Preparation of Amines

• S<sub>N</sub>2

 $NH_3 + \frown_{Cl} \longrightarrow \frown_{NH_2} + \stackrel{\oplus}{BH} \stackrel{\odot}{Cl}$ 

- The reaction is plagued by the potential for polyalkylation of the amine, especially in the presence of excess alkyl chloride.
- Gabriel Amine Synthesis



- $\circ~$  This reaction is an alternative to the direct  $S_N2$  method and allows for the preparation of primary amines in good yields. Polyalkylation is not a problem.
- Synthetically, this results in the same product as mono-alkylation of ammonia.
- $\circ~$  Since the alkylation step follows an  $S_N2$  mechanism, methyl and primary alkyl halides work best. Secondary can also be used while tertiary can not.
- Reduction of -NO<sub>2</sub>

$$R-NO_2 \xrightarrow{H_2} Or \xrightarrow{Sn} Or \xrightarrow{Fe} R-NH_2$$

• LAH Reduction of Nitriles

$$R \xrightarrow{N} \frac{1. \text{LAH}}{2. \text{H}_2\text{O}} R \xrightarrow{N\text{H}_2}$$

• LAH Reduction of Amides

$$\stackrel{O}{\underset{R}{\overset{}}}_{NH_{2}} \xrightarrow{1. LAH} R^{\overset{}}_{NH_{2}}$$

• Reductive Amination of Aldehydes and Ketones

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ H_2 NR' \\ R(H) \end{array} \begin{array}{c} H_2 NR' \\ NaBH_3 CN \\ CH_3 OH \end{array} \begin{array}{c} H' \\ H \\ R(H) \end{array}$$

- Reaction works with any amine that contains at least one hydrogen.
- Aldehydes and ketones are the only carbonyl compounds that can undergo reductive amination.
- Requires the use of a mild reducing agent (sodium cyanoborohydride) in the presence of a protic solvent (usually methanol).

## The Amine Lone Pair Is Basic

• As a rule of thumb the lone pair on a nitrogen will take a proton from an acid with a pKa of 10 or less.

$$\sim ::_{NH_2} + H - A \longrightarrow \sim N_{H_2}^{\oplus} + A^{\oplus}$$

- Electron donating groups on N increase its basicity.
- Electron withdrawing groups on N decrease its basicity.
- A lone pair that is delocalized through resonance is less basic than one that is not.

## Hoffmann Elimination

1. CH<sub>3</sub>I (xs) 2. Ag<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>O 3. Heat  $NH_2$ + N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O + AgI

- The less substituted alkene is the major product.
- Addition of the iodomethane turns the amine into a quaternary ammonium salt, which then acts as a leaving group.
- The elimination process is E2.
- The H and leaving group must be able to orient in an antiperiplanar fashion.