

Problem 79, Chemistry 301X - 2006

Consider the addition of HBr to 1-butene. One of the two “possible” products is formed exclusively. Explain why.

Oopsie - I'll bet you said that the secondary carbocation is far more stable than the putative primary carbocation and is thus formed preferentially.

What have the products (the two ions) to do with the rates of their formations?

Ans: nothing direct.

So carefully modify your answer (get it checked!), and explain the relevance to it of the Hammond Postulate.