Organic Chemistry II, CHM 3150, Dr. Laurie S. Starkey, Cal Poly Pomona Nomenclature of Carboxylic Acids & Their Derivatives (Klein Chapter 20)

Carboxylic Acid Nomenclature

- ** Identify the longest parent carbon chain that starts at the carbonyl carbon. For a carboxylic acid (RCO₂H), the carbonyl carbon is always carbon #1.
- ** Drop the "e" and add "oic acid" to give "alkanoic acid" parent. For carboxylic acids and their derivatives, no number is given to identify the position of the C=O (must be carbon #1).
- ** A carboxylic acid (or any of its derivatives) has a higher priority than ketones or aldehydes, so any other C=O on the carbon chain is described as an "oxo" substituent.

(formic acid) (acetic acid, AcOH)

Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

General structure:

Acid Halide Nomenclature

- ** Identify the longest parent carbon chain that starts at the carbonyl carbon. For an adic halide (RCOX), the carbonyl carbon is always carbon #1.
- ** Drop the "e" and add "oyl halide" to give "alkanoyl halide" parent.

Acid Anhydride Nomenclature

- ** Identify the related carboxylic acid from which it is derived.
- ** Change the word "acid" to "anhydride" to give "alkanoic anhydride" parent.
- ** For mixed anhydrides, list both acid groups before the word "anhydride".

(acetic anhydride)

Ester (RCO₂R') Nomenclature

** Identify the related carboxylic acid from which it is derived, and name the alkyl group attached to the oxygen atom (the R' part of the OR' group).



** List the alkyl group first, and change the parent "oic acid" to "oate" to give "alkyl alkanoate" name.

(acetic acid) (methyl acetate)

- ** Identify the longest parent carbon chain that starts at the carbonyl carbon. For an amide (RCONH₂), the carbonyl carbon is always carbon #1.
- NH₂
- ** Drop the "e" and add "amide" to give "alkanamide" parent. List other alkyl groups as N- substituents.

$$CH_3$$
 NH_2 H $N(CH_3)$

(acetamide)

(*N*,*N*-dimethylformamide, DMF)

Nitrile Nomenclature

 $R-C\equiv N$

- ** Identify the longest parent carbon chain that starts at the cyano carbon. For a nitrile (RCN), the cyano carbon is always carbon #1.
- ** Simply add "nitrile" to give "alkanenitrile" parent (do NOT drop the "e").

$$CH_3-C\equiv N$$
 (acetonitrile)

CHM 3150, Dr. L. S. Starkey, Carboxylic Acid/Deriv. Nomenclature Practice Problems (answer key is on homepage)