

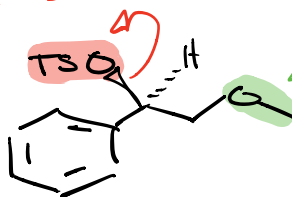
Substrate 2° Benzyl Tosylate

LG -OTs

Base/nucleophile  $\text{N}_3^-$

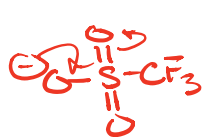
Solvent

Temperature 30°C LG Sulfonates

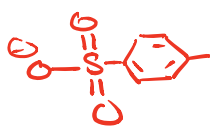


Methoxy  
 $\text{O}-\text{CH}_3$

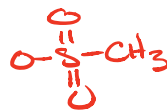
$\ominus \text{O}-\text{CH}_3$   
 strong base  
 $\sim \text{OH}^-$



triflate  
 -OTf



tosylate  
 -OTs



mesylate  
 -OMs

Best



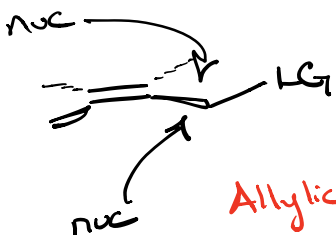
Allylic



Allylic Bromide



Allylic Alcohol



Allylic position = low steric  
 = good  $\text{S}_\text{N}2$  Rens  
 low EA

## NUCLEOPHILIC SUBSTITUTION AND ELIMINATION

The question is how do we discern when substitution is favored versus elimination? The answer is found partly in how we should think about reactions of alkyl halides.

*The characteristic reaction of alkyl halides (or alkyl tosylates) with a Lewis base is **elimination**, special conditions are required to promote substitution.*

Given here is a set of guidelines (not absolutes) that can be used to arrive at the probable solution to nucleophilic substitution/elimination problems.

	Substitution	Elimination
	$S_N2$	E2
substrate	benzyl = allyl > Me > 1° > 2° $\alpha$ -haloketone, $\alpha$ -haloester, $\alpha$ -halonitrile	3° > 2° > 1°
solvent	polar aprotic	polar aprotic
nucleophile	good nuc (weaker base than OH <sup>-</sup> )	bulky or strong base $\geq$ OH <sup>-</sup>
leaving group	sulfonate > I <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > Cl <sup>-</sup>	sulfonate > I <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > Cl <sup>-</sup>
Temp	low	high
	$S_N1$	E1
substrate	3° > 2°	3° > 2° > 1°
solvent	polar protic	polar protic
nucleophile	weak nuc (no anions!)	any anionic base
leaving group	sulfonate > I <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > Cl <sup>-</sup>	sulfonate > I <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > Cl <sup>-</sup>
Temp	low	high

## Classification of Nucleophiles

Very good nucleophile	$I^-$ , $HS^-$ , $RS^-$
Good nucleophile	$Br^-$ , $OH^-$ , $RO^-$ , $CN^-$ , $N_3^-$
Fair nucleophile	$NH_3$ , $Cl^-$ , $F^-$ , $RCO_2^-$
Weak nucleophile	$H_2O$ , $ROH$
Very weak nucleophile	$RCO_2H$

Nucleophilic Constants of Various Nucleophiles

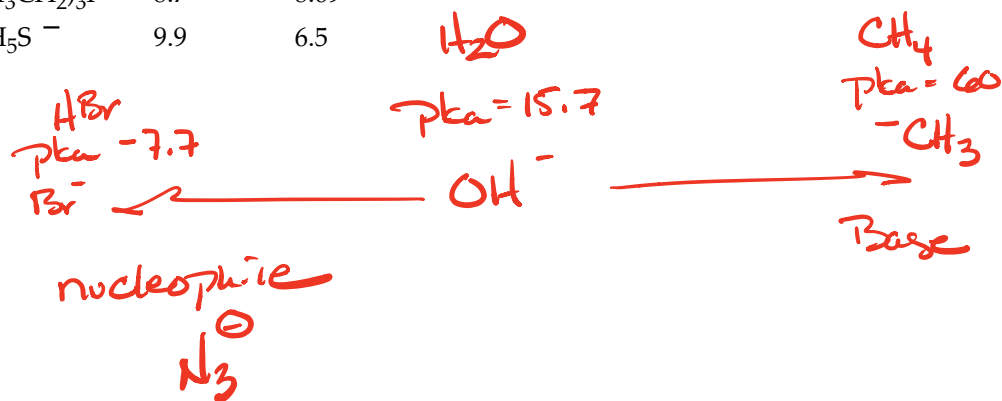
Nucleophile	$n_{CH_3I}$	$pK_a$ of conjugate acid
$CH_3OH$	0.0	-1.7
$F^-$	2.7	3.45
$CH_3CO_2^-$	4.3	4.8
$Cl^-$	4.4	-5.7
$NH_3$	5.5	9.25
$N_3^-$	5.8	4.75
$C_6H_5O^-$	5.8	9.89
$Br^-$	5.8	-7.7
$CH_3O^-$	6.3	15.7
$OH^-$	6.5	15.7
$(CH_3CH_2)_3N$	6.7	10.70
$CN^-$	6.7	9.3
$I^-$	7.4	-10.7
$(CH_3CH_2)_3P$	8.7	8.69
$C_6H_5S^-$	9.9	6.5

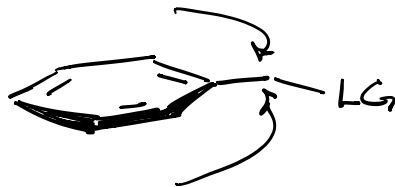
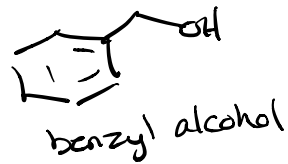
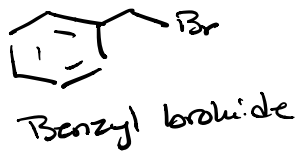
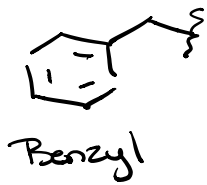
Solvents Which Promote  $S_N2/E2$  (bimolecular)

Acetone  
Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)  
*N,N*-Dimethylformamide (DMF)  
Acetonitrile  
Hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA)

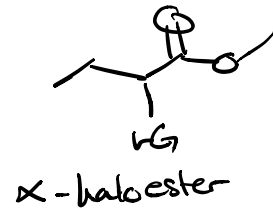
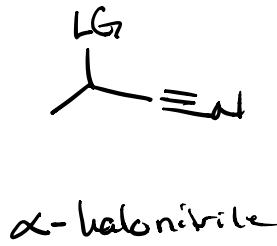
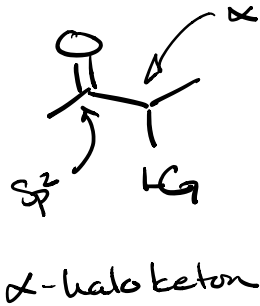
Solvents Which Promote  $S_N1/E1$  (Unimolecular / Ionizing)

Increasing nucleophilicity (solvolysis) ↑  
Ethanol  
Methanol  
50% Aqueous Ethanol  
Water  
Acetic Acid  
Formic Acid  
Trifluoroethanol  
Trifluoroacetic acid





low sterics  
benzyl LG = good SN2

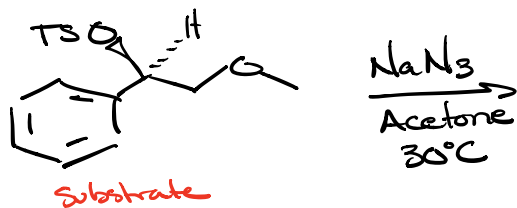


good SN2



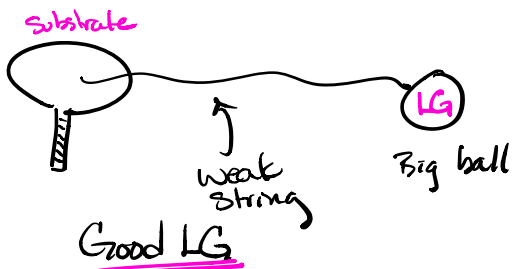
A good LG = weak base

Good LG



Substrate  $2^\circ$  Benzyl Tosylate  $\Rightarrow$   $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$   
 LG  $-\text{OTs}$   $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1/\text{S}_{\text{N}}2/\text{E}_1/\text{E}_2$ ?  
 Base/nucleophile  $\text{N}_3^-$  Good nuc  $\Rightarrow$   $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$   
 Solvent  $\text{II}$  polar aprotic  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2/\text{E}_2$   
 Temperature  $30^\circ\text{C}$  High or low? in between  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2/\text{E}_2$   
 in middle

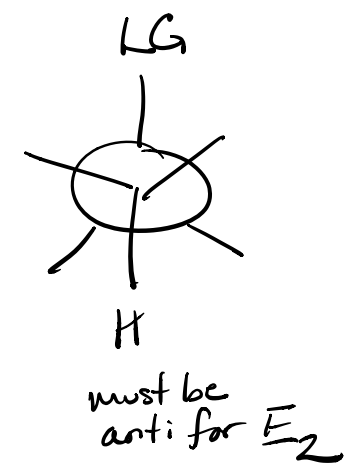
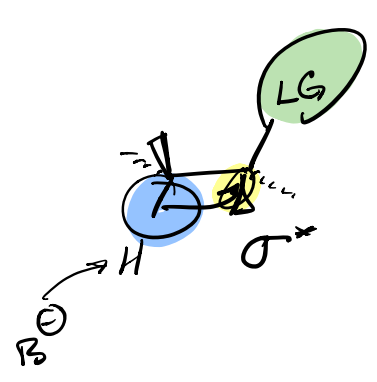
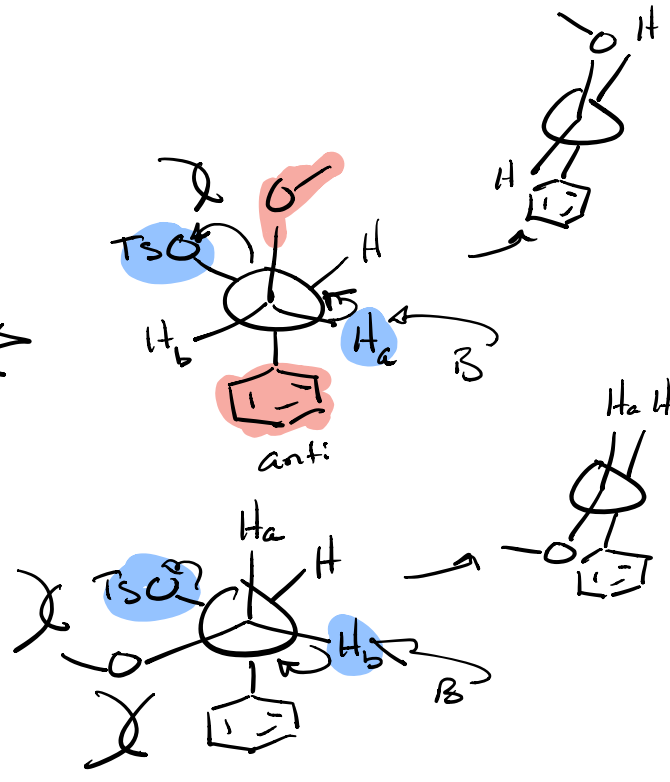
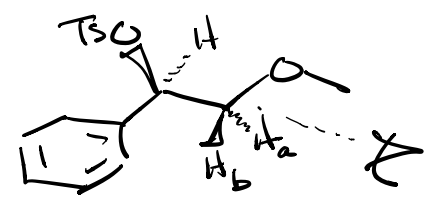
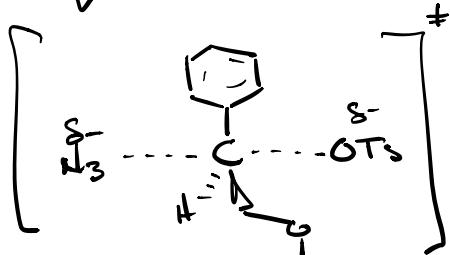
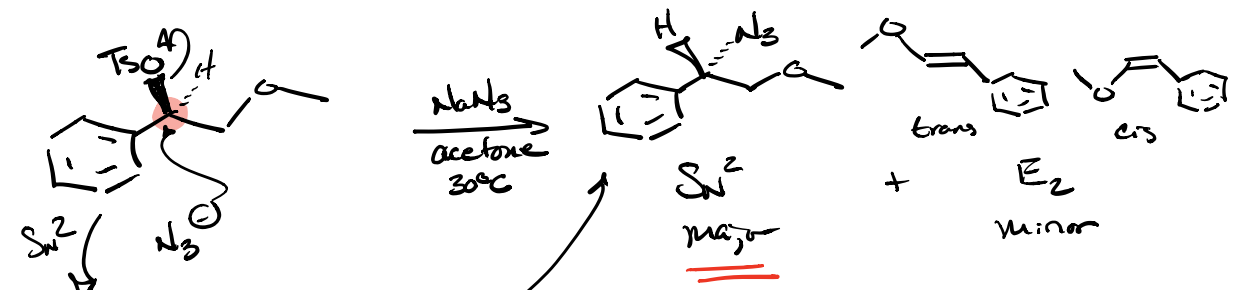
$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{S}_{\text{N}}2 \\ \text{E}_2 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{S}_{\text{N}}2 \\ \text{major} \\ \text{E}_2 \\ \text{minor} \end{array}$

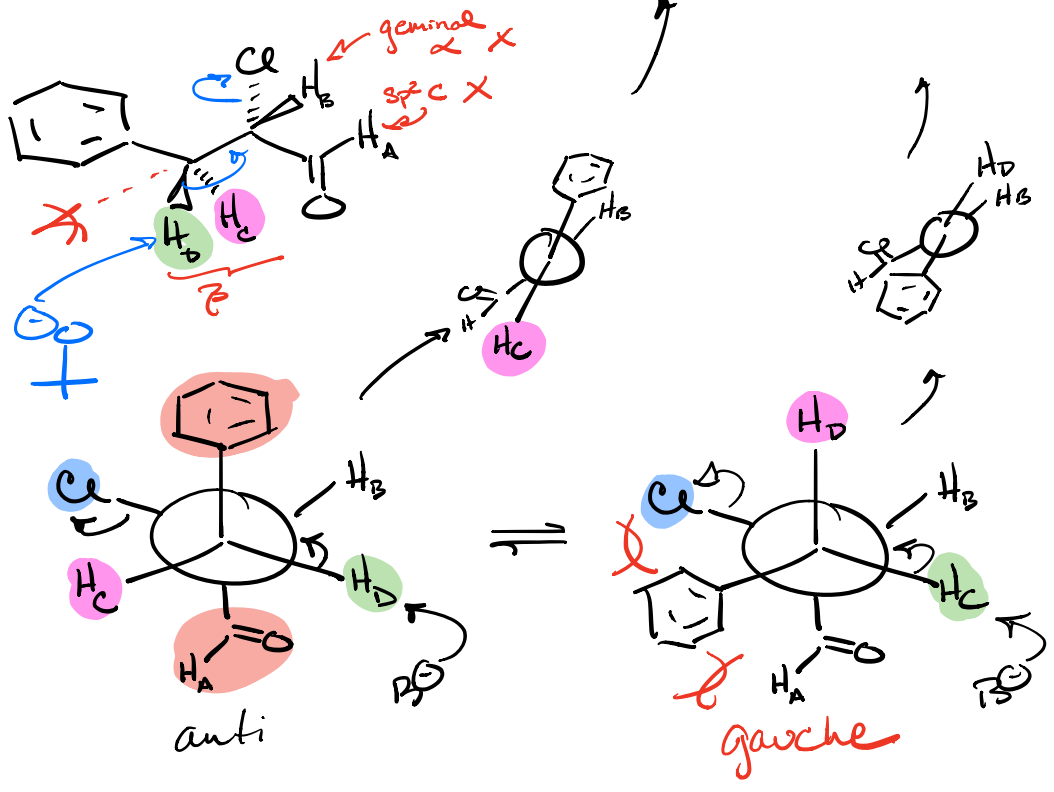
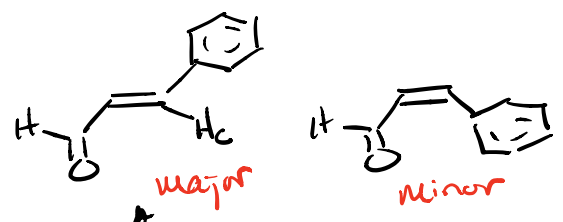
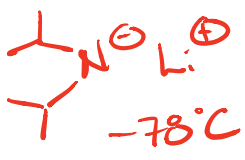
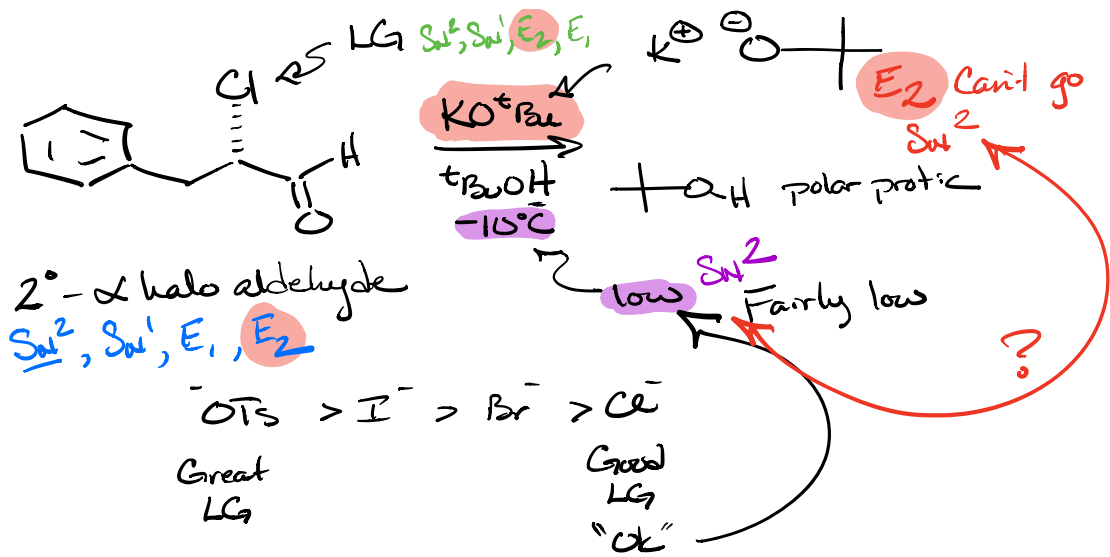


Low temp  $\sim 25^\circ\text{C}$  might  
 actually be high  
 High  $> 25^\circ\text{C}$   
 low  $< 25^\circ\text{C}$



High temp  $\Delta$  or  $> 100^\circ\text{C}$   
 Low  $< 100^\circ\text{C}$





## NUCLEOPHILIC SUBSTITUTION AND ELIMINATION

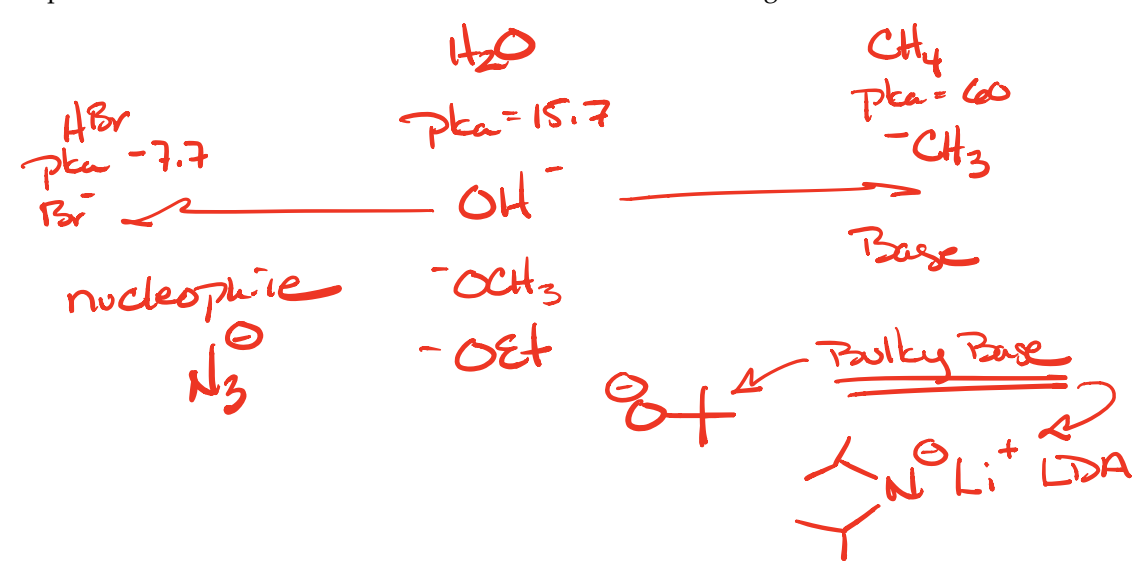
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Given here is a set of guidelines (not absolutes) that can be used to arrive at the probable solution to nucleophilic substitution/elimination problems.

	Substitution	Elimination
	<del>X</del> <span style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">S<sub>N</sub>2</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">E2</span>
substrate	benzyl = allyl > Me > 1° > 2° <span style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">α-haloketone</span> , α-haloester, α-halonitrile	3° > 2° > 1°
solvent	polar aprotic	polar aprotic
nucleophile	good nuc ( <u>weaker base than OH<sup>-</sup></u> )	<span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">bulky</span> or strong base >= OH <sup>-</sup>
leaving group	sulfonate > I <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > <span style="border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Cl<sup>-</sup></span>	sulfonate > I <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > <span style="border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Cl<sup>-</sup></span>
Temp	low	high
	$K^+ \ominus O \ominus K^+$	
	<del>X</del> <span style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">S<sub>N</sub>1</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">E1</span>
substrate	3° > 2°	3° > 2° > 1°
solvent	polar protic	polar protic
nucleophile	weak nuc ( <u>no anions!</u> ) <del>X</del>	<u>any anionic base</u>
leaving group	sulfonate > I <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > <span style="border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Cl<sup>-</sup></span>	sulfonate > I <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > <span style="border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Cl<sup>-</sup></span>
Temp	low	high

KO<sup>t</sup>Ba or LDA





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Very weak nucleophile	$RCO_2H$

Nucleophilic Constants of Various Nucleophiles

Nucleophile	$n_{CH_3I}$	$pK_a$ of conjugate acid	Solvents Which Promote $S_N2/E2$ (bimolecular)
$CH_3OH$	0.0	-1.7	Acetone Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) <i>N,N</i> -Dimethylformamide (DMF) Acetonitrile Hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA)
$F^-$	2.7	3.45	
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$Br^-$	5.8	-7.7	
$CH_3O^-$	6.3	15.7	
$OH^-$	6.5	15.7	
$(CH_3CH_2)_3N$	6.7	10.70	Solvents Which Promote $S_N1/E1$ (Unimolecular / Ionizing)  ↑ Increasing nucleophilicity (solvolysis) Ethanol Methanol 50% Aqueous Ethanol Water Acetic Acid Formic Acid Trifluoroethanol Trifluoroacetic acid
$CN^-$	6.7	9.3	
$I^-$	7.4	-10.7	
$(CH_3CH_2)_3P$	8.7	8.69	
$C_6H_5S^-$	9.9	6.5	

