

## ALKYNES

A triple bond gives an alkyne four fewer hydrogen atoms than the corresponding alkane. Therefore, the triple bond contributes two degrees of unsaturation (DU).

Alkynes are not as common in nature as alkenes, but some plants do use alkynes to protect themselves against disease or predators. Acetylene is by far the most important commercial alkane. Acetylene is an important industrial feedstock, but its largest use is as the fuel the oxyacetylene welding torch.

### Nomenclature and Isomerism

In the conventional nomenclature, alkynes receive names based on their relation to acetylene. However, in the IUPAC system, they are denoted as derivatives of the respective alkanes, where the suffix 'ane' is substituted with 'yne'. The positioning of the triple bond is designated by identifying the first carbon atom in the chain bonded to three other carbons. Below, the table presents examples of both the common and IUPAC names for various members within the alkyne series.

Value of n	Formula	Structure	Common name	IUPAC name
2	$C_2H_2$	$H-C\equiv CH$	Acetylene	Ethyne
3	$C_3H_4$	$CH_3-C\equiv CH$	Methylacetylene	Propyne
4	$C_4H_6$	$CH_3CH_2-C\equiv CH$	Ethylacetylene	But-1-yne
4	$C_4H_6$	$CH_3-C\equiv C-CH_3$	Dimethylacetylene	But-2-yne

Alkynes are known for their ability to exhibit isomerism, a phenomenon where compounds with the same molecular formula have different structures.

For instance, ethyne ( $C_2H_2$ ) and propyne ( $C_3H_4$ ) each have only one possible structure. However, butyne ( $C_4H_6$ ) presents two potential structures: but-1-yne and but-2-yne. These isomers differ in the position of the triple bond, classifying them as position isomers.

Furthermore, variations in the length of the alkyne chain while maintaining the same molecular formula can give rise to chain isomerism.

For instance, different arrangements of carbon atoms in the chain can lead to distinct structures.

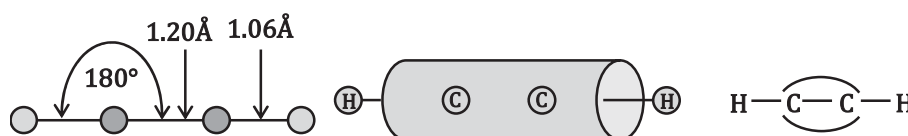
To illustrate, let's consider constructing the structure for the next homologue, which possesses the molecular formula  $C_5H_8$ . We aim to arrange five carbon atoms in a continuous chain or with a side chain to form the next alkyne compound.

	Structure	IUPAC name
1.	$HC\equiv C-CH_2-CH_2-CH_3$	Pent-1-Yne
2.	$H_3C-C\equiv C-CH_2-CH_3$	Pent-2-yne
3.	$  \begin{array}{c}  H_3C-CH-C\equiv CH \\    \\  CH_3  \end{array}  $	3-Methyl but-1-Yne

Structures I and II exhibit position isomerism, a type of isomerism where molecules with the same molecular formula differ in the position of functional groups or multiple bonds. On the other hand, structures I and III, as well as structures II and III, demonstrate chain isomerism. Chain isomerism occurs when compounds with the same molecular formula have different arrangements of carbon atoms in their carbon chains.

### Structure of Triple Bond

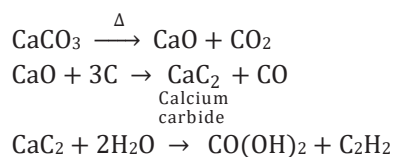
- Alkynes are also hydrocarbons that contain carbon-carbon triple bond.
- Alkynes are also called acetylenes because they are derivatives of acetylene.
- The general formula is:  $C_nH_{2n+2}$ . (One triple bond)
- In alkyne  $C \equiv C$  bond length is  $1.20 \text{ \AA}$
- Its bond energy is  $192 \text{ kcal. mol}^{-1}$
- The hybridization of carbon atoms having triple bond ( $C \equiv C$ ) in alkynes is  $sp$ .
- Overlapping of these  $sp$  hybrid orbitals with each other and with the hydrogen orbitals gives the sigma bond framework which is linear ( $180^\circ$ ) structure.
- Two  $\pi$  bonds result from overlap of the two remaining unhybridized  $p$  orbitals on each carbon atom. these orbitals overlap at **right angles** ( $90^\circ$ ) to each other, forming one  $\pi$  bond with electron density above and below the  $C-C$  sigma bond, and the other with electron density in front and in back of the sigma bond. This results in a cylindrical  $\pi$  electron cloud around  $\sigma$  bonded structure.



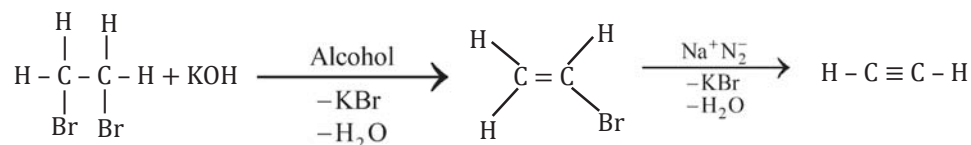
**Note:** Any type of stereoisomerism does not arise in acetylenic bond due to linearity of  $C \equiv C$  bond.

### Preparation

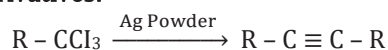
- Synthesis from Calcium Carbide:** At an industrial scale, ethyne is synthesized through a reaction involving calcium carbide and water. Calcium carbide, in turn, is produced by heating quicklime with coke. Quicklime is derived from limestone through a series of chemical reactions as outlined below:



- Derived from Vicinal Dihalides:** When vicinal dihalides are subjected to treatment with alcoholic potassium hydroxide, they undergo a process known as dehydrohalogenation. This chemical reaction results in the elimination of one molecule of hydrogen halide, leading to the formation of an alkenyl halide. Further treatment of this alkenyl halide with sodamide facilitates the conversion into an alkyne compound.



- Obtained from Tri halogen Derivatives:**



## Physical and Chemical Properties of Alkynes

### Physical properties

- (a) Alkynes are colourless, odourless and tasteless.
- (b) Lower alkynes are partially soluble in  $H_2O$ . (It is due to its polarizability).
- (c) Higher alkynes are insoluble in water due to more % of covalent character.
- (d) Completely soluble in organic solvents.
- (e) Melting point and boiling point increases with molecular mass and decreases with number of branches.
- (f) Up to  $C_4$  alkynes are gaseous  $C_5 - C_{11}$  are liquid,  $C_{12}$  & above are solids.
- (g) Pure acetylene is odourless and impure acetylene has odour like garlic. It is due to impurities of Arsene ( $AsH_3$ ) & Phosphine ( $PH_3$ ).
- (h) Acetylene & 1-alkyne are acidic in nature. It is due to greater electronegativity of  $sp$  hybridized 'C'.
- (i) Acetylene has two acidic hydrogen atoms. It can neutralise two equivalents of base at the same time. So, it is also called as dibasic acid but the base should be very stronger as  $NH_2$  or  $CH_3$  etc.

### Chemical Properties

The chemical properties of alkyne are due to two factors:

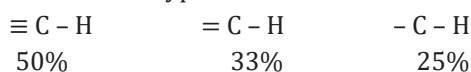
**Presence of  $\pi$  electrons:** Due to presence of loosely bond  $\pi$  electrons, alkynes like alkenes, undergo easily electrophilic addition reaction.

Carbon-carbon triple bond is less reactive than the carbon-carbon double bond towards electrophilic addition reaction.

In addition to electrophilic additions, alkynes also undergo nucleophilic addition with nucleophiles

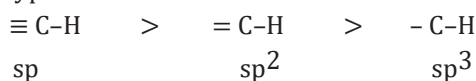
**Presence of acidic hydrogen atom:** The hydrogen atom attached to the triple bonded carbon can be easily removed by a strong base and hence acetylene and 1-alkynes are considered as weak acids.

**Ex:** The amounts of  $s$ -character in various types of  $C-H$  bonds is as-



Since  $s$  electrons are closer to the nucleus than the  $p$  electrons, the electrons in a bond having more  $s$ -character will be closer to nucleus. Due to high  $s$ -character of the  $C-H$  bond in alkyne ( $s$ -50%) the electrons constituting this bond are more strongly held by the carbon nucleus, with the result the  $H$  present on  $CH$  can be easily removed as proton.

The acidic nature of the three types of  $-C-H$  bonds as



Relative acidic order



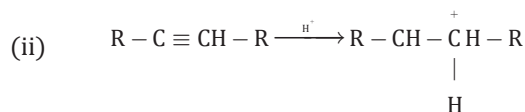
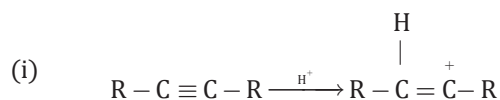
### (1) Addition Reaction

**Electrophilic Addition:** Addition reactions where the addition is initiated electrophilic (positive group). The characteristic reaction of alkynes is electrophilic addition but the reactivity of alkynes towards electrophilic addition is less than alkenes because in  $C \equiv C$ , the  $\pi$  electrons are tightly held by carbon nuclei and so they are less easily available for reaction for reaction with electrophiles.

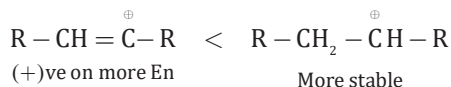
Reactivity order of hydrocarbons for electrophilic addition



**Another reason is:** The intermediates when an electrophile attack on alkene and alkynes are:



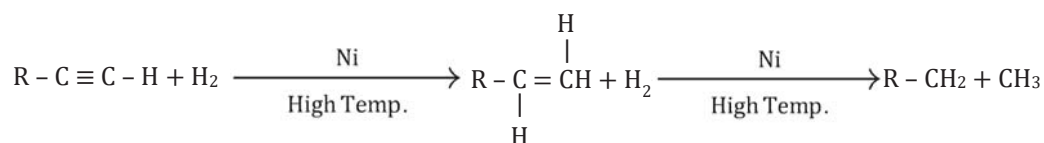
**Stability of intermediates**



Atoms are less stable

So, we can say that alkenes are more reactive towards electrophilic addition reaction.

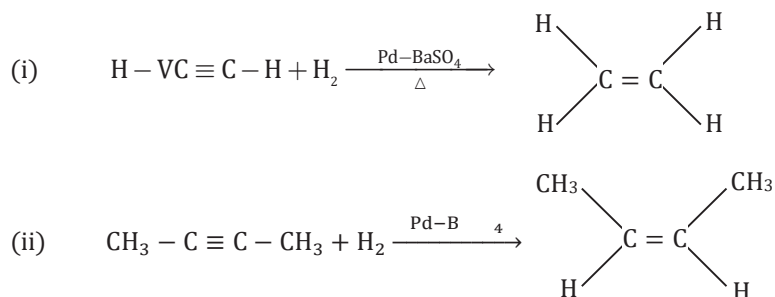
**(a) Addition Of Hydrogen**  
**Hydrogenation**



The above reaction is called as Sabatier Sanderson's reaction.

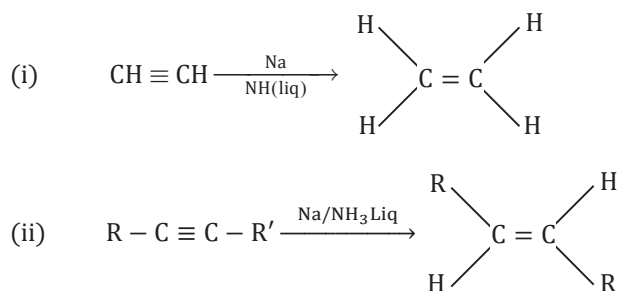
**Hydrogenation in the presence of lindlar's Catalyst**

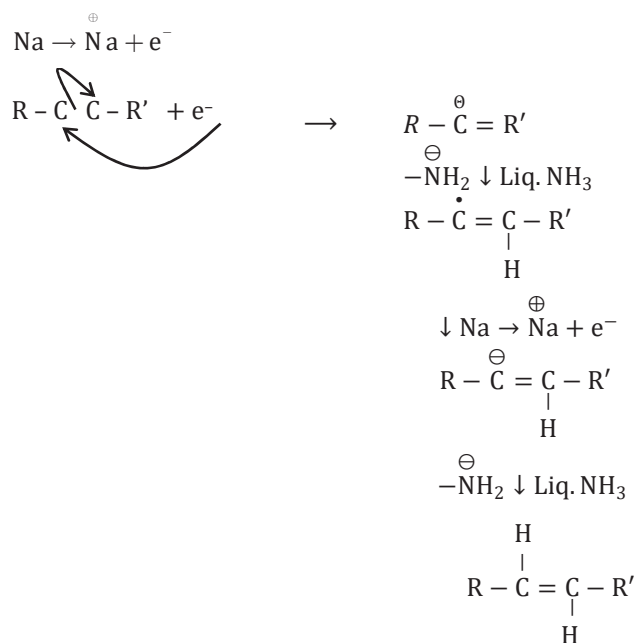
Addition up to alkene takes place in cis manner.



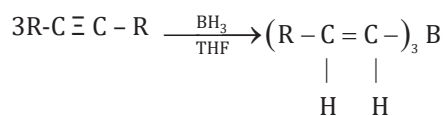
**Hydrogenation by Na + NH<sub>3</sub> (liq.)**

Addition up to alkene takes place in trans manner

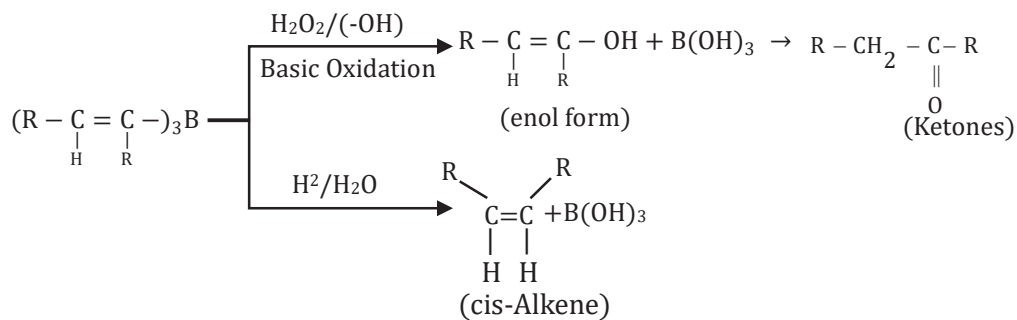
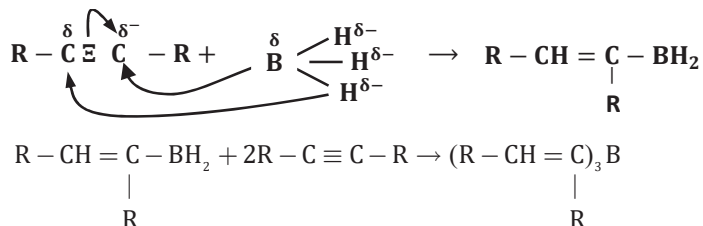


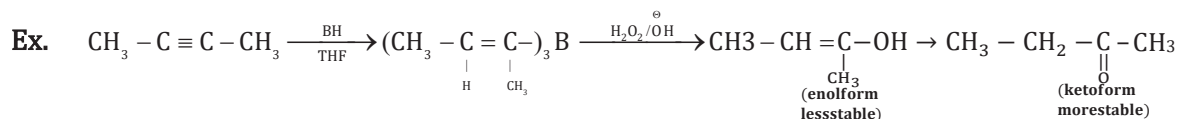
**Mechanism****(b) Addition of  $\text{BH}_3$  / THF Or  $\text{B}_2\text{h}_6$  (Hydroboration)**

THF – Tetrahydrofuran is used as solvent.



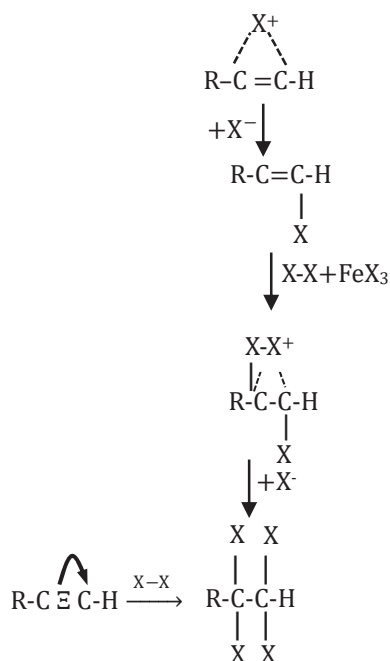
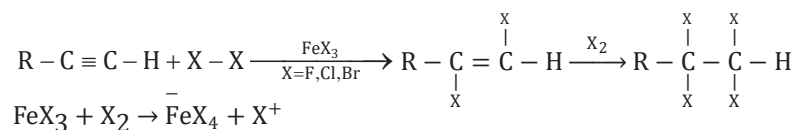
Since  $\text{BH}_3$  is not available as monomer so a solvent THF is used for the stability of  $\text{BH}_3$ .



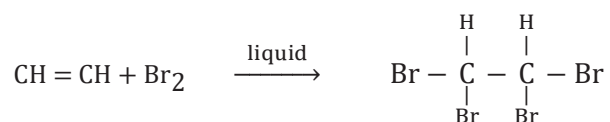
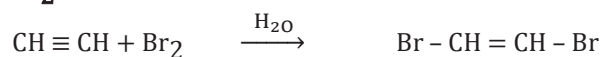


### (C) Addition Of Halogens (Halogenation)

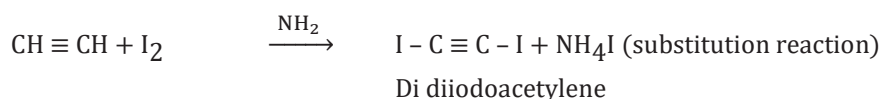
In presence of Lewis acid as a catalyst alkyne form tetrahaloderivative with halogen.



### Reaction with dilute Br<sub>2</sub> or bromine water



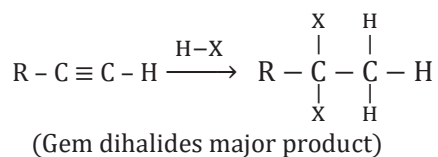
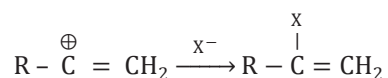
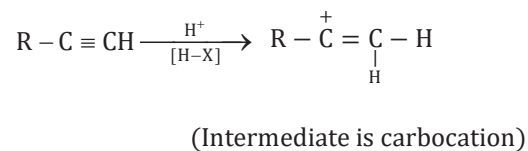
### Reaction with iodine



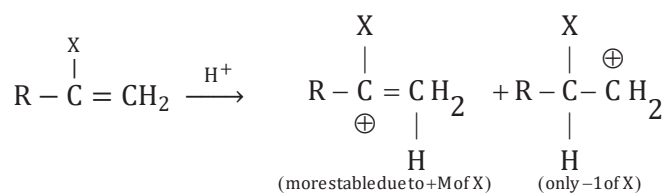
### (d) Addition of Halogen Acids (H-X) {Hydrohalogenation}

Addition according to Marconi-Koff's Rule.

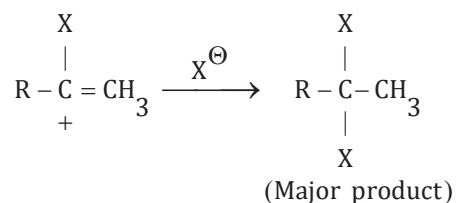
Reactivity order of H - X:  $\text{HI} > \text{HBr} > \text{HCl} > \text{HF}$

**Mechanism**

Further

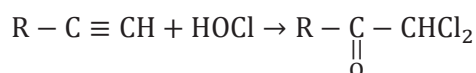
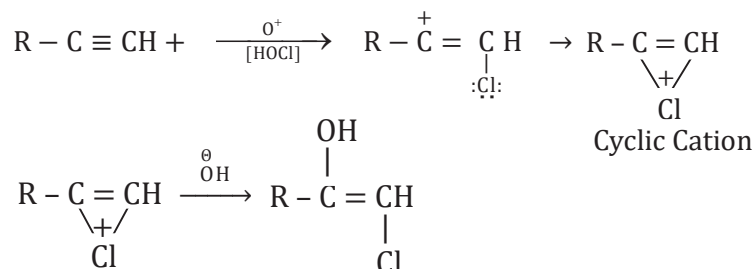


So

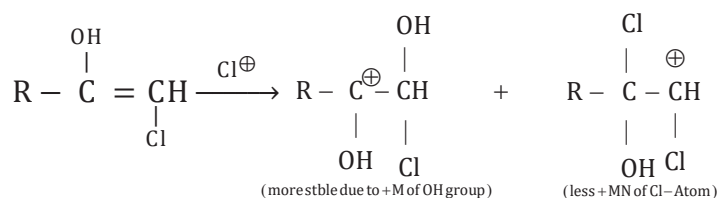


- (e) **Addition Of Hox:** Alkynes react with hypohalous acids according to markwonikoff's rule ant form gem diol, which are unstable, lose a molecule of water and form halo aldehyde or halo ketones.

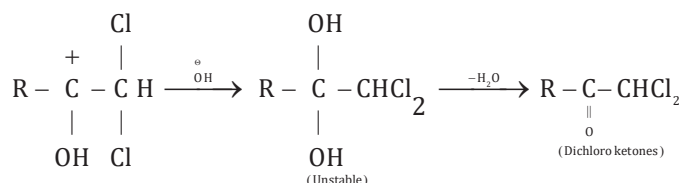
Reactivity order  $HOCl > HOBr > HOI$

**Mechanism**

Further



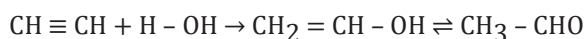
So



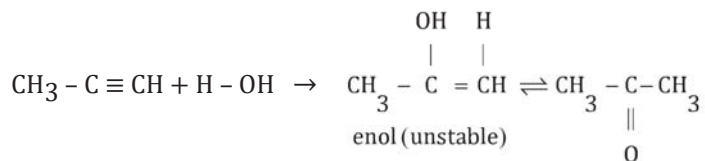
## (2) Nucleophilic Addition Reaction

In these reactions some heavy metal cation like  $\text{Hg}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Ba}^{+2}$  is used. This cation attracts the  $\pi^-$  of alkynes and decrease the  $e^-$  density and hence a nucleophilic can attack an alkyne.

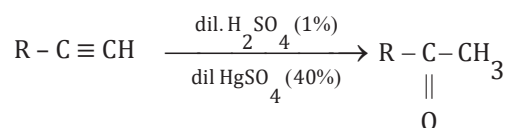
- (a) **Addition Of Dil.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (Hydration):** The addition of water takes place in the presence of  $\text{Hg}^{+2}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  [1%  $\text{HgSO}_4$  + 40%  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ]. In this reaction carbonyl compounds are obtained.



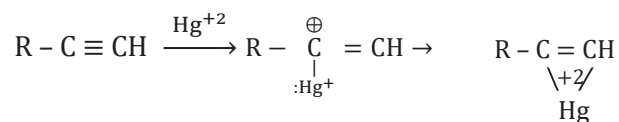
enol unstable



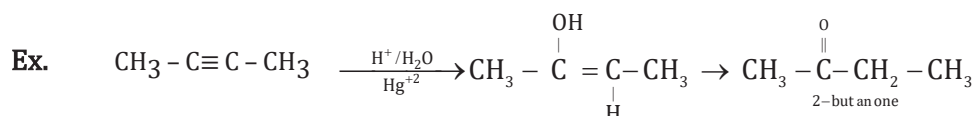
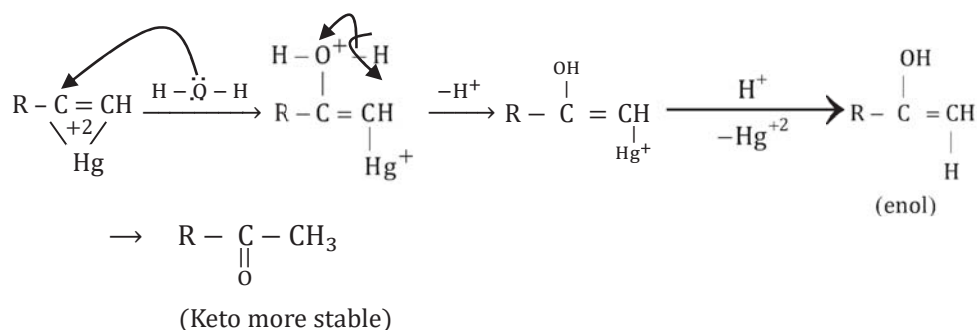
A structure in which -OH group is attached to double bond carbon is called as enol (enol + -ol). This reaction is used for preparation of aldehyde and ketone.



### Mechanism

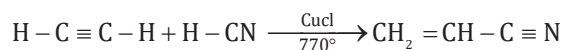




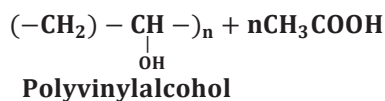
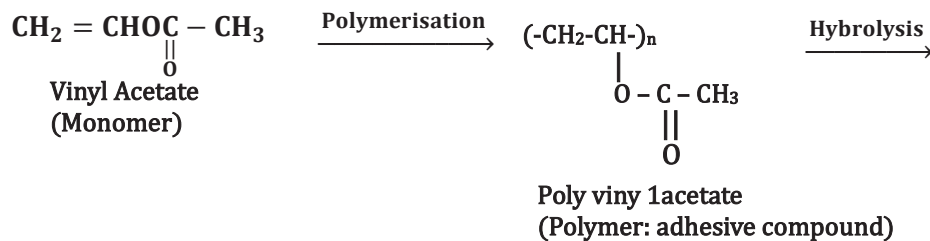
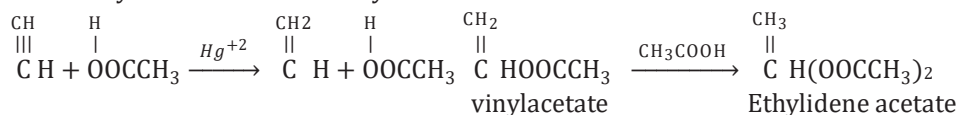


**(b) Addition of HCN**

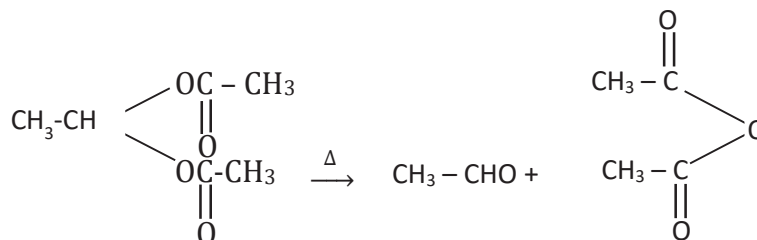
Addition takes place in the presence of CuCl



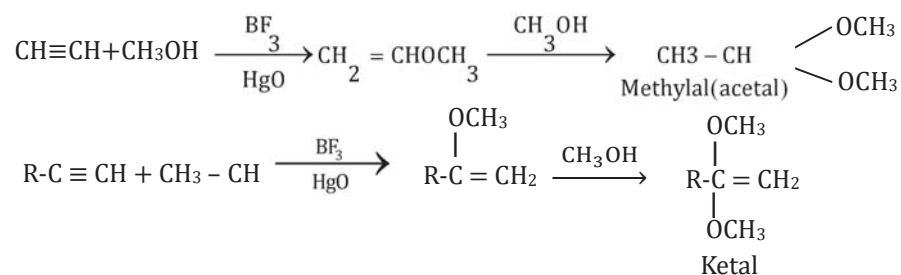
**(c) Addition Of Acetic Acid:** Acetylene combines with acetic acid in presence of mercuric acetate. It first forms vinyl acetate and then ethylidene acetate.



When ethylidene acetate is heated it gives acetaldehyde and acetic anhydride



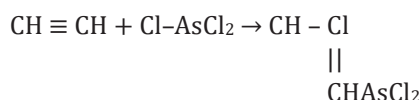
(d) **Addition of Alcohols:** In presence of  $\text{BF}_3$  and  $\text{HgO}$  alkynes react with alcohols and form acetal and ketal



Acetylene forms acetal while other alkynes form ketal.

### (3) Addition of $\text{AsCl}_3$

In presence of  $\text{AlCl}_3$  or  $\text{HgCl}_2$  acetylene combines with  $\text{AsCl}_3$  to yield Lewisite gas. It is four times poisonous than mustard gas.



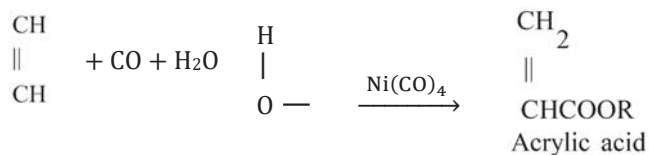
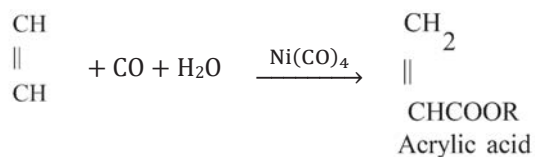
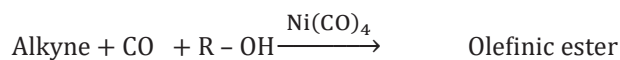
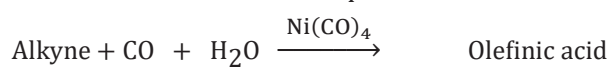
2-Chlorovinyl dichloroarsine (Lewisite gas)

The action of Lewisite may be checked by its antidote BAL (British Anti Lewisite). BAL combines with the Lewisite to form a cyclic nontoxic compound.



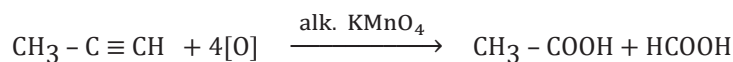
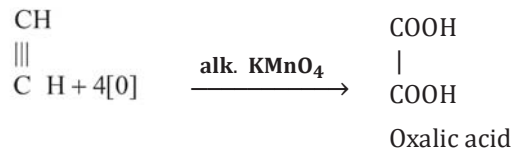
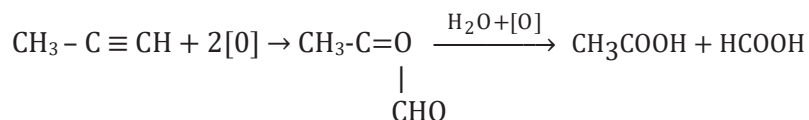
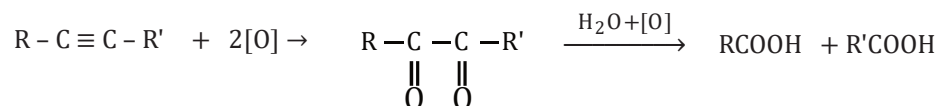
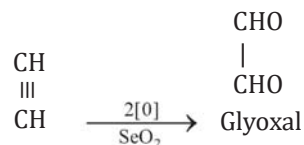
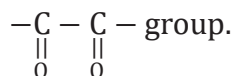
### (4) Carbonylation

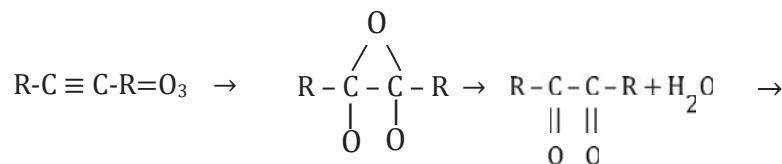
Reaction of alkynes with CO in presence of  $\text{Ni}(\text{CO})_4$



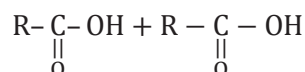
**(5) Oxidation Reactions****(a) Combustion**

The combustion of acetylene is used for welding and cutting of metals in which oxy-acetylene flame having high temp (3000°C) is produced.

**(b) Oxidation With Alkaline  $\text{KMnO}_4$ :** Oxidation with alkaline  $\text{KMnO}_4$  gives carboxylic acids.**(c) Oxidation With Acidic  $\text{KMnO}_4$  OR  $\text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$ :** In presence of acidic  $\text{KMnO}_4$  or acidic  $\text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$ . Alkynes are oxidised to monocarboxylic acids.**(d) Oxidation With Selenium Dioxide:** Selenium dioxide alkynes to the tricarbonyl compounds.**(e) Oxidation With Ozone ( $\text{O}_3$ ):** In the ozonolysis both sp-C-atoms are converted into



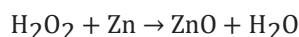
Ozonide (Addition of ozone)



(Acids)

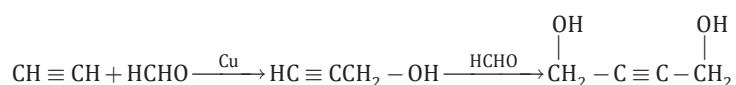
In this reaction  $H_2O_2$  is oxidant which oxidase  $R-\overset{\overset{O}{||}}{C}-\overset{\overset{O}{||}}{C}-R$  into acids.

But if we use some amount of Zn as reductant with  $H_2O$  then it reduces  $H_2O_2$  so oxidation does not take place



## (6) Reaction with HCHO

This reaction is called ethynylation.



### Uses of Acetylene

- Oxyacetylene flame used in welding and cutting
- Acetylene is used as an illuminant
- Acetylene is used for artificial ripening of fruits
- Used for manufacture of acetaldehyde, acetic acid, ethyl alcohol, Wistron, webtool, PVC, PVA, Chloroprene, butadiene, Lewisite etc.
- It is used as a general anaesthetic.

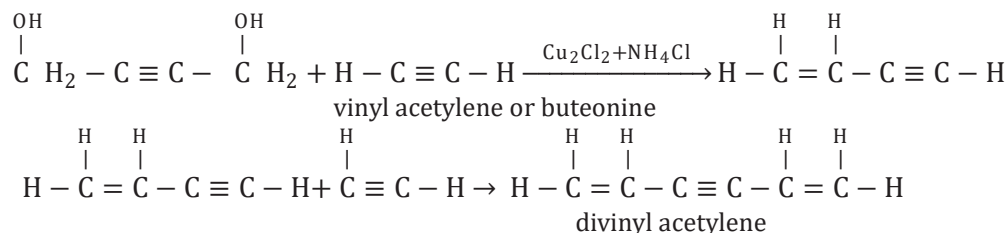
## (7) Polymerisation

**Polymerisation Reactions:** Alkyne mainly shows addition polymerisation reactions.

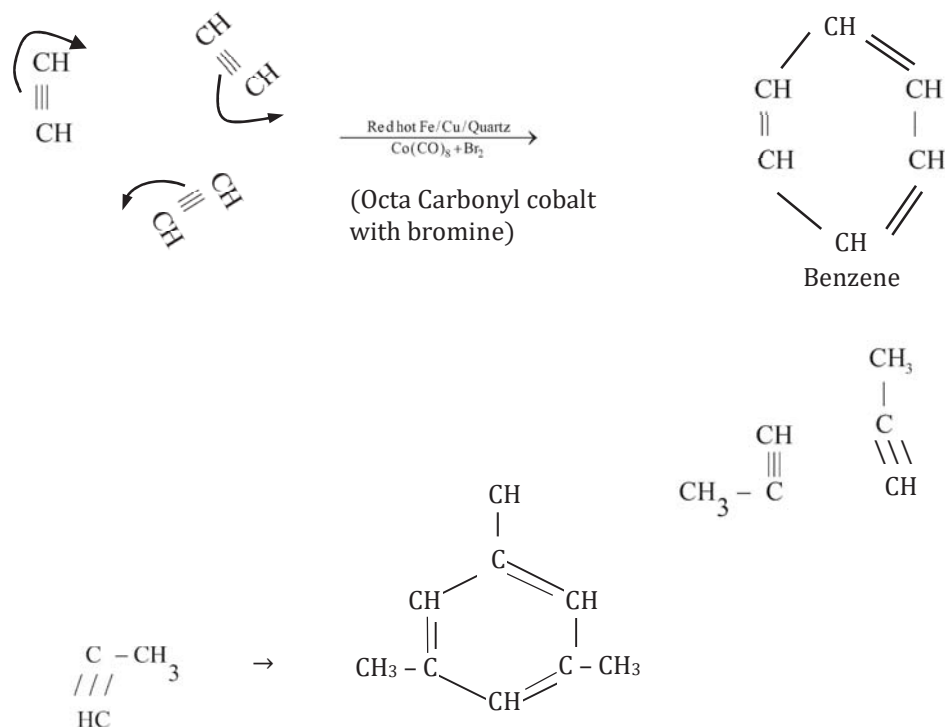
### Dimerization and Cyclization

- (a) **Dimerization:** Two mole acetylene reacts with  $Cu_2Cl_2$  &  $NH_4Cl$  and forms vinyl acetylene.

**Note:** If acetylene would be in excess then product would be divinyl acetylene and the reaction is called trimerization.



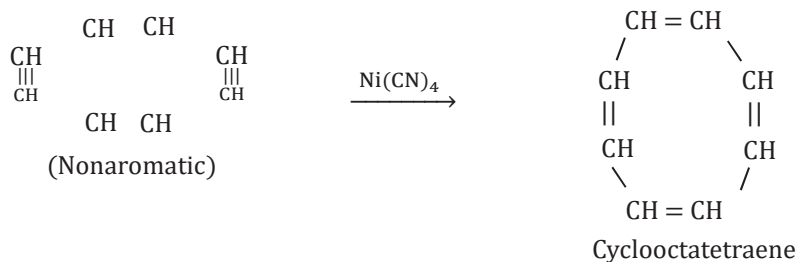
- (b) **Trimerization:** If three mole of acetylene is passed into red hot iron or Cu or quartz tube, then a cyclic trimer is formed which is called benzene.



mesitylene (having 3-1°, 3-2° & 3-3° carbons)

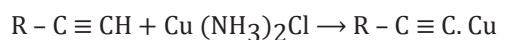
**Important:** Mesitylene can also be obtained from acetone by condensation polymerisation.

- (c) **Tetramerization:** According to the name four moles of acetylene are heated with nickel tetra cyanide, then acetylene forms a cyclic tetramer cyclol octa tetraene.

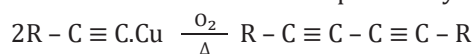


## (8) Coupling

- (a) Alkyne form respective cuprous alkyne with ammoniacal cuprous chloride solution. When cuprous alkyne is reacted with potassium ferricyanide  $[K_3Fe(CN)_6]$  they converted into conjugated dyne.

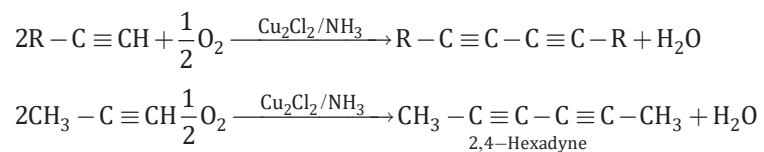


cuprous alkynide

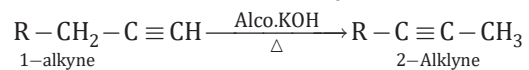


diyne

- (b) Coupling is also done easily by 1-alkyne in the presence of  $Cu_2Cl_2$  (cuprous compound) and amine (i.e., pyridine + air) cuprous alkynide is formed (this coupling is known as oxidative coupling or glass coupling)

**(9) Isomerisation**

- (a) When 1-alkyne is treated with alcoholic KOH 2-alkyne is formed.



- (b) When 2-alkyne is treated with iodamide then it is converted into 1-alkyne.

