

Chemistry

Question 13.1:

How do you account for the formation of ethane during chlorination of methane?

Answer 13.1:

Chlorination of methane proceeds via a free radical chain mechanism. The whole reaction takes place in the given three steps.

Step 1: Initiation:

The reaction begins with the homolytic cleavage of CI - CI bond as:

Chlorine free radicals

Step 2: Propagation:

In the second step, chlorine free radicals attack methane molecules and break down the C-H bond to generate methyl radicals as:

$$CH_4 + \dot{C}1 \xrightarrow{h\nu} \dot{C}H_3 + H = CI$$

Methane

These methyl radicals react with other chlorine free radicals to form methyl chloride along with the liberation of a chlorine free radical.

$$\dot{C}H_3 + CI - CI \longrightarrow CH_3 - CI + \dot{C}I$$

Methyl chloride

Hence, methyl free radicals and chlorine free radicals set up a chain reaction. While HCI and CH₃Cl are the major products formed, other higher halogenated compounds are also formed as:

$$CH_3CI+\dot{C}I\longrightarrow\dot{C}H_2CI+HCI$$

 $\dot{C}H_3CI+CI-CI\longrightarrow CH_3CI_3+\dot{C}I$

Step 3: Termination:

Formation of ethane is a result of the termination of chain reactions taking place as a result of the consumption of reactants as:

of the consumption of reactants as:
$$\dot{C}I+\dot{C}I\longrightarrow CI-CI$$
 $H_3\dot{C}+\dot{C}H_3\longrightarrow H_3C-CH_3$
(Ethane)

Hence, by this process, ethane is obtained as a by-product of chlorination of methane.

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Question 13.2:

Write IUPAC names of the following compounds:

b.
$$CH_1 = CH - C \equiv C - CH_1$$

d.
$$CH_2 - CH_2 - CH = CH_2$$

$$CH_2 - CH(CH_3)_2$$

g.
$$CH_3 - CH = CH - CH_2 - CH = CH - CH_2 - CH = CH_2$$

Answer 13.2:

$$H_3 \stackrel{4}{\text{C}} - \stackrel{3}{\text{C}} H = \stackrel{2}{\text{C}} - \stackrel{1}{\text{C}} H_3$$
 $|$
 CH_3

IUPAC name: 2-Methylbut-2-ene

(b)
$$\overset{1}{C}H_2 = \overset{2}{C}H - \overset{3}{C} \equiv \overset{4}{C} - \overset{5}{C}H_3$$

IUPAC name: Pen-1-ene-3-yne

(c) \ can be written as:

$$H_2 \overset{1}{C} = \overset{2}{C}H - \overset{3}{CH} = \overset{4}{C}H_2$$

IUPAC name: 1, 3-Butadiene or Buta-1,3-diene



$$CH_2 - CH_2 - CH = CH_2$$

IUPAC name: 4-Phenyl but-1-ene

IUPAC name: 2-Methyl phenol

CH₃ (CH₂), CH(CH₂), CH₃ can be written as: (f)

$$CH_2 - CH(CH_3)_2$$

$$\overset{10}{\text{C}}\text{H}_{3} - \overset{\circ}{\text{C}}\text{H}_{2} - \overset{\$}{\text{C}}\text{H}_{2} - \overset{\circ}{\text{C}}\text{H}_{2} - \overset{\circ}{\text$$

IUPAC name: 5-(2-Methylpropyl)-decane

(g)
$$\overset{10}{\text{CH}_3} - \overset{9}{\text{CH}} = \overset{8}{\text{CH}} - \overset{7}{\text{CH}_2} - \overset{6}{\text{CH}} = \overset{5}{\text{CH}} - \overset{4}{\text{CH}} - \overset{3}{\text{CH}_2} - \overset{2}{\text{CH}} - \overset{1}{\text{CH}_2}$$

IUPAC name: 4-Ethyldeca-1, 5, 8-triene

Question 13.3:

For the following compounds, write structural formulas and IUPAC names for all possible isomers having the number of double or triple bond as indicated:

(a) C₄H₈ (one double bond)

(b) C₅H₈ (one triple bond)

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Answer 13.3:

(a) The following structural isomers are possible for C_4H_8 with one double bond:

$$H_{2}\overset{1}{C} = \overset{2}{C}H - \overset{3}{C}H_{2} - \overset{4}{C}H_{3}$$

$$(I)$$

$$\overset{1}{C}H_{3} - \overset{2}{C}H = \overset{3}{C}H - \overset{4}{C}H_{3}$$

$$(II)$$

$$\overset{1}{C}H_{2} = \overset{2}{C} - \overset{3}{C}H_{3}$$

$$|$$

$$CH_{3}$$

The IUPAC name of

(III)

Compound (I) is But-1-ene,

Compound (II) is But-2-ene, and

Compound (III) is 2-Methylprop-1-ene.

(b) The following structural isomers are possible for C_5C_8 with one triple bond:

$$H \overset{1}{C} = \overset{2}{C} - \overset{3}{C} H_{2} - \overset{4}{C} H_{2} - \overset{5}{C} H_{3}$$

$$(I)$$

$$H_{3}\overset{1}{C} - \overset{2}{C} = \overset{3}{C} - \overset{4}{C} H_{2} - \overset{5}{C} H_{3}$$

$$(II)$$

$$H_{3}\overset{4}{C} - \overset{3}{C} H - \overset{2}{C} = \overset{1}{C} H$$

$$|$$

$$CH_{3}$$

$$(III)$$

The IUPAC name of

Compound (I) is Pent-1-yne, Compound

(II) is Pent-2-yne, and

Compound (III) is 3-Methylbut-1-ene.



Question 13.4:

Write IUPAC names of the products obtained by the ozonolysis of the following compounds:

(i) Pent-2-ene

(ii) 3,4-Dimethyl-hept-3-ene

(iii) 2-Ethylbut-1-ene

(iv) 1-Phenylbut-1-ene

Answer 13.4:

(i) Pent-2-ene undergoes ozonolysis as:

$$CH_3-CH=CH_2-CH_2-CH_3+O_3$$

$$Pent-2-ene$$

$$Ozone$$

$$H_3C-CH$$

$$CH-CH_2-CH_3$$

$$O$$

$$Pent-2-ene ozonide$$

$$Zn+H_2O$$

$$H_3C-CHO+CH_3-CH_2-CHO$$

$$(I)$$

The IUPAC name of Product (I) is ethanal and Product (II) is propanal.

(ii) 3, 4-Dimethylhept-3-ene undergoes ozonolysis as:

Millions are educaciice with the arms of the control of the contro The IUPAC name of Product (I)is butan-2-one and Product (II)is Pentan-2-one.



(iii) 2-Ethylbut-1-ene undergoes ozonolysis as:

The IUPAC name of Product (I)is pentan-3-one and Product (II)is methanal.

(iv) 1-Phenylbut-1-ene undergoes ozonolysis as:

The IUPAC name of Product (I)is benzaldehyde and Product (II)is propanal.



Question 13.5:

An alkene 'A' on ozonolysis gives a mixture of ethanal and pentan-3-one. Write structure and IUPAC name of 'A'.

Answer 13.5:

$$A + O_3 \xrightarrow{Zn + H_2O} H_3C - C = O + CH_3 - CH_2 - C \\ \downarrow H O$$
Ethanal Pentan $-3 =$ one

During ozonolysis, an ozonide having a cyclic structure is formed as an intermediate which undergoes cleavage to give the final products. Ethanal and pentan-3-one are obtained from the intermediate ozonide. Hence, the expected structure of the ozonide is:

This ozonide is formed as an addition of ozone to 'A'. The desired structure of 'A' can be obtained by the removal of ozone from the ozonide. Hence, the structural formula of 'A' is:

$$H_3\overset{1}{C} - \overset{2}{C}H = \overset{3}{C} - \overset{4}{C}H_2 - \overset{5}{C}H_3$$

$$|$$

$$CH_2 - CH_3$$

The IUPAC name of 'A' is 3-Ethylpent-2-ene.

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Question 13.6:

An alkene 'A' contains three C – C, eight C – H σ bonds and one C – C π bond. 'A' on ozonolysis gives two moles of an aldehyde of molar mass 44 u. Write IUPAC name of 'A'.

Answer 13.6:

As per the given information, 'A' on ozonolysis gives two moles of an aldehyde of molar mass 44 u. The formation of two moles of an aldehyde indicates the presence of identical structural units on both sides of the double bond containing carbon atoms. Hence, the structure of 'A' can be represented as:

$$XC = CX$$

There are eight C-H σ bonds. Hence, there are 8 hydrogen atoms in 'A'. Also, there are three C-C bonds. Hence, there are four carbon atoms present in the structure of 'A'.

Combining the inferences, the structure of 'A' can be represented as:

'A' has 3 C-C bonds, 8 C-H σ bonds, and one C-C π bond.

Hence, the IUPAC name of 'A' is But-2-ene.

Ozonolysis of 'A' takes place as:

The final product is ethanal with molecular mass

$$= [(2 \times 12) + (4 \times 1) + (1 \times 16)]$$

= 44 u



Question 13.7:

Propanal and pentan-3-one are the ozonolysis products of an alkene? What is the structural formula of the alkene?

Answer 13.7:

As per the given information, propanal and pentan-3-one are the ozonolysis products of an alkene. Let the given alkene be 'A'. Writing the reverse of the ozonolysis reaction, we get:

The products are obtained on the cleavage of ozonide 'X'. Hence, 'X' contains both products in the cyclic form. The possible structure of ozonide can be represented as:

$$H_3C-H_2C$$
 O
 CH_2-CH_3
 CH_2-CH_3
 CH_2-CH_3

Now, 'X' is an addition product of alkene 'A' with ozone. Therefore, the possible structure of alkene 'A' is:

$$H_3C-CH_2-CH=C-CH_2-CH_3$$

 $|$
 CH_3CH_3

Question 13.8:

Million Stars & Practice Rink, Learns & Practice Write chemical equations for combustion reaction of the following hydrocarbons:

(i) Butane

(ii) Pentene

(iii) Hexyne

Answer 13.8:

Combustion can be defined as a reaction of a compound with oxygen.



- $2C_4H_{10(g)} + 13O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow 8CO_{2(g)} + 10H_2O_{(g)} + Heat$ (i) Butane
- $2C_5H_{10(g)} + 15O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow 10CO_{2(g)} + 10H_2O_{(g)} + Heat$ (ii)
- $2C_6H_{10(g)} + 17O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow 12CO_{2(g)} + 10H_2O_{(g)} + Heat$ (iii) Hexyne

(iv)
$$\longleftrightarrow$$
 $+9O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow 7CO_{2(g)} + 4H_2O_{(g)} + Heat$

Toluene

Question 13.9:

Draw the cis and trans structures of hex-2-ene. Which isomer will have higher b.p. and why?

Answer 13.9:

Hex-2-ene is represented as:

$$H_3C - HC = CH - CH_2 - CH_3$$

Geometrical isomers of hex-2-ene are:

$$H_3C$$
 H_3C
 H_3C

The dipole moment of cis-compound is a sum of the dipole moments of C-CH3 and C-

C-CH₂CH₃ bonds acting in opposite directions.

Hence, cis-isomer is more polar than trans-isomer. The higher the polarity, the greater is the intermolecular dipole-dipole interaction and the higher will be the boiling point.

Hence, cis-isomer will have a higher boiling point than trans-isomer.



Question 13.10:

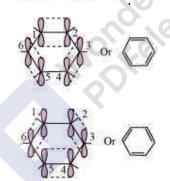
Why is benzene extra ordinarily stable though it contains three double bonds?

Answer 13.10:

Benzene is a hybrid of resonating structures given as:

All six carbon atoms in benzene are sp^2 hybridized. The two sp^2 hybrid orbitals of each carbon atom overlap with the sp^2 hybrid orbitals of adjacent carbon atoms to form six sigma bonds in the hexagonal plane. The remaining sp^2 hybrid orbital on each carbon atom overlaps with the s-orbital of hydrogen to form six sigma C-H bonds. The remaining unhybridized p-orbital of carbon atoms has the possibility of forming three π bonds by the lateral overlap of

$$C_1 - C_2$$
, $C_3 - C_4$, $C_5 - C_6$, or $C_2 - C_3$, $C_4 - C_5$, $C_6 - C_7$



The six π's are delocalized and can move freely about the six carbon nuclei. Even after the presence of three double bonds, these delocalized π-electrons stabilize benzene.

Question 13.11:

- where n=0, 1, 2 ... etc. This is known as Huckel's rule.



Question 13.12:

Explain why the following systems are **not** aromatic?

(i)

(ii)

(iii)



Answer 13.12:

(i)

For the given compound, the number of π -electrons is 6.

By Huckel's rule,

$$4n + 2 = 6$$

$$4n = 4 n = 1$$

For a compound to be aromatic, the value of n must be an integer (n = 0, 1, 2...). Since the value of n is an integer, the given compound is aromatic in nature.

(ii)



$$4n + 2 = 4$$

$$4n = 2$$

$$n = \frac{1}{2}$$

For a compound to be aromatic, the value of n must be an integer (n = 0, 1, 2...), which is not true for the given compound. Hence, it is not aromatic in nature.



(iii)



For the given compound, the number of π -electrons is 8.

By Huckel's rule,

$$4n + 2 = 8$$

$$4n = 6$$

$$n = \frac{3}{2}$$

For a compound to be aromatic, the value of n must be an integer (n = 0, 1, 2...). Since the value of n is not an integer, the given compound is not aromatic in nature.

Question 13.13:

How will you convert benzene into

(i) p-nitrobromobenzene

(ii) m-nitrochlorobenzene

(iii) p -nitrotoluene

(iv) acetophenone

Answer 13.13:

(i) Benzene can be converted into *p*-nitrobromobenzene as:



(ii) Benzene can be converted into *m*-nitrochlorobenzene as:

m - chloronitrobenzene

(iii) Benzene can be converted into p-nitrotoulene as:

(iv) Benzene can be converted into acetophenone as:



Question 13.14:

In the alkane $H_3C-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-CH_2-CH(CH_3)_2$, identify 1°,2°,3° carbon atoms and give the number of H atoms bonded to each one of these.

Answer 13.14:

$$H H CH_3 H H$$
 $H - C_1^{10} - C_2^{20} - C_3^{20} - C_2^{20} - C_1^{10} - H$
 $H H H H H$

1° carbon atoms are those which are bonded to only one carbon atom i.e., they have only one carbon atom as their neighbour. The given structure has five 1° carbon atoms and fifteen hydrogen atoms attached to it.

2° carbon atoms are those which are bonded to two carbon atoms i.e., they have two carbon atoms as their neighbours. The given structure has two 2° carbon atoms and four hydrogen atoms attached to it.

3° carbon atoms are those which are bonded to three carbon atoms i.e., they have three carbon atoms as their neighbours. The given structure has one 3° carbon atom and only one hydrogen atom is attached to it.

Question 13.15:

What effect does branching of an alkane chain has on its boiling point?

Answer 13.15:

area of contact. As a result, the Van der Waals force also decreases which can be overcome at a relatively lower temperature. Hence, the boiling point of an alkane chain decreases with an increase in branching.



Question 13.16:

Addition of HBr to propene yields 2-bromopropane, while in the presence of benzoyl peroxide, the same reaction yields 1-bromopropane. Explain and give mechanism.

Answer 13.16:

Addition of HBr to propene is an example of an electrophilic substitution reaction. Hydrogen bromide provides an electrophile, H+. This electrophile attacks the double bond to form 1° and 2° carbocations as shown:

$$H_{3}C^{3} - CH = CH_{2} + H - Br$$

$$\downarrow H^{+}$$

$$H_{3}C - CH_{2} - CH_{2} + Br$$

$$(Less stable)$$

$$primary carbocation
$$(More stable)$$

$$secondary carbocation$$$$

Secondary carbocations are more stable than primary carbocations. Hence, the former predominates since it will form at a faster rate. Thus, in the next step, Br- attacks the carbocation to form 2 – bromopropane as the major product.

$$H_3C$$
 — CH — CH_3 — CH — CH_3
 B_1
 CH_3 — CH — CH_3
 CH — CH_3

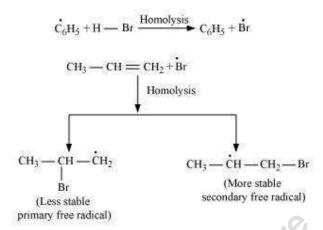
This reaction follows Markovnikov's rule where the negative part of the addendum is attached to the carbon atom having a lesser number of hydrogen atoms.

Williams and Start & Practice And Control of the Co In the presence of benzoyl peroxide, an addition reaction takes place anti to Markovnikov's rule. The reaction follows a free radical chain mechanism as:

$$C_6H_5 - C - O - O - C - C_6H_5$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & \\ & \\ & & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ &$$





Secondary free radicals are more stable than primary radicals. Hence, the former predominates since it forms at a faster rate. Thus, 1 - bromopropane is obtained as the major product.

In the presence of peroxide, Br free radical acts as an electrophile. Hence, two different products are obtained on addition of HBr to propene in the absence and presence of peroxide.

Question 13.17:

Millions are edulaciice Alillions are edulaciice Write down the products of ozonolysis of 1, 2-dimethylbenzene (o-xylene). How does the result support Kekulé structure for benzene?

Answer 13.17:

o-xylene has two resonance structures:



$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_{3} \\ \text{CH}_{3} \\ \text{(i)} \\ \text{(i)} \\ \text{O}_{3}, \text{CH}_{2}\text{CI}_{2}, 196 \text{ K} \\ \text{(ii)} \\ \text{Zn/H}_{2}\text{O} \\ \text{CH}_{3} \\ \text{CH} = 0 \\ \text{C} \\ \text{CH}_{3} \\ \text{CH} = 0 \\ \text{CH}_{3} \\ \text{CH}_{4} \\ \text{CH}_{4} \\ \text{CH}_{4} \\ \text{CH}_{5} \\ \text$$

All three products, i.e., methyl glyoxal, 1, 2-demethylglyoxal, and glyoxal are obtained from two Kekule structures. Since all three products cannot be obtained from any one of the two structures, this proves that o-xylene is a resonance hybrid of two Kekule structures (I and II).

Question 13.18:

Arrange benzene, n-hexane and ethyne in decreasing order of acidic behaviour. Also give reason for this behaviour.

Answer 13.18:

Acidic character of a species is defined on the basis of ease with which it can lose its Hatoms.

The hybridization state of carbon in the given compound is:

Benzene
$$cH_3 - (CH_2)_4 - CH_3$$
 $cH_3 - C = C - H_3$

Hexane $cH_3 - CH_3 - CH_3$

Hexane $cH_3 - CH_3 - CH_3$

Ethyne $cH_3 - CH_3 - CH_3$

Ethyne $cH_3 - CH_3 - CH_3$

.... As a result, partial positive charge of H-... as set free. ... $sp^3 < sp^2 < sp$ Hence, the decreasing order of acidic behaviour is Ethyne > Benzene > Hexane.

$$sp^3 < sp^2 < sp$$



Question 13.19:

Why does benzene undergo electrophilic substitution reactions easily and nucleophilic substitutions with difficulty?

Answer 13.19:

Benzene is a planar molecule having delocalized electrons above and below the plane of ring. Hence, it is electron-rich. As a result, it is highly attractive to electron deficient species i.e., electrophiles.

Therefore, it undergoes electrophilic substitution reactions very easily. Nucleophiles are electron-rich. Hence, they are repelled by benzene. Hence, benzene undergoes nucleophilic substitutions with difficulty.

Question 13.20:

How would you convert the following compounds into benzene?

(i) Ethyne

(ii) Ethene

(iii) Hexane

Answer 13.20:

(i) Benzene from Ethyne:

$$3CH \equiv CH \xrightarrow{\text{Red hot Fe}} \bigcirc$$
ethyne
$$873 \text{ K}$$
Benzene

(ii) Benzene from Ethene:

$$CH_2 = CH_2$$

$$Ethene$$

$$Br_2/CCI_4$$

$$Ethene$$

$$Alc KOH$$

$$(\Delta)$$

$$CH_2 = CH Br$$

$$NaNH_2/liq NH_3$$

$$196 K$$

$$HC \equiv CH$$

$$Red hot Fe$$

$$873 K$$

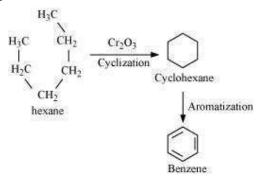
$$Benzene$$

$$Benzene$$

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(iii) Hexane to Benzene



Question 13.21:

Write structures of all the alkenes which on hydrogenation give 2-methylbutane.

Answer 13.21:

The basic skeleton of 2-methylbutane is shown below:

$$c^{1}-c^{2}-c^{3}-c^{4}$$

On the basis of this structure, various alkenes that will give 2-methylbutane on hydrogenation are:

(a)

(b)

$$CH_3$$

 $CH_3 - C = CH - CH_3$



Question 13.22:

Arrange the following set of compounds in order of their decreasing relative reactivity with an electrophile, E+

- (a) Chlorobenzene, 2,4-dinitrochlorobenzene, p-nitrochlorobenzene
- **(b)** Toluene, $p-H_3C-C_6H_4-NO_2$, $p-O_2N-C_6H_4-NO_2$.

Answer 13.22:

Electrophiles are reagents that participate in a reaction by accepting an electron pair in order to bond to nucleophiles.

The higher the electron density on a benzene ring, the more reactive is the compound towards an electrophile, E+ (Electrophilic reaction).

(a) The presence of an electron withdrawing group (i.e., NO2-and Cl-) deactivates the aromatic ring by decreasing the electron density.

Since NO₂-group is more electron withdrawing (due to resonance effect) than the CIgroup (due to inductive effect), the decreasing order of reactivity is as follows:

Chlorobenzene > p – nitrochlorobenzene > 2, 4 – dinitrochlorobenzene

While CH₃- is an electron donating group, NO₂- group is electron withdrawing. Hence, toluene will have the maximum electron density and is most easily attacked by E⁺.

NO₂- is an electron withdrawing group. Hence, when the number of NO₂- substituents is greater, the order is as follows:

Toluene > p-CH₃-C₆H₄-NO₂, p-O₂ N-C₆H₄-NO₂

Question 13.23:

Out of benzene, m-dinitrobenzene and toluene which will undergo nitration most easily and why?

Answer 13.23:

The ease of nitration depends on the presence of electron density on the compound to form nitrates. Nitration reactions are examples of electrophilic substitution reactions where an electron-rich species is attacked by a nitronium ion (NO₂–).

Now, CH₃- group is electron donating and NO₂- is electron withdrawing. Therefore, toluene y benzei will have the maximum electron density among the three compounds followed by benzene.



On the other hand, m- Dinitrobenzene will have the least electron density. Hence, it will undergo nitration with difficulty. Hence, the increasing order of nitration is as follows:

$$NO_2$$
 NO_2
 NO_2

Question 13.24:

Suggest the name of a Lewis acid other than anhydrous aluminium chloride which can be used during ethylation of benzene.

Answer 13.24:

The ethylation reaction of benzene involves the addition of an ethyl group on the benzene ring. Such a reaction is called a Friedel-Craft alkylation reaction. This reaction takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Any Lewis acid like anhydrous FeCl₃, SnCl₄, BF₃ etc. can be used during the ethylation of benzene.

Question 13.25:

Why is Wurtz reaction not preferred for the preparation of alkanes containing odd number of carbon atoms? Illustrate your answer by taking one example.

Answer 13.25:

Wurtz reaction is limited for the synthesis of symmetrical alkanes (alkanes with an even s practice number of carbon atoms) In the reaction, two similar alkyl halides are taken as reactants and an alkane, containing double the number of carbon atoms, are formed. Example:

$$CH_3$$
 — $B_\Gamma + 2Na + B_\Gamma$ — CH_3 Dry ether CH_3 — $CH_3 + 2Na$ Br Bromomethane Ethane

Wurtz reaction cannot be used for the preparation of unsymmetrical alkanes because if two dissimilar alkyl halides are taken as the reactants, then a mixture of alkanes is obtained as the products. Since the reaction involves free radical species, a side reaction



also occurs to produce an alkene. For example, the reaction of bromomethane and iodoethane gives a mixture of alkanes.

$$CH_{3} \longrightarrow I + 2Na + I] \longrightarrow CH_{2}CH_{3}$$

$$Iodomethane \qquad Iodoethane$$

$$CH_{3} \longrightarrow CH_{2}CH_{3} + 2NaI$$

$$CH_{3} \longrightarrow I + 2Na + I] \longrightarrow CH_{3} \xrightarrow{Dry \text{ ether}} 2NaI + CH_{3} \longrightarrow CH_{3}$$

$$Ethane$$

$$CH_{3}CH_{2} \longrightarrow I + 2Na + I] \longrightarrow CH_{2}CH_{3} \xrightarrow{Dry \text{ ether}} 2NaI + CH_{3}CH_{2} \longrightarrow CH_{2}CH_{3}$$

$$Ethane$$

$$CH_{3}CH_{2} \longrightarrow I + 2Na + I \longrightarrow CH_{2}CH_{3} \xrightarrow{Dry \text{ ether}} 2NaI + CH_{3}CH_{2} \longrightarrow CH_{2}CH_{3}$$

$$Ethane$$

$$CH_{3}CH_{2} \longrightarrow I + 2Na + I \longrightarrow IOH_{2}CH_{3} \xrightarrow{Dry \text{ ether}} 2NaI + CH_{3}CH_{2} \longrightarrow CH_{2}CH_{3}$$

$$Ethane$$

$$CH_{3}CH_{2} \longrightarrow IOH_{2}CH_{3} \xrightarrow{Dry \text{ ether}} 2NaI + CH_{3}CH_{2} \longrightarrow CH_{2}CH_{3}$$

$$Ethane$$

The boiling points of alkanes (obtained in the mixture) are very close. Hence, it becomes difficult to separate them

