

Mechanism Types

Chemistry

The reaction categories, and the arrow conventions.

The main mechanism classes.

Mechanism	Typical substrate
Free-radical substitution	Alkanes, with UV
Electrophilic addition	Alkenes
Electrophilic substitution	Arenes
Nucleophilic substitution	Halogenoalkanes
Nucleophilic addition	Aldehydes and ketones
Elimination	Halogenoalkanes with hot ethanolic KOH

A full curly arrow moves two electrons; a half arrow (fish-hook) moves one, and is used in radical mechanisms.