

Brush up your concepts to get high rank in NEET/JEE (Main and Advanced) by reading this column. This specially designed column is updated year after year by a panel of highly qualified teaching experts well-tuned to the requirements of these Entrance Tests.

Aldehydes, Ketones and Carboxylic Acids

Aldehydes and Ketones

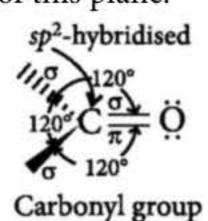
- **General formula :** $C_nH_{2n}O$ having C=O group. For ketones, value of $n \ge 3$.
 - **Aldehydes**: R = R C=O; where R = H, alkyl or aryl.

Nomenclature:

- The common names of most aldehydes are derived from the common names of the corresponding carboxylic acids by replacing the ending -'ic' of acid with suffix 'aldehyde'.
- The IUPAC names of open chain aliphatic aldehydes and ketones are derived from the names of the corresponding alkanes by replacing the ending -'e' with -'al' and -'one' respectively. e.g.,

STRUCTURE

- The C –atom of carbonyl group is sp^2 -hybridised and forms three σ –bonds and one π –bond with O –atom.
- In carbonyl group, carbon and other three atoms lie in the same plane with bond angle of 120°, therefore carbonyl group is planar and π -electron cloud lies above and below of this plane.



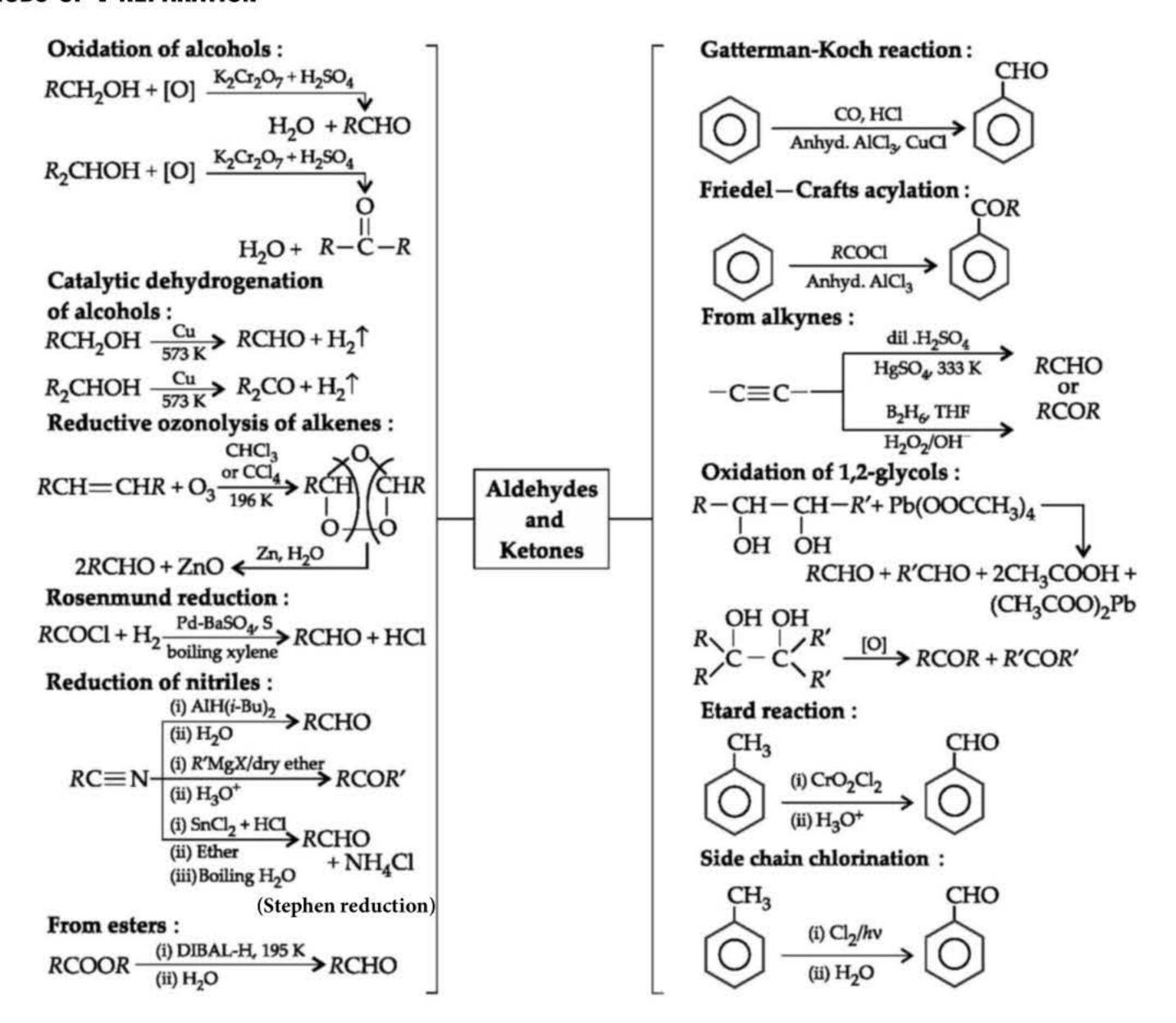
POLAR NATURE OF CARBONYL GROUP

In carbonyl group, > C = O bond is stronger, shorter and polarised. As oxygen is more electronegative than carbon, the double bond of carbonyl group is polar and shows dipole moment. Polarisation contributes to the reactivity of aldehydes and ketones.

$$\begin{bmatrix} R \\ R \end{bmatrix} C = \ddot{O}: \longrightarrow R \\ R \downarrow \dot{C} - \ddot{O}: \end{bmatrix}$$

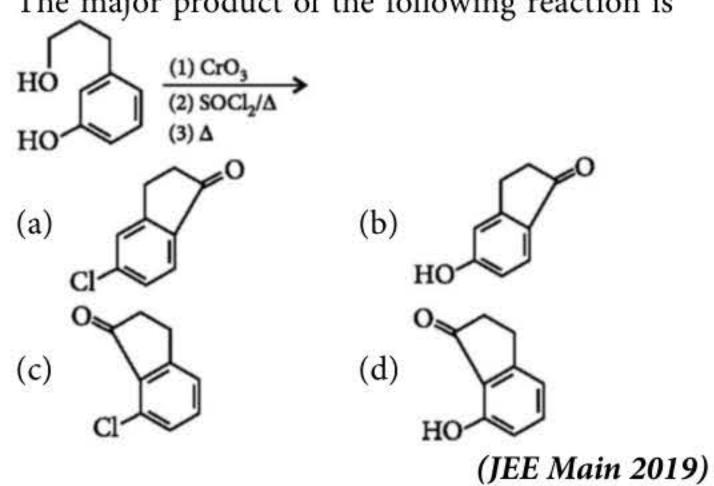
Dipole moment, $\mu = 2.3-2.8$ D

METHODS OF PREPARATION



PEEP INTO PREVIOUS YEARS

1. The major product of the following reaction is



2. The correct statement regarding a carbonyl compound with a hydrogen atom on its alphacarbon, is

- (a) a carbonyl compound with a hydrogen atom on its alpha-carbon rapidly equilibrates with its corresponding enol and this process is known as carbonylation
- (b) a carbonyl compound with a hydrogen atom on its alpha-carbon rapidly equilibrates with its corresponding enol and this process is known as keto-enol tautomerism
- (c) a carbonyl compound with a hydrogen atom on its alpha-carbon never equilibrates with its corresponding enol
- (d) a carbonyl compound with a hydrogen atom on its alpha-carbon rapidly equilibrates with its corresponding enol and this process is known as aldehyde-ketone equilibration.

(NEET Phase-I 2016)

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Physical state and odour:

- Lower members of aldehydes and ketones (upto C_{10}) are colourless, volatile liquids except formaldehyde which is gas at ordinary temperature.
- Higher members of aldehydes and ketones are solids with fruity odour.
- Lower aldehydes have unpleasant odour but ketones possess pleasant smell.

Boiling points:

- The boiling points of aldehydes and ketones are higher than hydrocarbons and ethers of comparable molecular masses due to intermolecular attraction (weak dipole-dipole interactions).
- Their boiling points are lower than those of alcohols of similar molecular masses because these dipole-dipole interactions are weaker than intermolecular hydrogen bonding between alcohol molecules.
- Among isomeric aldehydes and ketones, ketones have slightly higher boiling points due to the presence of two electron releasing alkyl groups which make carbonyl group more polar.

Solubility:

- Lower members of aldehydes and ketones (upto C_4) are soluble in water due to H-bonding between polar carbonyl group and water. However, solubility decreases with increase in molecular mass.
- Aromatic aldehydes and ketones are much less soluble than corresponding aliphatic aldehydes and ketones due to larger hydrocarbon part.
- All carbonyl compounds are fairly soluble in organic solvents.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Nucleophilic addition reactions:

Carbonyl carbon is electron deficient hence acts as electrophile. Nucleophile attacks on the electrophilic carbon atom of the carbonyl group from a direction perpendicular to the plane of the molecule.

$$R_1 \stackrel{+\delta}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{\overset{-}}{$$

Aldehydes are generally more reactive than ketones towards nucleophilic addition reactions.

$$C=O \xrightarrow{HCN} C \xrightarrow{OH} COH$$

$$Cyanohydrin$$

$$C=O \xrightarrow{NaHSO_3} C \xrightarrow{SO_3^-Na^+} OH$$

$$C=O \xrightarrow{(i) RMgX} C \xrightarrow{OH} CH_2OH$$

$$C=O \xrightarrow{CH_2OH} C \xrightarrow{CH_2OH} CO-CH_2$$

$$C=O \xrightarrow{ROH} COH \xrightarrow{CH_2} CH_2OH$$

$$C=O \xrightarrow{ROH} COH \xrightarrow{CH_2OH} COH \xrightarrow{CH_2OH} COH$$

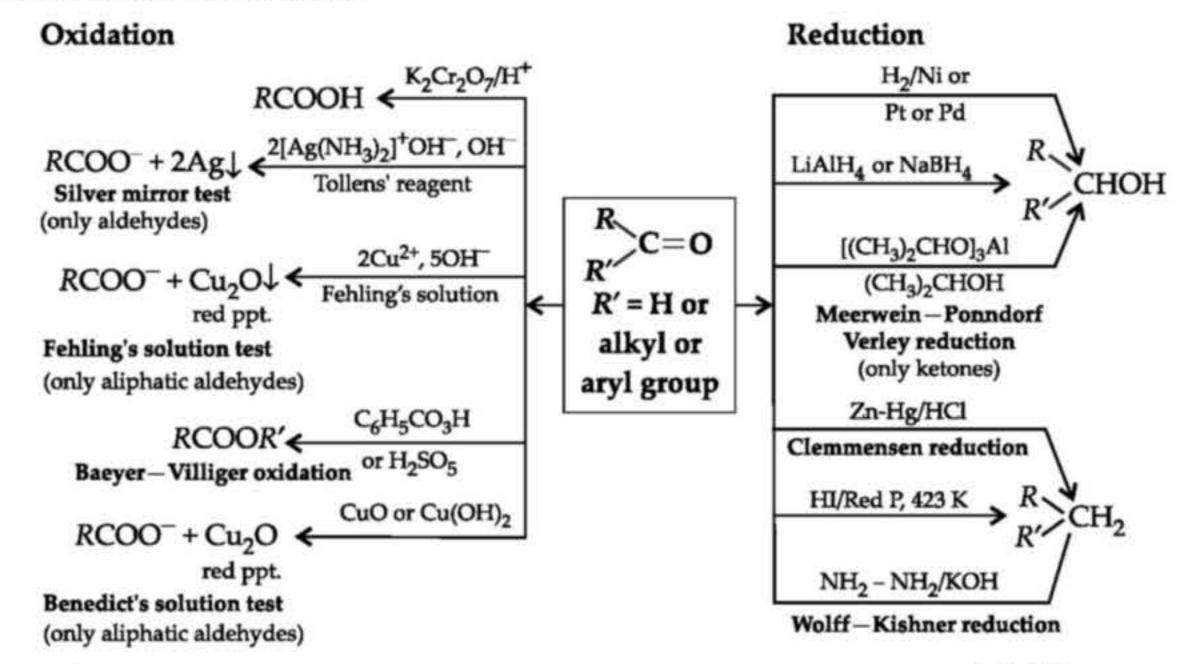
$$COH \xrightarrow{CH_2OH} COH \xrightarrow{CH_2OH} COH$$

$$COH \xrightarrow{CH_$$

Nucleophilic addition-elimination reactions:



Oxidation and reduction reactions:



Haloform reaction:

$$2NaOH + I_2 \longrightarrow NaI + NaOI + H_2O$$
 $RCOCH_3 + 3NaOI \longrightarrow RCOONa + CHI_3 \downarrow$

$$Iodoform$$
(yellow ppt.)
$$+ 2NaOH$$

(Given by compounds having CH₃CO—group or $CH_3CH(OH)$ —group).

Aldol condensation:

$$CH_{3}-C-H+H-CH_{2}-C-H \xrightarrow{dil. NaOH}$$

$$Acetaldehyde$$

$$O$$

$$H_{3}C-CH-CH_{2}-C-H$$

$$OH$$

$$OH$$

$$3-hydroxybutanal (Aldol)$$

On heating with dilute acid aldols undergo dehydration to form α , β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds.

$$H_3C - CH - CH - CHO \xrightarrow{\text{dil. H}_2SO_4}$$

$$H_3C - CH = CH - CHO \xrightarrow{\text{Crotonaldehyde}}$$

Cross aldol condensation: When condensation takes place between two different aldehydes or ketones, or between one aldehyde and one ketone, it is called as cross aldol condensation. If both the reactants contain α-hydrogen atoms

then it gives a mixture of four products.

e.g.,
$$CH_3CHO + CH_3CH_2CHO \xrightarrow{1. \text{NaOH}} CH_3CH = CH - CHO$$

Ethanal Propanal But-2-enal $+ CH_3CH_2CH = - CHO + CH_3CH = C - CHO$
 $CH_3 CH_3$
2-Methylpent-2-enal 2-Methylbut-2-enal $+ CH_3CH_2CH = CH - CHO$
Pent-2-enal

If only one carbonyl compound contains α -hydrogen then only one product is formed.

$$C_{6}H_{5} - \overset{O}{C} + \overset{O}{H} - \overset{O}{C}H_{2} - \overset{O}{C} - \overset{dil. NaOH}{273 \text{ K}}$$

$$H$$

$$C_{6}H_{5}CH = CHCHO \xrightarrow{-H_{2}O} \begin{bmatrix} OH & O \\ -H_{2}O & -H_{2}O \\ -H_{5} - C - CH_{2} - C - H \\ -H_{2}O & -H_{3}O \end{bmatrix}$$
Cinnamaldehyde

Intramolecular aldol condensation : It takes place in dialdehydes/diketones or compound containing one aldehyde and one ketone group and gives rise to cyclic products.

Cannizzaro's reaction: It is shown by aldehydes which do not have α-H atom. The aldehydes undergo disproportionation i.e., self oxidationreduction process.

2HCHO
$$\xrightarrow{50\% \text{ NaOH}}$$
 HCOONa + CH₃OH
2C₆H₅CHO $\xrightarrow{50\% \text{ NaOH}}$ C₆H₅COONa + C₆H₅CH₂OH

Cross Cannizzaro reaction: It takes place between two different aldehydes to give all possible products. Cross Cannizzaro reaction of formaldehyde with other aldehydes always gives sodium formate and alcohol of other aldehyde.

Intramolecular Cannizzaro reaction: It is given by dialdehydes having no α-hydrogen atoms in the presence of concentrated alkali solution.

Tischenko's reaction: All aldehydes (with or without α-hydrogen atom) in presence of ethoxide, aluminium $[Al(OC_2H_5)_3]$ undergo simultaneous oxidation (to carboxylic acid) and reduction (to alcohol) to form an ester.

$$CH_3 - CHO + CH_3 - CHO \xrightarrow{Al(OC_2H_5)_3}$$

$$[CH_3 - COOH + CH_3CH_2OH]$$

$$-H_2O \downarrow \Delta$$

$$O$$

$$CH_3 - C - O - C_2H_5$$

Benzoin condensation: Two molecules of aromatic aldehyde on heating with alcoholic solution of KCN undergo condensation to produce benzoin.

Polymerisation: Lower aldehydes readily undergo polymerisation giving different products under different conditions. Polymerization of acetaldehyde also yields different products under different conditions.

Paraldehyde is used as hypnotic, i.e., sleep inducing agent.

Perkin reaction: It is a condensation reaction in which an aromatic aldehyde condenses with aliphatic acid anhydride in presence of sodium salt of same acid to give a condensate which upon hydrolysis yields α,β -unsaturated acid.

$$H-C=O$$

$$H_{2}CH-C$$

$$H_{3}C-C$$

$$O$$

$$Acetic anhydride$$

$$H-C=CH-C-O-C-CH_{3}$$

$$H_{2}O/H^{+}$$

$$-CH_{3}COOH$$

$$HC=CH-COOH$$

Knoevenagel reaction: It involves condensation between active methylene group and carbonyl groups in the presence of base.

$$R \subset C = O + CH_2 < CN_{CN} \frac{\text{pyridine/H}^+/\Delta}{\text{-H}_2O, -CO_2}$$

$$R \subset C = CH - COOH$$

Reformatsky reaction: It involves the reaction of aldehydes and ketones with α -halogenated ester in presence of Zn to yield β-hydroxy ester.

$$R$$
 $C=O+Br-CH_2COOC_2H_5$ $\frac{Zn/ether}{reflux}$
 R OH O H_2O R $OZnBr$
 $CH_2-C-OC_2H_5$ R $CH_2-C-OC_2H_5$
 β -hydroxy ester

Reaction with ammonia: Formaldehyde reacts with ammonia to form hexamethylene tetramine. Nitration of hexamethylene tetramine produces RDX, a well-known explosive.

6HCHO +
$$4NH_3$$
 $\xrightarrow{-6H_2O}$ \Rightarrow (CH₂)₆N₄ $\xrightarrow{HNO_3}$ RDX
Hexamethylenetetramine
(Urotropine)

Wittig reaction: It involves the reaction between an aldehyde or ketone and a phosphorus ylide to form alkene.

• Distinction between aldehydes and ketones :

Tests	Aldehydes	Ketones
Schiff's reagent	Pink colour	No colour
Fehling's solution	Red precipitate	No precipitate
Tollens' reagent	Silver mirror	No silver mirror
2,4- dinitrophenyl- hydrazine	Orange-yellow or red well defined crystals with melting points characteristic of individual aldehydes.	Orange-yellow or red well defined crystals with melting points characteristic of individual ketones.

PEEP INTO PREVIOUS YEARS

3. Choose the correct option(s) for the following reaction sequence.

4. The major product *B* formed in the following reaction sequence is

MeO

CHO

(i)
$$C_2H_5MgBr$$

(ii) H_2O

(b) MeO

Cl

(c) MeO

(d) MeO

(JEE Main Online 2018)

5. Of the following, which is the product formed when cyclohexanone undergoes aldol condensation followed by heating?

- 6. Reaction of a carbonyl compound with one of the following reagents involves nucleophilic addition followed by elimination of water. The reagent is
 - (a) hydrazine in presence of feebly acidic solution
 - (b) hydrocyanic acid
 - (c) sodium hydrogen sulphite
 - (d) a Grignard reagent.

(AIPMT 2015)

POINTS FOR EXTRA SCORING

➤ LiAlH₄ is more powerful reducing agent than NaBH₄ as beside aldehydes and ketones it also reduces acids, acid chlorides, esters, amides, anhydrides, nitriles, oximes, alkyl halides, alkyl azides, alkyl tosylates and nitro compounds. LiAlH₄ and NaBH₄ do not reduce isolated double bonds.

(JEE Advanced 2019)

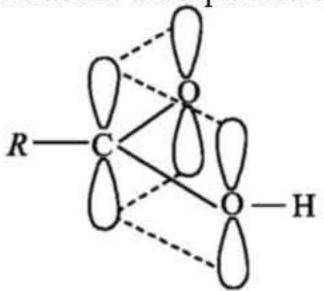
- Formaldehyde cannot be prepared Rosenmund's reduction since formyl chloride is unstable at room temperature.
- α-Hydroxy ketones reduce Tollens' reagent, Fehling's and Benedict's solution.
- Haloform reaction can be used to oxidise
- α , β -unsaturated methyl ketones to α , β -unsaturated acids without oxidising double bond.
- Oxidation of methyl ketones is governed by Popoff's rule, according to which carbonyl group of the unsymmetrical ketone remains with the smaller alkyl group.

Carboxylic Acids

- **General Formula** : $C_nH_{2n}O_2$ having —COOH group or *R*COOH where, *R*=H or alkyl or aryl.
- Nomenclature:
 - The common names end with the suffix -'ic acid' and have been derived from Latin or Greek names of their natural sources.
 - In the IUPAC system, aliphatic carboxylic acids are named by replacing the ending -'e' in the name of the corresponding alkane with -'oic acid'. In numbering the carbon chain, the carboxylic carbon is numbered one.

STRUCTURE

Carbon-atom of carboxyl group is sp^2 -hybridised and forms one σ -bond with each oxygen atom and one σ-bond with hydrogen or carbon atom depending upon the structure of carboxylic acid. Half-filled p-orbital of each oxygen atom and unhybridised p-orbital of carbon-atom lie in the same plane and overlap to form a π -bond which is delocalised between three atoms, one carbon and two oxygen atoms. Thus, the bonds are separated by about 120°.



Thus, carboxylic acid (RCOOH) can be represented as resonance hybrid of the following structures,

$$R-C$$

$$\stackrel{\circ}{\overset{\circ}{\overset{\circ}{\circ}}}_{\overset{\circ}{\circ}}-H$$

$$R-C$$

$$\stackrel{\circ}{\overset{\circ}{\overset{\circ}{\circ}}}_{\overset{\circ}{\circ}}-H$$

due to which the carboxyl carbon is less electrophilic than carbonyl carbon.

CLASSIFICATION

- On the basis of the group to which -COOH group is attached:
 - Aliphatic carboxylic acid: *R*—C—OH (where, R = H atom or alkyl group).
 - Aromatic carboxylic acid: Ar—C—OH (where, Ar = Aryl group)
- On the basis of number of —COOH groups in their molecule:

No. of —COOH group

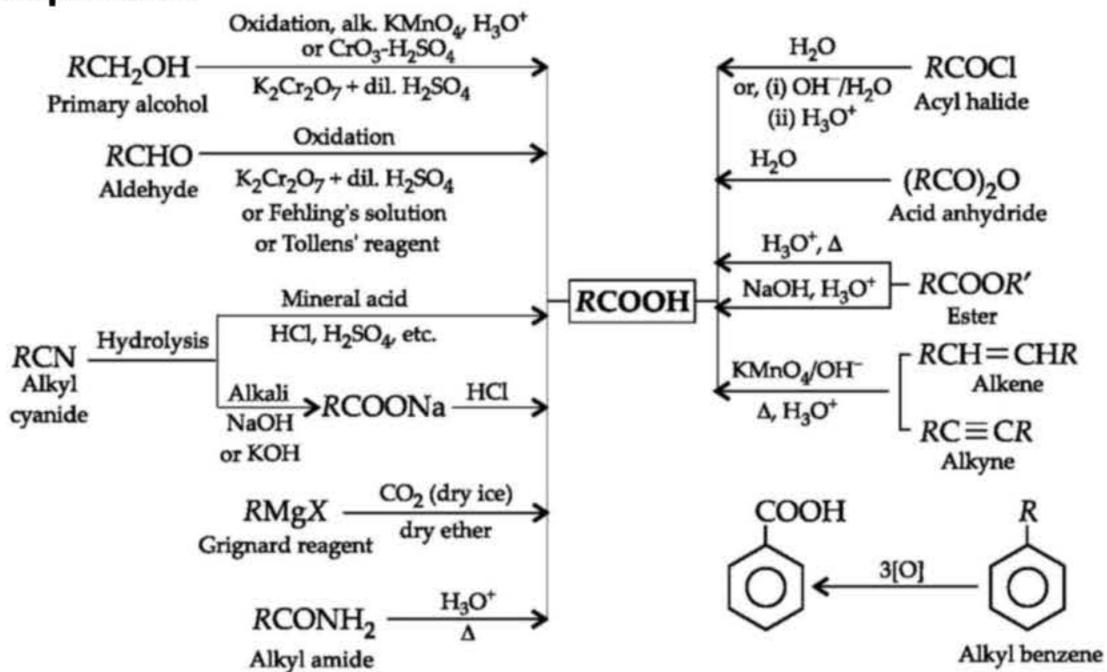
- Monocarboxylic acids: 1
- Dicarboxylic acids: 2
- Tricarboxylic acids: 3
- Saturated and unsaturated monocarboxylic acids are also called fatty acids, because higher acids like palmitic acid, steric acid, oleic acid, etc. were obtained by hydrolysis of fats and oils.

Quotable Quote

Don't read success stories, you will get only message... Read failure stories, you will get some ideas to get success..!!

A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

Methods of Preparation



PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

- Acids upto C₁₀ are liquids with unpleasant odour.
 The higher members are colourless waxy solids.
- Boiling points: Boiling points of acids increase regularly with molecular weight and higher than alcohols (of comparable molecular mass) due to formation of dimer through H-bonding

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \delta^{-} & \delta^{+} & O \\ O & -H & O \\ O & -H & \delta^{-} \end{pmatrix} = R$$

- Solubility: Acids upto C₄ are completely soluble in water due to H-bonding. Solubility regularly decreases rapidly due to increase in hydrophobic character of alkyl group.
- Melting points: The melting point of an acid containing even number of carbon atoms is always higher homologues containing than the next lower and higher odd number of carbon atoms (alternation effect or oscillation effect) due to effective crystal lattice being symmetrical in nature.

Molecules with even number of C-atoms fit well into the crystal lattice, thus the melting point of these acids is higher. In higher members, the melting point increases with increase in molecular mass. The aromatic acids have higher melting points than the corresponding aliphatic acids.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Reactions involving cleavage of O—H bond:

$$R-C-OH$$

$$R-C-OH$$

$$Na_{2}CO_{3}$$

$$RCOONa + CO_{2} + H_{2}O$$

$$R-COONa + 1/2 H_{2}$$

$$RCOONa + 1/2 H_{2}$$

$$RCOONa + H_{2}O$$

Reactions involving cleavage of C—OH bond :

$$R-C-OH \xrightarrow{conc. H_2SO_4} R-C-O-C-H_2O R'OH/H^+ RCOOR'$$

$$R-C-OH \xrightarrow{P'OH/H^+ RCOOR' Ester} RCOCl$$

$$R'OCl_2 in pyridine Acid chloride NH_3, \Delta RCONH_2 Amide$$

Reactions involving —COOH group:

(i) LiAlH₄/ether or B₂H₆/
ether

$$R-C-OH$$

(ii) H₃O⁺

(Reduction)

NaOH/CaO
 Δ
 $RH + Na_2CO_3$
(Decarboxylation)

Hell-Volhard-Zelinsky reaction : Aliphatic carboxylic acids on reaction with bromine or chlorine in presence of small amount of red phosphorous produces α-halo acids.

$$RCH_{2}COOH \xrightarrow{(i) X_{2}/Red P} R - CH - COOH$$

$$X$$

$$\alpha - Halocarboxylic acid$$

Ring substitution in aromatic acids: Aromatic carboxylic acids undergo electrophilic substitution reactions in which the carboxyl group acts as a deactivating and meta directing group.

Distinction between phenol and carboxylic acid

Test	Phenol	Carboxylic acid
NaHCO ₃ test	No reaction	Brisk effervescence of CO ₂ gas
FeCl ₃ test	Violet colour	Buff coloured ppt.

PEEP INTO PREVIOUS YEARS

7. The major product of the following reaction is

COCH₃
(i) KMnO₄/KOH,
$$\Delta$$
(ii) H₂SO₄(dil.)

COOH
(a) HOOC

COCOOH
(c) OHC

COCOOH
(d) HOOC

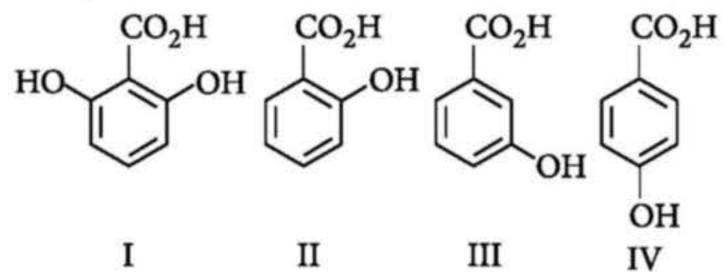
(JEE Main 2019)

The major product of the following reaction is

- Carboxylic acids have higher boiling points than aldehydes, ketones and even alcohols of comparable molecular mass. It is due to their
 - (a) formation of intramolecular H-bonding
 - (b) formation of carboxylate ion
 - (c) more extensive association of carboxylic acid via van der Waals' forces of attraction
 - (d) formation of intermolecular H-bonding.

(NEET 2018)

10. The correct order of acidity for the following compounds is



- (a) I > II > III > IV
- (b) III > I > II > IV
- (c) III > IV > II > I
- (d) I > III > IV > II

(JEE Advanced 2016)

POINTS FOR EXTRA SCORING

- Methanoic acid and its sodium salt act as a reducing agent and reduces Tollens' reagent, Fehling's solution and KMnO₄.
- Acidic strength of acids: Benzoic acid $(K_a = 6.5 \times 10^{-5})$ is somewhat stronger than simple aliphatic acids. This is because in benzoic acid the carboxyl group is attached to more electronegative sp^2 hybridised carbon as compared to less electronegative sp³ hybridised carbon in aliphatic acids.
 - Electron withdrawing groups (EWG's) make acids stronger.

$$G \leftarrow C$$
 $G \leftarrow C$
 $G \leftarrow G$
 $G \rightarrow G$
 $G \rightarrow$

Electron donating groups (EDG's) make acids weaker.

Hell-Volhard-Zelinsky reaction : Aliphatic carboxylic acids on reaction with bromine or chlorine in presence of small amount of red phosphorous produces α-halo acids.

$$RCH_{2}COOH \xrightarrow{(i) X_{2}/Red P} R - CH - COOH$$

$$X$$

$$\alpha - Halocarboxylic acid$$

Ring substitution in aromatic acids: Aromatic carboxylic acids undergo electrophilic substitution reactions in which the carboxyl group acts as a deactivating and meta directing group.

Distinction between phenol and carboxylic acid

Test	Phenol	Carboxylic acid
NaHCO ₃ test	No reaction	Brisk effervescence of CO ₂ gas
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PEEP INTO PREVIOUS YEARS

7. The major product of the following reaction is

COCH₃
(i) KMnO₄/KOH,
$$\Delta$$
(ii) H₂SO₄(dil.)

COOH
(a) HOOC

COCOOH
(c) OHC

COCOOH
(d) HOOC

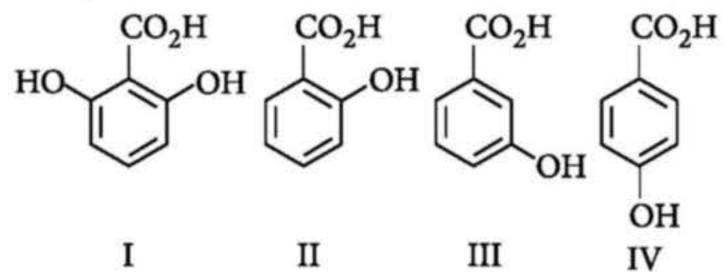
(JEE Main 2019)

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(NEET 2018)

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(JEE Advanced 2016)

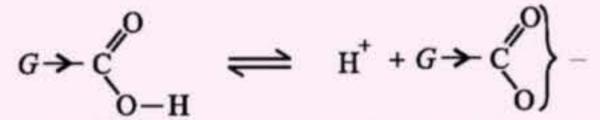
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 - Electron withdrawing groups (EWG's) make acids stronger.

$$G \leftarrow C$$
 $O \rightarrow H$
 G is electron withdrawing group

 $G \leftarrow G$
 $G \leftarrow G$
 $G \rightarrow G$
 G

Electron donating groups (EDG's) make acids weaker.



G is electron donating group (EDG)

Destabilises the carboxylate anion, decreases acidity

-I effect increases with increasing number of EWG's.

 $F_3CCOOH > F_2CHCOOH > FCH_2COOH$ Strongest acid

> CH₃COOH

Weakest acid

-I effect decreases with increasing distance from the EWG.

> FCH₂CH₂CH₂—COOH Weakest acid

 \pm R effect on aromatic ring decreases or

increases acidity. COOH COOH COOH COOH COOH OCH₃ +I-effect -I, +R--R-effect +R-effect effect effect

Answer Key For Peep Into Previous Years

- (a, d)

10.

(d)

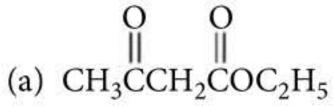
- (a)

- WKAP it up!
- 1. The reagent with which both acetaldehyde and acetone react easily is
 - (a) Fehling's reagent (b) Grignard reagent

 - (c) Schiff's reagent (d) Tollens' reagent.
- 2. $C_6H_{10}O_3$ (keto ester) $\xrightarrow{\text{NaOH} + I_2}$ yellow ppt. + B

 $B \xrightarrow{H^+} C \xrightarrow{\Delta} CH_3COOH.$

Hence, A is



- (b) CH₃CH₂CCH₂COCH₃
- (c) both of these
- (d) none of these.
- **3.** 3-Hydroxybutanal is formed when (*X*) reacts with (Y) in dilute (Z) solution. What are X, Y and Z?
 - (a) CH₃CHO, (CH₃)₂CO, NaOH
 - (b) CH₃CHO, CH₃CHO, NaCl
 - (c) (CH₃)₂CO, (CH₃)₂CO, HCl
 - (d) CH₃CHO, CH₃CHO, NaOH
- 4. Which of the following compounds has wrong IUPAC name?

(a) CH₃CH₂CH₂COOCH₂CH₃ Ethyl butanoate

(b) $CH_2 - CH_2$

HOOC COOH

2-Methyl-3-butanol

(c) $CH_3-CH-CH_2CHO$

3-Methylbutanal

2-Methyl-3-pentanone

- 5. m-Chlorobenzaldehyde on reaction with concentrated KOH at room temperature gives
 - (a) potassium m-chlorobenzoate and m-hydroxy benzaldehyde
 - (b) m-hydroxy benzaldehyde and m-chlorobenzyl alcohol
 - (c) *m*-chlorobenzyl alcohol and *m*-hydroxybenzyl alcohol
 - (d) potassium *m*-chlorobenzoate and *m*-chlorobenzyl alcohol.