

2.5: Markovnikov Rule

Polar addition of HBr to olefins proceeds in such a way, the carbon that is rich in hydrogen becomes richer. In mechanistic terms, we could restate the rules as follows: Polar addition of H^+X^- to olefins proceed in such a way that the negative component adds to the more stable carbonium ion intermediate (**Fig 2.4.1**).

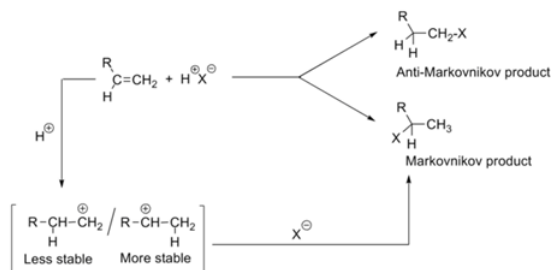


Fig 2.4.1

HBr and HI easily undergo free radical addition, promoted by light or heat. Free radical additions give the anti-Markovnikov product. Clean Markovnikov products are obtained when such reactions are carried out in polar solvents and care is taken to avoid light.

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