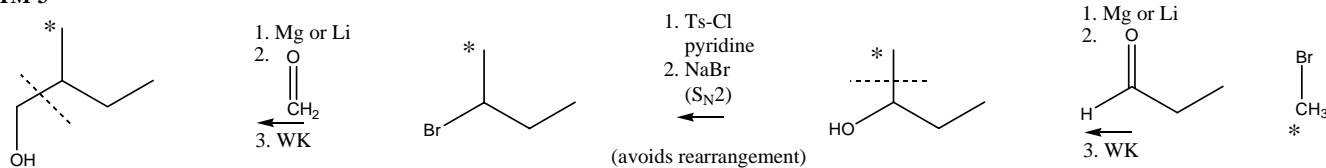
TM-1

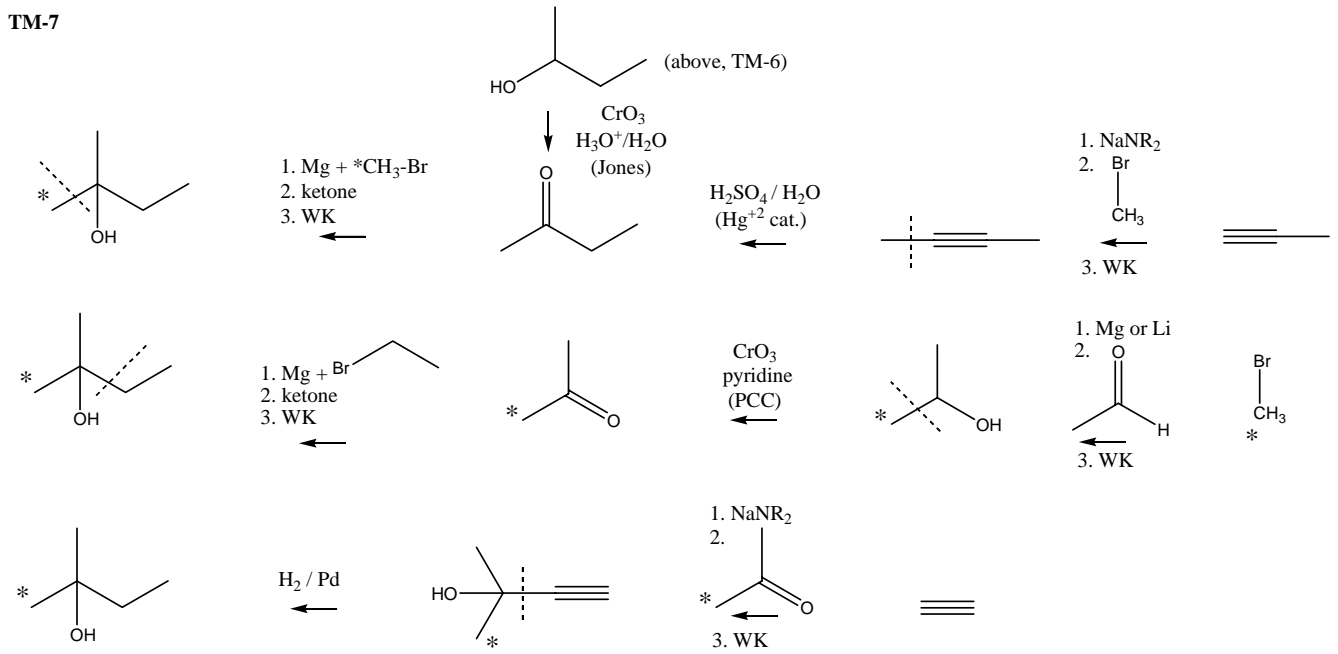
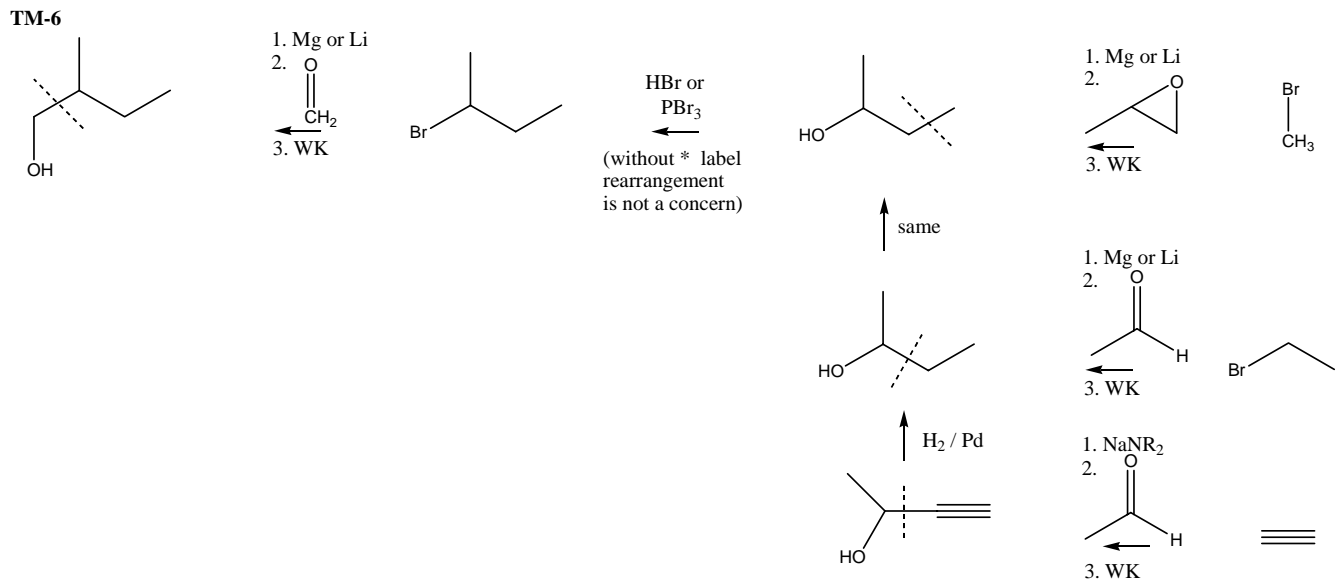
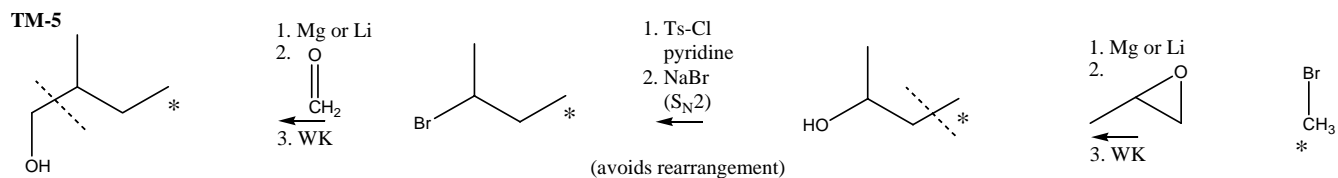
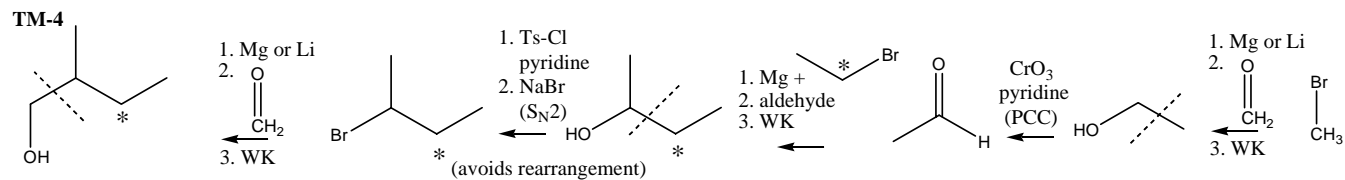


TM-2

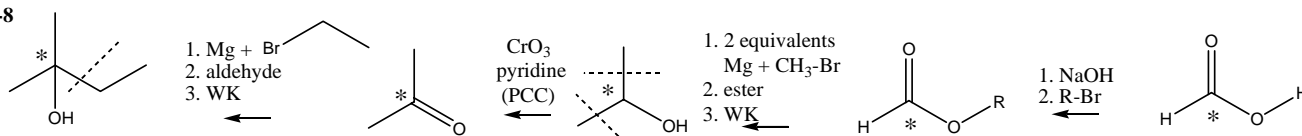


TM-3

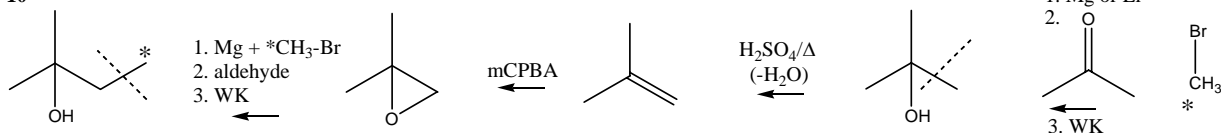




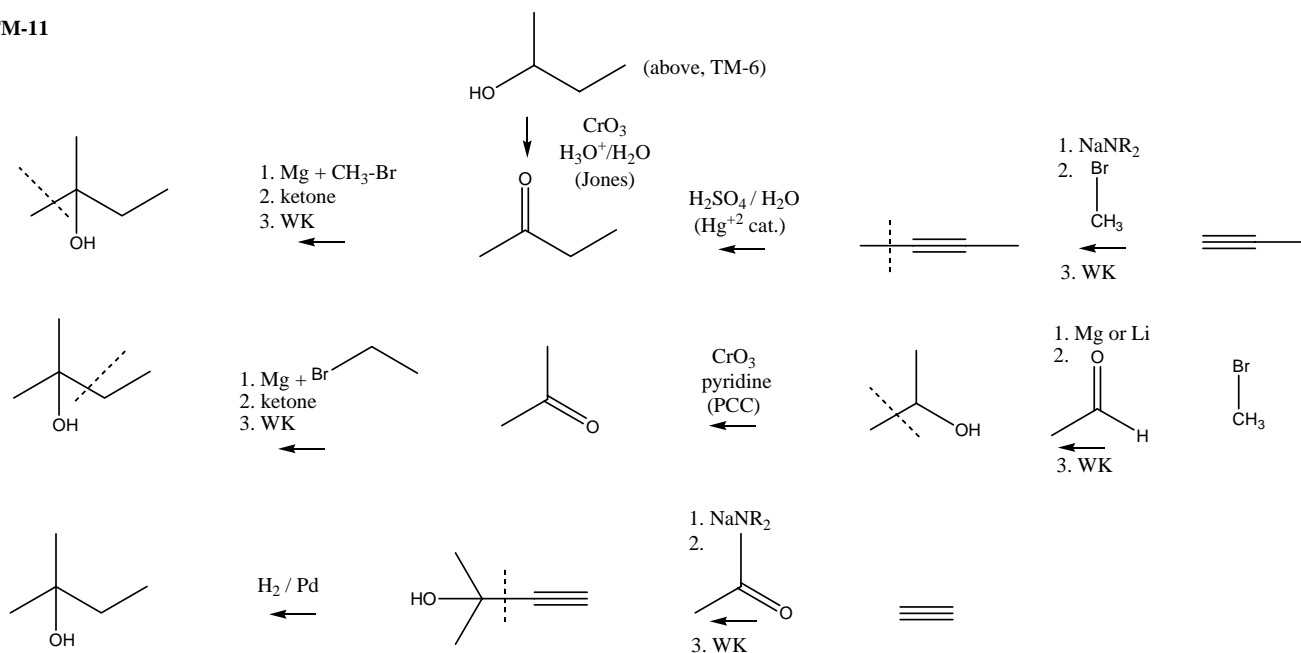
TM-8



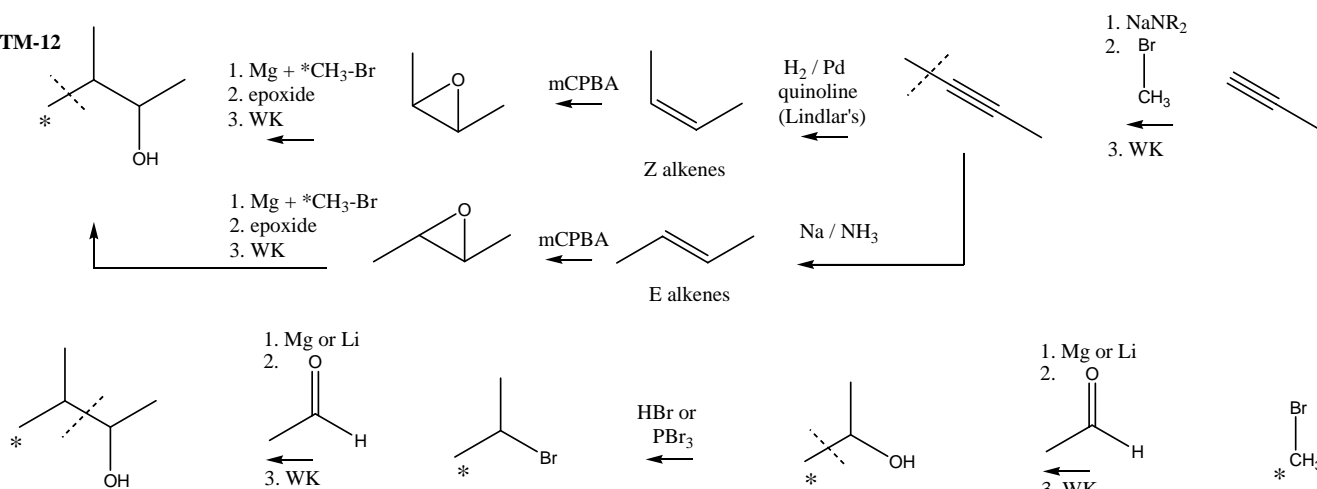
TM-10



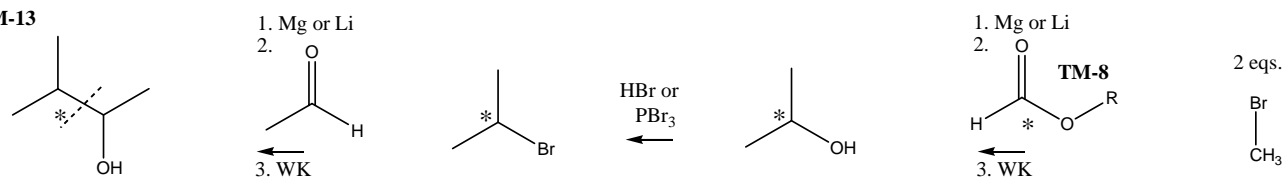
TM-11



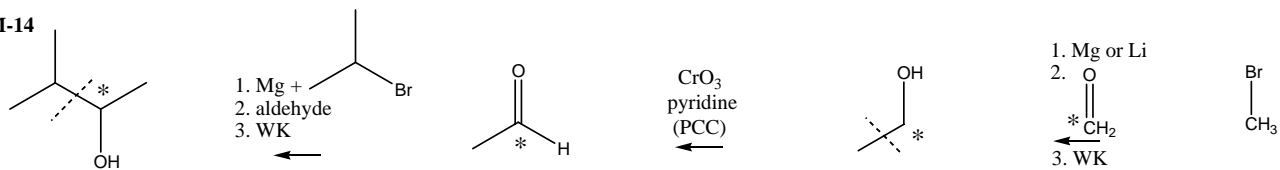
TM-12



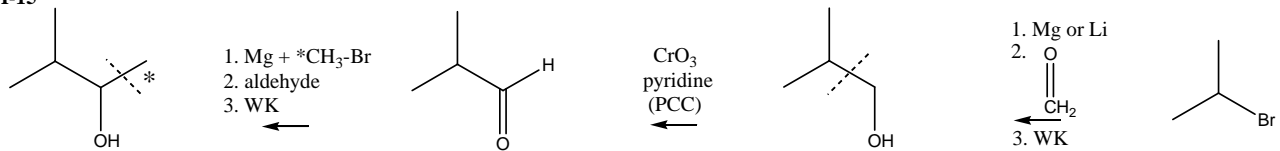
TM-13



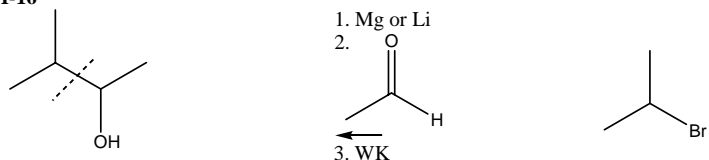
TM-14



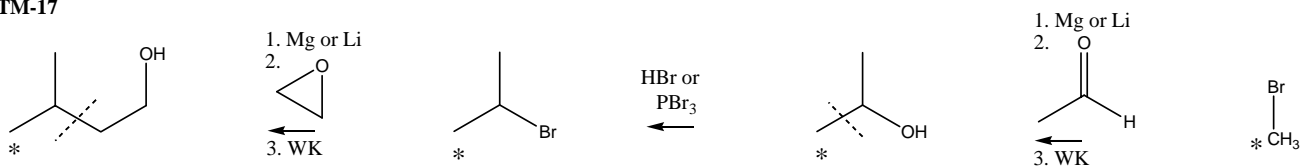
TM-15



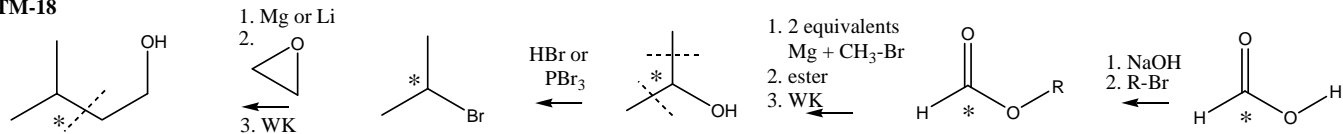
TM-16



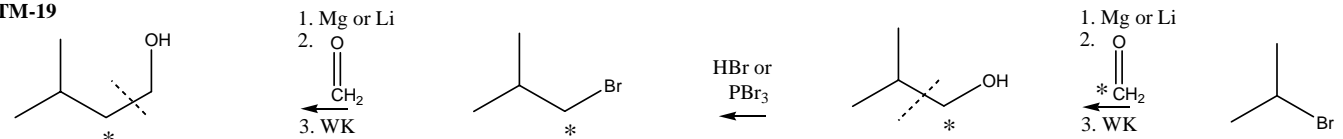
TM-17



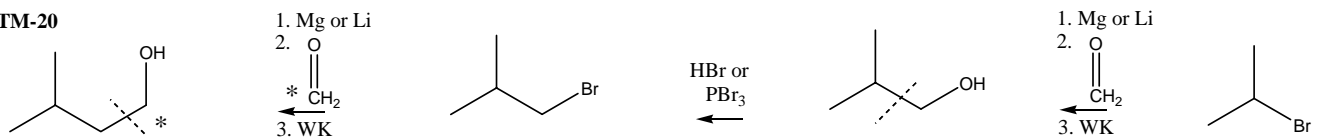
TM-18



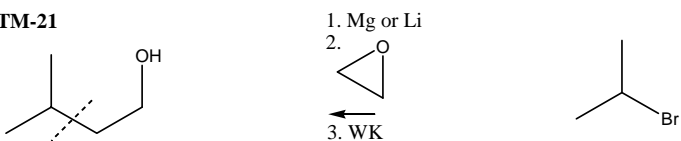
TM-19



TM-20

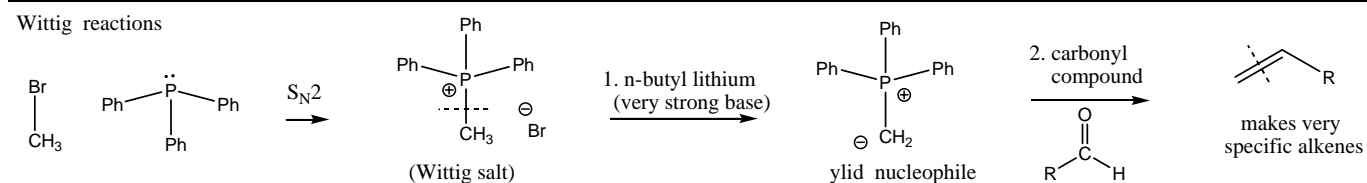
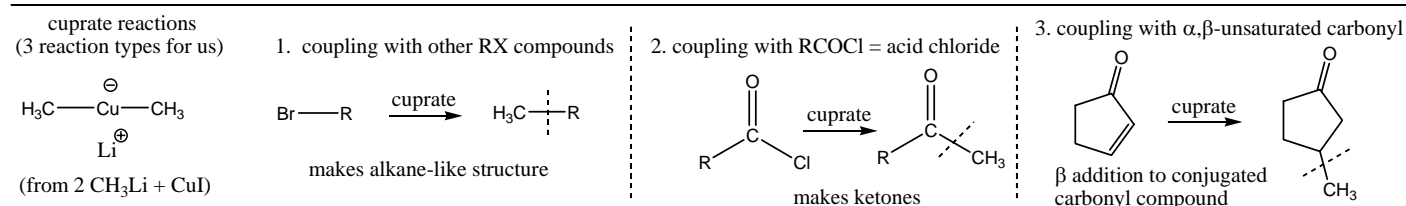
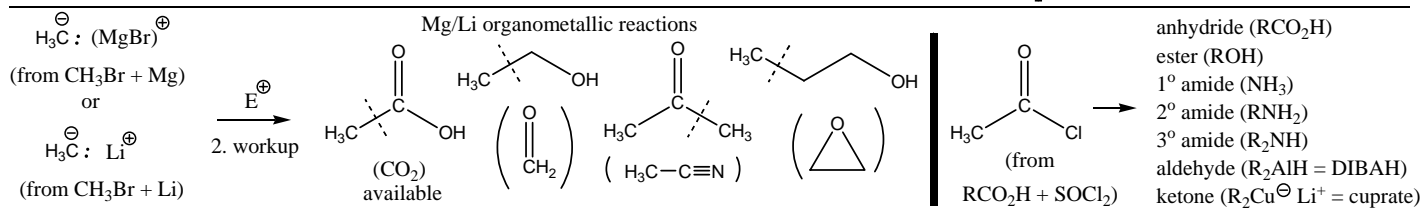
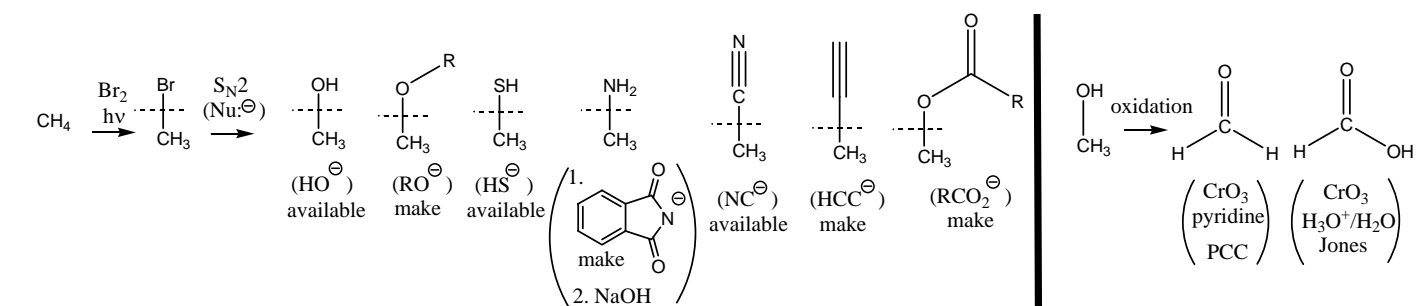


TM-21

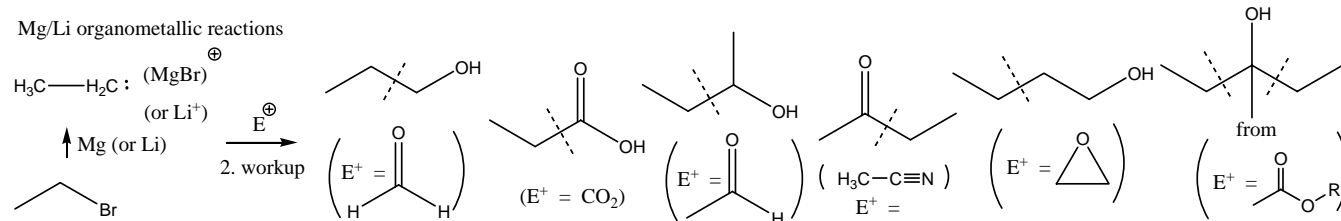
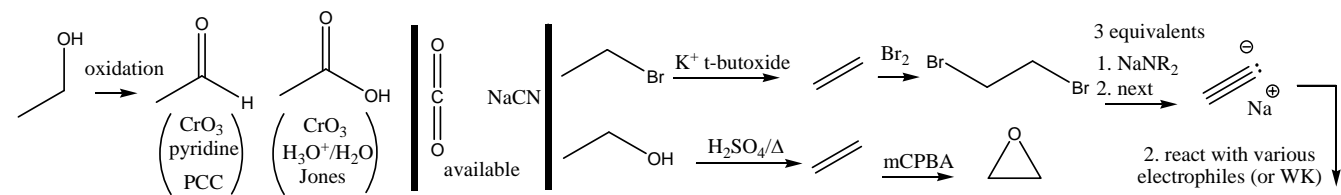
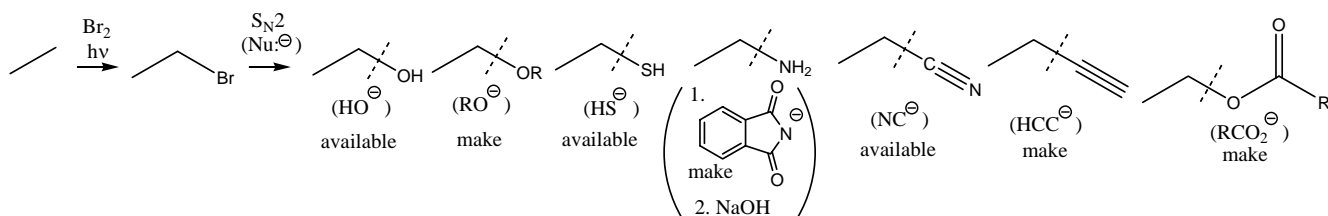


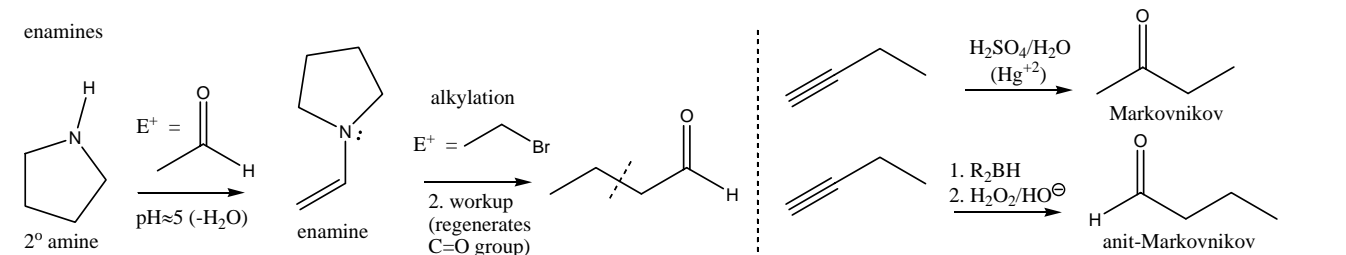
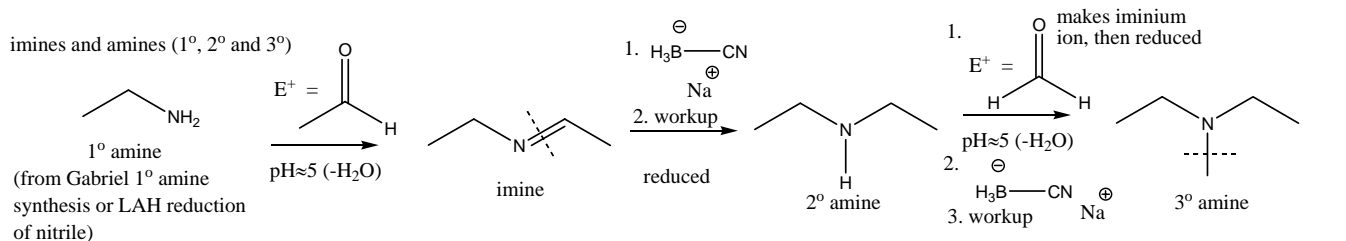
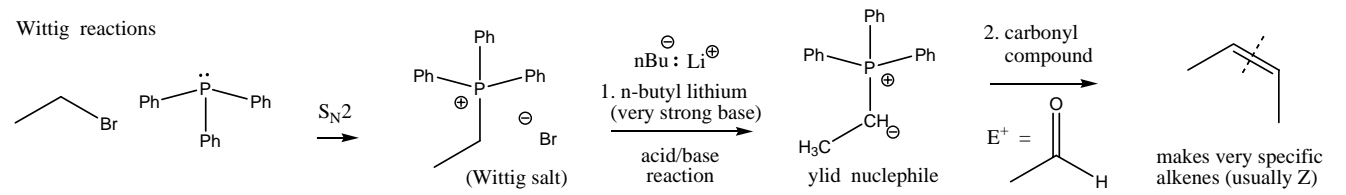
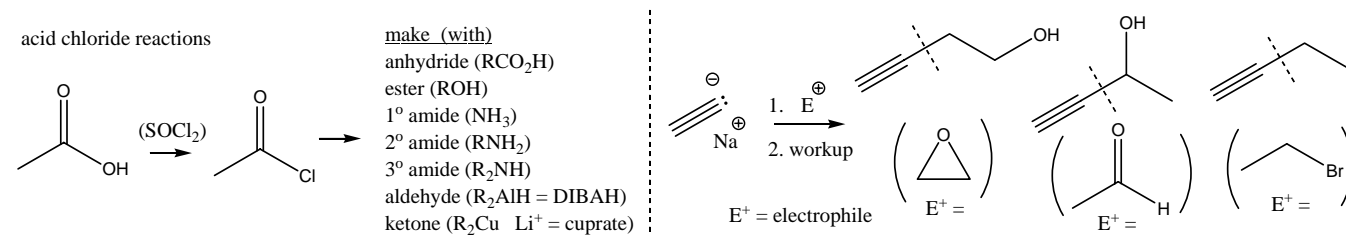
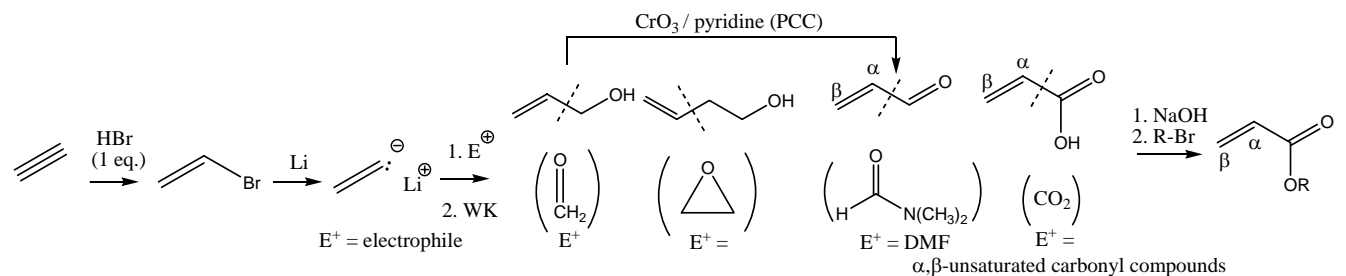
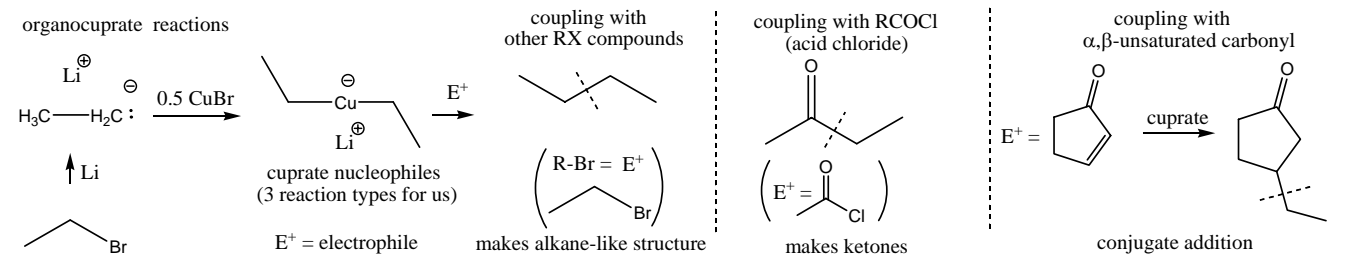
Some important 1C, 2C and 3C building blocks that are used in the C-14 syntheses that follow.

1 Carbon – some examples of reagents that allow synthetic transformations among these structures.

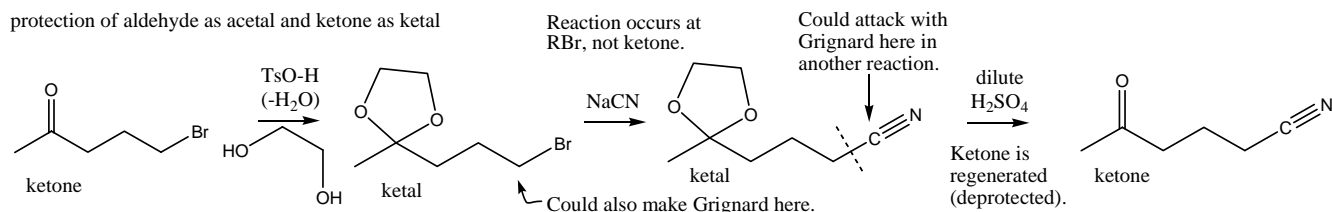


2 Carbons – some examples of reagents that allow synthetic transformations among these structures.

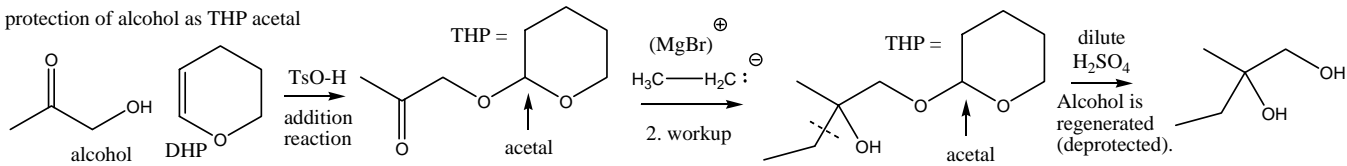




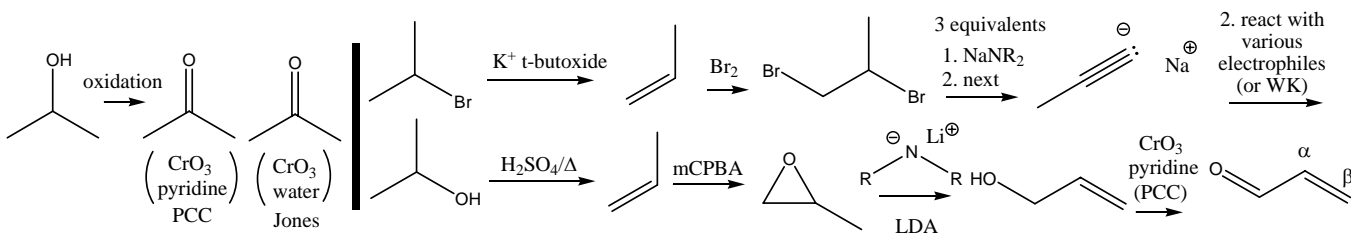
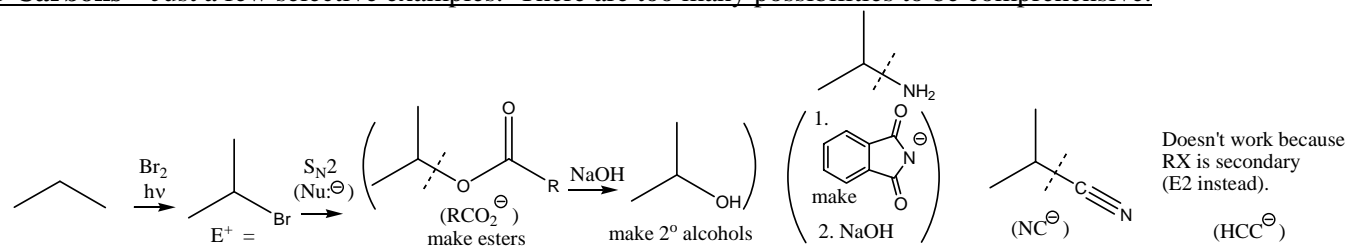
protection of aldehyde as acetal and ketone as ketal



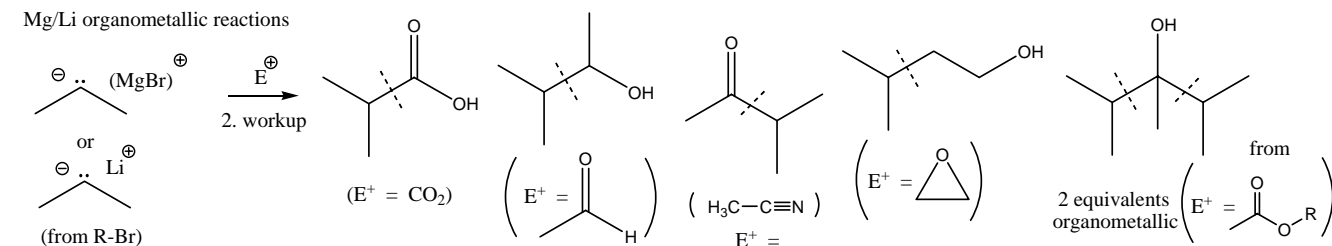
protection of alcohol as THP acetal



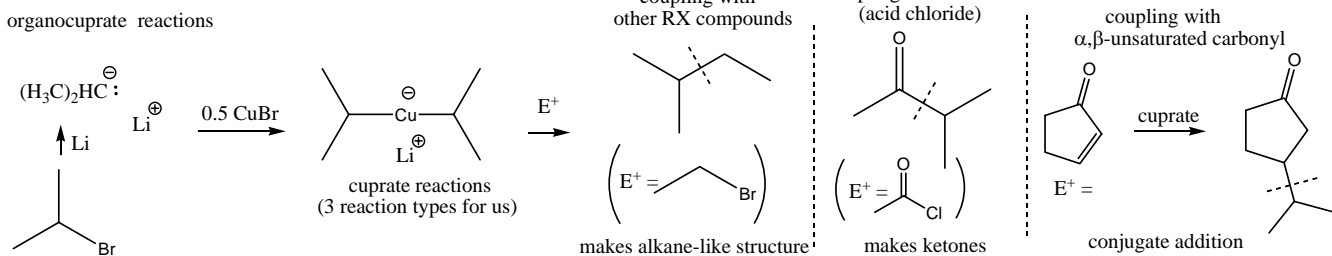
3 Carbons – Just a few selective examples. There are too many possibilities to be comprehensive.

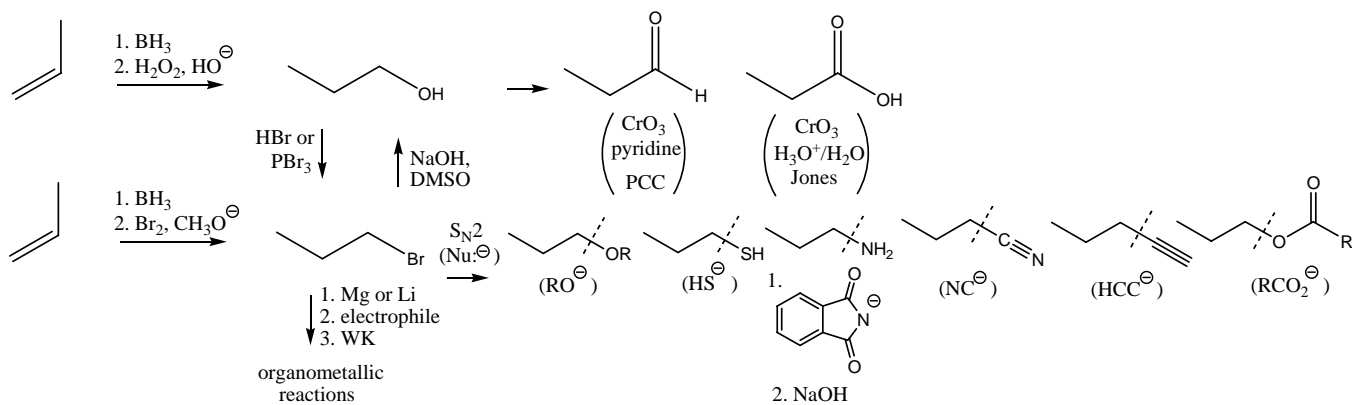


Mg/Li organometallic reactions

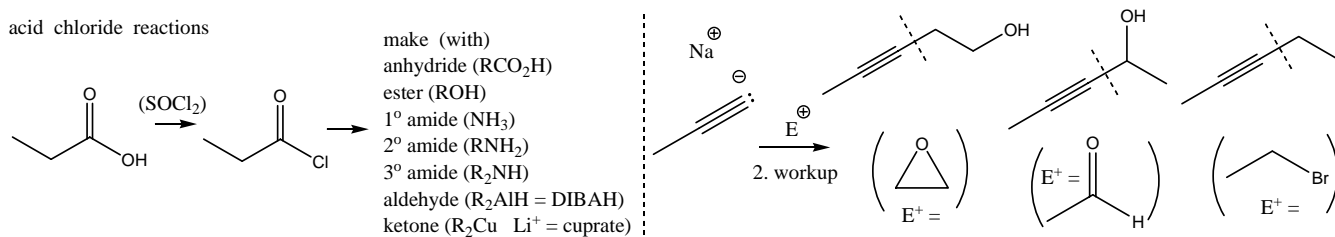


organocuprate reactions

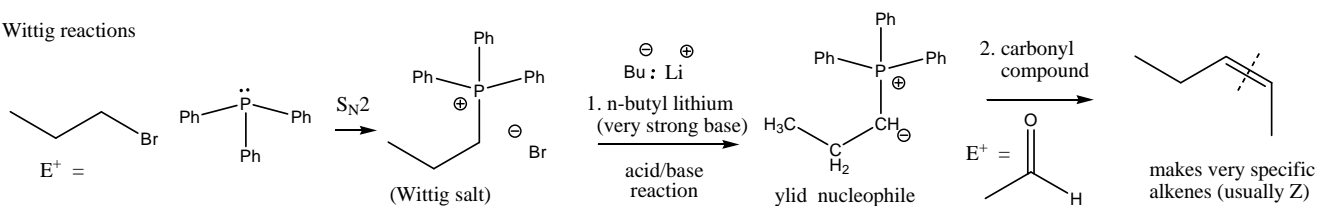




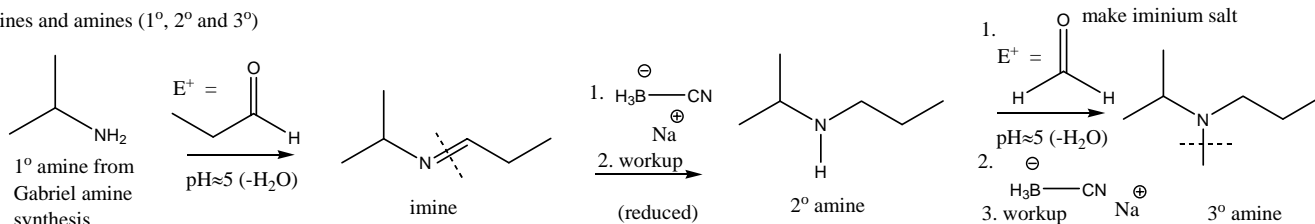
acid chloride reactions



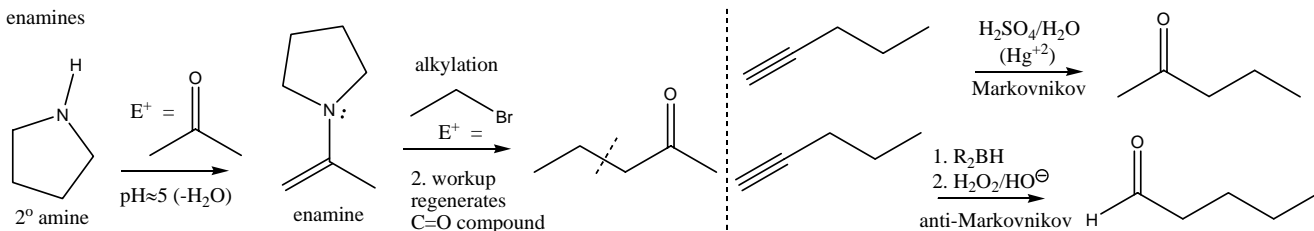
Wittig reactions



imines and amines (1°, 2° and 3°)



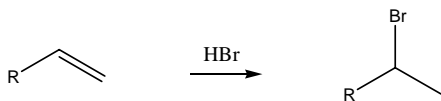
enamines



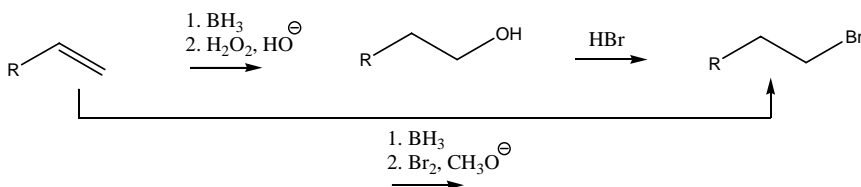
Key strategies in a ¹⁴C synthesis problem?

1. How do you prepare RX compounds? (Use bromides as a consistent, reliable target.)

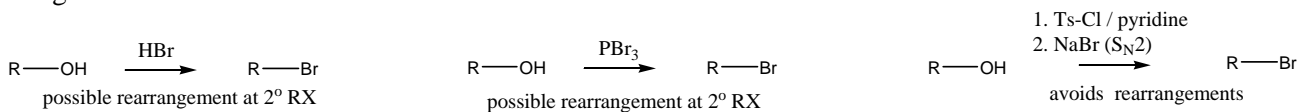
a. from alkenes (Markovnikov reaction)



b. from alkenes (anti-Markovnikov reaction)



c. from alcohols (HBr or PBr₃), S_N2 at 1° ROH and S_N1 at 2°, 3° ROH, use 1. make tosylate, 2. NaBr to avoid rearrangement



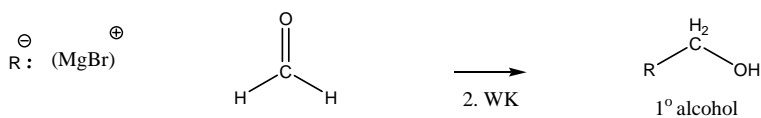
2. Generation of an organometallic carbanion nucleophile from an RX compound

a. organomagnesium reagents (Grignard reactions) and organolithium reagents (mostly interchangeable in our course).

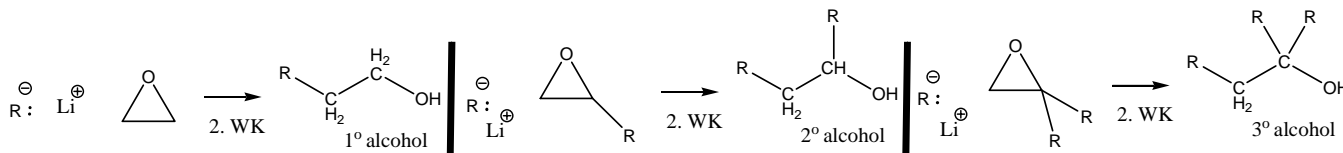


3. Organometallic nucleophiles + organic electrophiles (e- pair acceptors), WK = work up = acidic neutralization

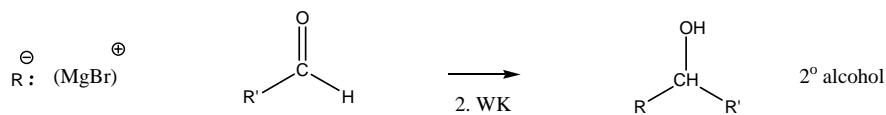
a. formaldehyde (methanal) = 1C extension of R:⁻ with 1° alcohol functionality at the end



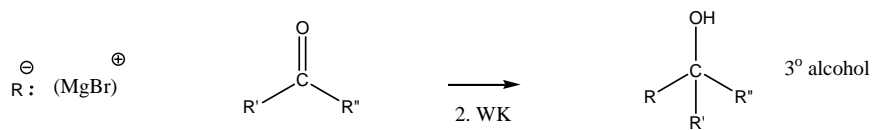
b. ethylene oxide (epoxides) = 2C extension of R:⁻ with alcohol functionality



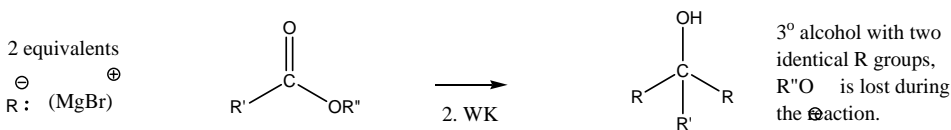
c. general aldehydes = extension of R:⁻ with 2° alcohol functionality



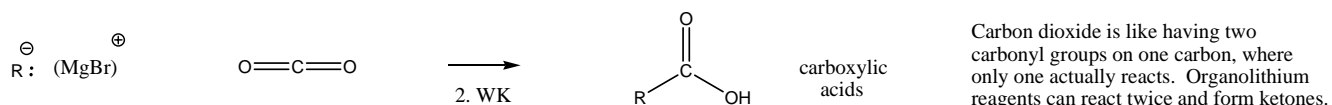
d. general ketone = extension of R:⁻ with tertiary alcohol functionality



e. general ester = extension of R:⁻ with tertiary alcohol functionality (at least two identical R' groups)

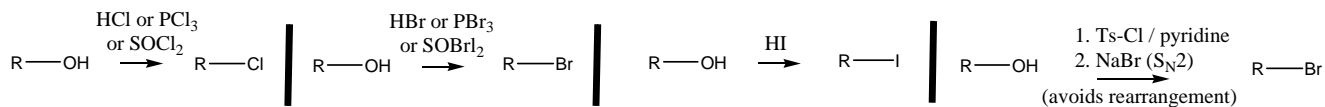


f. carbon dioxide = extension of R:⁻ with carboxylic acid functionality (can be converted into ester with RX)



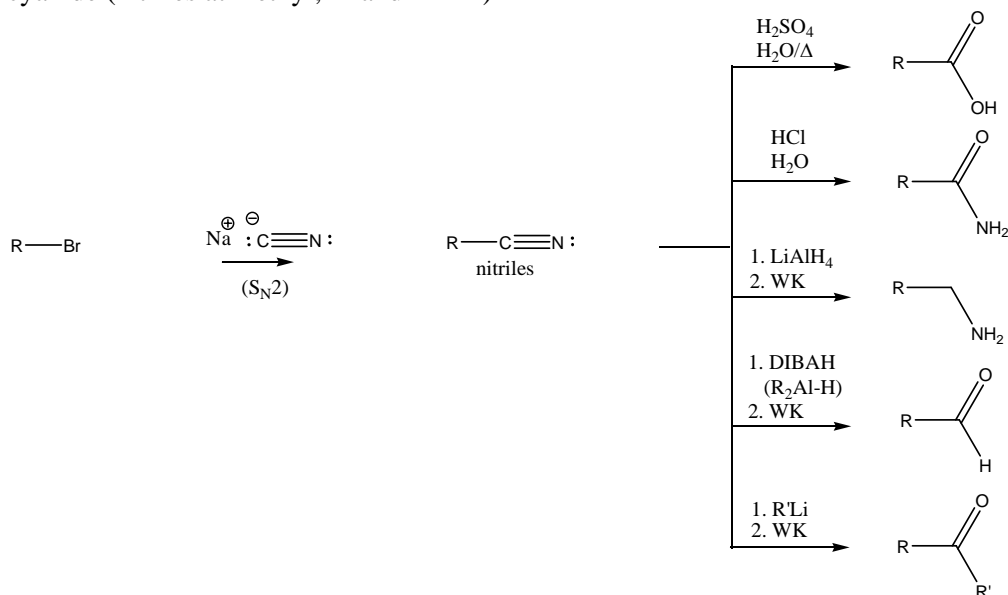
4. Remember additional reactions of alcohols, RX compounds, alkenes, alkynes, carbonyls (aldehydes, ketones, esters, acids and others will accumulate).

a. alcohols can be made into RX compounds (above, chlorides, bromides, iodides, tosylates). Reactions occur by S_N2 at methyl and primary and S_N1 at secondary and tertiary (with possibility of rearrangement) in our course.

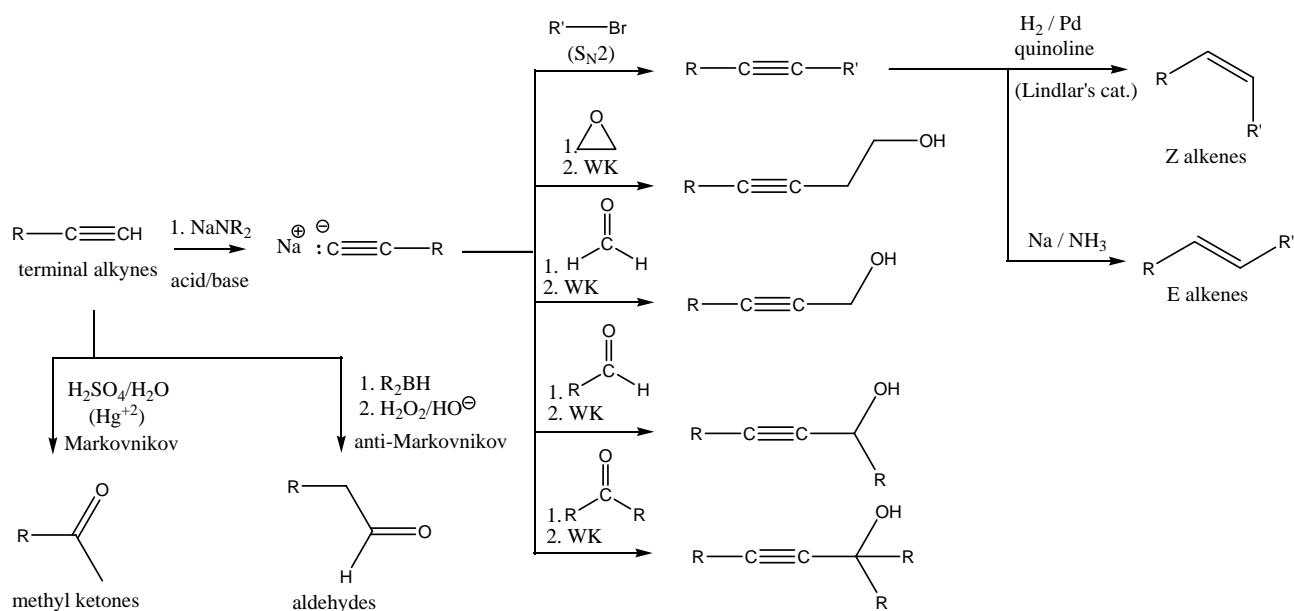


b. RX compounds can react with nucleophiles in S_N2 (methyl, 1° and 2°) and S_N1 (2° and 3°) reactions

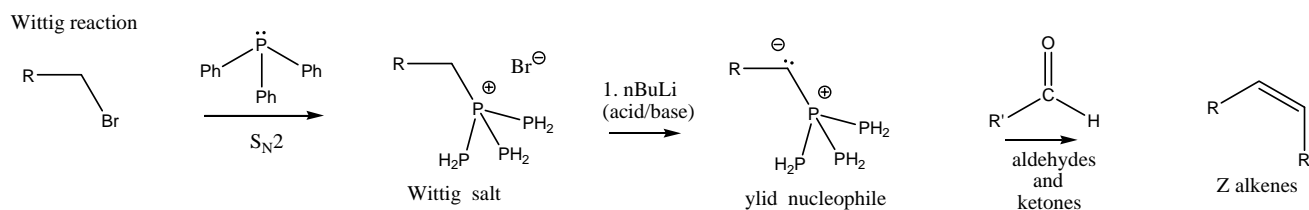
i. cyanide (nitriles at methyl, 1° and 2° RX)



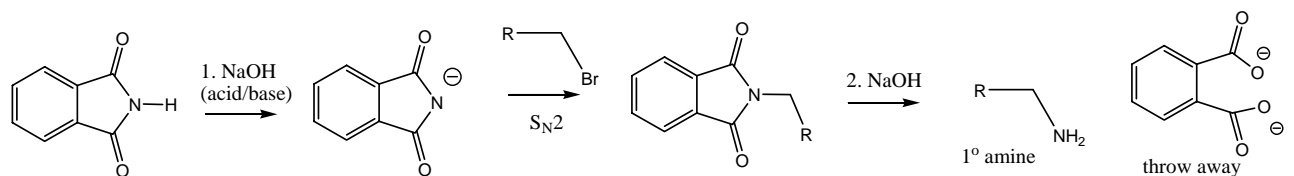
ii. terminal acetylides (react at methyl and 1° RX, epoxides, ketones and aldehydes), and can be converted into aldehydes, ketones, alkanes, and E/Z-alkenes.



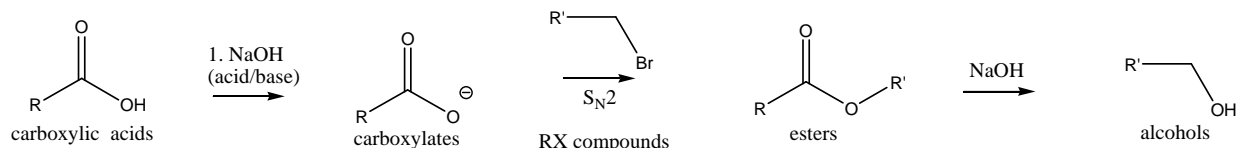
iii. triphenylphosphine (makes phosphonium salts, used in Wittig reactions with aldehydes/ketones to make alkenes)



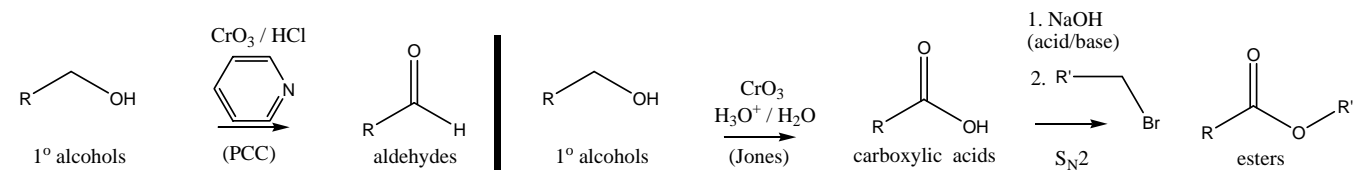
iv. phthalimide anion (make 1° amines after hydrolysis with aqueous hydroxide, or hydrazine, H₂NNH₂)



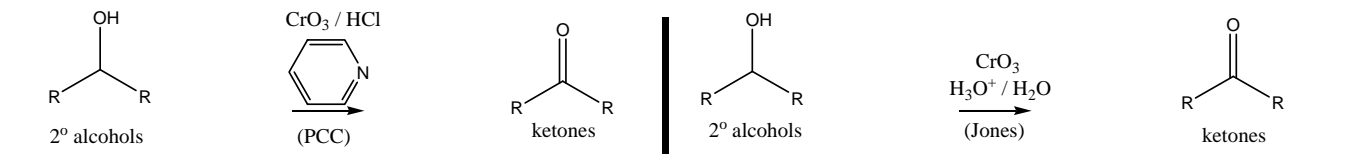
v. esters (acetates), then hydrolyze to form alcohols (most useful at 2° RX), additional chemistry is possible.



c. primary alcohols can be oxidized to aldehydes or carboxylic acids (...which can be made into esters, see above)



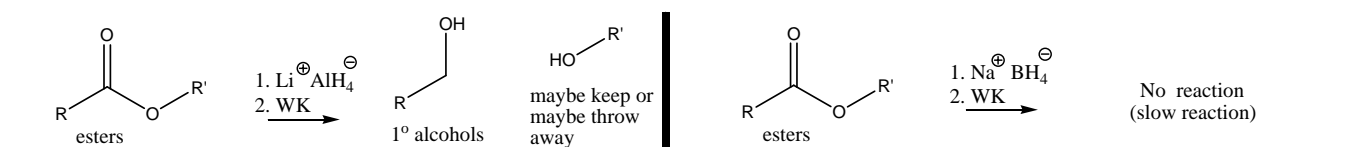
d. secondary alcohols can be oxidized to ketones with either of our “Cr⁺⁶” oxidizing reagents



e. aldehydes/ketones reduced to alcohols (1° and 2°) by LiAlH₄ and NaBH₄ after acid workup



f. esters and acids are only reduced by LiAlH₄ (not NaBH₄), to primary alcohols after acid workup

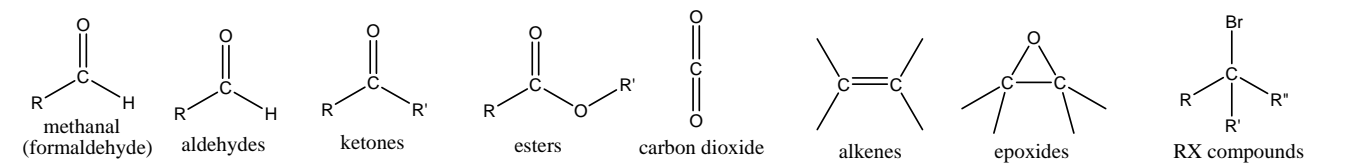


Obviously not every reaction cannot be covered in this short handout, but this hopefully gives you a sample of reactions for approaching these kinds of problems.

Points to ponder when considering a retrosynthetic step.

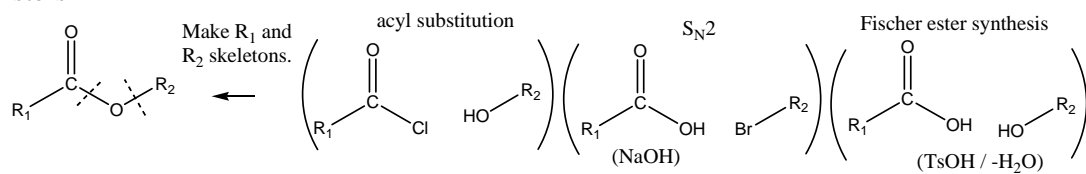
1. Which carbon could have been a carbonyl (C=O) functional group? (methanal, general aldehyde, ketone, ester, carbon dioxide)? Or, some other functional group (alkene, RX compound, epoxide)?
2. To start from some “functional group”, what features (and skeletal parts) have to be retained from the target structure, or regenerated in the starting structure?
3. What features can be taken away from the target structure (that were originally in the starting structure, but are now lost)?
4. Draw a possible starting structure (or structures).
5. What portion has to be added and how can we do that (usually nucleophile/electrophile or functional group interconversion)
6. Is protection required to keep some part of the starting structure from reacting (often more advanced than we consider)?

Starting possibilities to produce alcohol OH or carboxylic acid OH (only CO₂).

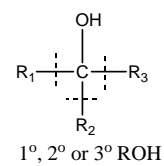


Combination Problems – Two (or more) ¹⁴C structures in one target molecule.

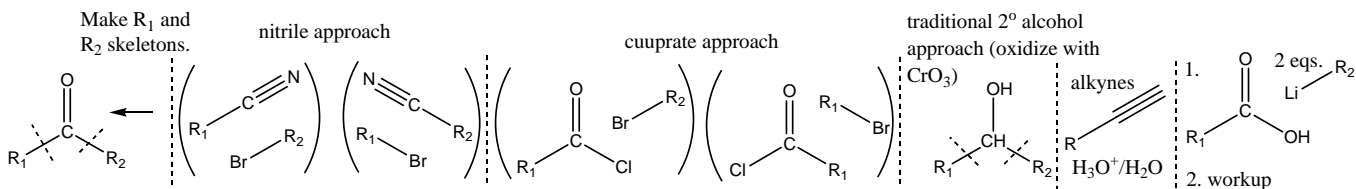
Esters



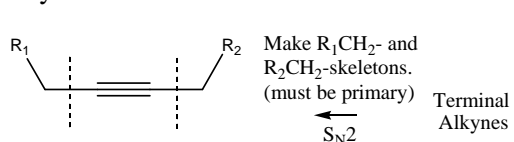
Alcohols



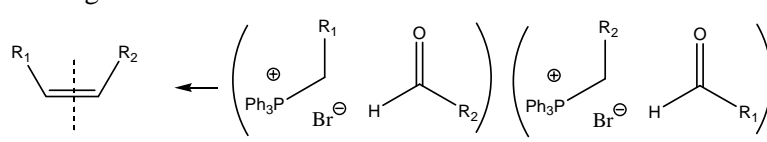
Ketones



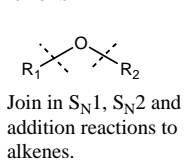
Alkynes



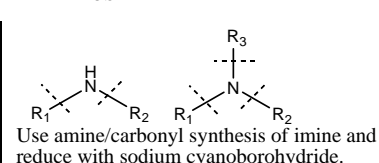
Wittig Reactions



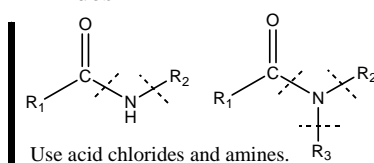
Ethers



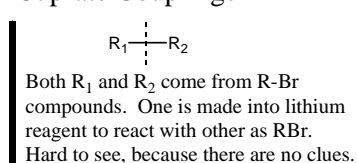
Amines



Amides

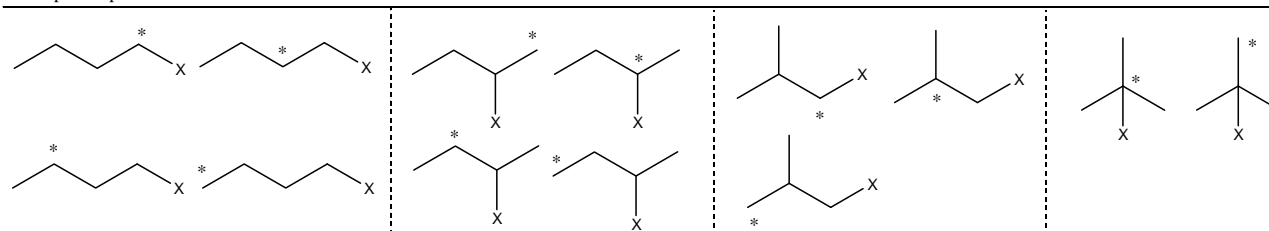


Cuprate Couplings

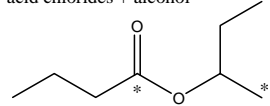


Generic examples of 4C patterns with one C-14 label and specific patterns using above functional groups

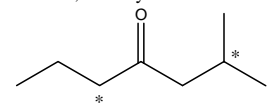
Example 4C patterns with C-14 labels



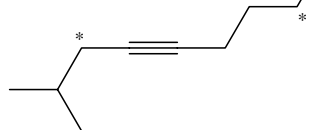
Esters - S_N2, Fischer syn, acid chlorides + alcohol



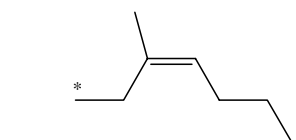
Ketones - from cuprates, nitriles, alcohols, carboxylic acids



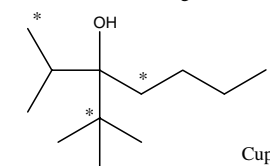
Alkynes - Me, 1° RX



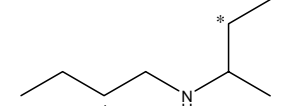
Alkenes (Wittig)



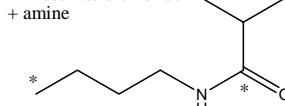
Alcohols - C=O + organometallic



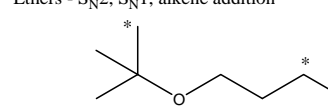
Amines - Gabriel, reductive amination



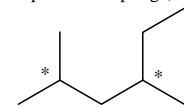
Amides - acid chloride + amine



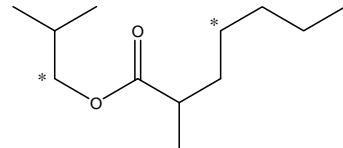
Ethers - S_N2, S_N1, alkene addition



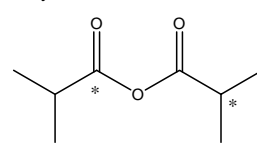
Cuprates - coupling (2 x RX)



Cuprates - conjugate addition



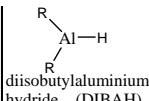
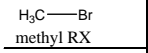
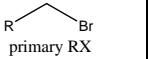
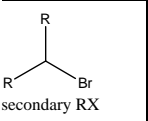
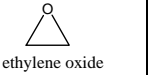
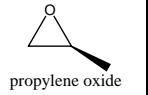

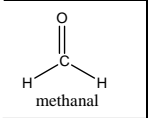
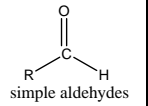
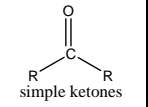
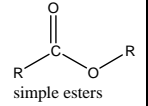
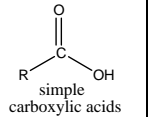
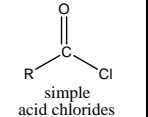
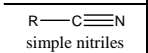
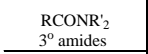
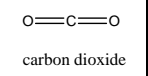
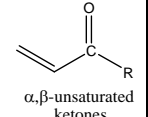
Anhydrides - use acid chloride



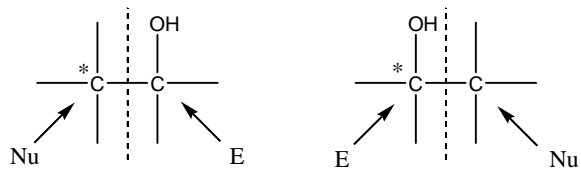
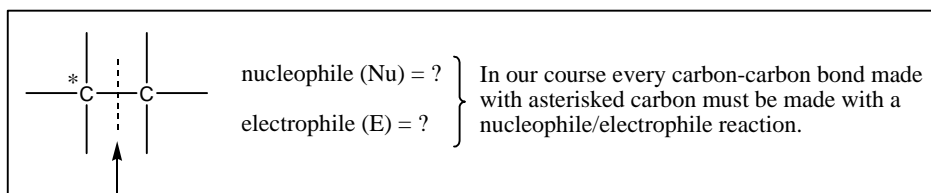
Construct two (or more) 4 carbon patterns, then join them together using one of the above functional groups.

Products from reactions of carbon nucleophiles and carbon electrophiles used in the ¹⁴C Game and our course:

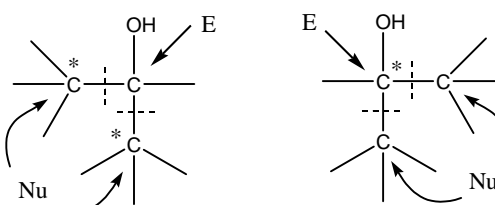
Carbon and hydrogen nucleophiles

Carbon electrophiles	R [⊖] : Li [⊕] organolithium reagents	R [⊖] : (MgBr) [⊕] organolithium reagents	RCC [⊖] : Na [⊕] acetylides	Na [⊕] : CN [⊖] : cyanide	R ₂ Cu [⊖] Li [⊕] cuprates	H ₂ C=C(Ph) ₂ ylid Wittig reagents	Li [⊕] AlH ₄ [⊖] (LAH)	Na [⊕] BH ₄ [⊖]	 diisobutylaluminum hydride (DIBALH)
 methyl RX	not useful	not useful	alkynes	nitriles	2 RX coupling reaction	not useful	alkyls	alkyls	not useful
 primary RX	not useful	not useful	alkynes	nitriles	2 RX coupling reaction	not useful	alkyls	alkyls	not useful
 secondary RX	not useful	not useful	E2	nitriles	2 RX coupling reaction	not useful	alkyls	alkyls	not useful
 ethylene oxide	1° ROH	1° ROH	1° ROH alkynes	1° ROH nitriles	1° ROH	not useful	1° ROH	1° ROH	not useful
 propylene oxide	2° ROH	2° ROH	2° ROH alkynes	2° ROH nitriles	2° ROH	not useful	2° ROH	2° ROH	not useful
 isobutylene oxide	3° ROH	3° ROH	3° ROH alkynes	3° ROH nitriles	3° ROH	not useful	3° ROH	3° ROH	not useful
 methanal	1° ROH	1° ROH	1° ROH alkynes	cyanohydrin	not used in our course	specific alkenes	methanol	methanol	not useful
 simple aldehydes	2° ROH	2° ROH	2° ROH alkynes	cyanohydrin	not useful	specific alkenes	1° ROH	1° ROH	not useful
 simple ketones	3° ROH	3° ROH	3° ROH alkynes	cyanohydrin unless sterically hindered	not useful	specific alkenes	2° ROH	2° ROH	not useful
 simple esters	3° ROH (Nu: twice)	3° ROH (Nu: twice)	not used in our course	not useful	not useful	not useful	1° ROH	not useful	aldehydes
 simple carboxylic acids	ketones use 2 equivalents (B: once Nu: once)	acid/base no net rxn	acid/base no net rxn	acid/base no net rxn HCN = danger	acid/base no net rxn	not useful	acid/base no net rxn	acid/base no net rxn	acid/base no net rxn
 simple acid chlorides	3° ROH (Nu: twice)	3° ROH (Nu: twice)	not useful	not useful	ketones	not useful	1° ROH	1° ROH	aldehydes
 simple nitriles	ketones	ketones	not useful	not useful	not useful	not useful	1° amines (also amines from amides)	not useful	aldehydes (also aldehydes from 3° amides)
 3° amides	ketones	ketones	not useful	not useful	not useful	not useful	not useful	not useful	not useful
 carbon dioxide	carboxylic acids	carboxylic acids	carboxylic acids	not useful	not useful	not useful	not useful	not useful	not useful
 α,β -unsaturated ketones	3° ROH	3° ROH	not useful	conjugate addition	conjugate addition	not useful	alcohols	alcohols	not useful

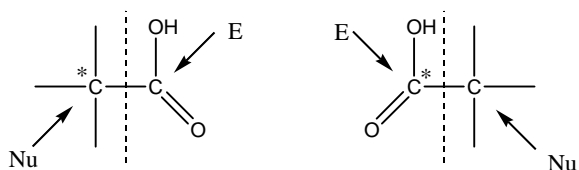
WK = normal workup to neutralize the reaction conditions. For the basic reactions (like above) above this would require mild acid neutralization (H₃O⁺).
NR = no reaction or no productive result or not emphasized



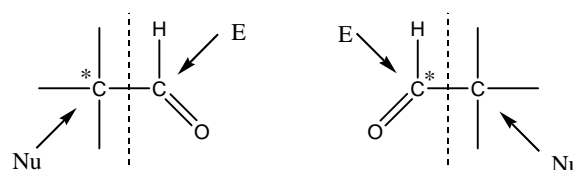
clue: COH group could have been an electrophilic C=O group (aldehyde or ketone) + nucleophilic Grignard or lithium reagent.



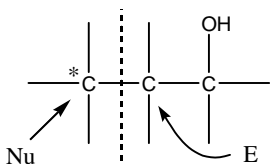
clue: COH group could have been an electrophilic C=O group (ester) + nucleophilic Grignard or lithium reagent (2x).



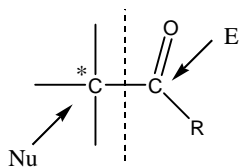
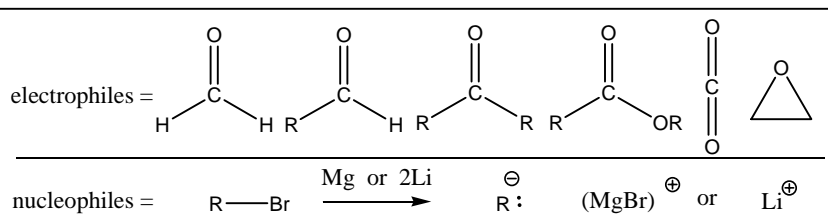
clue: COH group could have been an electrophilic C=O group (carbon dioxide) + nucleophilic Grignard or lithium reagent.



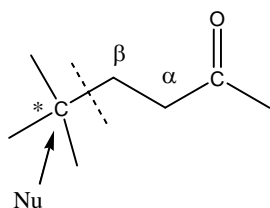
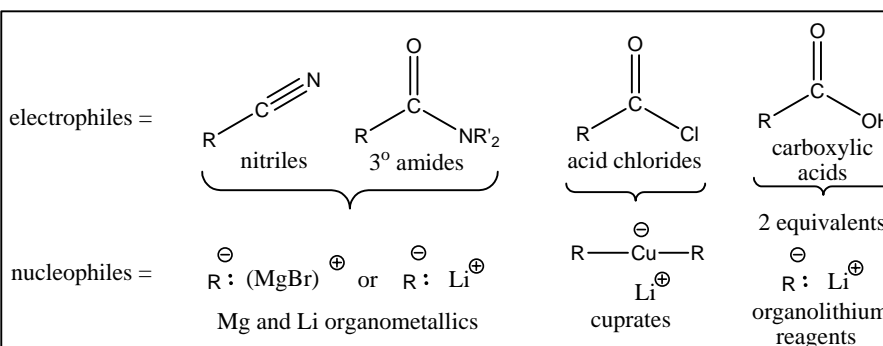
clue: CHO (aldehyde) group can be made from nucleophilic Grignard or lithium reagents + electrophilic dimethylformamide (DMF).



clue: COH group could have been an electrophilic epoxide group + nucleophilic Grignard or lithium reagent.



clue: C=O group could have been a nitrile (+ Grignard or lithium reagent), a 3° amide (+ Grignard or lithium reagent), acid chloride (+ cuprate) or carboxylic acid (+ 2 eqs. of R-Li).



clue: C=O group could have been an electrophilic α,β -unsaturated C=O (+ nucleophilic cuprate = conjugate addition).

