Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry CHEM 245

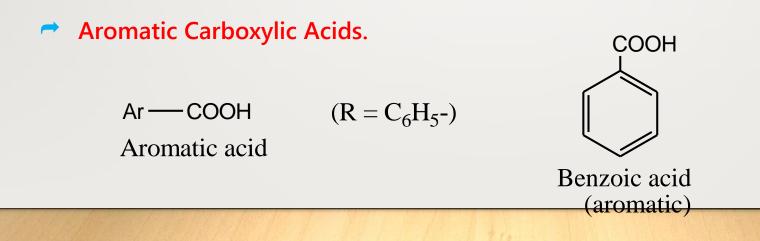
4. Carboxylic Acids

- All carboxylic acids contain the carboxyl group, -COOH.
- Depending on whether an R or an Ar. residue is attached to the carboxyl group;

Carboxylic acids are classified as aliphatic or aromatic.

Aliphatic Carboxylic Acids.

R-COOH	$(\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{H} \text{ or alkyl})$	CH ₃ -COOH
Aliphatic acid		Acetic acid
1		(aliphatic)



The common names of carboxylic acids all end in *-ic acid*.

For example

- Formic acid is the acid that gives the characteristic sting to an ant bite (from the Latin *formica*, ant).
- Acetic acid is vinegar (from the Latin acetum, vinegar).
- Butyric acid is the compound that gives rancid butter its putrid smell (from the Latin *butyrum*, butter).

Fatty acids.

Long straight-chain carboxylic acids with even numbers of carbons, which were first isolated from fats and waxes.

- ➡ In the IUPAC system the acids are named in the usual way.
 - The ending -e of the corresponding alkane is replaced by -oic acid.

For example

HCOOH is called *methanoic acid*.

CH₃COOH is called *ethanoic acid*.

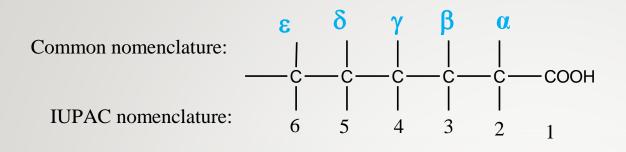
- If substituents are present on the acid chain.
 - Common nomenclature

Their positions are located by Greek letters.

α, β, γ, δ, ε,....etc

IUPAC system

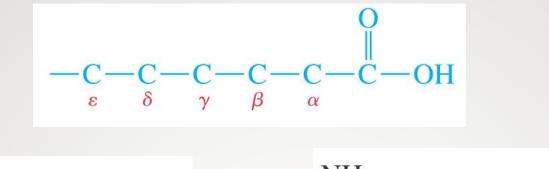
Numbers are used and the carboxylic carbon is numbered 1.

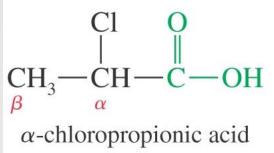


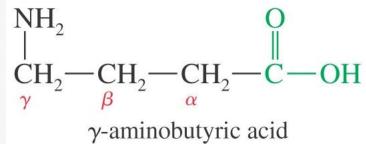
Common nome: a,B-Dimethylbutyric acid IUPAC nomenclature: 2,3-Dimethylbutanoic acid

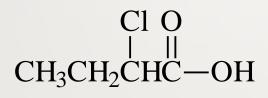
IUPAC and Common Names of Some Normal carboxylic Acids.

No. of carbon atoms	Formula	IUPAC name	Common name
1	НСООН	Methanoic acid	Formic acid
2	CH₃COOH	Ethanoic acid	Acetic acid
3	CH₃CH₂COOH	Propanoic acid	Propionic acid
4	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ COOH	Butanoic acid	Butyric acid
5	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₃ COOH	Pentanoic acid	Valeric acid

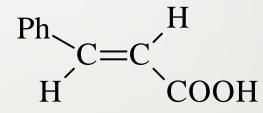








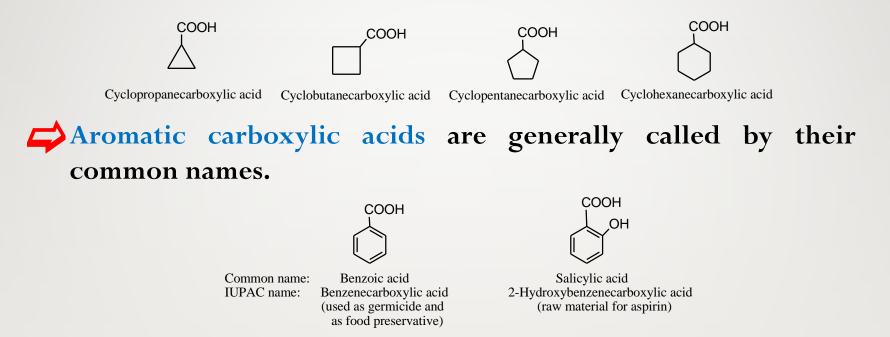
2-chlorobutanoic acid



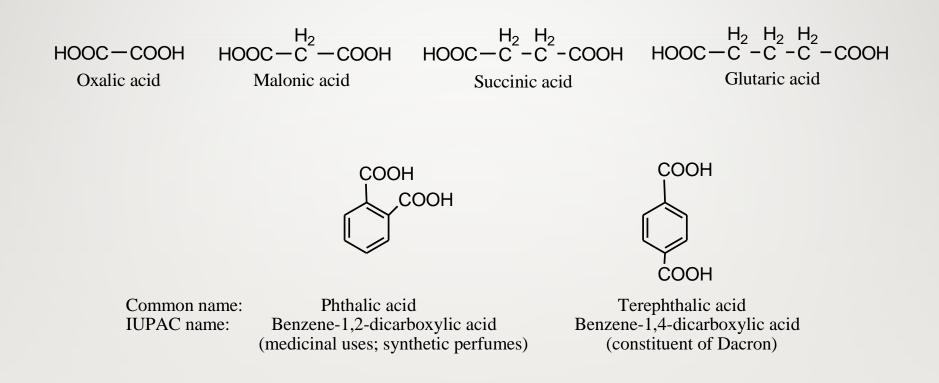
trans-3-phenyl-2-propenoic acid (cinnamic acid)

Cylcoalkane carboxylic acid

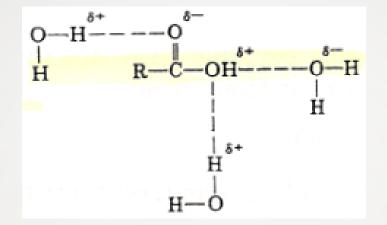
When the carboxyl group is attached to a saturated ring.



Dicarboxylic acids (acids that contain two carboxyl groups) are known almost exclusively by their common names.



Carboxylic acids are capable of hydrogen bonding .



Solubility in water.

- The first four aliphatic acids (formic through butyric) are completely miscible in water.
- ➡ Higher members of the series are less soluble because the long alkyl chain gives them alkane like characteristics.

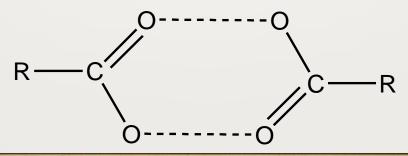
Aromatic acids are insoluble in water.

Boiling points.

The boiling points of carboxylic acids indicate a greater degree of association than for alcohols of comparable molecular weights.

➡ For example,

- Acetic acid (mol wt = 60) boils at 118°C.
 - *n*-Propyl alcohol (mol wt = 60) boils at only 97° C.
- ➡In fact, simple carboxylic acids exist as hydrogen-bonded dimers.



He first nine aliphatic acids are colorless liquids that have sharp, acrid odors.

Pure acetic acid is called *glacial acetic acid*

because it solidifies into ice-1ike crystals at temperatures slightly below normal room temperature (about 17°C).

Butyric acid smells like rancid butter and strong cheese.

Acids of five to ten carbons have goat-like smells because they are present in the skin secretion of goats.

Higher acids are wax-like solids and are practically odorless.

Aromatic acids are also high-melting odorless solids.

Some Physical Properties of Acids and Alcohols of Corresponding Molecular Weights:

Structure	Name	Mol. Wt.	b.p. °C	Solubility in H ₂ O at 25°C
HCOOH	Formic acid	46	100	Very soluble
CH ₃ CH ₂ OH	Ethyl alcohol	46	78	Very soluble
CH ₃ COOH	Acetic acid	60	118	Very soluble
CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	<i>n</i> -Propyl alcohol	60	97	Very soluble
CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₃ COOH	Valeric acid	102	187	4.0 g/100 g H ₂ O
CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₄ CH2OH	<i>n</i> -Hexyl alcohol	102	156	0.6 g/100 g H ₂ O
Ph-COOH	Benzoic acid	122	250	Insoluble
Ph-CH₂CH₂OH	3-Phenylethanol	122	250	Insoluble

Acid Strength

- The strength of an acid depends on the extent it ionizes.
- Common mineral acids, such as HCl or HNO₃, ionize completely and are considered therefore to be strong acids.



Because they are incompletely ionized and exist in equilibrium with a solution of their ions.

FECOH - H-HHFECC

Acid Strength

The strength of an acid can be measured quantitatively by determining the value of its ionization constant, *Ka.*

An acid with a higher *K* value is stronger than one with a lower *K*.

 \implies Strong acids have K_a values higher than 10².

 \rightarrow weak acids have K_a S of 10⁻² or less.

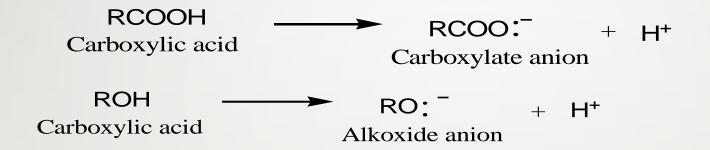
Actic acid

rightarrow The K_a s of most carboxylic acids fall in the range of 10⁻⁴ to 10⁻⁵.

HCOOH $K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ Formic acid $K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$

- Carboxylic acids are much more acidic than are alcohols even though both classes of compounds contain an OH group.
 - Why is this so?

The structures of their conjugate bases, the carboxylate anion and the alkoxide anion,



Carboxylic acids are stronger acid than alcohols because

Carboxylate anions are stabilized by resonance; whereas Alkoxide anions are not.

$$R \xrightarrow{0}_{C} = 0 \quad equivalent to \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ R \xrightarrow{0}_{C} = 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{0}_{C} \quad c \xrightarrow{0}_{C} = 0 \\ R \xrightarrow{0}_$$

Acid strength among carboxylic acids.

Generally, any factor that *stabilizes* the carboxylate anion of an acid will give it *greater* acid strength than an acid lacking that factor.

Conversely, any factor that *destabilizes* the carboxylate anion of an acid will make that acid *less* strong.

The stronger acid is the one with the electron-withdrawing group compared to unsubstituted acid.

By dispersing the negative charge.

Examples of common electron-withdrawing, and acid-strengthening, groups are



Achagiancyclesikat

- Addition of any electron-donating substituent on the R (or Ar) portion of an acid decreases its acid strength relative to the parent unsubstituted acid.
 - The electron-donating group destabilizes the carboxylate anion.
 By intensifying the negative charge.
- The most common electron-donating, acid-weakening substituent is the alkyl group (methyl, ethyl, propyl, and so on.
- Formic acid (no alkyl group) is a stronger acid than acetic acid (one alkyl group).

Comparison of Acid Strengths of Acetic Acid and Chlorinated Acetic Acids

Name	Structure	рК _а	Relative acid strength
Acetic acid	CH₃COOH	4.7	1
Chloroacetic acid	CICH ₂ COOH	2.8	80
Dichloroacetic acid	Cl ₂ CHCOOH	1.3	2800
Trichloroacetic acid	Cl₃CCOOH	0.7	11000

Comparison of Acid Strengths of Butyric Acid and the Monochlorinated Acids

Name	Structure	рК _а	Relative acid strength
Butyric acid	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ COOH	4.82	1
α-Chlorobutyric acid	CH₃CH₂CHCICOOH	2.85	92
β -Chlorobutyric acid	CH₃CHCICH₂COOH	4.05	6
γ-Chlorobutyric acid	CICH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ COOH	4.52	2

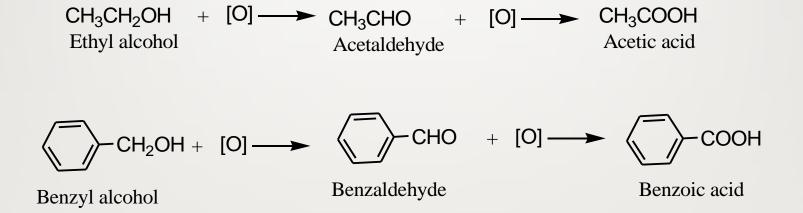
The electronic effect of a substituent transmitted through single bonds, be it electron-withdrawing or electron-donating, is called the inductive effect.

 \Rightarrow α -chlorobutyric acid is about 15 times more acidic than β -chlorobutyric acid.

Preparation of Acids by Oxidation

A. Oxidation of Primary Alcohols or Aldehydes

Primary alcohols are oxidized quickly to carboxylic acids by potassium permanganate, KMnO₄, or by a mixture of potassium dichromate, K₂Cr₂O₇, and sulfuric acid.





Preparation of Acids by Oxidation

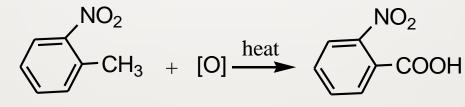
B. Oxidation of Alkylbenzenes

➡ Vigorous oxidation of alkylbenzenes yields benzoic acid.

$$\bigcirc$$
 -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ + [O] $\xrightarrow{\text{heat}}$ \bigcirc -COOH

n-Butylbenzene

Benzoic acid

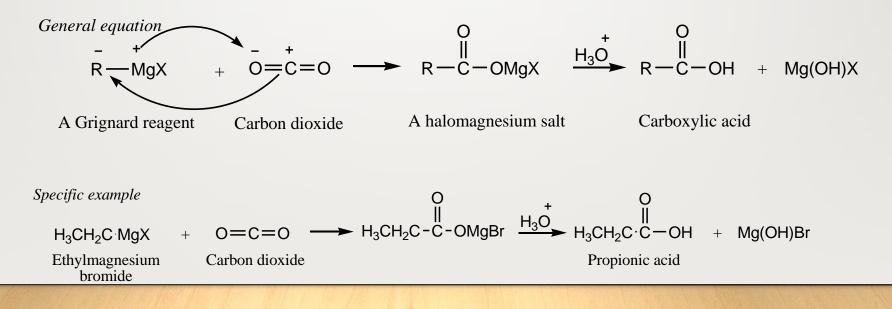


o-Nitrotoluene

o-Nitrobenzoic acid

Carbonation of Grignard Reagents

- The addition of Grignard reagents to CO₂ in the form of dry ice proceeds in a similar fashion and yields the halomagnesium salt of a carboxylic acid.
- Hydrolysis of the salt gives an acid with one carbon more than the original Grignard reagent



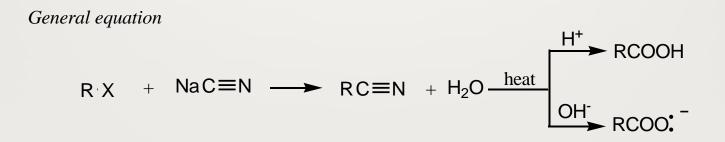
Hydrolysis of Nitriles

Nitriles are compounds with the general formula RCN or ArCN.

They are prepared by reacting a 1° or 2° alkyl halide with a cyanide salt.

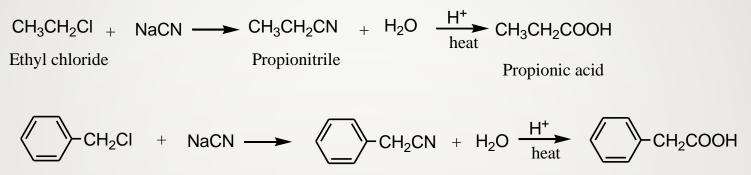
Acid hydrolysis of a nitrile yields a carboxylic acid. Alkaline hydrolysis yields a carboxylate salt.

The carboxylate acid or salt contain one carbon more than the starting alkyl halide.



Hydrolysis of Nitriles

Specific example



Benzyl chloride

Phenylacetonitrile

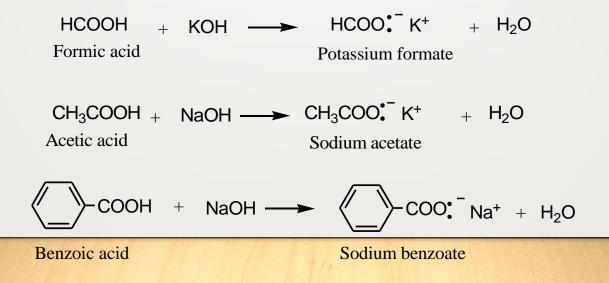
Phenylacetic acid

Reactions with Bases: Salt Formation

Carboxylic acids react quantitatively with bases to form water-soluble salts.

The metal cation is named first, followed by the name of the carboxylate anion.

➡ The latter is named by dropping the -ic acid ending from the name of the parent acid and replacing it with -ate.

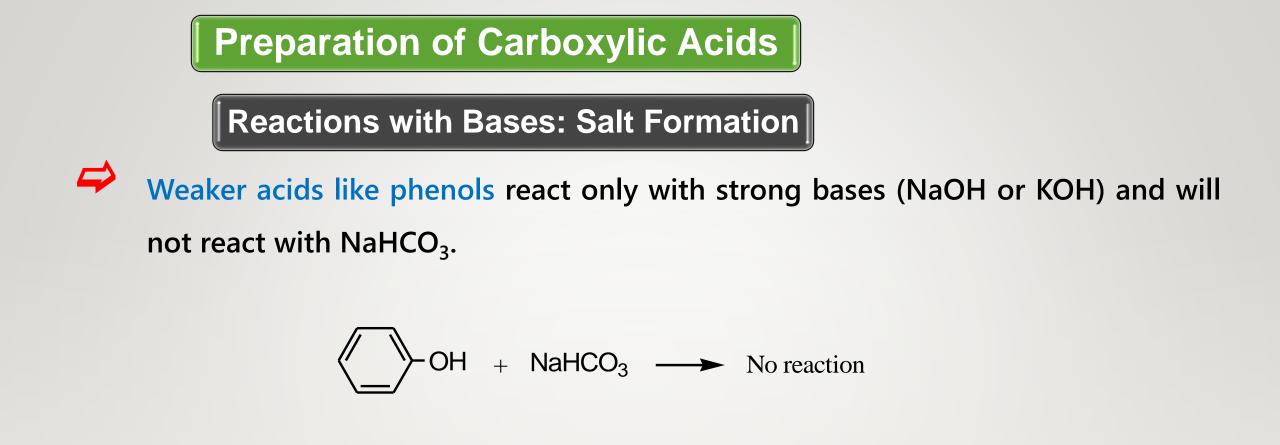


Reactions with Bases: Salt Formation

- Sodium acetate is used in dyeing.
- Sodium propionate, CH₃CH₂COO: -Na⁺, and calcium propionate, (CH₃CH₂COO:)₂Ca²⁺, are used in bread to prevent molding.
- Sodium benzoate is a food preservative.
- Carboxylic acids will also react with a weak base like sodium bicarbonate, NaHCO₃, to form
 - Water-soluble salts.

Carbon dioxide is liberated as a by-product.

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ R - C - OH + NaHCO_3 \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ R - C - O \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ Na^+ + CO_2 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ + H_2O \end{array}$$





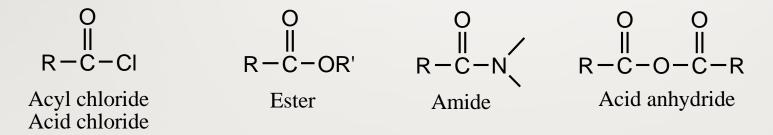
When the OH of a carboxylic acid is replaced by a nucleophile, : Nu, a carboxylic acid derivative is produced.

Carboxylic acid derivatives

The RCO- portion of acid derivatives is called the acyl group.

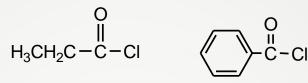
Aromatic acid derivatives contain the aryl group.

The carboxylic acid derivatives are



Nomenclature of Acid Derivatives

Acyl chlorides, or acid chlorides, are named by replacing the *ic acid* ending of the parent acid by -*yl chloride*.



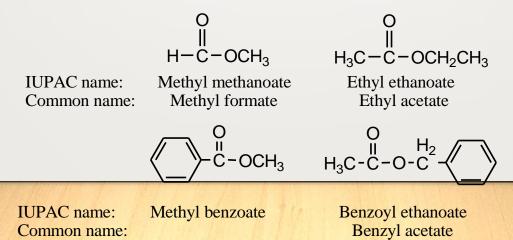
IUPAC name: Common name: Benzoyl chloride

Esters are named as if they were formed from replacement of the carboxyl hydrogen by an alkyl group.

Propanoyl chloride

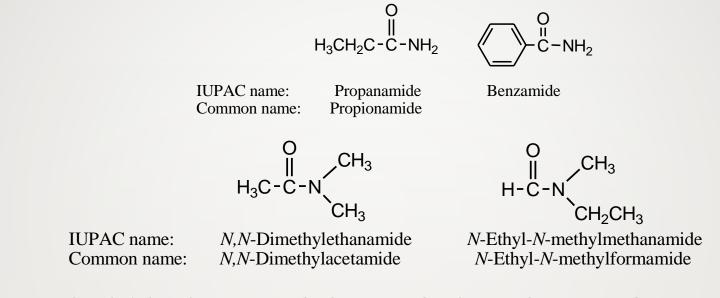
Propionyl chloride

➡ The alkyl group is named first followed by the name of the parent acid with the ending -ate in place of -ic acid.



Nomenclature of Acid Derivatives

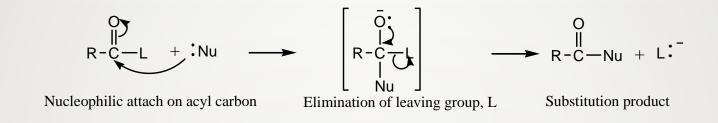
Amides are named by replacing the *-oic acid* or *-ic acid* of the parent acid's name by *-amide*.



An anhydride is named by replacing the word *acid* with *anhydride* in the name of the acid from which it was formed.

$$H_{3}CH_{2}C-C-O-C-CH_{2}CH_{3}$$

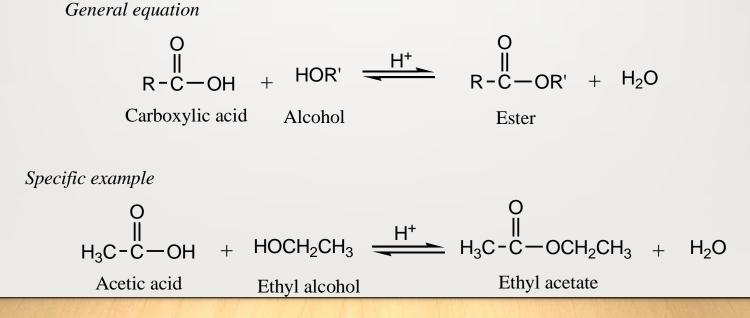
Most reactions of acids and acid derivatives proceed by a common mechanism: nucleophilic substitution.



rightarrow The leaving group, L, may be OH, OR, Cl, OCOR or NH₂.

Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

- Esters are formed by treatment a carboxylic acid with a primary or secondary alcohol.
- A small amount of mineral acid catalyst (H⁺) is required to speed up esterification.

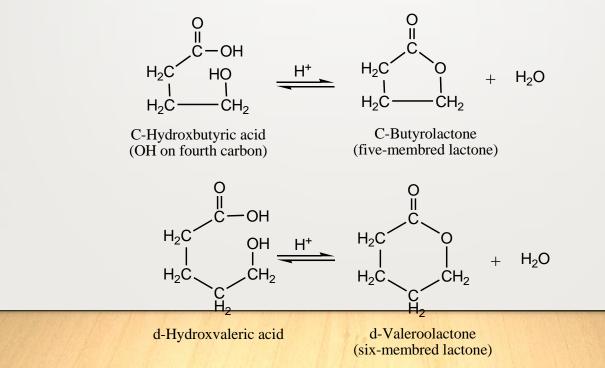


Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication



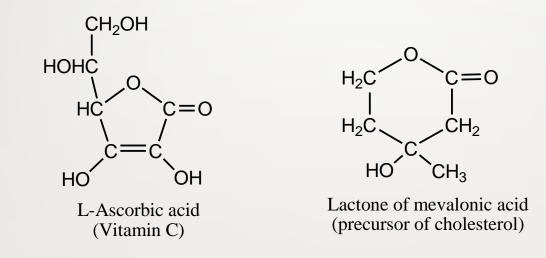
➡ If the acid and alcohol functions are part of the same molecule.

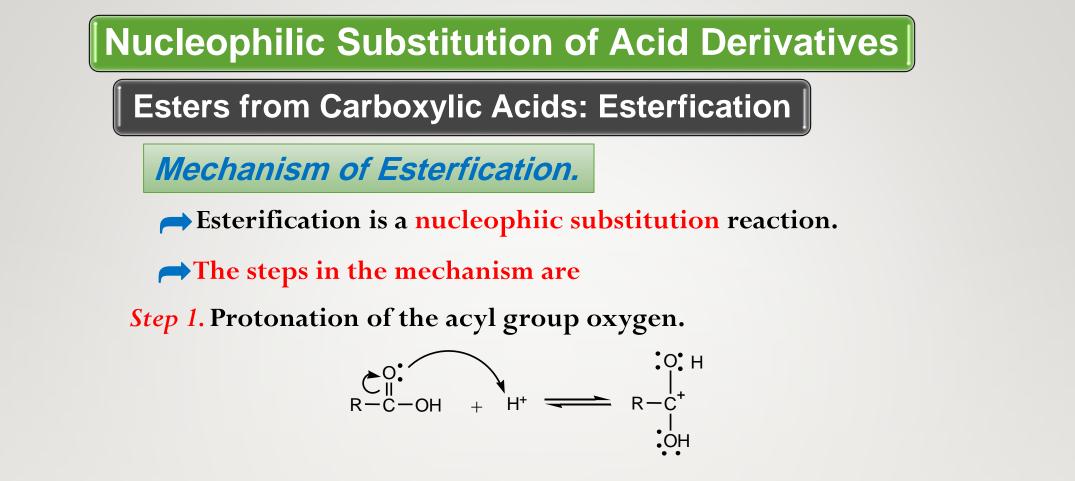
➡ The product, in such cases, is *a cyclic ester* or lactone.



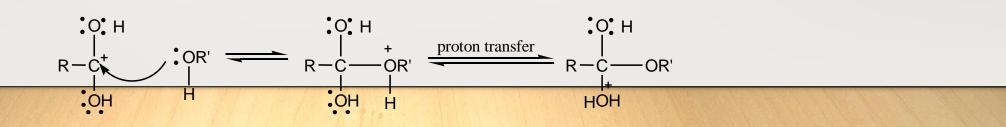
Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) and the lactone of mevalonic acid are two naturally occurring lactones.





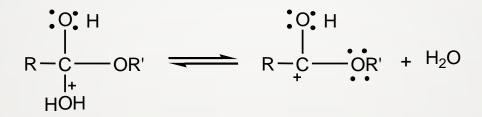
Step 2. Attack by alcohol nucleophile on positively charged carbon, followed by proton transfer.



Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Mechanism of Esterfication.

Step 3. Elimination of H_2O .



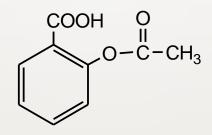
Step 4. Regeneration of proton catalyst and formation of ester.

$$\begin{array}{c} 0^{\bullet} H \\ | \mathbf{\nabla} \\ \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{C}$$

Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Sources and Uses of Esters

- ➡ Fats, oils, and waxes are naturally occurring esters of high molecular weight.
- A very common ester of medicinal importance is acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).



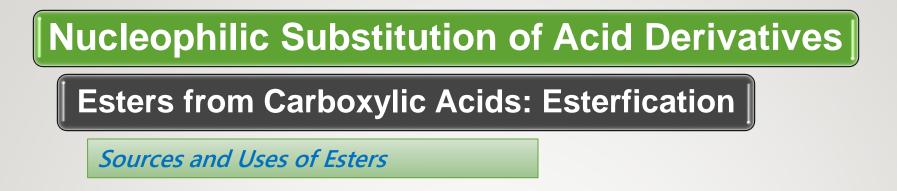
Acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin)

Lower-molecular-weight esters are excellent solvents for many organic compounds.

Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Low-molecular-weight esters are pleasant-smelling substances.

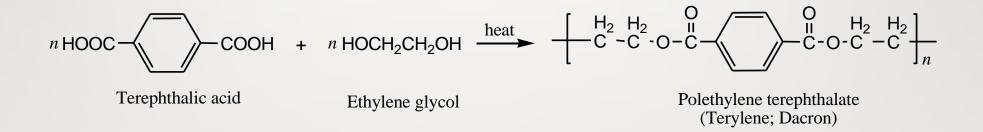
Flavor	Name	Structure
Apricot	<i>n</i> -Pentyl butyrate	$\begin{array}{c} O\\ II\\ H_3CH_2CH_2C\text{-}C\text{-}O(CH_2)_4CH_3\end{array}$
Banana	<i>n</i> -Pentyl acetate	О II H ₃ C-C-O(CH ₂) ₄ CH ₃
Orange	<i>n</i> -Octyl acetate	О II H ₃ C-C-O(CH ₂) ₇ CH ₃
Pineapple	Ethyl butyrate	$\overset{O}{\overset{II}{\underset{H_3CH_2CH_2C}}}_{H_2C} \overset{O}{\underset{C}{\overset{II}{\underset{C}{\atop;}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}$
Rum	Ethyl formate	O II H-C-OCH ₂ CH ₃
Wintergreen	Methyl salicylate	о -о-с-осн ₃



Other esters are suitable textile fibers.

The best-known polyester, Dacron, is polyethylene terephthalate,

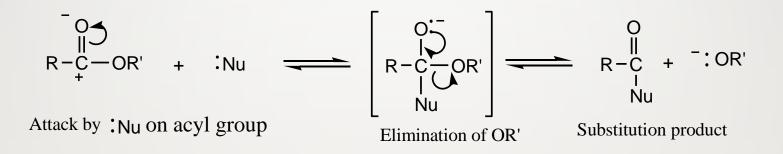
formed from the polymerization of ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid



Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Reactions of Esters

➡ Nucleophilic attack on the acyl carbon followed by elimination of the OR group.

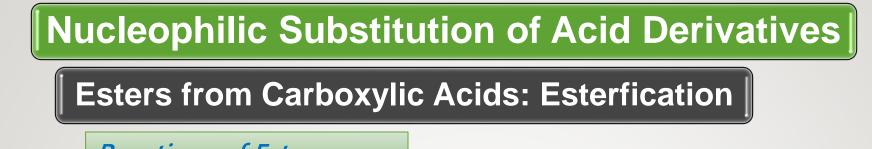


Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Reactions of Esters

- A. Acid-Catalyzed Hydrolysis of Esters
- When a compound is broken down by the action of water, the reaction is called hydrolysis.
- The hydrolysis of an ester gives a carboxylic acid and an alcohol.
- The reaction is catalyzed by strong mineral acids H⁺.
- Acid-catalyzed hydrolysis, like acid-catalyzed esterification, is an equilibrium reaction that does not go to completion

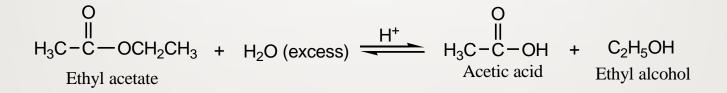
$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ H^{+} \\ R^{-}C^{-}OR' + H_{2}O \end{array} \xrightarrow{H^{+}} R^{-}C^{-}OH + R'OH \\ \hline Ester \\ water \end{array} + R'OH$$



Reactions of Esters

A. Acid-Catalyzed Hydrolysis of Esters

Excess water can be used to drive the equilibrium to the right.



Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Reactions of Esters

B. Alkaline Hydrolysis of Esters: Saponification

Alkaline hydrolysis of an ester is called saponification.

because soap is the product of alkaline hydrolysis of esters of glycerol and long- chain fatty acids.

$$R-C-OR'$$
 + NaOH $=$ $R-C-\overline{O}$: Na⁺ + R'OH

→ Treatment of the salt with mineral acid regenerates the organic acid.

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ R-C-\overline{O}: Na^{+} + HCI \longrightarrow R-C-OH + NaCI \end{array}$$

Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Reactions of Esters

C. Alcoholysis: Transesterfication

➡ Alcoholysis is the acid-catalyzed reaction between an ester and an alcohol to give an equilibrium mixture with another ester and another alcohol.

Ester interchange, or transesterification.

 $\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ R-C-OR' + HOR' \longrightarrow R-C-OR'' + R'OH \end{array}$

Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Reactions of Esters

D. Ammonolysis of Esters

Ammonolysis is the reaction of esters with ammonia to form an amide and an alcohol.

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ R-C-OR' + NH_3 \longrightarrow R-C-NH_2 + R'OH \end{array}$$

➡ The amide group, -CON-, is widely distributed in nature, especially in protein molecules

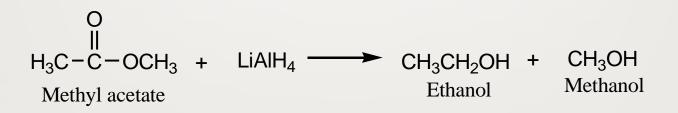
Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Reactions of Esters

E. Reduction of Esters

The reduction of esters with lithium aluminum hydride, LiAlH₄ produces two moles of alcohol:

- one from the acid part of the ester
- the other from the alcohol part.



Esters from Carboxylic Acids: Esterfication

Reactions of Esters

F. Esters and Grignard Reagents

The carbonyl group of an ester can react with a Grignard reagent to form a *tertiary alcohol*.

$$R - C - OR' \xrightarrow{(1) 2R''MgX}_{(2) H_2O, H^+} \xrightarrow{OH}_{R - C - R''} + R'OH + Mg(OH)$$

$$R - C - R'' + R'OH + Mg(OH)$$

$$R - C - R'' + R'OH + Mg(OH)$$

Acid Chlorides: Preparation

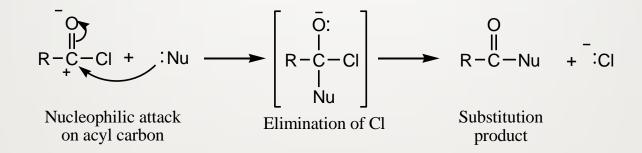
- Acid chlorides are reactive compounds and are important intermediates for the synthesis of other acid derivatives.
- They are prepared by reaction of a carboxylic acid with phosphorus chlorides (PCl_5 or PCl_3) or with thionyl chloride ($SOCl_2$).

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ R-C-OH + PCI_{5} & \underline{heat} \\ 3R-C-OH + PCI_{5} & \underline{heat} \\ R-C-OH + PCI_{3} & \underline{heat} \\ R-C-OH + PCI_{3} & \underline{heat} \\ R-C-OH + SOCI_{2} & \underline{heat} \\ R-C-CI + SO_{2} & \underline{heat} \\ R-C-CI & \underline{heat} \\ R-C-C-CI & \underline{heat} \\$$

Acid chlorides are low-boiling liquids of irritating odors.

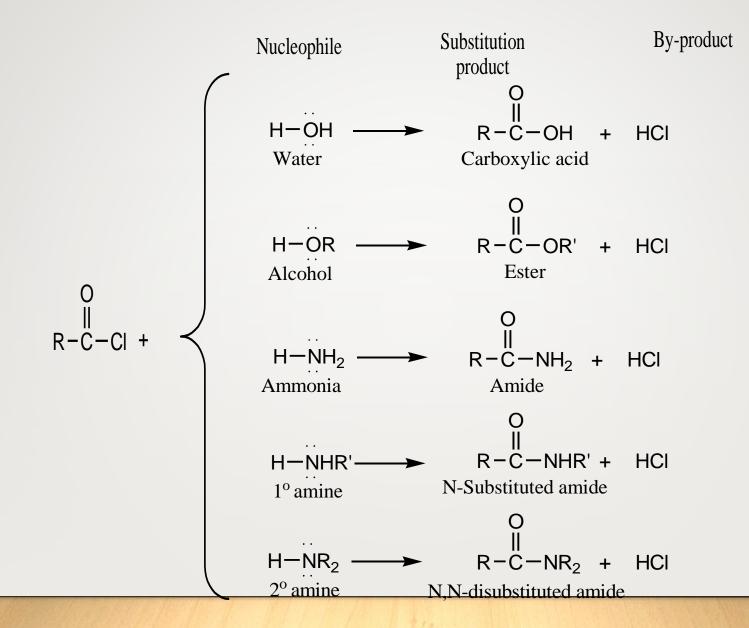
Acid Chlorides: Preparation

- Acid chlorides are very reactive compounds because the inductive effect of the chlorine atom.
- The mechanism of nucleophilic substitution of acid chlorides is similar to the one.



The attacking nucleophiles may be water, alcohol, ammonia, or amines.

Acid chlorides also form aromatic ketones *via* the Friedel-Crafts acylation.



Acid Anhydrides: Preparation

Anhydrides are compounds that may be thought of as being formed by loss of water between two molecules of an acid.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} O & O & O & O \\ \parallel & \parallel & \parallel & \parallel \\ R-C-OH & + & HO-C-R & \longrightarrow & R-C-O-C-R & + & H_2O \end{array}$$

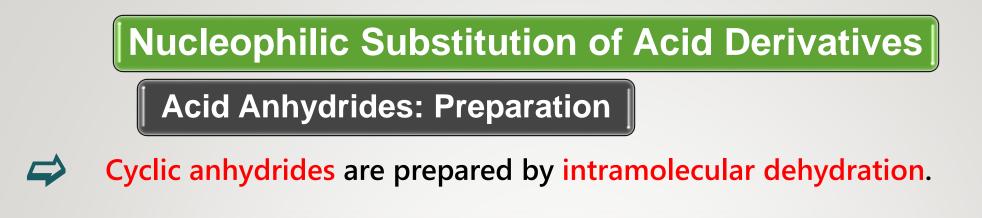
Most anhydrides are prepared by reaction between the sodium salt of the acid and an acid chloride.

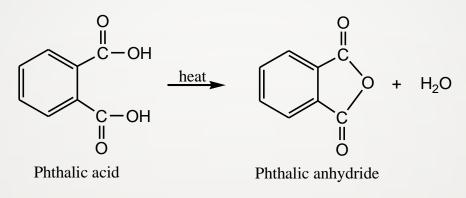
Acid Anhydrides: Preparation

➡ If the R groups of the acid salt and acid chloride are identical, we get a *anhydride*.

If the R groups are not the same, we get a *mixed anhydride*

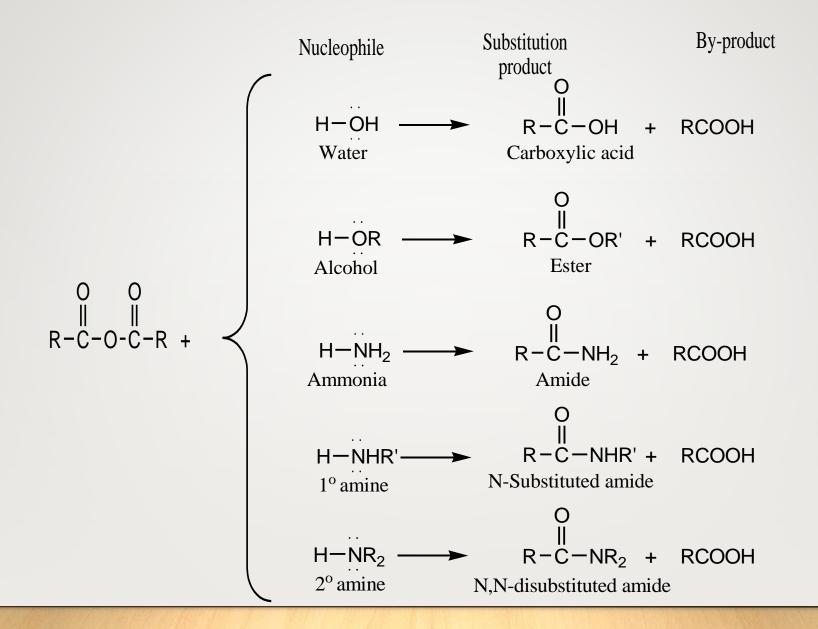
$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} & & & & & & & \\ H_{3}C-C-O & & Na^{+} & + & CI-C-CH_{2}CH_{3} & \longrightarrow & H_{3}C-C-O-C-CH_{2}CH_{3} & + & NaCl \\ & & & & Acetic \ propionic \ anhydride \\ & & (a \ mixed \ anhydride) \end{array}$$





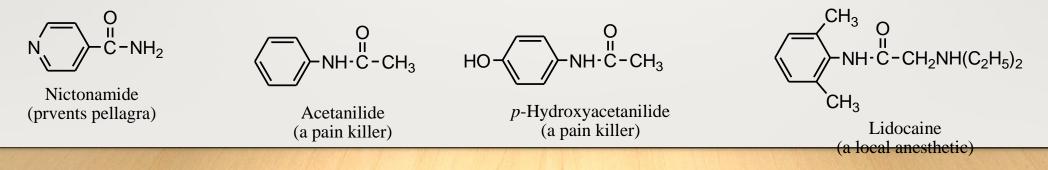
The reactions of acid anhydrides with water, alcohols, ammonia, or amines parallel those already shown for the acid chlorides.

The by-product in all reactions of acid anhydrides is always a carboxylic acid



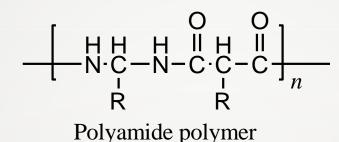
Amides

- Amides are commonly prepared in the laboratory by the ammonolysis of acid chlorides or acid anhydrides.
- ➡ For example,
 - Nicotinamide, the amide of nicotinic acid (niacin), is essential in the diet to prevent pellagra.
 - Acetanilide and a derivative *p*-hydroxyacetanilide, are used as pain killers.
 - Lidocaine is a widely used local anesthetic.



Amides

Proteins are polyamides containing amide linkage.



Simpler polyamides make up the industrially important Nylon 6,6, used in the production of stockings and other textiles, and in the manufacture of brushes and plastic toys.

Nylon 6,6 is made from the reaction of hexamethylenediamine and adipic acid.

$${}^{n} \text{ H}_{2}\text{N}^{-}(\text{CH}_{2})_{6}^{-}\text{NH}_{2} + {}^{n} \text{ HOOC}^{-}(\text{CH}_{2})_{4}^{-}\text{COOH} \xrightarrow[\text{heat}]{} - \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{H}_{2}\text{O} \\ \text{heat} \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow[\text{heat}]{} - \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{H}_{2}\text{H}_{2}^{-}\text$$

Amides

- Amides can be hydrolyzed in acid or in alkaline solution.
- Acid-catalyzed hydrolysis produces the free organic acid and an ammonium salt.

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ R-C-NH_2 + H_2O \xrightarrow{H^+} R-C-OH + NH_4^+ \end{array}$$

Base-catalyzed hydrolysis produces a carboxylate salt and free ammonia.

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ R-C-NH_2 + NaOH \xrightarrow{heat} R-C-O^{:} Na^{+} + NH_3 \end{array}$$

Amides

Simple amides can be reduced to amines containing *one less carbon atom* by reaction with alkaline hypohalite solution.

$$RH_2C - C - NH_2 + NaOX \xrightarrow{OH^-} R - C^- NH_2$$
An amine with one less carbon

Amides, when treated with lithium aluminum hydride, are reduced to amines.

The net reaction is the conversion of the C=O in amides to CH_2 .

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ R - C - NH_{2} + LiAIH_{4} \longrightarrow R - C^{2} - NH_{2} \\ O \\ R - C - NHR' + LiAIH_{4} \longrightarrow R - C^{2} - NHR' \\ O \\ R - C - NR_{2} + LiAIH_{4} \longrightarrow R - C^{2} - NR_{2} \end{array}$$