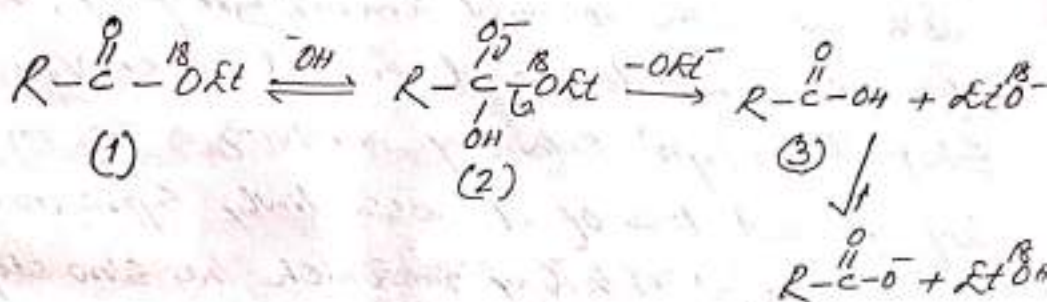


## BAC<sup>2</sup> mechanism:

## Hydrolysis of ester

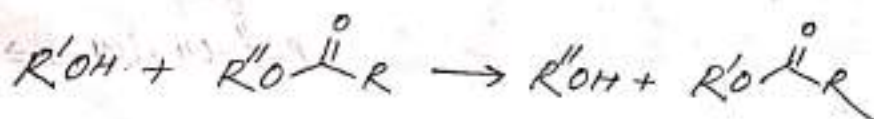
A reaction that has been much investigated is the hydrolysis of esters, by aqueous base i.e. OH<sup>-</sup>. It is found to be kinetically second order and <sup>18</sup>O isotopic labelling experiment on (1) have established that this normally undergoes acyl-oxygen cleavage i.e. <sup>18</sup>O label is found only in EtOH. This supports the tetrahedral intermediate pathway via following pathway.



The rate-limiting step is almost certainly attack of OH<sup>-</sup> on the original ester (1). The overall reaction is essentially irreversible as OEt<sup>-</sup> would remove a proton from (3) rather than attack its carbonyl carbon atom, while the carboxylate anion will be unsusceptible to nucleophilic attack by EtOH or EtO<sup>-</sup>. This mechanism is generally referred to as BAC<sup>2</sup> mechanism.

## Transesterification:

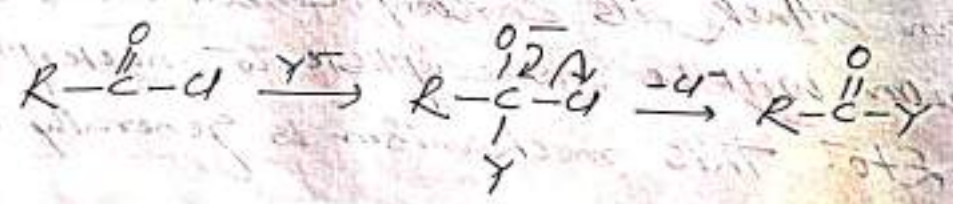
In organic chemistry, transesterification is the process of exchanging the organic group 'R'' of an ester with the organic group 'R'' on an alcohol. These reactions are often catalyzed by the addition of an acid or base catalyst.



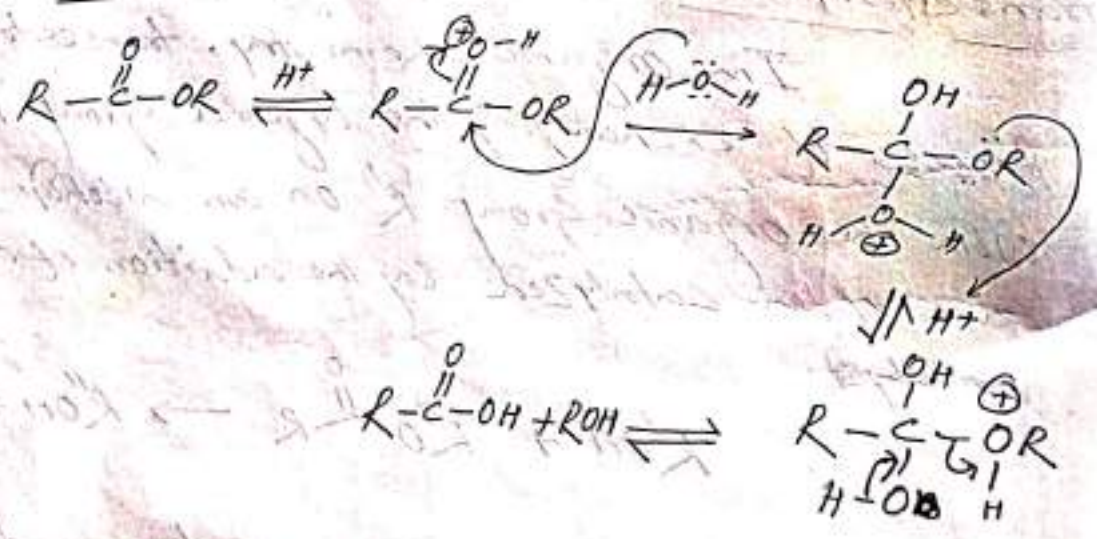
Strong acids catalyses the reaction by donating a proton to the carbonyl group, thus making it a more potent electrophile, whereas bases catalyse the reaction by removing a proton from the alcohol, thus making it more nucleophilic.

Esters with longer alkoxy groups can be made from mixtures of ethyl esters in high purity by heating the mixture of ester, acid/base and large alcohol and evaporating the alcohol to drive equilibrium.

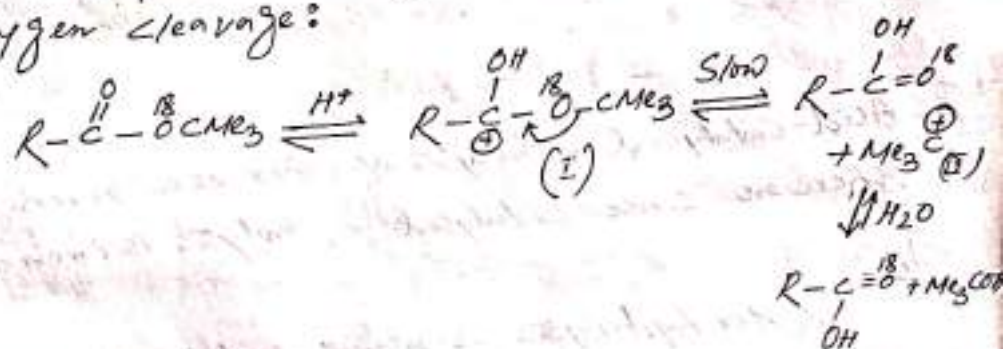
\* Acid chloride undergo ready attack by weaker nucleophiles e.g.  $H_2O$ ,  $ROH$ . The question then arises with the better potential leaving group  $Cl^-$ , the reactions of acid chloride could proceed either via a single step (' $S_N2$  type') pathway involving a T.S. in which attack by  $Y^-$  and loss of  $Cl^-$  essentially synchronous or via an ' $S_N1$  type' pathway in which the slow step is  $RClO \rightarrow RCO^+$ , followed by fast attack by  $Y^-$  on the acyl cation  $RCO^+$ . In fact, most reactions of acid chloride probably proceed via the more familiar tetrahedral intermediate pathway.



\*  $AC^2$  type mechanism:

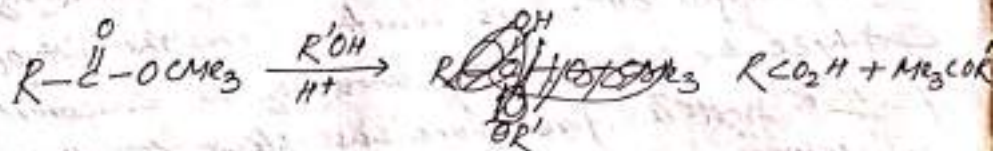


\* Esters  $RCO_2R'$  where the alkyl group  $R'$  can form a relatively stable carbocation e.g. (2) from (1), have been shown - by  $^{18}O$  labelling experiments - to undergo alkyl-oxygen cleavage:

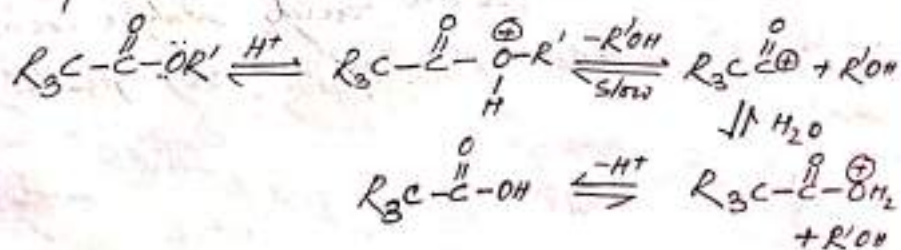


This mechanism generally referred to as  $A_{AL1}$  mechanism. It also occurs with ester alkyl groups such as  $Ph_2CH-$ .

\* When attempts are made to transesterify with ester  $RCOOCMe_3$  with  $R'OH$ , the product is not now the expected ester  $RCO_2R'$  but  $RCO_2H$  and the ether  $R'OCMe_3$ .

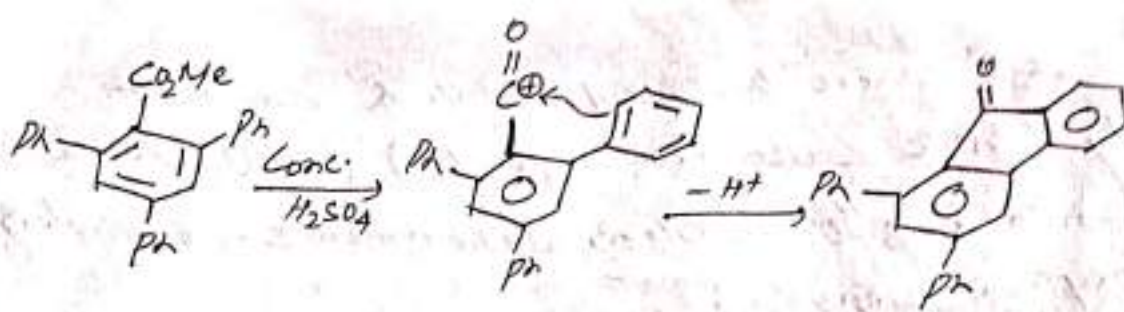


\* Where the acid alkyl group  $R'$  in  $RCO_2R'$  is sufficiently bulky, e.g.  $RC_6$ , that bimolecular hydrolysis via a tetrahedral intermediate is inhibited (because of the degree of crowding there would be in the T.S.), a further, relatively rare, acid-catalysed mechanism is found to operate -  $A_{AL2}$  - it occurs only in powerful ionising solvents:



Evidence of this mechanism:

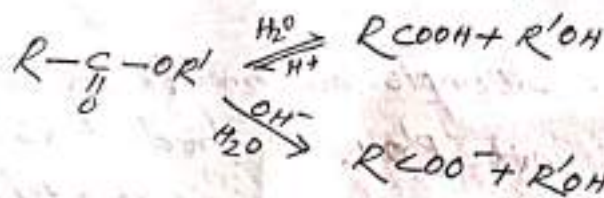
2,4,6-triphenyl ester when dissolved in conc  $H_2SO_4$ , the brilliant colour of 1,3-diphenylfluorenone is at once observed - obtained via ring-closure of the acyl carbon.



\* Acid-catalysed hydrolysis of ester is a reversible reaction, whereas base catalysed hydrolysis is irreversible - by the...

Ans:

Ester hydrolysis is usually catalyzed by acids or bases. Since OR is a much poorer leaving group than halide or OCOR, water alone does not hydrolyze most ester.

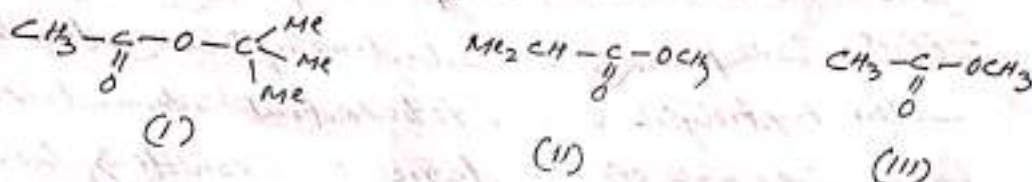


When bases catalyze the reaction, the attacking species is the more powerful  $\text{OH}^-$ . This reaction gives the salt of the acid. The catalyze the reaction by making the carbonyl carbon more positive and therefore more susceptible to attack by the nucleophile. Both reactions are equilibrium reactions, so they are practicable only when there is a way of shifting the equilibrium to the right. Since formation of the salt does just this, ester hydrolysis always done for preparative purpose in basic solution. Formation of salt in base catalyzed hydrolysis makes the equilibrium ~~shifted~~ the reaction a irreversible one while acid catalyze reaction does not follow a irreversible path and not goes to completion.

\* Which one of the following would be most readily hydrolyzed with NaOH? Explain and give the order of hydrolysis:

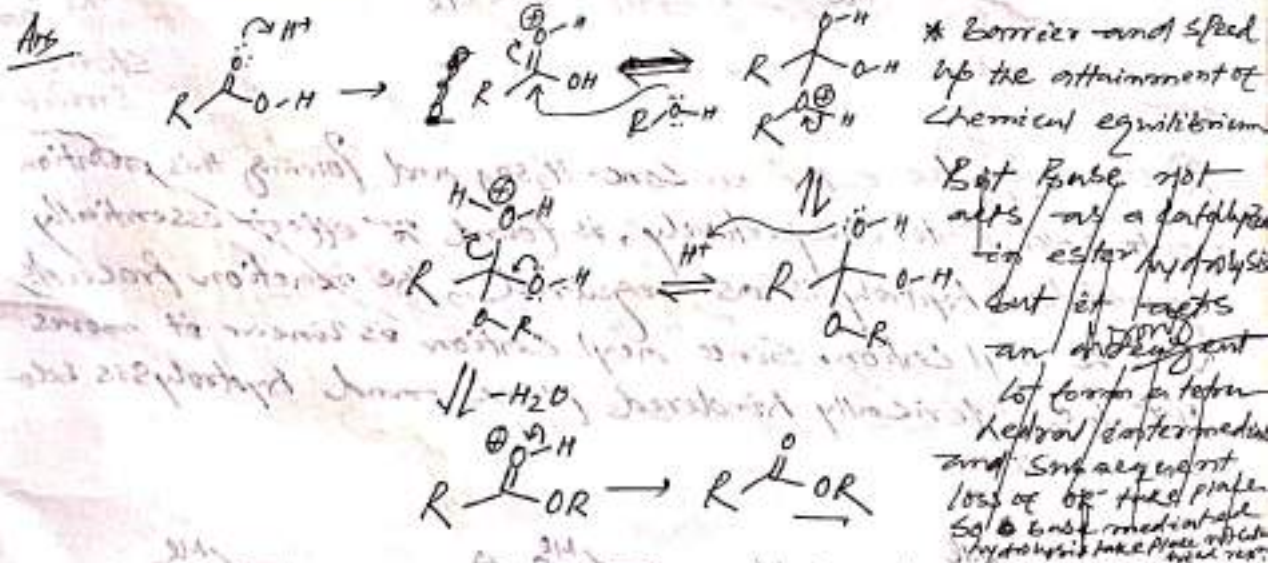
- (i)  $\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_2\text{CH}_3$
- (ii)  $\text{Me}_2\text{CH}-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-\text{OCH}_3$
- (iii)  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOCH}_3$

Ans.



The hydrolysis proceeds through the rate-determining formation of a tetrahedral intermediate. Since formation of this intermediate involves change of hybridization of the carbonyl carbon from  $sp^2$  to  $sp^3$ , steric crowding in the T.S. leading to the intermediate increases and therefore, the reaction rate decreases with increase in size of R and R' ( $\text{R}_2\text{C}_2$ ). Since  $i$ -butyl group is much larger i.e. more space-filling than  $\text{Me}_2\text{CH}$ - and  $\text{CH}_3$ - group, so the rate of hydrolysis is  $(i) < (ii) < (iii)$

\* Esterification reaction always catalyzed by acid - Explain

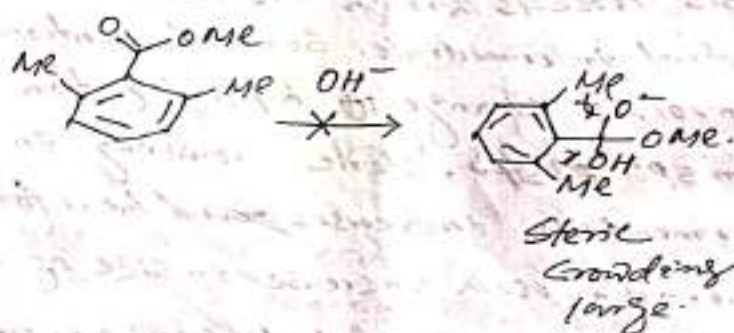


In acid-catalyzed Fischer esterification, the Proton binds to oxygen and functions as a Lewis acid to activate the ester carbonyl as an electrophile, and converts the hydroxyl into the good leaving group water. Both lower the kinetic

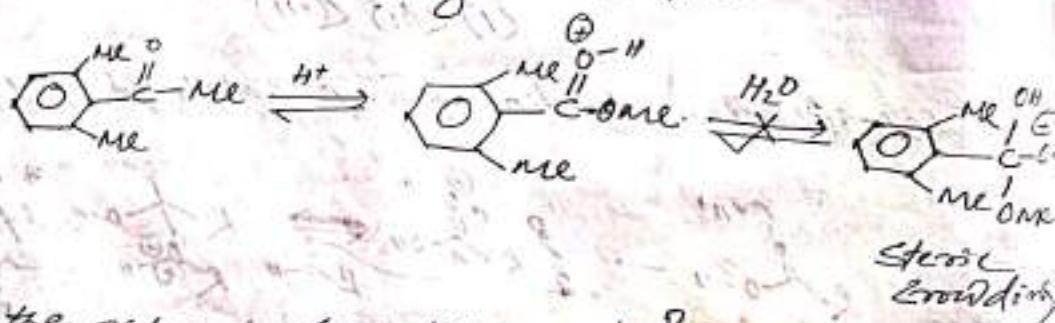
\* Methyl 2,6-dimethylbenzoate is not hydrolysed by  $\text{OH}^-$  in aqueous acid or base. Hydrolysis is essentially complete upon dissolution of the ester in conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and subsequent addition to water.

Ans:

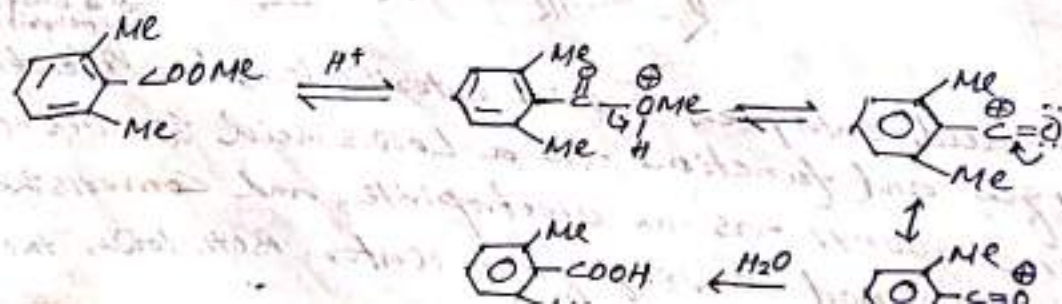
Where the acid alkyl group  $R$  in  $\text{RCO}_2R'$  is sufficiently bulky like in 2,6-dimethylbenzoate, that bimolecular hydrolysis via a tetrahedral intermediate is inhibited because of the degree of crowding there would be in the transition state.



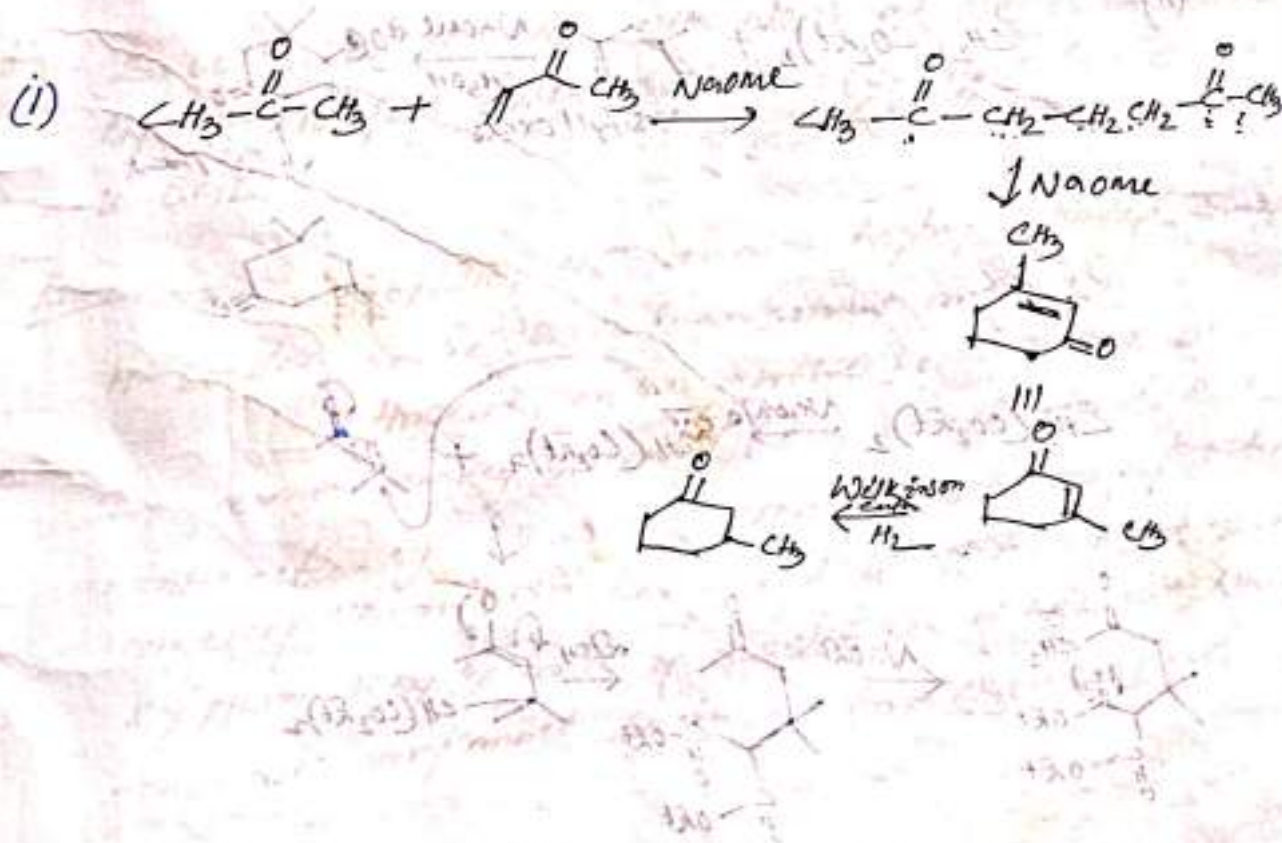
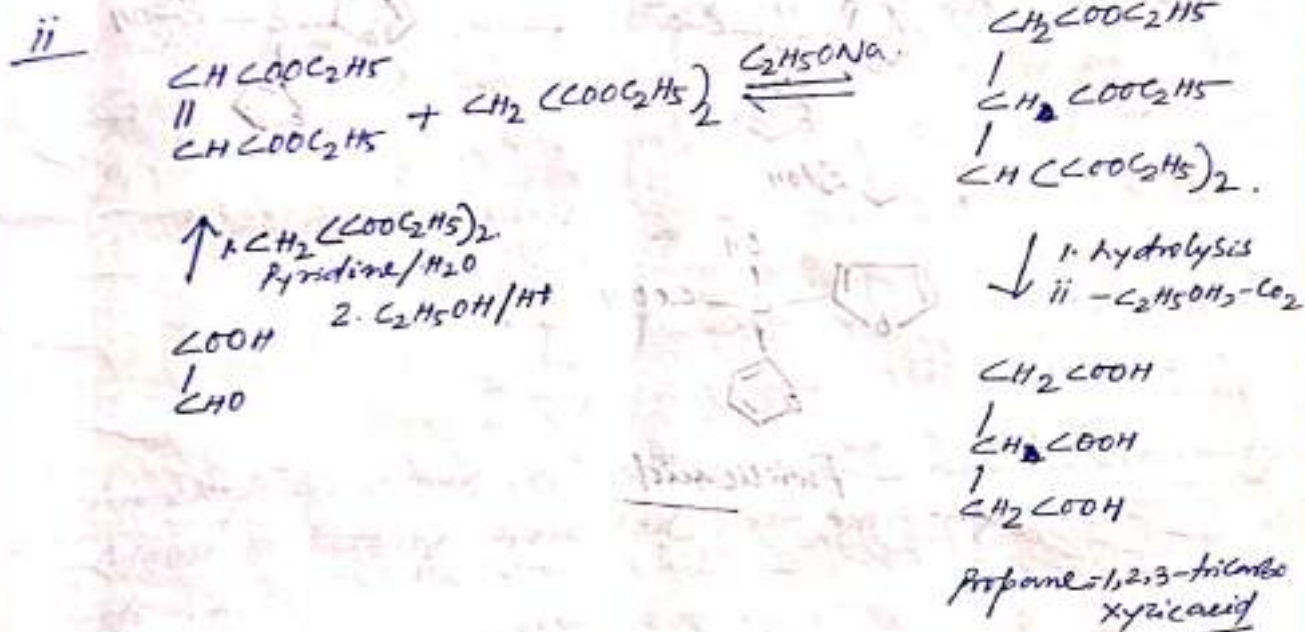
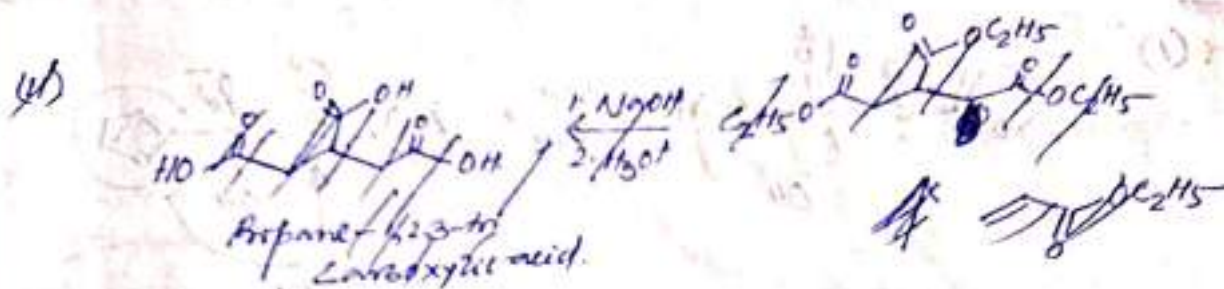
A simple acid catalyzed hydrolysis also not possible because of the steric crowding in the T.S.



Dissolving the ester in conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and pouring this solution into cold water, respectively, is found to effect essentially quantitative hydrolysis as required; the reaction proceeds via the acyl cation. Since acyl cation is linear it moves out the sterically hindered plane and hydrolysis becomes easier.

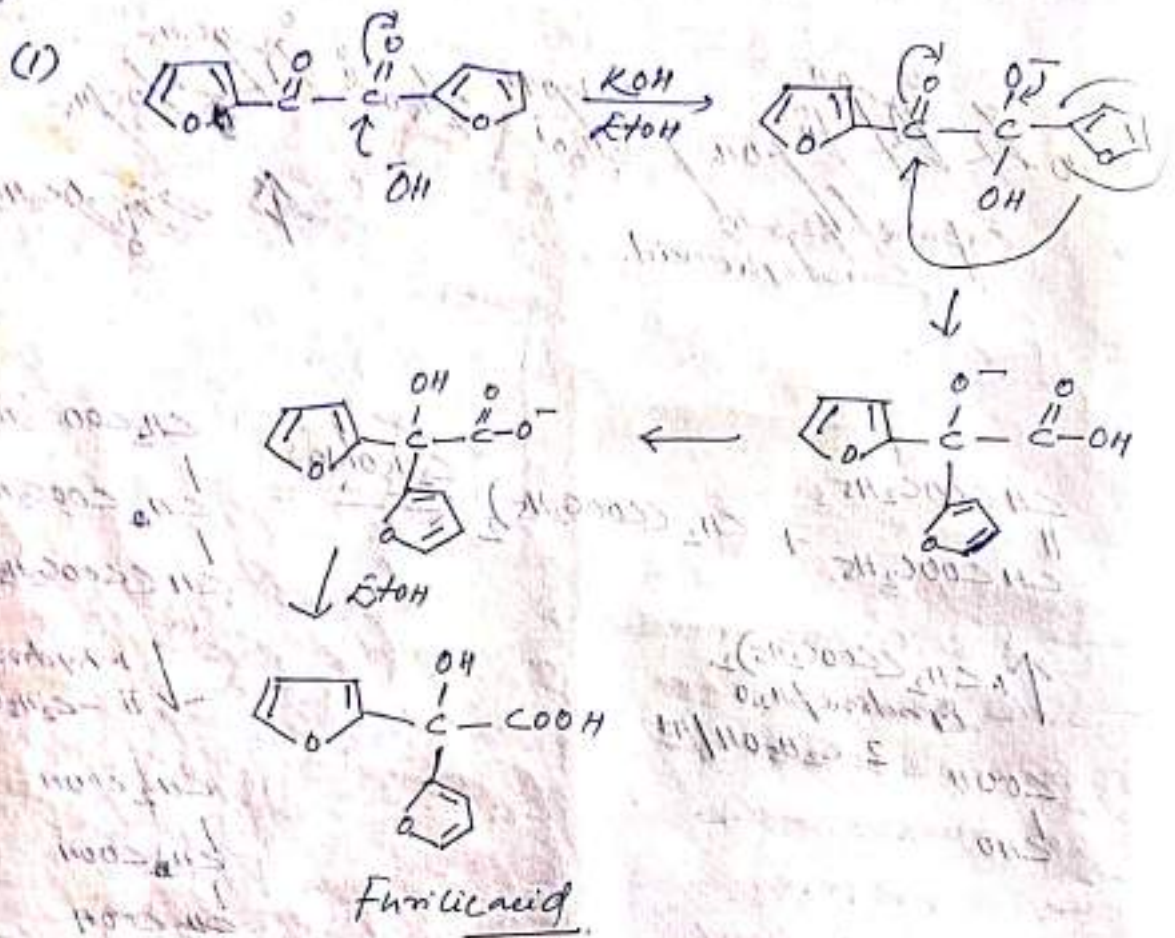


How would you synthesize (i) 3-methylcyclohexanone and (ii) propane-1,2,3-tricarboxylic acid.

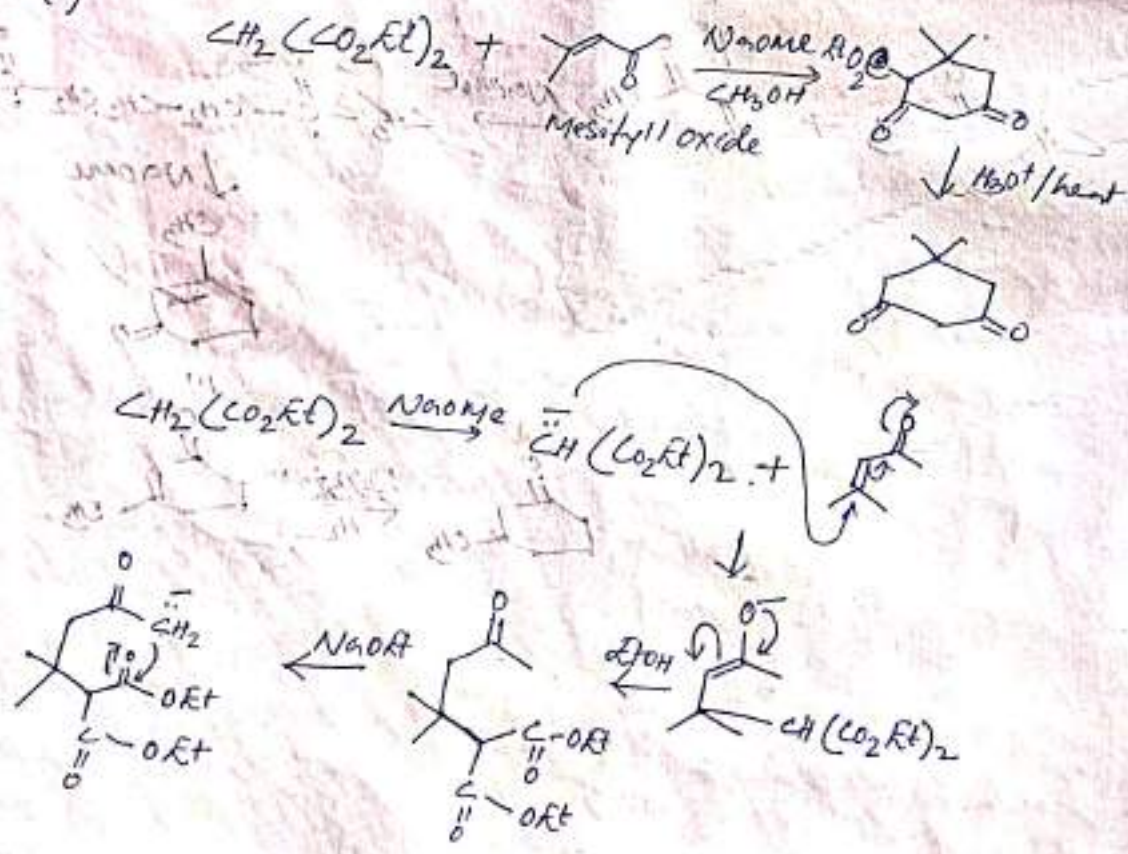


\* Design synthesis of (i) furilic acid from furil and (ii) elementon from mesityl oxide.

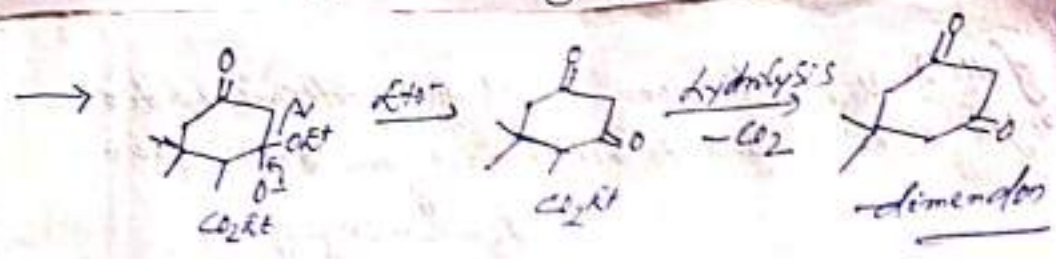
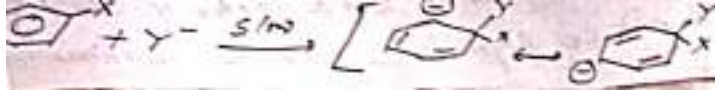
Ans:



(ii)

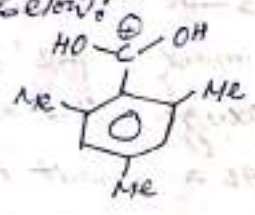






\* 2,4,6-trimethyl benzoic acid is very difficult to esterify → explain?

Ans If the trisubstituted acid were protonated in the normal position (on the carboxyl oxygen atom), the two bulky O-Me groups would force the two adjacent OH groups onto a plane virtually at right angles to the plane of the ring as shown below:

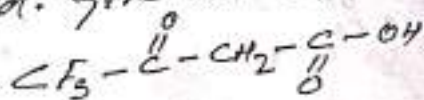


Nucleophilic attack on the cationic carbon atom by MeOH is thereby prevented from taking place from all directions.

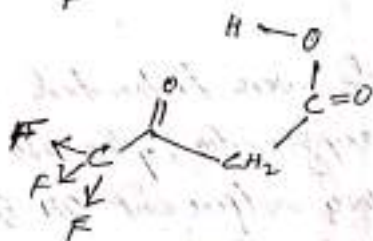
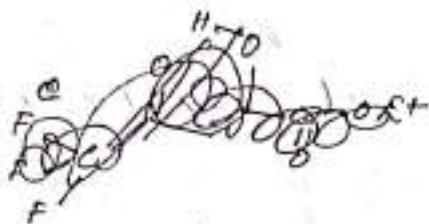
\* Substitution of MeI with  $\text{NaN}_3$  at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  is increased by  $4.5 \times 10^4$  fold when solvent is changed from  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  to DMF.

Ans: The nucleophile,  $\text{N}_3^-$  remains highly solvated through H-bonding in the protic polar solvent methanol. However, in the aprotic polar solvent DMF it remains weakly solvated (only through ion-dipole interactions). Thus  $\text{N}_3^-$  reacts as a very powerful nucleophile in DMF compared to it in MeOH. This explains why the rate of substitution of MeI with  $\text{NaN}_3$  increases very much on transfer from  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  to DMF.

\* The following acid does not undergo decarboxylation although it is a  $\beta$ -keto acid. Give an explanation.

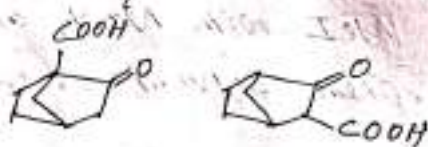


Ans.

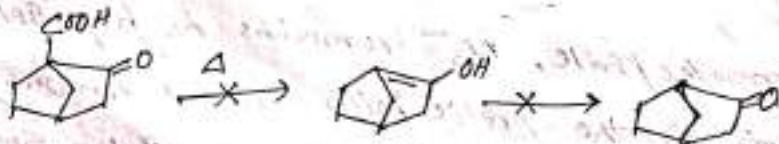


In the keto acid  $CF_3COCH_2COOH$ , the powerful electron withdrawing  $-CF_3$  group makes the unshared pair of electrons on carbonyl oxygen less available for taking up the carboxyl proton. As a result the T.S. energy increases and the rate of decarboxylation decreases.

\* Between two acids which one will decarboxylate readily? Explain your answer.

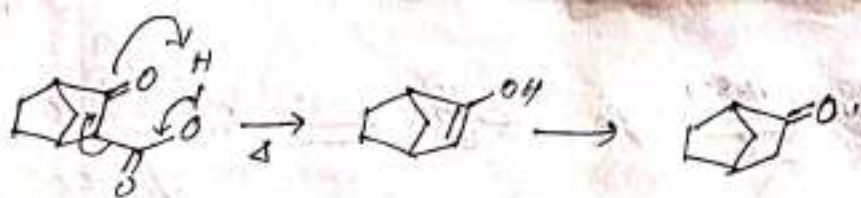


Ans.



The mechanism of decarboxylation is ~~also~~ consistent with the resistance of bridgehead bicyclic  $\beta$ -keto acids to decarboxylation and this is because strain prevents formation of a double bond at the bridgehead position (Bredt's rule).

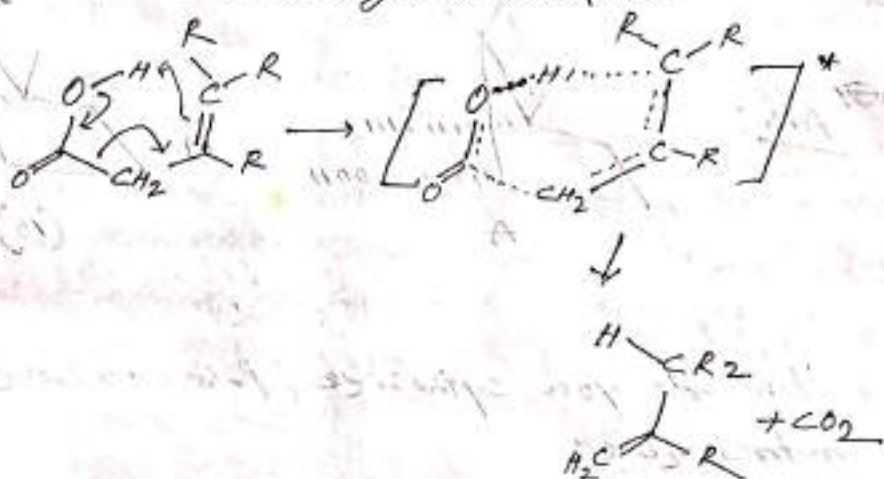
Where as second one easily decarboxylate involving a cyclic six membered T.S.



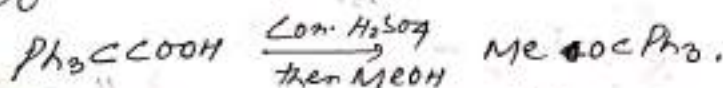
\*  $\beta, \gamma$ -Unsaturated acid easily decarboxylate on heating?

Ans:

The ready decarboxylation of the  $\beta, \gamma$ -Unsaturated acid  $R_2CHCR=CHCO_2H$  is probably due to intramolecular proton transfer to  $C=O$  through H-bonding.

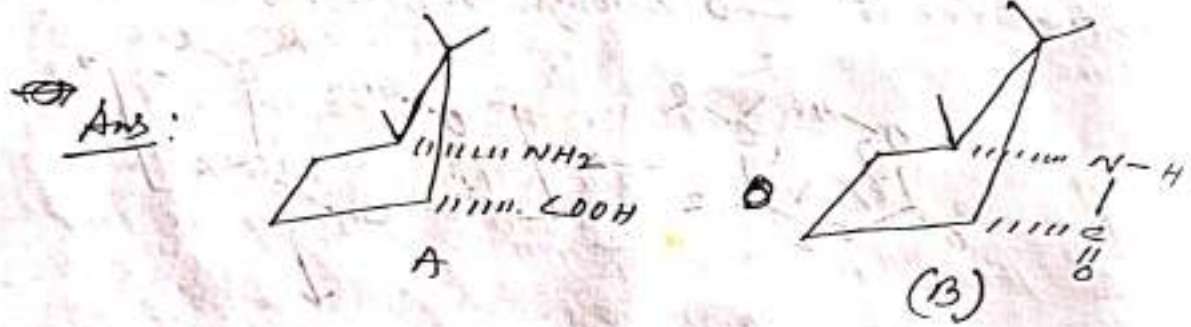
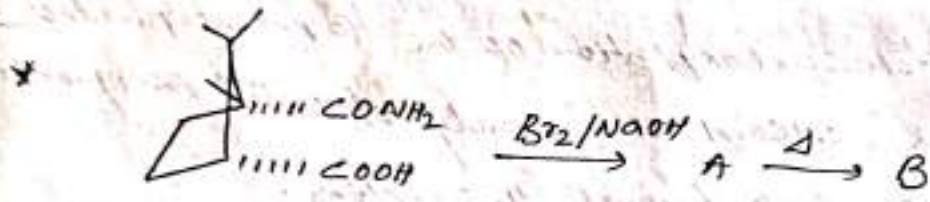
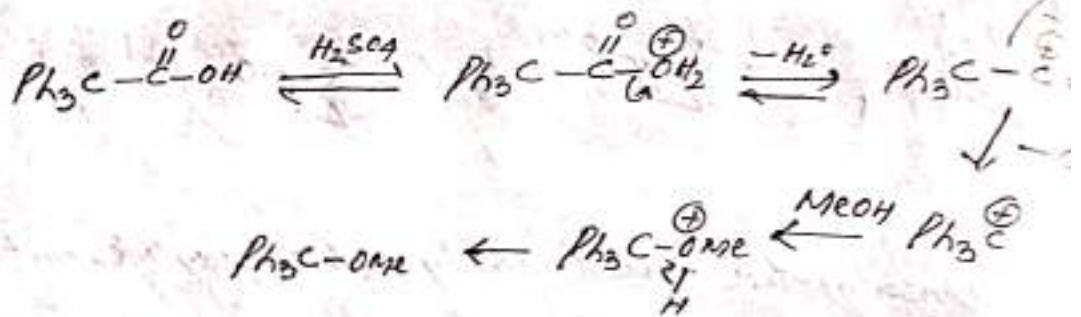


\* Suggest plausible reason for this conversion: 3.

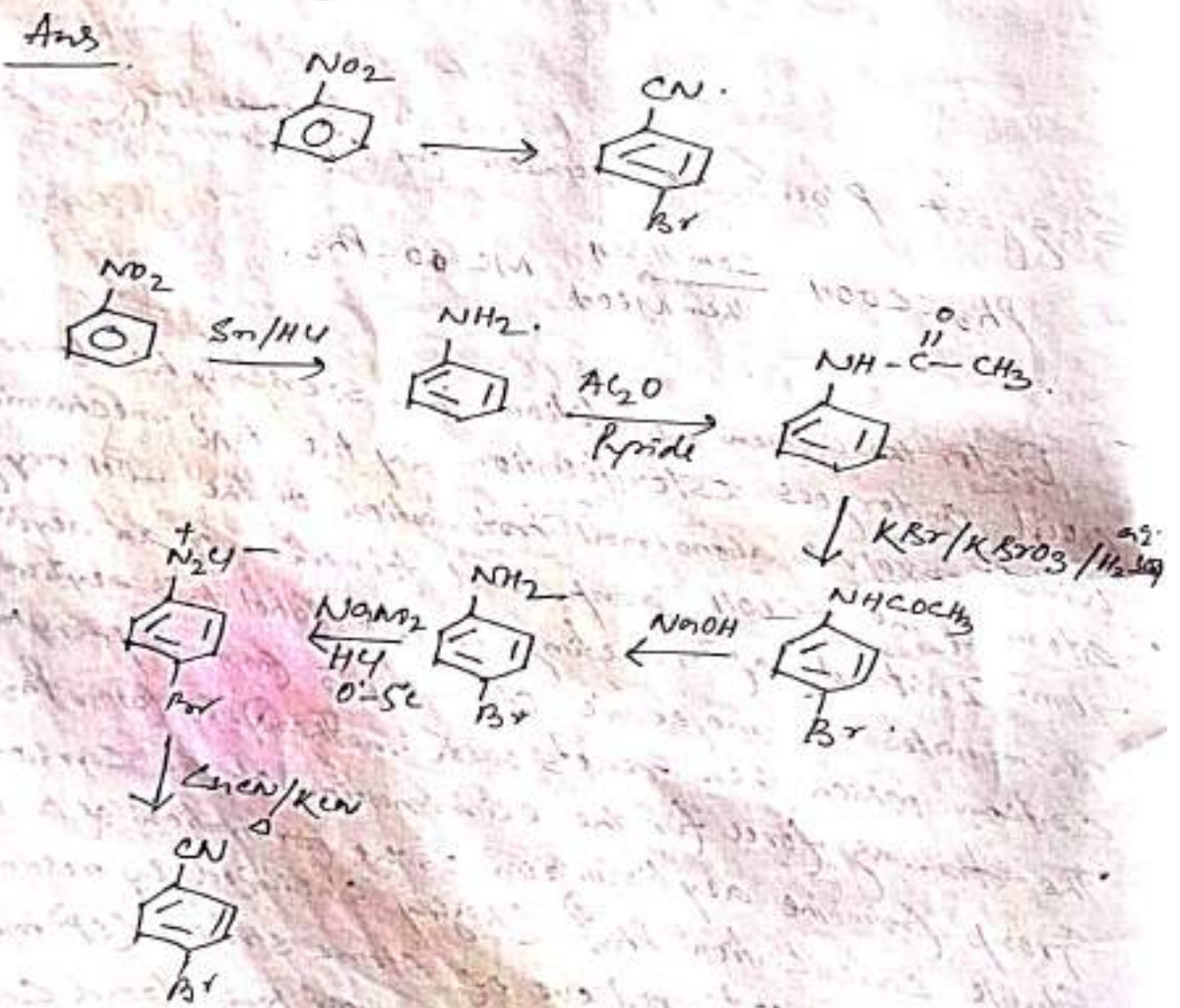


Ans

Under the given conditions this sterically hindered acid undergoes esterification by the AAC mechanism which involves abnormal protonation on the  $-OH$  oxygen atom of the  $-COOH$  group and formation of an acylium ion. Instead of reacting with alcohol this acylium ion eliminates a molecule of  $CO$  to form triphenylmethyl cation which then reacts with methanol to form  $Ph_3COCH_3$ . The driving force for the elimination of the carbonyl group from the acylium ion is the formation of the very stable carbocation  $Ph_3C^+$  (highly stabilized by resonance with consequent relieve of steric strain ( $sp^3$  hybridized carbon in acylium ion to  $sp^2$  hybridized carbon in  $Ph_3C^+$ )).

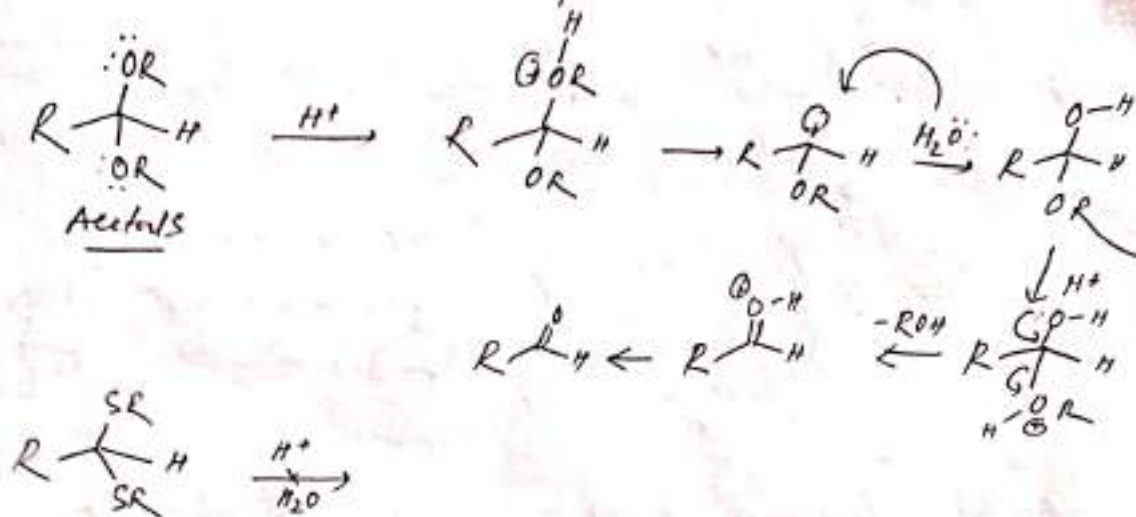


\* How do you synthesize p-bromo benzamide from nitro benzene:



\* Acetals can be cleaved easily by an acid but thioacetals show considerable stability. Why do you observe this?

Ans



Thioacetals are much harder to hydrolyse because sulfide are less basic than ethers. They however, hydrolysed using electrophiles that attack sulfur readily, such as  $Hg(II)$  or methylating agents.

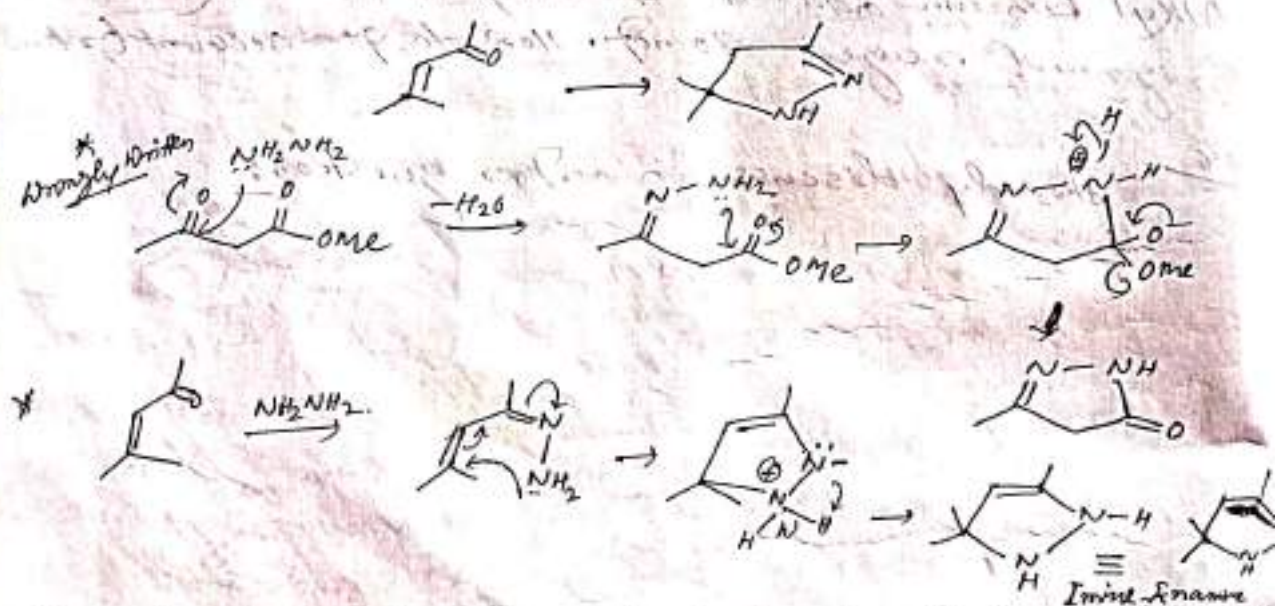
\* Alkyl Lithium adds to sterically hindered ketones but Grignard reagent don't. How do you account for this?

Answers Already discuss in another question:

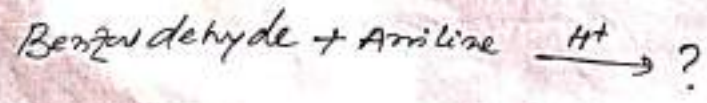
\* Between the two isomeric acids, which one will be more acidic and why?



Carry out the following conversion:



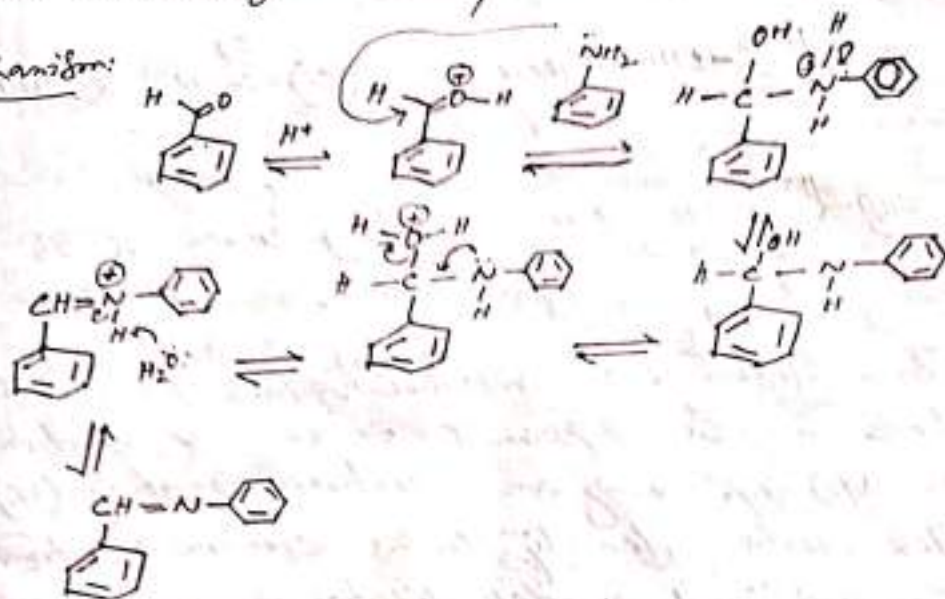
\* Give the structure of the major products of the following reaction and explain (3)



Ans Primary amines like  $ArNH_2$  undergo nucleophilic addition reaction with aldehydes to give Carbinolamines which then dehydrated to give substituted

~~Enamine~~ imines. The reactions are usually carried out in an acidic buffer to activate the  $-C=O$  and facilitate dehydration but without inhibiting the nucleophile.

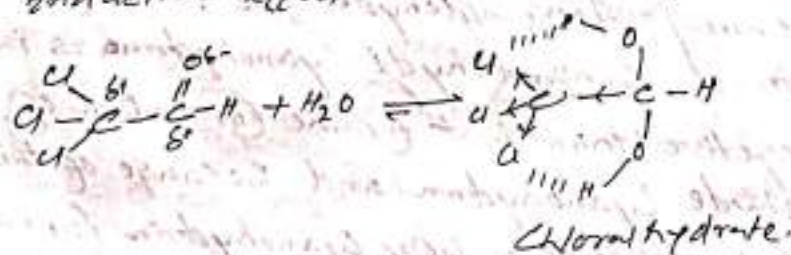
Mechanism:



\* Chloral usually forms a stable geminal diol whereas trimethyl acetaldehyde fails to do so. Explain the opposite behaviour?

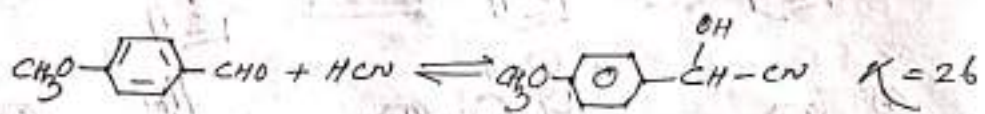
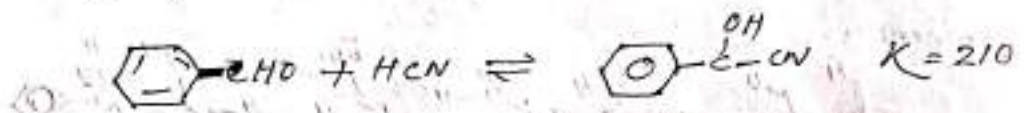
Ans

The positive dipole ends of the trichloro methyl group of chloral repel each other electrostatically. In the hydrate, the carbonyl group dipole is replaced by the most weaker dipole of the diol. Thus, the  $-CCl_3$  group has a much greater destabilizing effect on the molecule, but not on a hydrate. That is, the hydrate is relatively more stable than the original carbonyl compound. Moreover, the hydrate is stabilized by intramolecular H-bonding involving 'Cl' atoms as well as electron-withdrawing inductive effect that prevents the reverse reaction.



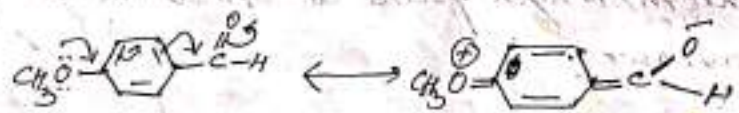
On the other hand, a +I group inhibits hydrate formation, that's why presence of 3 methyl groups prevents the formation of hydrate in  $\text{Me}_3\text{C}-\text{CHO}$ .

Account for the relative values of the equilibrium constants for the following Cyanohydrin formations:



Ans:

This difference in relative values of equilibrium constants may be explained in terms of electronic factors. Methoxy, being an electron-donating (+R) group, provides electron density to the electron-withdrawing (-R) carbonyl group by delocalization through benzene ring. Resonance interaction between two such groups is highly favourable.

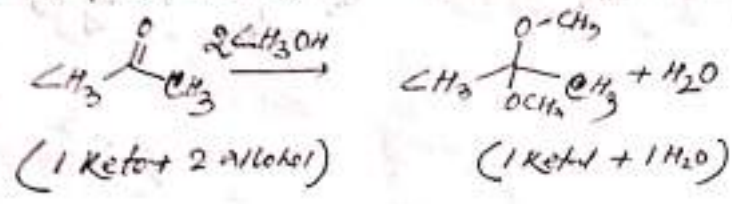


Consequently, p-methoxy benzaldehyde is stabilized by resonance than benzaldehyde is. The value of equilibrium constant for a reaction depends on the standard free energy difference between product and reactant starting material. Since carbonyl group is no longer present in cyanohydrin, its interaction with the rest of the system is lost and so, it arbitrarily be assumed that both the cyanohydrin products are close in energy. Again the cyanohydrins are relatively more stable than the corresponding aldehyde. The value of  $\Delta G^\circ$  for the formation of benzaldehyde cyanohydrin is therefore, more negative than that for the formation of p-methoxy benzaldehyde cyanohydrin and because of this p-methoxy benzaldehyde has a lower cyanohydrin formation constant than benzaldehyde.

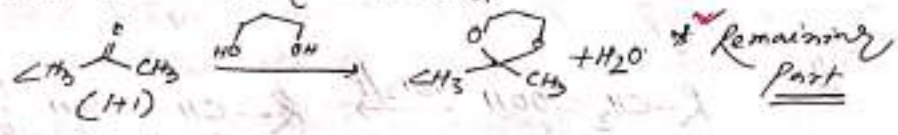


\* Ketones readily form cyclic ketals with  $\text{CH}_2\text{OHCH}_2\text{OH}$  but acyclic ketals are difficult to prepare?

Ans: Part of the reason for the stability of cyclic ketal concerns entropy. Formation of an acyclic ketal involve decrease in entropy because three molecules are consumed for every two ~~parts~~ of product.



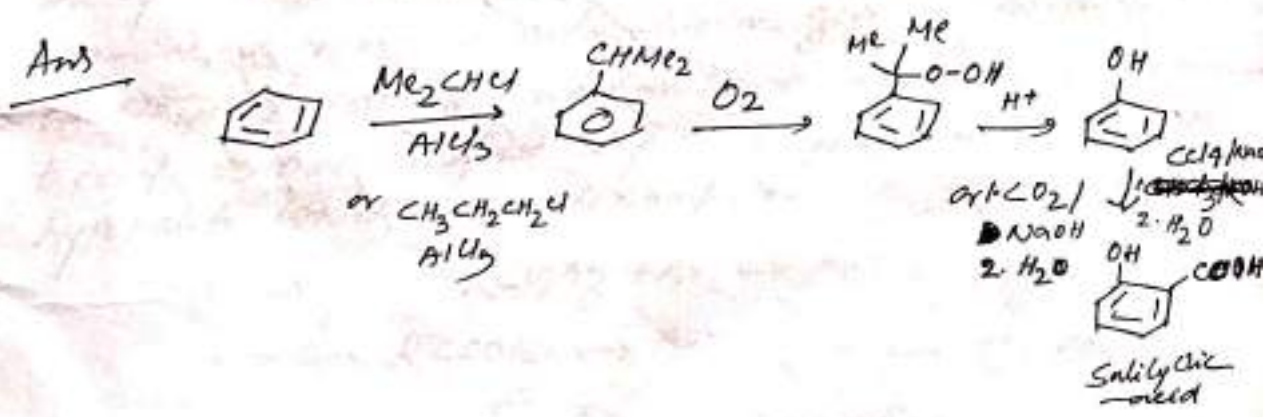
This is not the case of cyclic ketal. Since  $\Delta G^\ddagger = \Delta H^\ddagger - T\Delta S^\ddagger$ , a reaction with a negative  $\Delta S^\ddagger$  tends to have a more positive  $\Delta G^\ddagger$ , in other words, it is less favourable.



Maybe other possibility



\* Synthesis of Salicylic acid from Benzene?



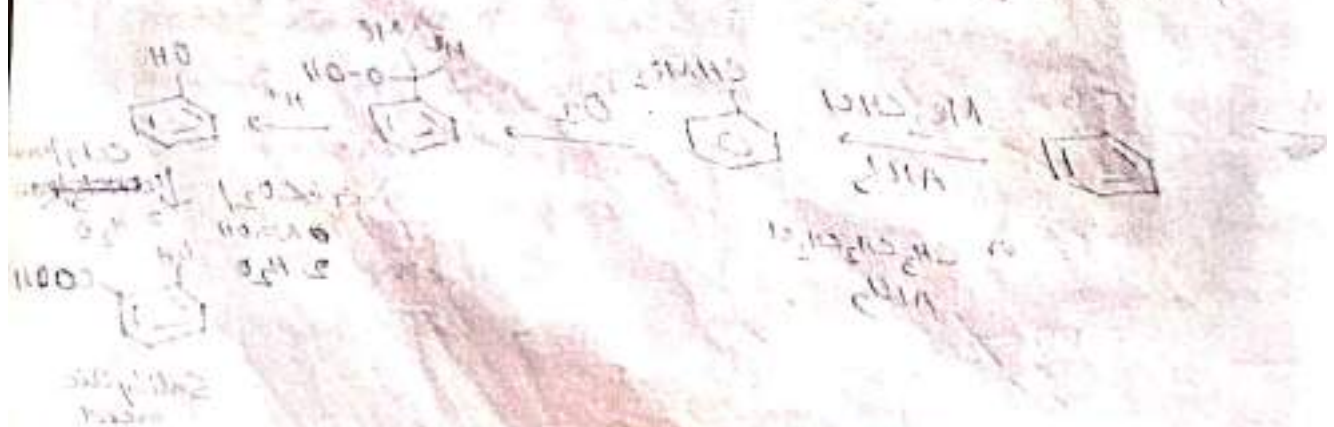
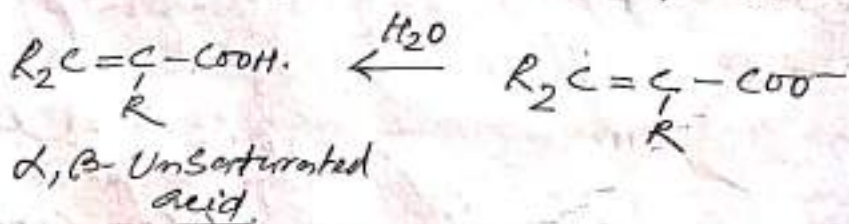
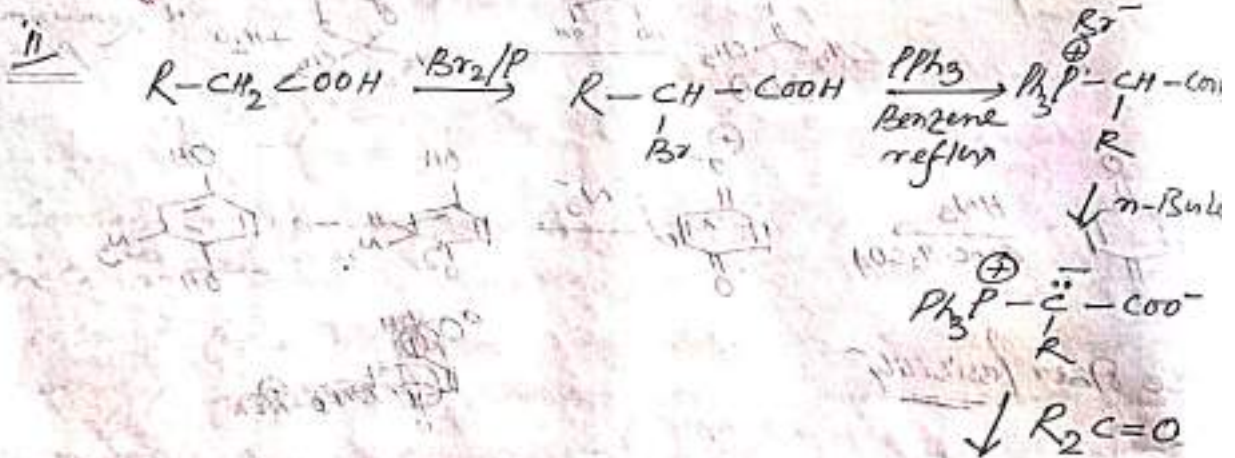
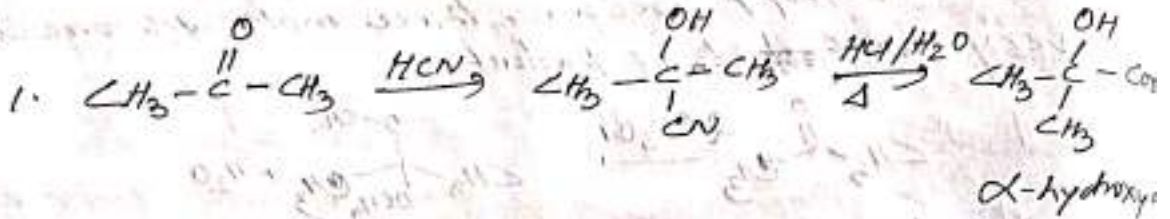
Q7 Prepare the following acid

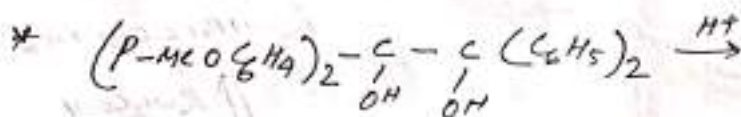
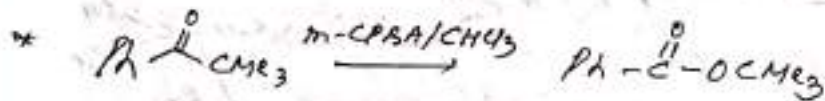
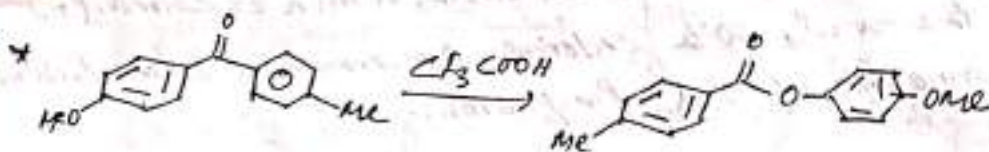
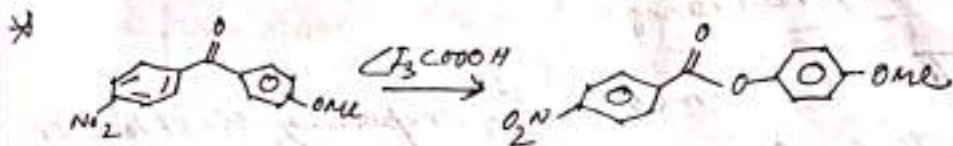
i.  $\alpha$ -Hydroxy acid

ii.  $\alpha, \beta$ -Unsaturated acid starting

from  $RCH_2COOH$

Ans:

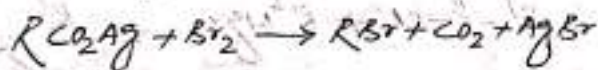




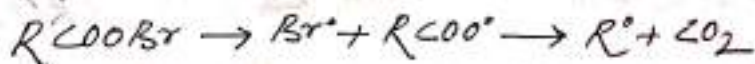
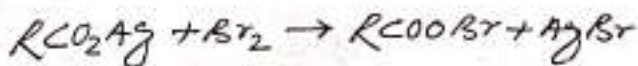
\* Remaining part

Another way to view the situation is to consider the rates of forward and reverse process. For an intramolecular reaction the nucleophilic -OH group is always held close to carbonyl group and as a result a fastest forward reaction took place compared to reverse reaction.

Hunsdiecker reaction: Silver salt of carboxylic acid in  $\text{CCl}_4$  solution are decomposed by chlorine or bromine to form the alkyl halide, e.g.

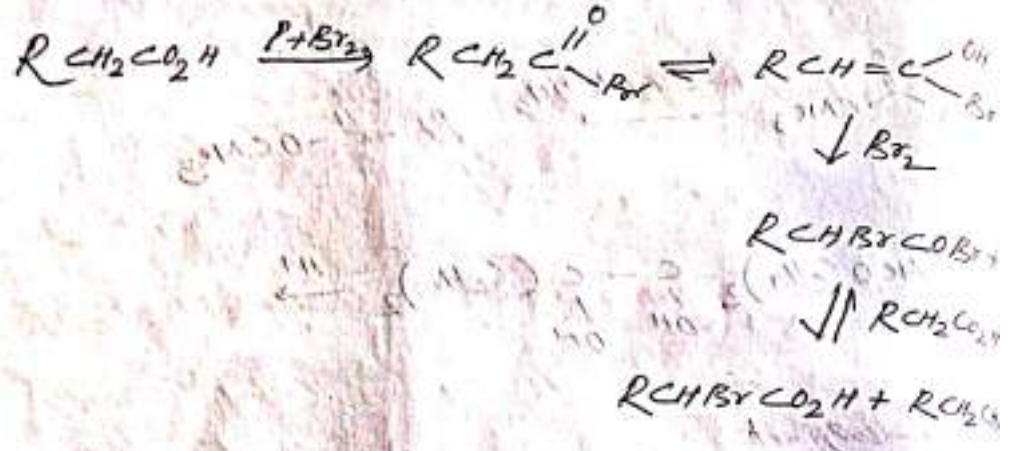


The yield of halide is primary > secondary > tertiary and bromine is generally used. Chlorine giving a poorer yield of alkyl chloride. The mechanism is uncertain, but a favoured theory is that the first step is the formation of an acyl hypohalite which then decomposes into free radical.



Hell-Volhard-Zelinsky reaction

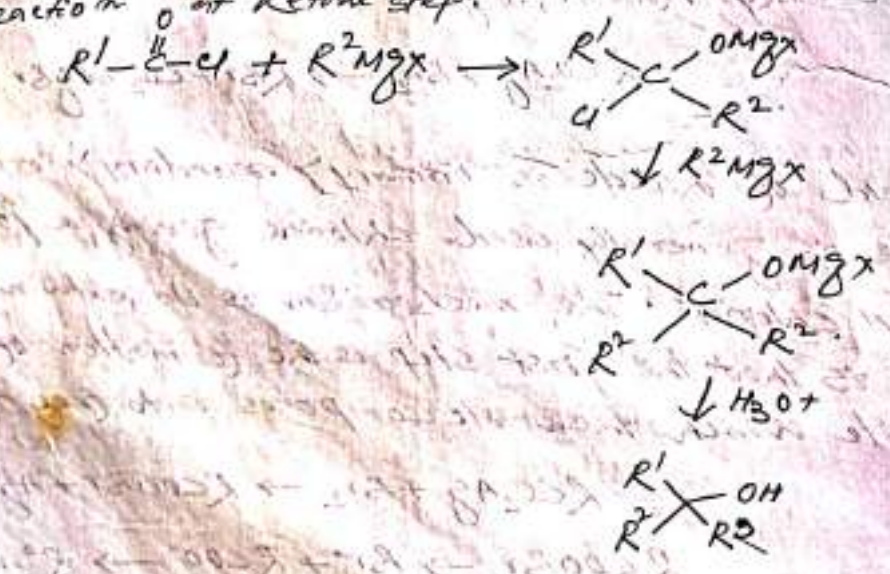
The usual method for preparing  $\alpha$ -chloro- $\alpha$ -bromo acids is by the HVZ reaction, which is carried out by treating the acid with chlorine or bromine in the presence of a small amount of red phosphorus.



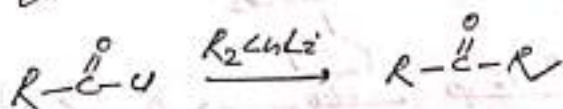
Enolisation of the acid bromide is far more rapid than that of the acid.

\* Why do you fail to prepare a ketone from acyl chloride & Grignard reagent? How do you prepare it using an organo metallic reagent?

Ans: Acyl chloride reacts rapidly with Grignard reagent to form tertiary alcohol; ~~we can't~~ we can't do the reaction at ketone step.



\* We can easily prepared a ketone from acyl chloride using  
 Gilman reagent ( $R_2CuLi$ )



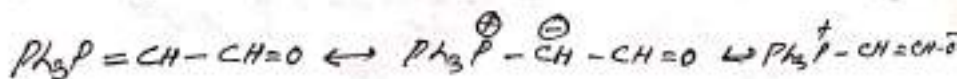
\* Hydrolysis of ethyl vinyl ether takes place  $10^{23}$  times faster than  
 that of diethyl ether.

\* How does a ylide acquire stabilisation?

Ans Phosphorous ylides can be represented by two resonance  
 structure:



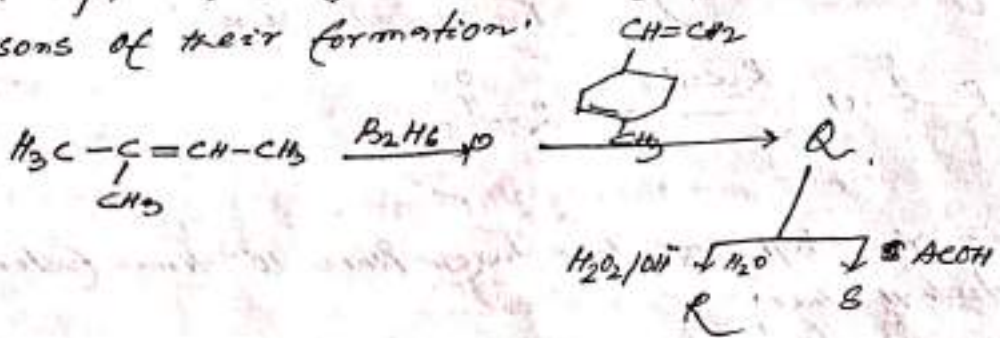
Since alkyl groups donate electrons through the inductive effect,  
 electron donating groups destabilize charge separation, when  
 no presence of electron withdrawing stabilize the ylide. The  
 reactivity of these ylides is associated with carbanionic centre  
 in the dipolar structure, and is decreased when the negative  
 charge is delocalized.



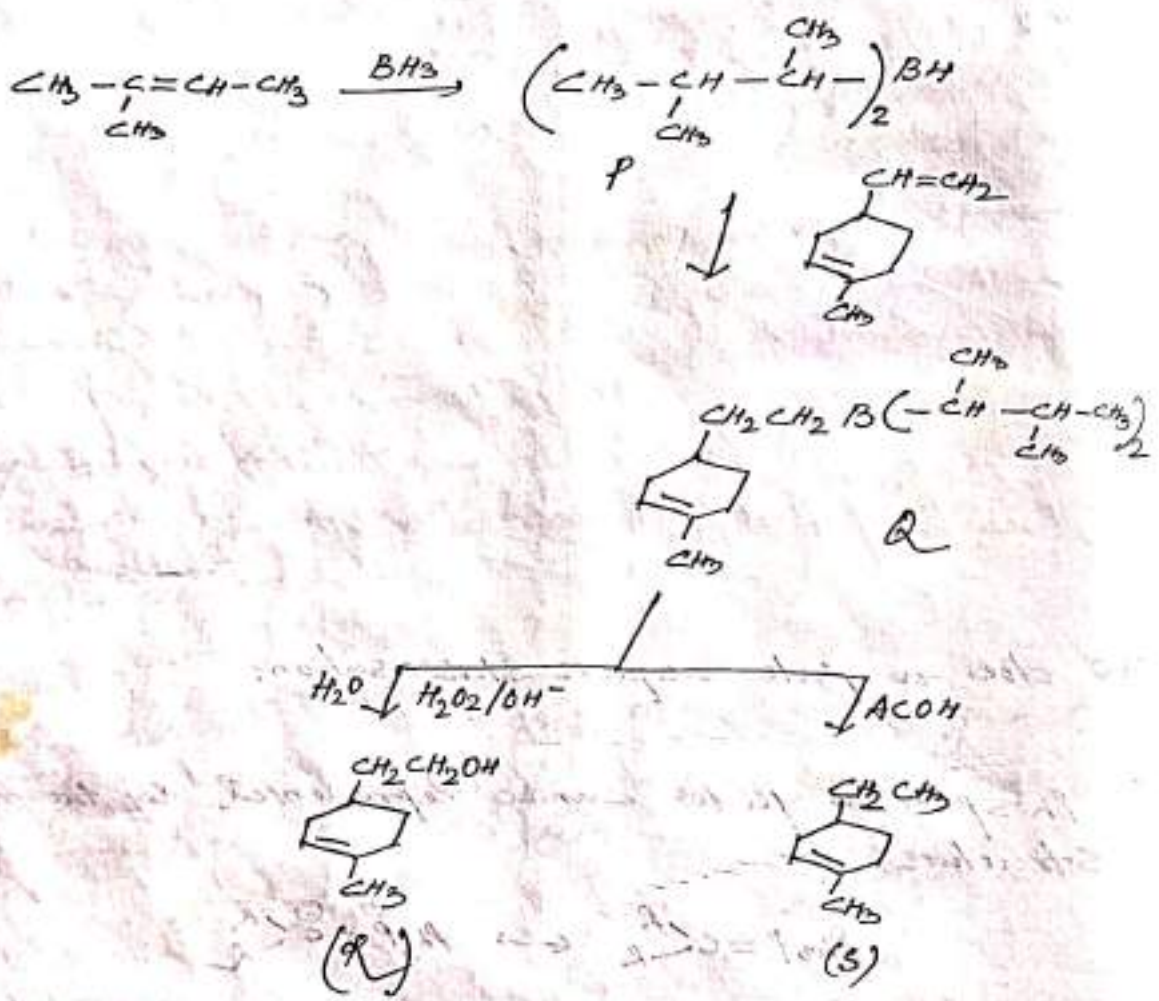
These ylides react readily with aldehydes, but react slowly with  
 ketones. In some cases the ylide is so stable that it does not  
 react with aldehyde also.



\* Identify P, Q, R, S from the given scheme and give reasons of their formation.



Ans



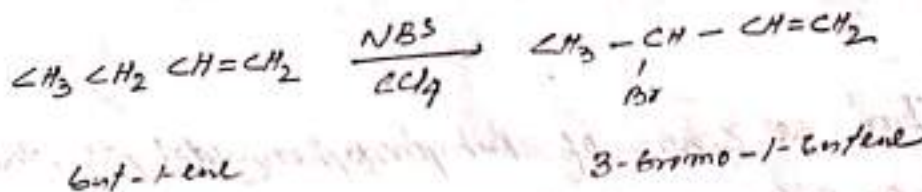
\* When a mixture of t-BuCl and diaryl methyl chloride is reacted with NaI in aq. solution, we get t-BuI and diaryl methyl iodide. Justify this finding.

Ans:

This reaction is an example of an SN2 mechanism. In an aqueous solution, the iodide ion (I-) acts as a nucleophile, attacking the carbon atom bonded to the chlorine atom in t-BuCl. The chloride ion (Cl-) is a good leaving group, and the reaction proceeds through a single concerted step to form t-BuI. Similarly, the iodide ion attacks the carbon atom of the diaryl methyl chloride, displacing the chloride ion to form the corresponding diaryl methyl iodide. The reaction is favored in a polar protic solvent like water, which stabilizes the transition state.

\* What products are obtained when NBS is treated with but-1-ene. ( $H_2$ )

Ans



Give mechanism if required.

\* The presence of bulky groups either in ester or in acid slows down both hydrolysis and esterification reaction. Justify these experimental facts

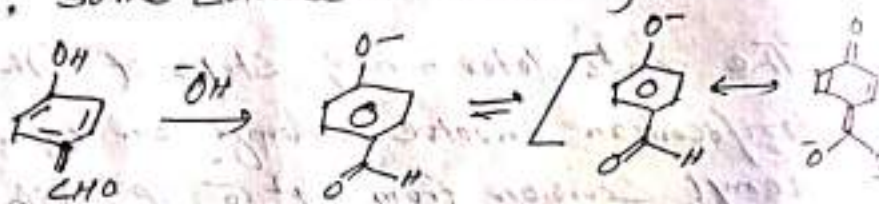
Ans

The rate-determining steps of both hydrolysis and esterification involve change in hybridization of the carbonyl carbon from  $sp^2$  to  $sp^3$  with consequent increase in crowding. The presence of bulky substituents either in acid or in alcohol make the transition state leading to the tetrahedral intermediates highly crowded and less stable. As a result, the reactions (esterification and hydrolysis) become very slow.

\* Can you successfully carry out Cannizzaro reaction of p-hydroxy benzaldehyde?

Ans

In the case of p-hydroxybenzaldehyde, the loss of a strong base like NaOH, removes a proton from the phenolic group thereby making it as the phenoxide ion. The phenoxide is stabilized by electron withdrawing CHO group at the para position thereby making the electrophilicity of the carbonyl almost nil. So the Cannizzaro reaction fails.



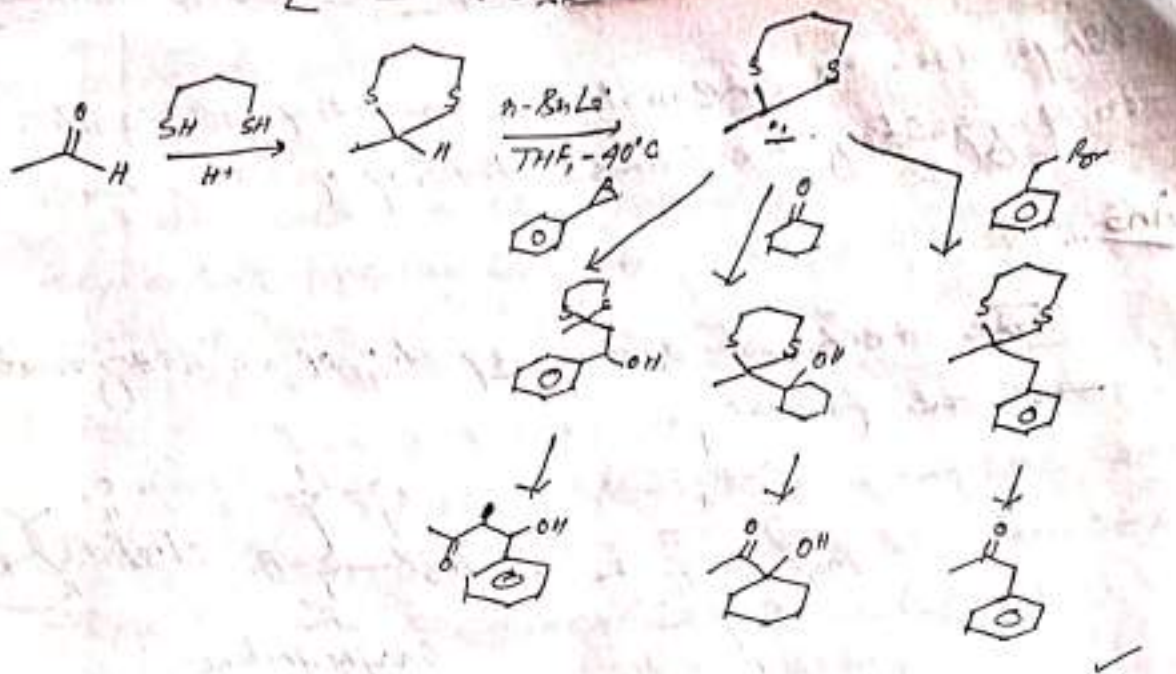
\* Describe the term 'umpolung activity' with suitable example.

Ans

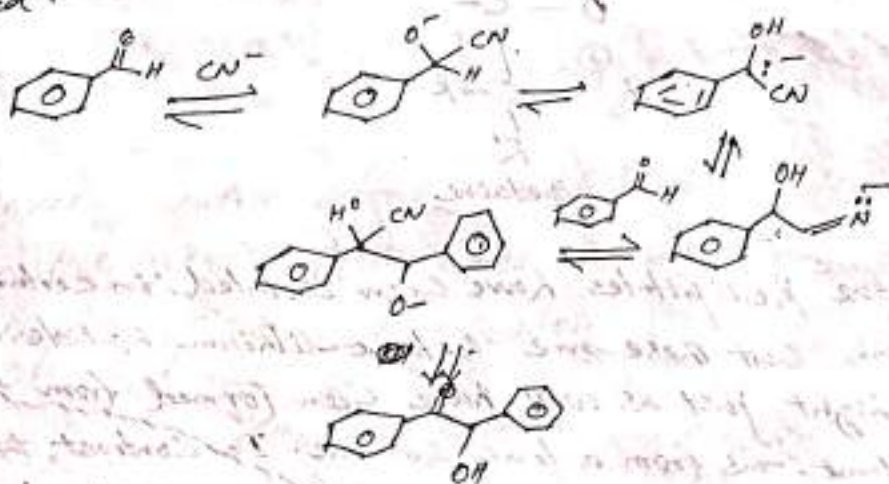
Umpolung or Polarity inversion in Organic Chem is the chemical modification of a functional group in the aim of the reversal of polarity of that group. modification allows secondary reactions of this functional group that would otherwise not be possible.

Dithiane chemistry is a classical example of Polarity inversion. Ordinarily the oxygen atom in the carbonyl group is more electronegative than the carbon and therefore the carbonyl group reacts as an electrophile at carbon. This polarity can be reversed when the carbonyl group is converted into a dithiane or a thioacetal.





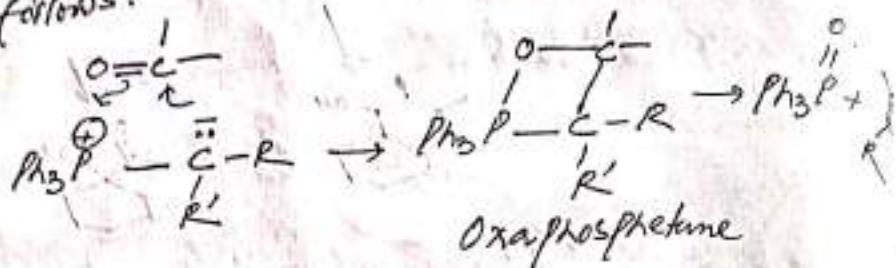
The commonest umpolung reagent is the cyanide ion. The cyanide ion is unusual in that a carbon triply bonded to a nitrogen would be expected to have a (+) Polarity due to the higher electronegativity of the nitrogen atom. Yet, the negative charge of the cyanide is localized on the carbon, giving it a (-) formal charge. This chemical ambivalence results in umpolung in many reactions where cyanide is involved.



\* Why does a chemist face a lot of difficulty in suggesting mechanistic pathway of Wittig rearrangement?

Ans

The mechanism of the key step of the Wittig rearrangement is as follows:



For many years it was assumed that a diionic compound, called a betaine, is an intermediate on the pathway from the starting compounds to the oxaphosphetane, and in fact it may be so, but there is little or no evidence for it, though many attempts have been made to find it.

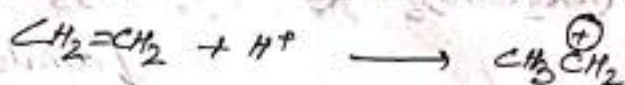


Betaine precipitates have been isolated in certain Wittig reactions, but these are betaine-lithium halide adducts and might just as well have been formed from the oxaphosphetane as from a true betaine. In contrast, there is much evidence for the presence of the oxaphosphetane intermediate, at least with unstable ylides. For example, IR and spectra taken of the reaction mixtures at low temperatures are compatible with an oxaphosphetane structure that persists for some time but not with a tetra coordinated phosphorus species. Since a betaine, an ylide and all have the same spectra, leading to the conclusion that oxaphosphetane intermediate is present in the solution. So clear cut evidence is not there for Wittig rearrangement, that's why...

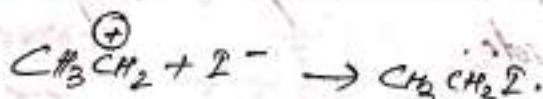
\* Ethylene reacts with HI in  $C_2H_5OH$  gives  $I^-$  predominantly ethyl iodide, whereas with HCl under identical condition gives predominantly diethyl ether. Explain the difference.

Ans:

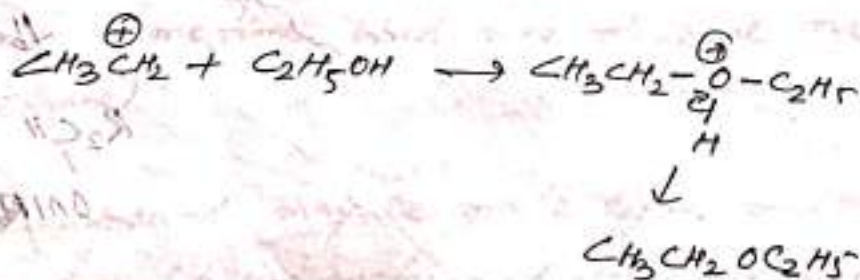
~~Reaction~~ The above reaction is an example of electrophilic addition of HX to olefin. The first step is the formation of carbocation intermediate.



Now both  $I^-$  and  $C_2H_5OH$  can act as a nucleophile to react with carbocation. But due to the large size and high polarisability of  $I^-$ , it acts as a ~~good nucleophile~~ better nucleophile compared to  $C_2H_5OH$  and so the reaction of ethylene with HI in  $C_2H_5OH$  gives predominantly ethyl iodide.



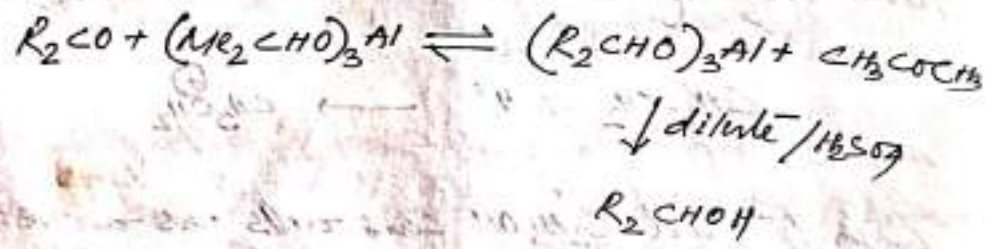
However, under identical condition reaction of ethylene with HCl gives diethyl ether, this is due to the poor nucleophilicity of  $Cl^-$  over  $C_2H_5OH$ .



\* In case of MPV reduction excess of isopropyl alcohol is necessary. Explain.

Ans

In MPV reduction the carbonyl compound is heated with aluminium isopropoxide in isopropanol; the isopropanol is oxidised to acetone, which is removed from the equilibrium mixture by slow distillation:



The equilibrium is displaced to the right by distillation of the acetone (which is the component with the lowest b.p. in the system). Some IPA used acts as a hydride donor as well as solvent for MPV reduction. Excess use of it necessary to shift the equilibrium to the product side.

