

University questions

1. Discuss the mechanism of Kolbe's reaction.
2. Write the equation of Rimer Tiemann reactions.
3. Write short notes on the following mechanism.
 - i. Gattermann
 - ii. Lederer - Manasse
 - iii. Houbt-Houssart
4. How will prepare cresols?
5. Discuss the properties of p - amino phenols.
6. How will classified phenols.
7. Mention the preparation and properties of α - and β - naphthols.
8. Define Epoxides.
9. What synthetic uses of Epoxides?
10. Write short notes on crown ethers.
11. Write the mechanism of 2,4, di nitro phenyl hydrosizne
12. Write the mechanism reduction of carbonyl group by using $LiAlH_4$.

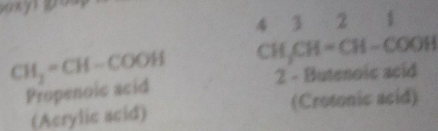
Unit - III

Carboxylic acids and Esters

Carboxylic acid

3.1 Unsaturated acids

Most of the unsaturated acids are known by their common names. Their IUPAC names are obtained by selecting the longest carbon chain containing the double bond and the carboxyl group, and naming the acid as Alkenoic acid. The position of the double bond with respect to the carboxyl group is indicated by a number.

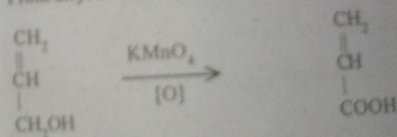


Acrylic acid ($\text{CH}_2 = \text{CH} - \text{COOH}$)

Preparation :

Acrylic acid is obtained.

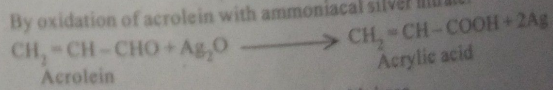
From allyl alcohol by the following steps :



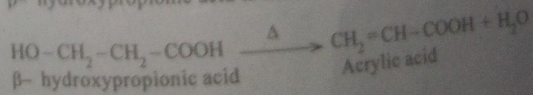
Allyl alcohol

Acrylic acid

2. By oxidation of acrolein with ammoniacal silver nitrate.



β -hydroxypropionic acid is heated with base.



1. α, β -Dibromopropionic acid

$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCOOH} + \text{Br}_2 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{Br} \\ | \\ \text{CH}_2-\text{CHCOOH} \\ | \\ \text{Br} \end{array}$$

2. Addition of Halogens :
 Acrylic acid reacts with Cl_2 or Br_2 to form addition products.

3. Acrylic acid

$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCOOH} + 2[\text{H}] \xrightarrow{\text{Na}} \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$$

4. Reduction Acrylic acid undergoes reduction with sodium and ethanol to give propionic acid.

A. Reactions of the double bond

Acrylic acid behaves both as an alkene and a carboxylic acid.

Chemical :

1. Acrylic acid is a colourless pungent - smelling liquid
2. Boiling point 141°C
3. It is miscible with water, alcohol and ether.

Physical :

1. Hydrolysis of vinyl cyanide
$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-CN} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow{\text{H}^+} \text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{COOH}) + \text{NH}_3$$
2. By carbonylation acrylonitrile in the presence of water and nickel carbonyl catalyst.
$$\text{HC}\equiv\text{CH} + \text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow{\text{NiCO}} \text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{COOH}$$
3. α, β -Dibromopropionic acid is formed with zinc.
$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{COOH} + \text{Zn} \longrightarrow \text{ZnBr}_2 + \text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{COOH}$$

3. Addition of Halogen acids :
 Acrylic acid reacts with dilute HCl solution to give β -Bromopropionic acid

$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCOOH} + \text{HBr} \longrightarrow \text{BrCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$$

4. Reaction with KMnO_4 :
 Acrylic acid reacts with dilute cold KMnO_4 solution to give glyceric acid

$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCOOH} + \text{H}_2\text{O} + [\text{O}] \xrightarrow{\text{cold KMnO}_4} \begin{array}{c} \text{OH} \\ | \\ \text{CH}_2-\text{CHCOOH} \\ | \\ \text{OH} \end{array}$$

5. Polymerization :
 On standing, acrylic acid slowly polymerizes to a glassy solid.

B. Reactions of -COOH group

6. Salt formation : Acrylic acid reacts with sodium hydroxide or sodium carbonate to form salts.

$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OH} + \text{NaOH} \longrightarrow \text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{ONa} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$$

7. Reaction with PCl_5
 Acrylic acid reacts with phosphorus pentachloride to give acryl chloride.

$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OH} + \text{PCl}_5 \longrightarrow \text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{Cl} + \text{POCl}_3 + \text{HCl}$$

8. Esterification :
 Acrylic acid reacts with ethanol in the presence of acid catalyst to give ethyl acrylate.

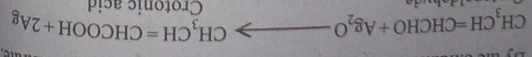
$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OH} + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH} \xrightarrow{\text{H}^+} \text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$$

Esters of acrylic acid are used to produce colourless plates such as lucite and plexiglass.

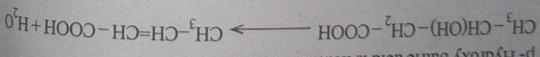
CROTONIC ACID

Trans - 2 - Butenoic acid $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}=\text{CHCOOH}$

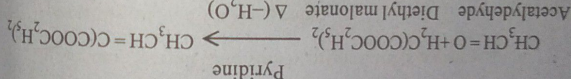
Preparation
 1. By the oxidation of crotonaldehyde with ammoniacal silver nitrate.



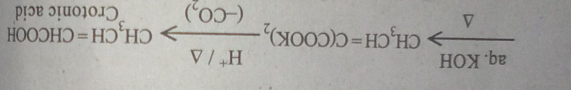
2. β -Hydroxy butric acid is heated with base.



3. By heating acetaldehyde and diethyl malonate in the presence of pyridine (Knoevenagel reaction) followed by the hydrolysis and decarboxylation.



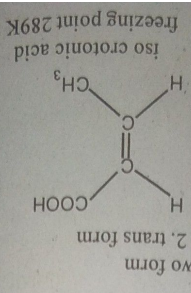
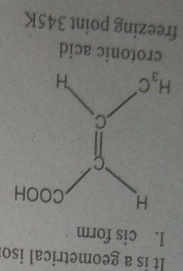
Acetaldehyde Diethyl malonate $\Delta(-\text{H}_2\text{O})$



Properties :

1. Crotonic acid is a colourless solid mp 72°C .
2. Like acrylic acid, it gives reactions of an alkene and a carboxylic acid.
3. It undergoes bromination with N - bromosuccinimide to form γ -bromocrotonic acid, $\text{BrCH}_2\text{CH}(\text{COOH})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

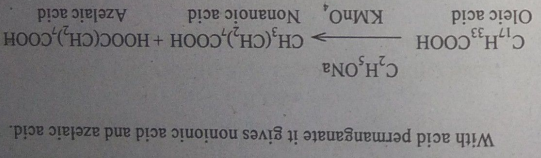
Structures :



OLEIC ACID, $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$

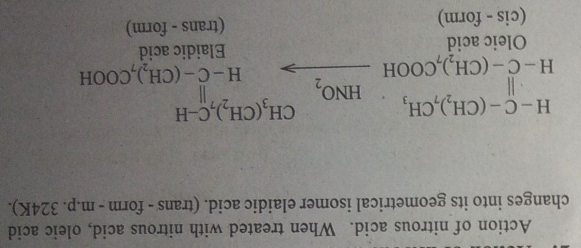
Oleic acid occurs as triolein (glyceryl ester) in oils and fats. It is a colourless oil (m.p. 280K) Insoluble in water but soluble in alcohol and ether. Catalytic reduction of oleic acid gives stearic acid. Sodium or potassium salts of the acid are used as soaps. A few other reactions are

i. Oxidation



This experiment indicates the position of the double bond which is further confirmed by ozonolysis when $\text{OHC}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}_3$ and $\text{OHC}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ are obtained.

2. Action of nitrous acid

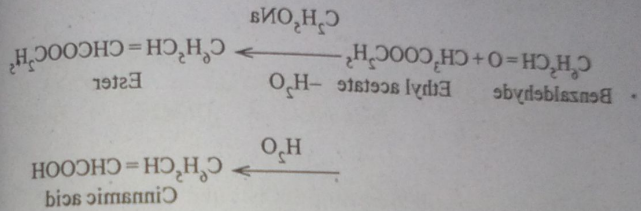


CINNAMIC ACID, $C_6H_5CH=CHCOOH$
Cinnamic acid is 3-phenylpropenoic acid.

Preparation :
Cinnamic acid is obtained.

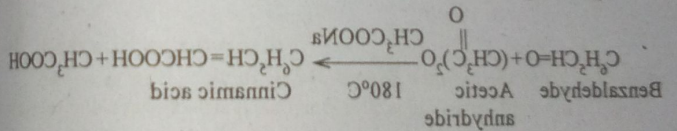
1. Claisen condensation

By treatment of benzaldehyde with ethyl acetate in the presence of sodium ethoxide followed by acid - hydrolysis of the resulting ester.



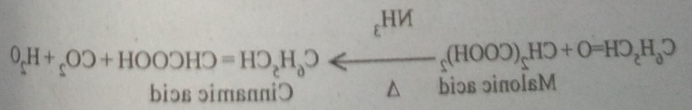
2. Perkin's reaction

By heating benzaldehyde with acetic anhydride at 180°C.



3. Knoevenagel's reaction

By heating benzaldehyde with malonic acid in alcoholic ammonia solution.

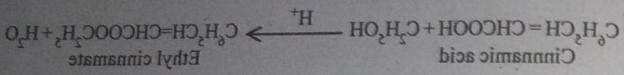


Properties :

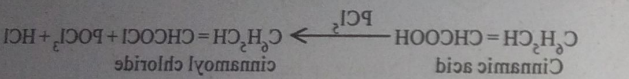
1. Cinnamic acid is a crystalline solid, mp 133°C.
2. It is sparingly soluble in water.
3. It behaves as an α, β -unsaturated acid and a benzene derivative.

1. Cinnamic acid reacts with sodium hydroxide to form sodium cinnamate.
 $C_6H_5CH=CHCOOH + NaOH \rightarrow C_6H_5CH=CHCOONa + H_2O$
 Cinnamic acid 2nd. Cinnamate

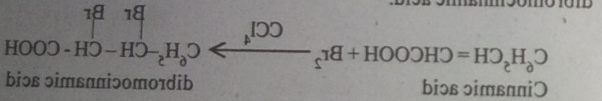
2. Cinnamic acid reacts with ethyl alcohol in the presence of an acid catalyst to give ethyl cinnamate.



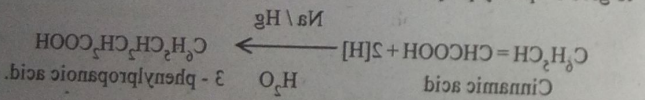
3. Cinnamic acid reacts with PCl_2 or $SOCl_2$ to form cinnamoyl chloride.



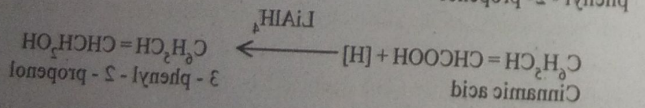
4. Cinnamic acid reacts with bromine in carbon tetrachloride to give dibromocinnamic acid.



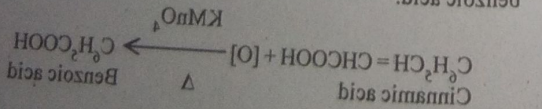
2. Cinnamic acid undergoes reduction with sodium amalgam and water to give 3-phenylpropionic acid.



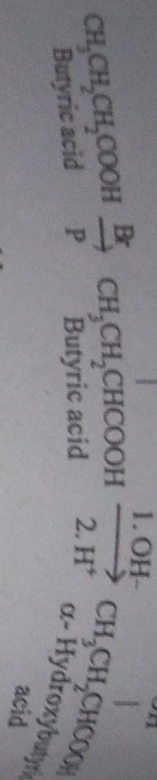
It undergoes reduction with lithium aluminium hydride to form 3-phenyl-2-propanol



d. Cinnamic acid undergoes oxidation with hot acidic $KMnO_4$ to give benzoic acid.

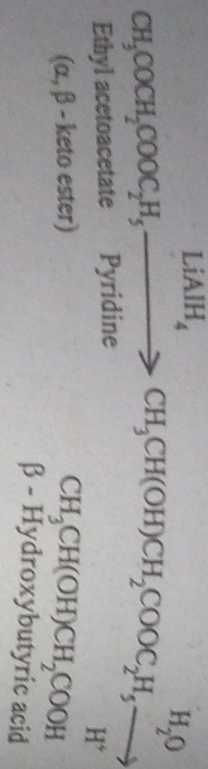


2. By hydrolysis of halo acids with dilute aqueous alkali. The desired halo acid may be obtained by HVZ reaction from the corresponding halo acid.

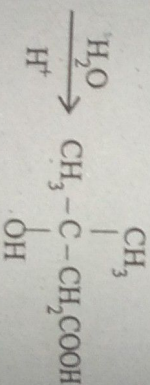
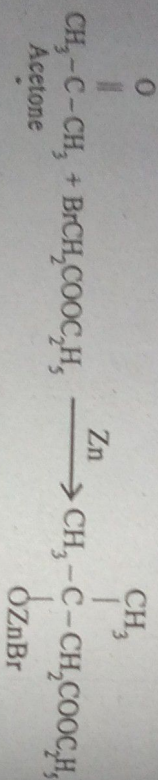


For β - hydroxy acids

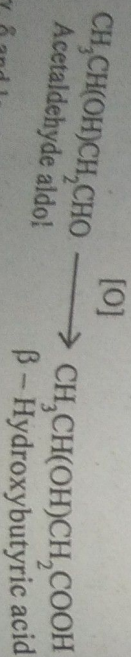
3. By reduction of β - keto acids or esters with LiAlH_4 in the presence of pyridine.



4. By reformatzky reaction e.g.,

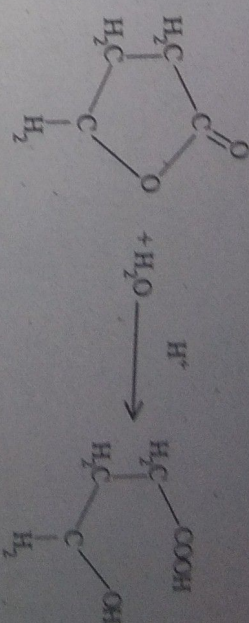


5. By careful oxidation of an aldol with Tollen's reagent (ammoniacal AgNO_3).



For γ , δ and longer hydroxy acids

6. By hydrolysis of the corresponding lactone.



Physical properties

1. The hydroxy acids are colourless crystalline solids or syrupy liquids.
2. Their melting and boiling points are much higher than those of the parent unsubstituted acids.
3. They are more soluble in water than either the parent carboxylic acid or the alcohol, since both the functional groups (OH and COOH) in them can form hydrogen bonds with water. They are less soluble in alcohol and ether.
4. They are stronger acids than the corresponding unsubstituted acids owing to the electron withdrawing effect of the OH group. For example, hydroxyacetic acid ($K_a = 14.76 \times 10^{-5}$) is considerably stronger acids than acetic acid ($K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$).

Chemical properties

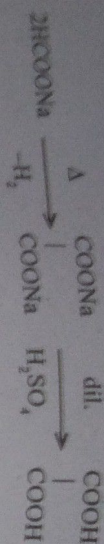
The hydroxy acids have a carboxylic group and an alcoholic OH group in the same molecule. They give characteristic reactions of both these functions. The action of heat on hydroxy acids is of special interest.

Action of Heat on hydroxy acids

Hydroxy acids when heated in presence of a little mineral acid (HCl or H_2SO_4) yield a variety of products depending on the distance between OH and COOH groups.

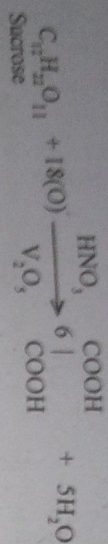
1. Alpha - Hydroxy acids :

α - hydroxy acids form an intermolecular cyclic diester called a lactide. They do so by reaction between OH of one molecule with COOH group of the second molecule.



4. Laboratory preparation :

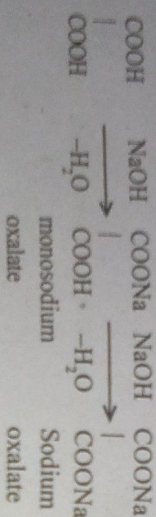
Sucrose on heating with concentrated HNO_3 in presence of V_2O_5 catalyst gives oxalic acid



Properties :

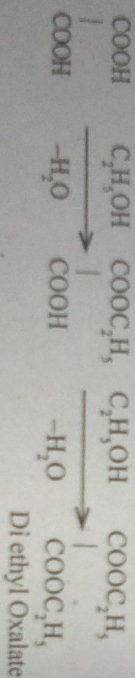
1. Salt formation :

Oxalic acid reacts with alkalic forming two types of salts.



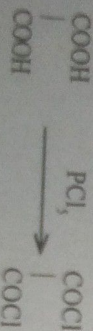
2. Formation of ester :

Oxalic acid reacts with alcohol giving two types of esters.

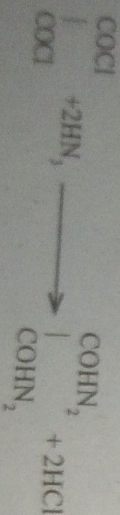


3. From PCl_5 :

Oxalic acid reacts with excess of PCl_5 , giving oxalyl chloride.

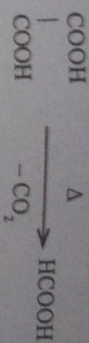


Oxalyl chloride reacts with ammonia giving oxamide.



4. Action of heat :

Oxalic acid on heating about its melting point gives formic acid.

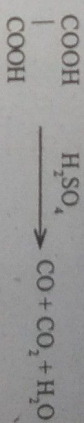


5. With glycerol :

When oxalic acid is heated with glycerol at 110°C gives formic acid. While allyl alcohol is formed at 260°C .

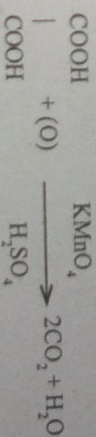
6. With $\text{Con. H}_2\text{SO}_4$:

When oxalic acid is heated at 90°C it decomposes to give CO and CO_2 .



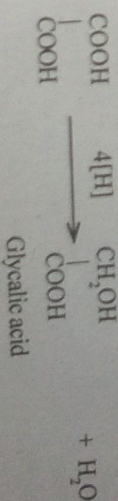
7. With KMnO_4 :

Oxalic acid on treating with acid potassium permanganate gives CO_2 and water.



8. Reduction :

When oxalic acid is reduced with nascent hydrogen gives glycolic acid.

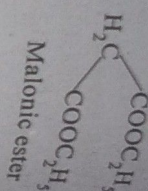
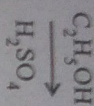
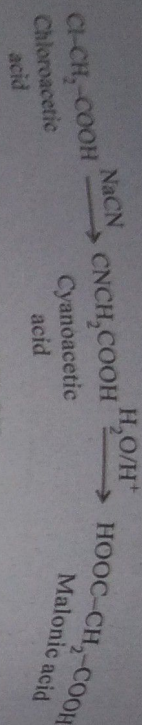


2. Malonic acid

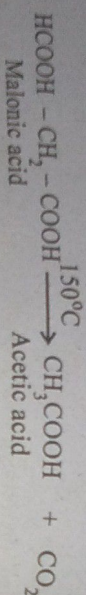
This acid occurs as calcium salt in sugar beet.

Preparation :

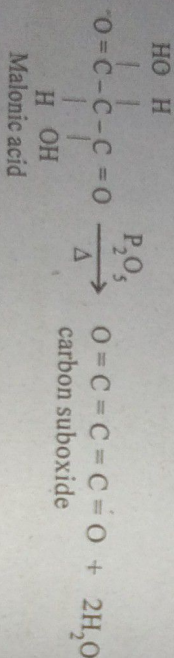
Malonic acid is prepared from chloroacetic acid by treating with aqueous sodium cyanide to give cyanooacetic acid and subsequent hydrolysis with dilute hydrochloric acid.

**Properties :**

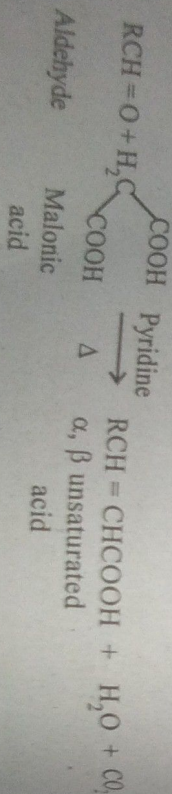
1. Malonic acid is a white crystalline solid, mp 135°C.
2. It is soluble in water and ethanol, but sparingly in ether.
3. It gives all the usual reactions of a dicarboxylic acid.

**2. Action with P₂O₅ :**

On heating with P₂O₅, malonic acid gives carbon suboxide.

**4. Unsaturated acids :**

When with Aldehydes when pyridine solution of malonic acid and an aldehyde is heated, α, β unsaturated acid is produced.

**Uses :**

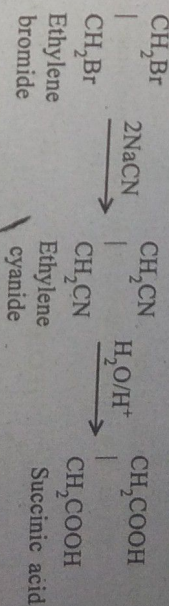
Diethyl ester is a valuable synthetic reagent for the preparation of a variety of carboxylic acids.

3. Succinic acid (HOOCCH₂CH₂COOH)

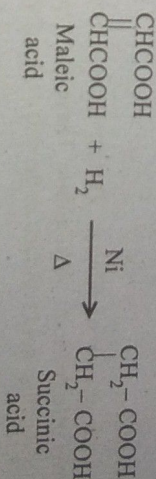
Succinic acid was first obtained as a result of distillation of amber and hence its name (Latin, succinum = amber). It is also produced during the alcoholic fermentation of sugar.

Preparation :

1. Succinic acid is prepared from ethylene bromide by treating with sodium cyanide and subsequent hydrolysis of ethylene cyanide.



2. It is obtained industrially by catalytic reduction of maleic acid.



Succinic acid can also be synthesised with the help of malonic acid.

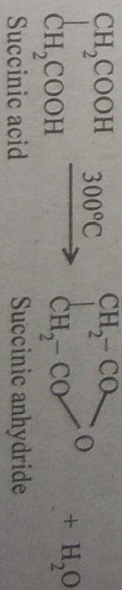
Properties :

Succinic acid forms white monoclinic prisms, mp 188°C. It is soluble in ethyl alcohol and ether, but moderately soluble in water.

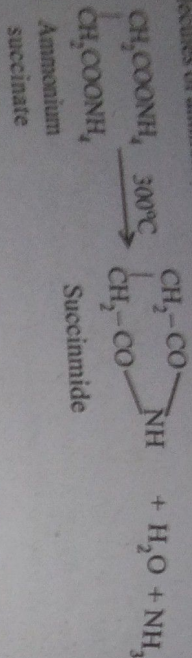
Succinic acid gives all the normal reactions of a dicarboxylic acid.

1. Action of heat:

On heating to 300°C, it loses a molecule of water to form succinic anhydride.



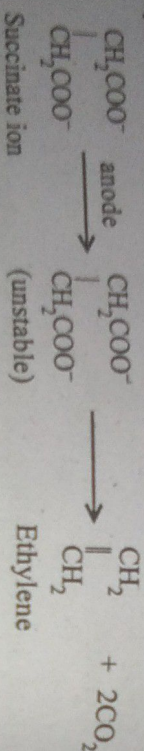
2. **Reaction with ammonia:**
When ammonia is treated with ammonium succinate which upon heating loses 2 molecules of ammonia to yield succinimide.



When succinimide is treated with an alkaline solution of Br_2 at 0°C , it forms N-bromosuccinimide (NBS) which is a valuable reagent for allylic bromination.

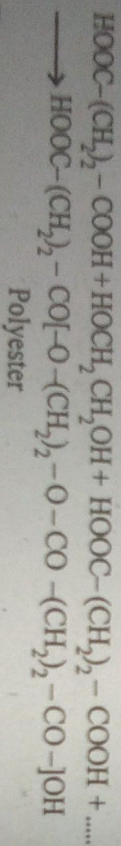
3. **Electrolysis of potassium salt:**

The electrolysis of a strong solution of potassium succinate gives ethylene.



4. **Action with glycol:**

When heated with excess of ethylene glycol, succinic acid forms polyesters commonly referred to as alkyl esters. These esters are acidic in character due to succinic acid residues at the end of the chain.

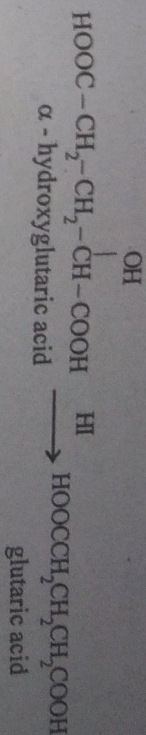
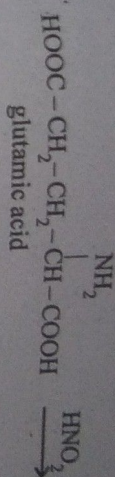


Uses:

1. In the manufacture of lacquers and dyes.
2. In volumetric analysis as a standard substance for acid-base titrations.
3. Succinic acid is used for the manufacture of polyester resins.

4. Glutaric acid ($\text{HOOC}-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{COOH}$)

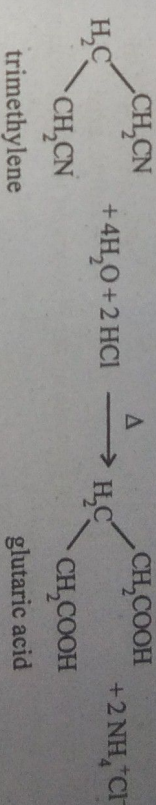
Glutaric acid is treated with nitrous acid gives α -hydroxy glutaric acid again treated with hydroiodic acid gives glutaric acid.



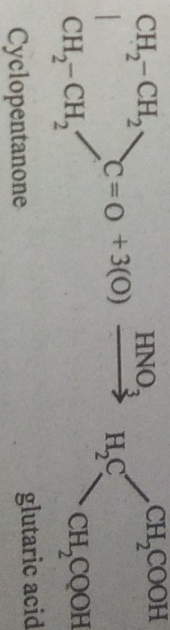
Preparation:

Synthetic methods

1. On hydrolysis of trimethylene cyanide with hydrochloric acid gives glutaric acid.

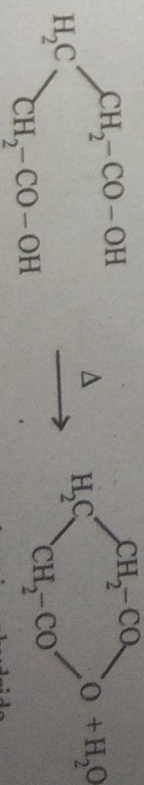


2. By oxidation of cyclopentanone with nitric acid.



Properties:

Glutaric acid is a crystalline solid, mp 98° . Like succinic acid, this acid also loses a molecule of water when heated alone, or with acetic anhydride or thionyl chloride.

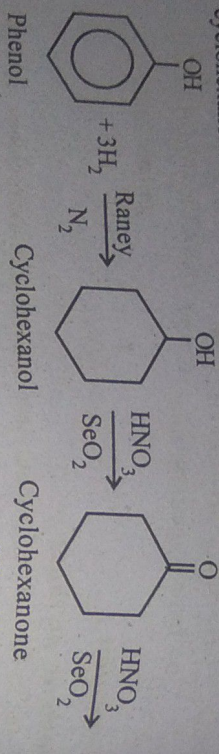


4. Adipic acid ($\text{HOOC}-(\text{CH}_2)_4-\text{COOH}$)

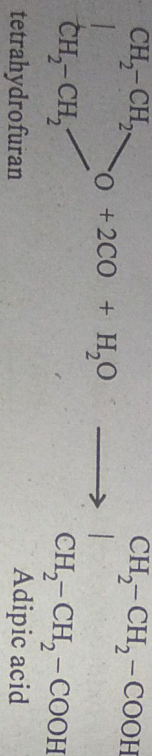
This acid got its name from the fact that it was first obtained by the oxidation of fats.

Preparation :

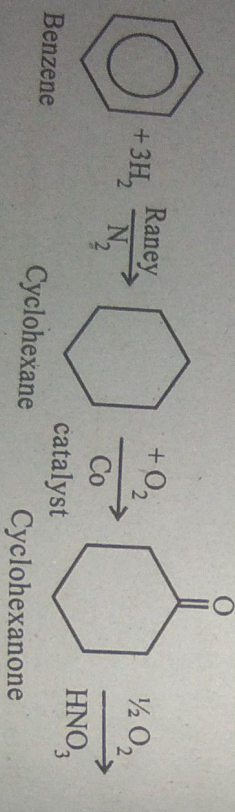
1. It can be prepared by the reaction of monosodiummalonic ester with ethylene bromide.
2. It is obtained commercially by the oxidation of phenol, or cyclohexanone with nitric acid in the presence of SeO_2 catalyst.



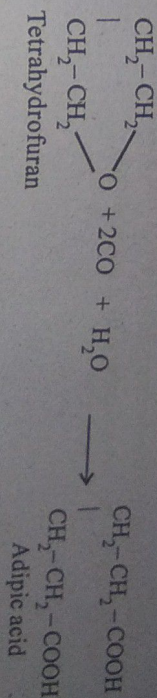
3. It is also prepared on a large scale by the reaction of tetrahydrofuran with carbon monoxide and water.



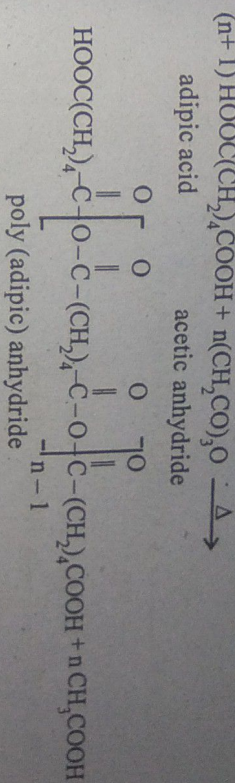
4. Now a days adipic acid is produced by the catalytic oxidation of cyclohexane (obtained by catalytic reduction of benzene) in two steps. In the first step cyclohexane is converted to cyclohexanone by air-oxidation in the presence of cobalt catalyst at 100°C under a pressure of 150. In the second step the cyclohexanone is oxidised to adipic acid with the help of nitric acid.

**Properties :**

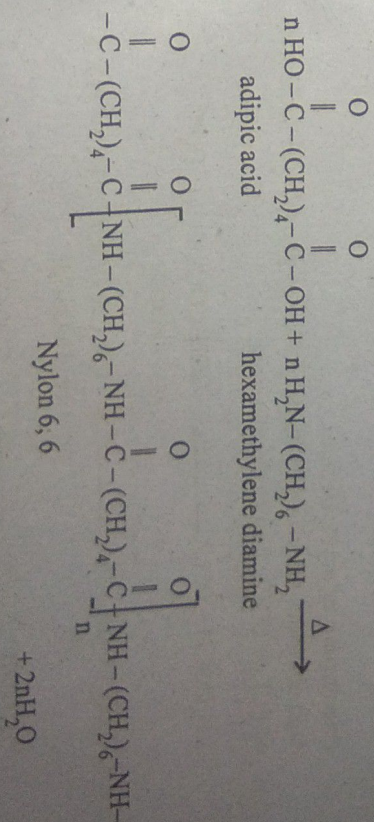
Adipic acid is a crystalline solid, mp 150°C . When heated in presence of $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$, it is converted to cyclopentanone.



Upon heating with acetic anhydride, it gives in a polymeric anhydride.



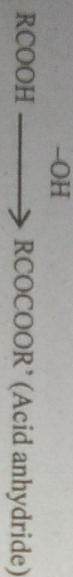
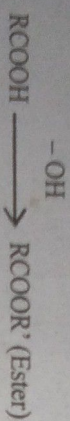
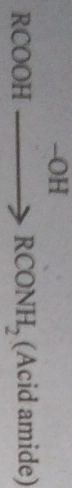
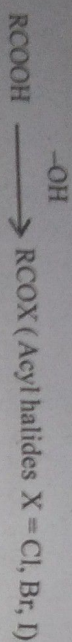
Adipic acid undergoes condensation polymerisation with 1, 6-diaminohexane (hexamethylenediamine) to give a polyamide, Nylon 6, 6. It is one of the most popular of the synthetic fibres and is so named because in each repeating unit its molecule contains six carbons in the amine fragment and six in the acid fragment.



3.4. Mechanism of conversion of acids

Acid derivatives are the derivatives of carboxylic acids in which the OH of COOH group has been replaced by a other atoms.

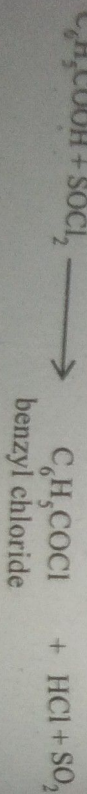
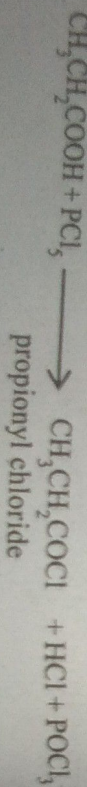
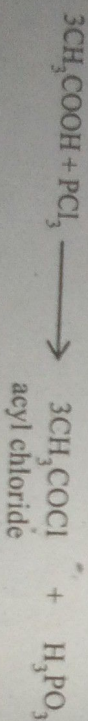
Examples :



Method's of Preparation :

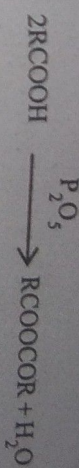
1. Preparation of acyl chloride :

Acid chlorides are prepared by the action of phosphorus trichloride PCl_3 or PCl_5 or SOCl_2 on a carboxylic acid.



2. Preparation of acetic anhydride :

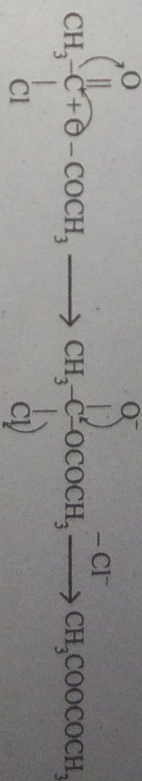
a. Carboxylic acids undergo intermolecular anhydride formation in the presence of a strong dehydrating agent like phosphorus pentoxide.



b. Acetic anhydride is prepared conveniently in the laboratory by distilling a mixture of anhydrous sodium acetate and acetyl chloride.

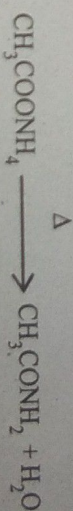


Mechanism :



3. Preparation of acid amides :

a. The simple amides can be prepared by heating the ammonium salt of the corresponding acid at $170^\circ - 230^\circ$. The ammonium salt degrades to form the amide.

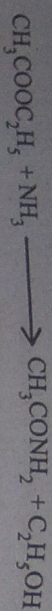


Alternatively, ammonium salt of the relevant carboxylic acid can be heated in an inert solvent to get the amide.

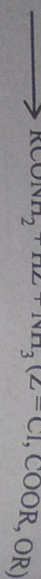
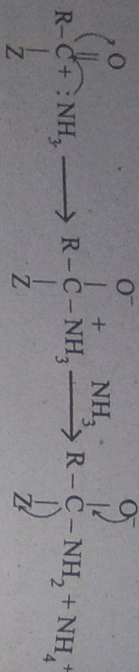


This is reaction is called Schotten Baumann reaction.

c. Esters are reacted with concentration solution of ammonia to form amide.



Mechanism :



d. Acid amides are obtained by the controlled or partial hydrolysis of alkyl nitriles.



Hydrolysis of acid derivative into acid :

1. Hydrolysis of acid halides.



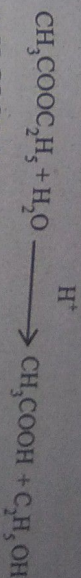
2. Acetic anhydride react with water slowly to produce the corresponding acids.



3. Acid amide react with water slowly to produce the corresponding acids.



4. Hydrolysis of esters.

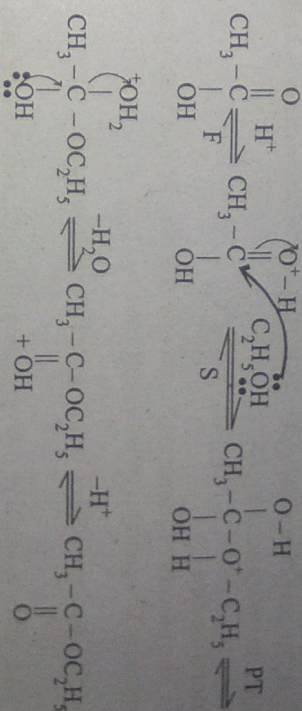


Esterification :

The process of formation of ester by reacting alcohol with an acid (organic or inorganic) is called esterification.

Mechanism:

Esterification is a reversible reaction.

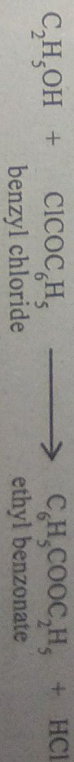


F = Fast, S = Slow, PT = Proton transfer

Alcohol react with acyl chloride to form ester.



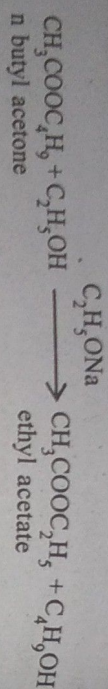
This is called acylation.



This is called benzylation.

Trans esterification

When an ester gets refluxed with an alcohol (other than the one used in its preparation) preferably in the presence of a small quantity of acid or sodium alkoxide as catalyst, the original alcohol residue in the ester gets replaced by the new alcohol. This ester interchanges, which is actually alcoholysis (splitting by alcohol) of an ester, is called transesterification.



It is generally used for preparing the ester of a higher alcohol ($\text{C}_4\text{H}_9\text{OH}$) from that of a lower ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$) one. This reaction is called transesterification.

Esterification :

The process of formation of ester by reacting alcohol with an acid (organic or inorganic) is called esterification.

This reaction acid or base are used for the catalysed.

Ac refers to the acyl - oxygen cleavage and AL refers to the alkyl - oxygen cleavage, and numbers 1 and 2 refer to unimolecular and bimolecular reactions.

1. Acid catalysed unimolecular acyl - oxygen fission. (A_{AC}^1)
2. Acid catalysed bimolecular acyl - oxygen fission. (A_{AC}^2)
3. Acid catalysed unimolecular alkyl - oxygen fission. (A_{AL}^1)
4. Acid catalysed bimolecular alkyl - oxygen fission. (A_{AL}^2)
5. Base catalysed unimolecular acyl - oxygen fission. (B_{AC}^1)
6. Base catalysed bimolecular acyl - oxygen fission. (B_{AC}^2)
7. Base catalysed unimolecular alkyl - oxygen fission. (B_{AL}^1)
8. Base catalysed bimolecular alkyl - oxygen fission. (B_{AL}^2)

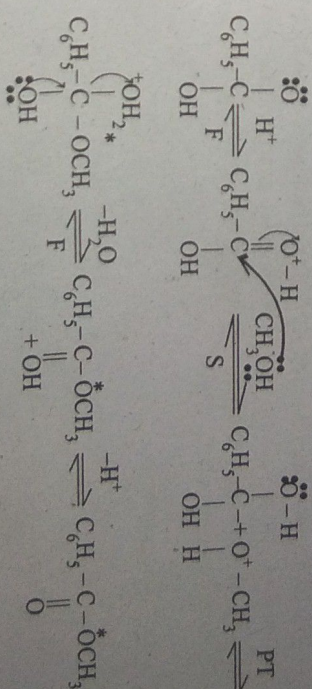
Of these the three esterification mechanisms observed are A_{AC}^1 , A_{AC}^2 , A_{AL}^1 .

Effect of Substituents structural and steric factors :

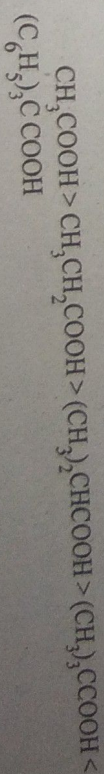
1. A_{AC}^2 Mechanism :

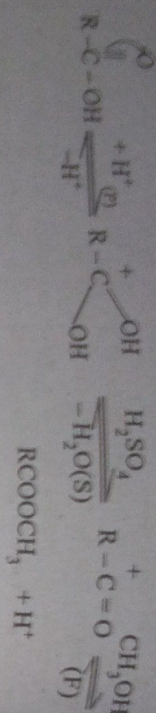
The study of the mechanism of this type of hydrolysis and esterification has been made on the basis of the principle of microscopic reversibility. It means that "If a given sequence of steps constitute the favoured mechanism of the forward reaction and if these sequences are reversed that they constitute the favoured mechanism of the reverse reaction".

Roberts et al carried out esterification of methyl alcohol with benzoic acid wherein the oxygen atom of -OH of COOH group is replaced by O^{18} . They found that the water formed during the esterification of an acid with methanol gave water having O^{18} . This is only possible when there occurs acyl - oxygen fission during esterification, therefore according to the principle of microscopic reversibility similar fission must occur during hydrolysis also.

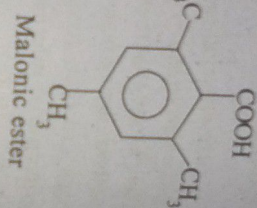


This step involves a change in hybridisation of the carbon atom of the carboxyl group from sp^2 to sp^3 state and because of this steric retardation will be expected to increase as the size or branching of the alkyl group of the acid part (or acyl part) increases.

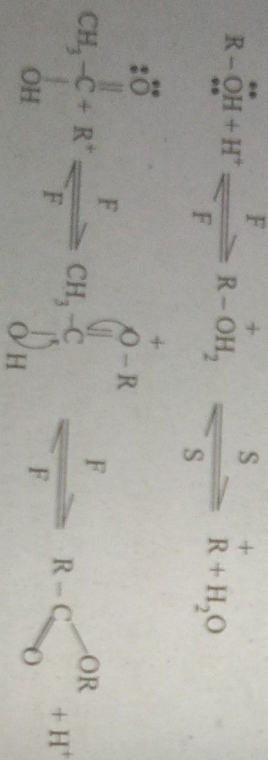


2. A_{AC}^1 Mechanism :

This type of esterification and hydrolysis has been found only in some special cases. Newman (1941) reported that mesitoic acid (2, 4, 6 - trimethyl benzoic acid) does not undergo esterification under ordinary condition, but when dissolved in concentrated sulphuric acid and the mixture poured into cold methanol, the corresponding methyl ester is readily obtained.



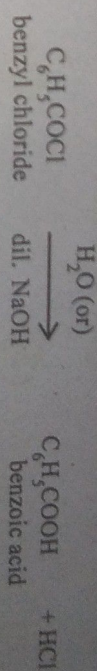
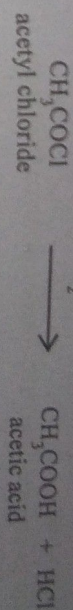
The formation of acylium ion ($2, 6 -$) gets facilitated both by steric hindrance, as also by stabilisation of the positive charge because of the presence of electron donating (methyl) group by contributing the resonance structures of the type.

3. A_{AL}^1 Mechanism :

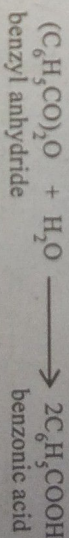
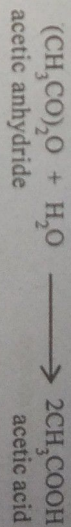
This mechanism involved in 3° alcohol only. Because the intermediate carbonium ion more stable. This stability is reason for the +I effect of three alkyl group of 3° alcohol.

Hydrolysis :

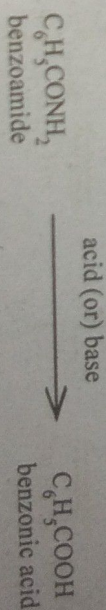
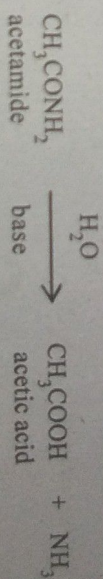
Hydrolysis of acid chloride.



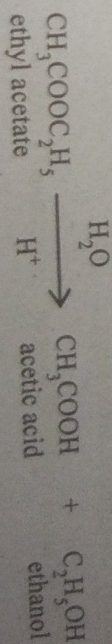
Acetic anhydride slowly hydrolysis by water. But fastly hydrolysis by base.

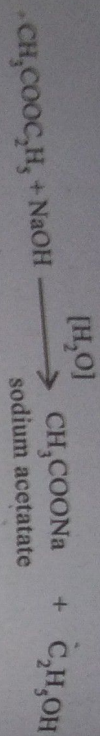


Acidamide slowly hydrolysis by water. But fastly hydrolysis by base.



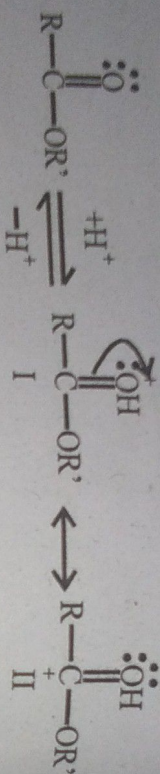
Esters are hydrolysis by acid and base. Ester gives alcohol and acid or its salt. Eg.,



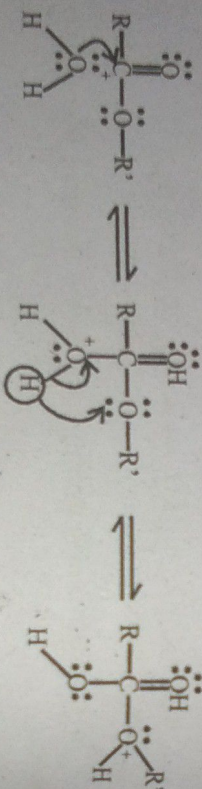
**Mechanism :****i. Acid hydrolysis :**

It is a reversible reaction. The reaction involved three steps.

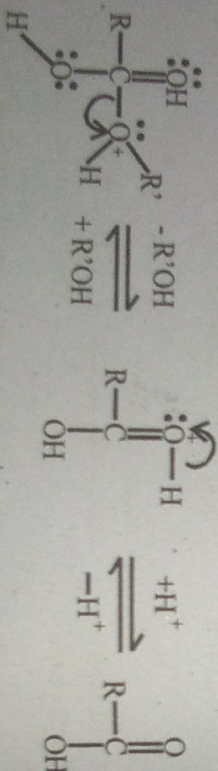
i. Hydrogen attack carbonyl oxygen. To obtain I and II structure.



ii. Water molecule involved reaction.

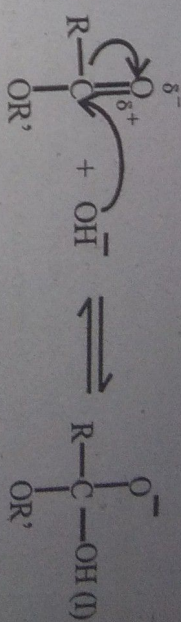


iii. Acid obtained removed from R'O'H.

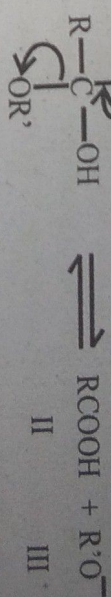
**2. Base hydrolysis :**

Mechanism involved in three steps.

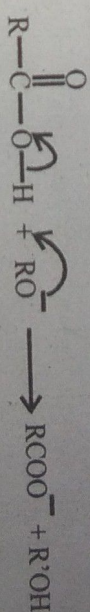
i. Hydroxyl ion attack carbonyl oxygen. To obtain I structure.



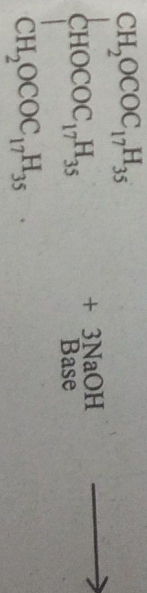
ii. I gives structure II and III.



iii. Proton transfer

**Saponification :**

During alkaline hydrolysis of an ester, sodium or potassium salt of the acid is formed. As alkali salts of the higher fatty acids are soaps, alkaline hydrolysis of an ester is called saponification.

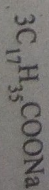


fat (or) oil

triglyceride



glycerol



Soap

3.4. Tautomerism

This is a type of isomerism in which the isomers are inter-convertible under normal conditions. (tauto - same : meros - part), A tautomeric substance is a mixture of two mutually inter-convertible isomers called *tautomers*. If one from is to be changed to another a definite amount of energy must be supplied to take away from the substance. If this amount of energy is very small then the transformation will be quite easy. This will result in an equilibrium mixture of the tautomers. Since the tautomeric change is rapid and reversible, the separation of the mixture into tautomers is difficult, Tautomeric change is possible only in the liquid state or in solution or in the gaseous state.

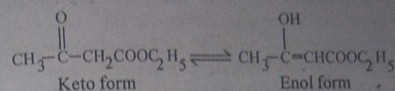
Tautomeric change results from the shifting of an atom or group from one part of a molecule to another. In majority of cases the shifted atom is hydrogen in the ionic form (proton). Such tautomerism is referred to as prototropy. In some other types there is migration of anions like OH⁻ or Cl⁻. This is called *anionotropy*. This is a less common type.

Types of Tautomerism :

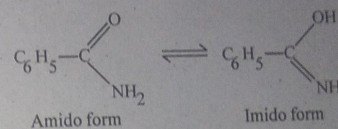
Various compounds that exhibit tautomerism can be classified as follows :

- i. Open - system of tautomerism or Ionotropy
 - ii. Ring - chain tautomerism
 - iii. Valence tautomerism
- i. **Open System of Tautomerism or Ionotropy :**
In this type of tautomerism, both tautomers are open chain substances. This can be further sub - divided into two groups.
- a. **Cationotropy :**
Tautomerism is referred to as cationotropy when atoms or groups of atoms shifts as cations. A large majority of cases of cationotropy, however is prototropy wherein protons are involved.

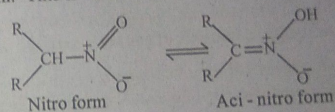
- i. For example prototropy in case of **keto - enol tautomerism**.



- ii. Another type of prototropy involves the **amido - imido tautomerism** of the amides of carboxylic acids.

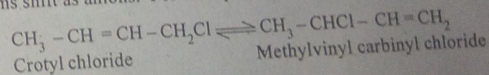


- iii. Primary and secondary nitroparaffins are also found to exist only as nitro compounds in equilibrium with small proportions of aci - isomerism. This is called **nitro - aci nitro tautomerisms**.



b. Anionotropy :

Tautomerism is referred to as anionotropy when atoms or groups of atoms shift as anions. For example anionotropy in following :



2. Ring - chain Tautomerism :

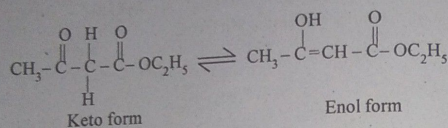
In this type of tautomerism, one form is cyclic and other is acyclic (open - chain). The two forms of this type differ in the position of either a proton or anionic atom or group. This type of tautomerism is found in carbohydrates.

3. Valence tautomerism :

In this type of tautomerism the two tautomers differ only in the redistribution of the valencies.

Keto - Enol Tautomerism

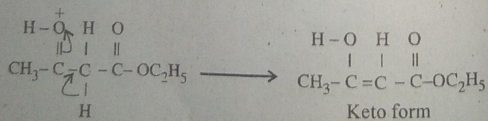
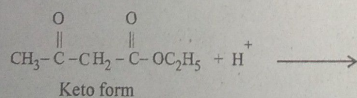
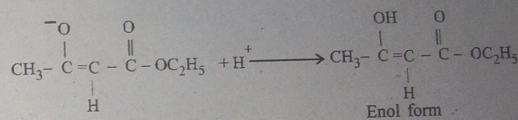
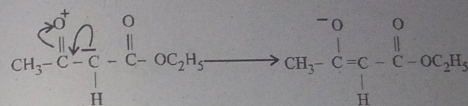
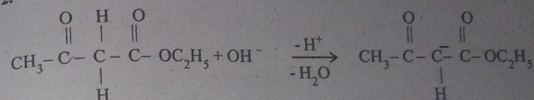
When a methylene group is attached to two carbonyl groups, the hydrogen atom migrates to one or other carbonyl group. Thus enol form arises. This type of tautomerism is called the *keto - enol tautomerism*. In this tautomerism a hydrogen atom migrates from a carbon atom to oxygen atom. The keto - enol tautomerism in acetoacetic ester is shown below.

**Keto enol tautomerism of acetoacetic esters**

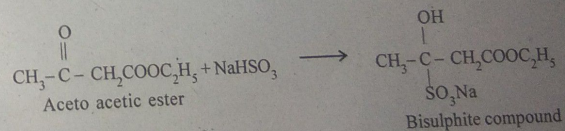
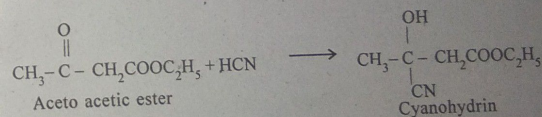
Acetoacetic ester behaves as though it is an enol and also a ketone in its reactions. We say this is due to tautomerism. Thus if a compound behaves as a ketone and as an enol we can conclude that there is tautomerism. Since there is an equilibrium during testing the compound would behave as though it consists of enol or keto form only.

Acid and base catalysed mechanism :

The keto - enol tautomerism of acetoacetic ester is catalysed both by acids and bases.

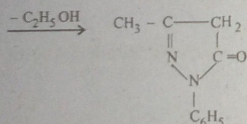
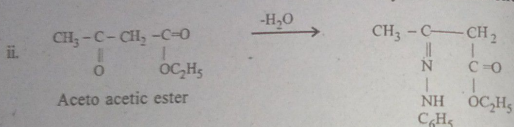
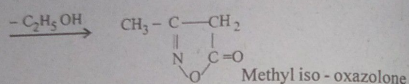
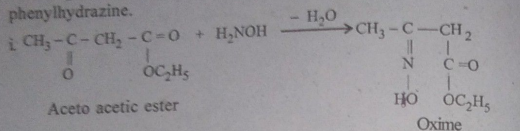
1. Acid catalysed mechanism**2. Base catalysed mechanism****Reactions in favour of keto form****1. Addition reactions :**

It gives addition compounds with HCN and NaHSO₃.



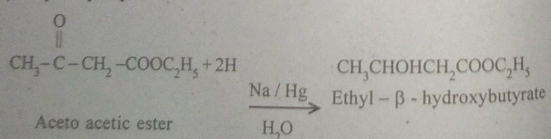
2. Condensation reaction :

It gives condensation product with hydroxylamine and phenylhydrazine.

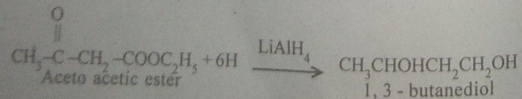


3. Reduction :

Acetoacetic ester on reduction with sodium amalgam gives ethyl β - hydroxybutyrate.



Reduction with LiAlH_4 gives 1, 3 butanediol.



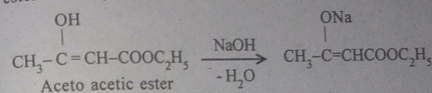
4. Ketonic hydrolysis :

As we have seen earlier ketonic hydrolysis yields ketones.

Reactions in favour of enol form

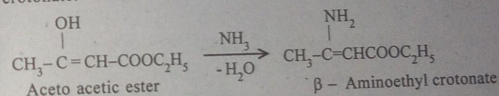
1. Formation of sodium salt :

The hydrogen of the hydroxy group of the enol form of acetoacetic ester is weakly acidic. Hence it reacts with alkalies to give salts.



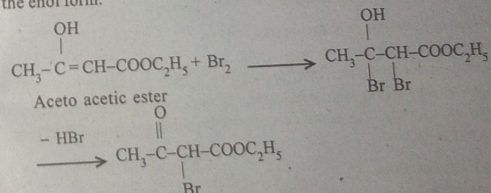
2. With ammonia :

Acetoacetic ester reacts with ammonia to form β - aminoethyl crotonate.



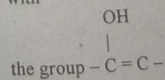
3. With bromine :

It decolourises bromine water. Bromine adds to the double bond of the enol form.



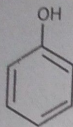
4. With ferric chloride

Acetoacetic ester gives violet colour with ferric chloride. This colour reaction is a characteristic reaction of phenol and enolic compounds with



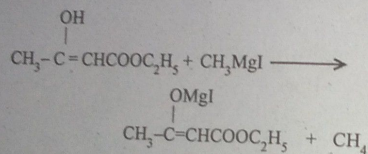
5. **With benzene diazonium chloride**
It couples with benzene diazonium chloride as phenol.

Reaction (4) and (5) indicate that acetoacetic ester resembles phenol. In phenol also there is enol structure.



6. **With Grignard reagent :**

The enol form of acetoacetic ester reacts with Grignard reagent.



The above evidence in favour of keto form and enol form show that acetoacetic ester is in two tautomeric forms.

Separation of keto and enol forms (Knorr)

Separated of keto form :

A solution of acetoacetic ester in petroleum ether is cooled to -78°C . A colourless crystalline solid separates. It does not give violet colour with ferric chloride and it does not decolourise bromine solution. Therefore it is the keto form.

Separated of enol form :

A suspension of the sodium salt of acetoacetic ester in petroleum ether is taken. HCl gas is passed through it. Sodium chloride present in the mixture is separated by filtration. The filtrate contains the enolic form. It gives intense violet colour with ferric chloride and decolourises bromine solution.

The keto form or the enol form if allowed to stand for some time gives the tautomeric mixture only.

Estimation of keto and enol forms :

Now it is well established that acetoacetic ester exists in keto and enol forms and equilibrium exists between these two forms under ordinary conditions. The exact composition of each form can be determined by physical as also by chemical methods. However, one should select such a method that should not disturb the equilibrium of the mixture during estimation. Because of this reason, physical methods are preferred.

Physical methods :

The various methods are as given below :

- By measurement of refractive index.** In this method first of all, the refractive index of the ordinary ester is determined. Then, its value is compared with the values of the different mixtures of the keto and enol forms of known composition. Knorr used this method and found that the equilibrium mixture of acetoacetic ester contains 7.7% of the enol form and 92.3% of the keto form.
- By measurement of electrical conductivity.** In this method when we use one form which is an electrolyte and measure its electrical conductivity which may be employed to determine its percentage in the mixture.
- By N.M.R. and infrared spectroscopy.** These techniques have been used successfully for determining the equilibrium composition of tautomers.
- By optical rotation measurement.** This method has been used successfully to determine the quantity of the two tautomeric forms in any equilibrium mixture.

Chemical methods :

The various methods are as follows :

- Kurt Meyer method.**

This method is based upon the observation that the enol form of acetoacetic ester, but not its keto form, reacts rapidly with bromine, forming bromo ketones.

The process consists in treating weighted sample of ester with the excess of standard ethanolic solution of bromine. The excess of bromine,

