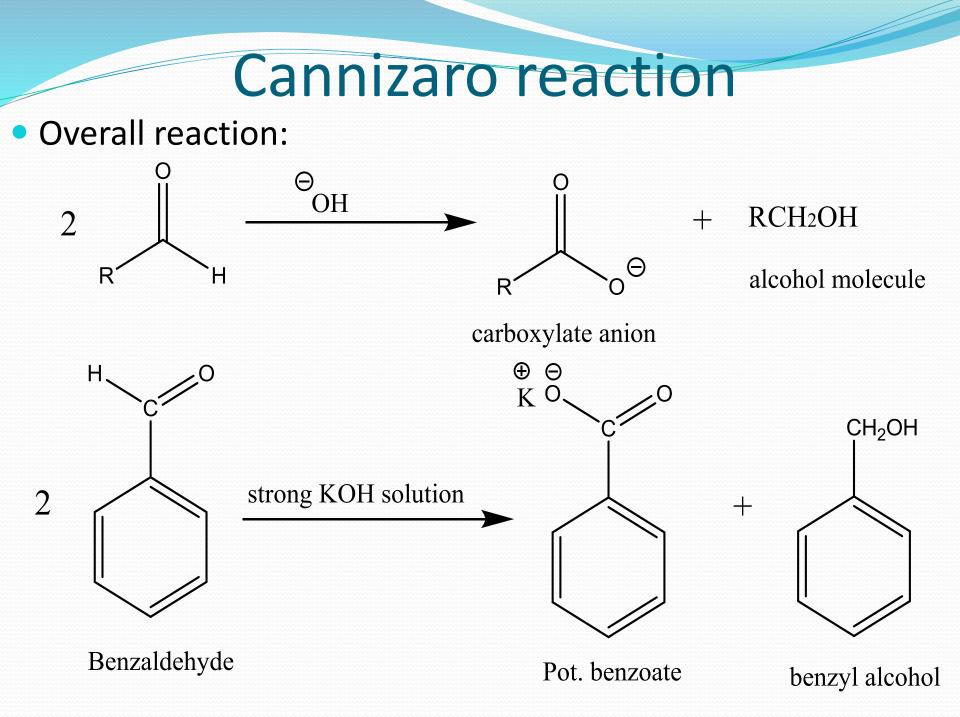
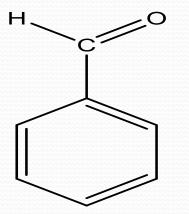
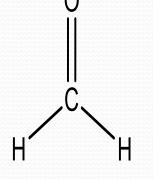
In the presence of conc. alkali (strong aqueous alkali) ,aldehydes containing no α-hydrogen undergoes self-oxidation-reduction to yield a mixture of an alcohol and a salt of a carboxylic acid.

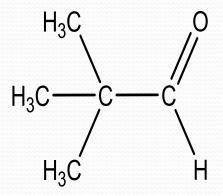
 Or we can said: It is a reaction of two aldehydes molecules in strongly basic solution to give a carboxylate anion and a molecule of carbinol (alcohol).



• Examples:



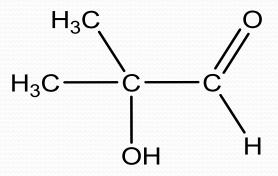




Benzaldehyde

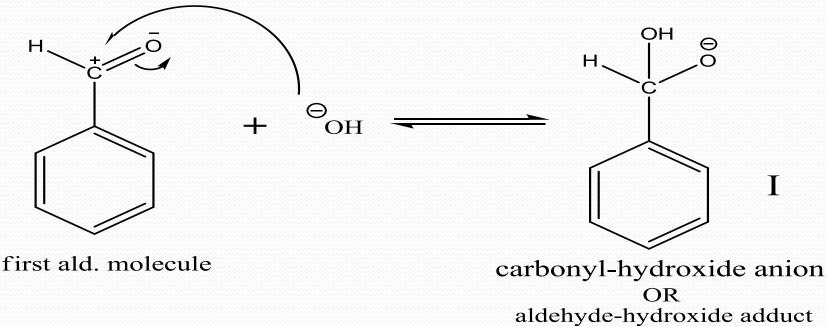
Formaldehyde

2,2,-dimethyl propanal

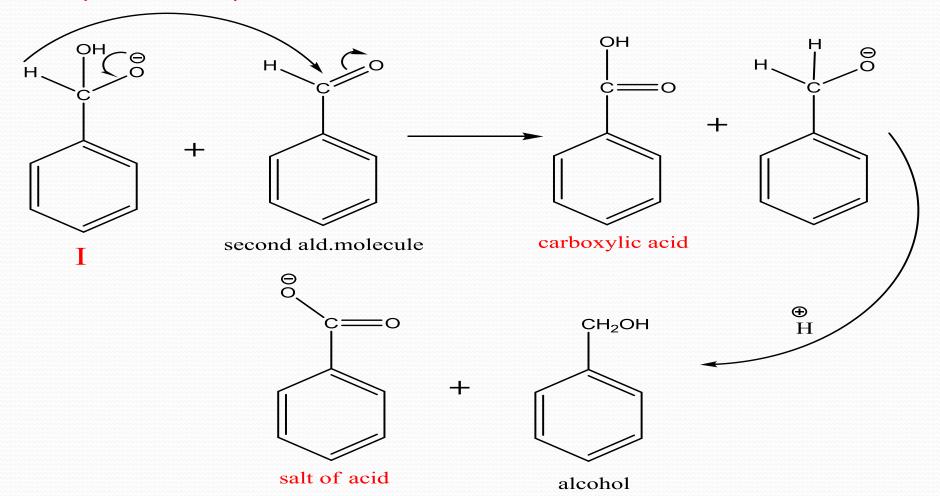


2-methyl-2-hydroxy-propanal

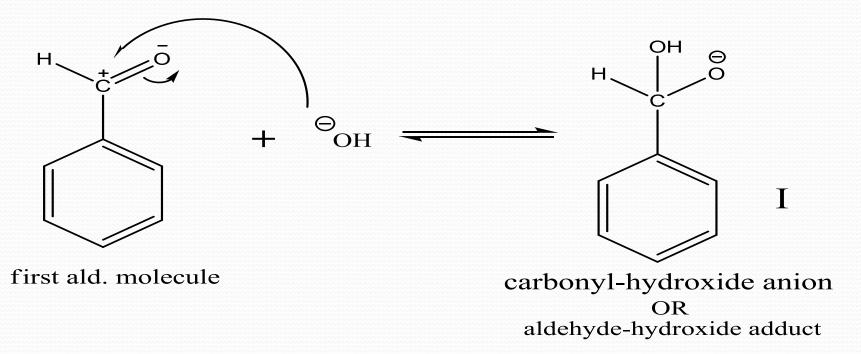
- First Mechanism: Nucleophilic addition, two successive additions are involved.
- (step 1) Addition of OH to give the intermediate I,
 (oxidation)



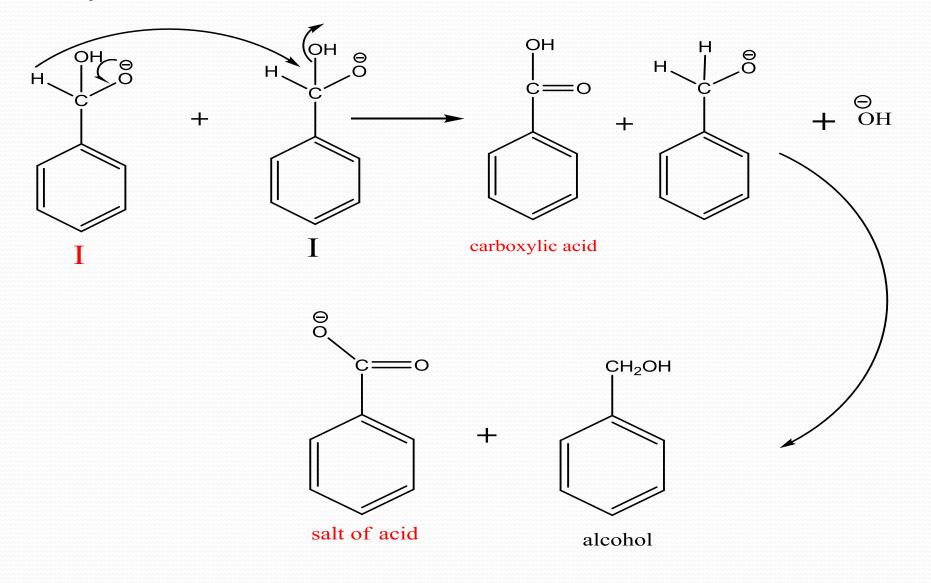
(step 2) Hydride- transfer (shift) reaction, which includes the addition of a hydride ion from (step 1) to a second molecules of aldehyde (the presence negative charge on intermediate I aide in the loss of hydrogen ion) (Reduction).



- Second Mechanism:
- (step 1) Also nucleophilic addition to give aldehydehydroxide adduct as in the first mechanism.

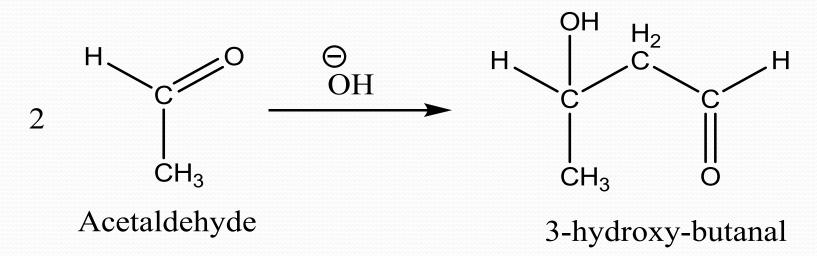


(step 2) Hydride is transferred from one carbonylhydroxide anion to another one.



Third Mechanism: (H.W)

Aldehyde with an α-hydrogen would undergo aldol condensation faster, under the influence of dilute base or acid, two molecules of aldehyde ,keton may combine to form a β-hydroxy aldehyde or β-hydroxy ketone, respectively. The product of addition will be in such away that the α-carbon of the first becomes attached to the carbonyl carbon of the second one.



- (H.W) propanal, aceton
- Properties of benzyl alcohol:-
 - Oily liquid
 - Colorless
 - Immiscible with water
 - Miscible with organic solvents like ether
 - B.P. 204-207

• Properties of benzoic acid:-

- Crystalline plates or needles, white
- M.P. = 121-123
- Sparingly soluble in water
- Soluble in hot or boiled water
- Volatile with steam
- Reacts with sodium bicarbonate to give CO₂ gas.

• Part I

- 1-dissolve 3.6 gm KOH in 5 ml D.W in a reagent bottle.
- 2-cool
- 3-add 3.6 ml benzaldehyde & shake vigorously in one direction for 30 min. until thick emulsion is formed and leave it over night to complete the reaction.

• Part II

- Add 30 ml of H2O to ensure complete dissolve of Pot. Benzoate ((transfer to separatory funnel))
- Add 20 ml ether to the reagent bottle and shake ((transfer to separatory funnel))
- Shake 2 min. and stand.

Lower layer(H_2O)

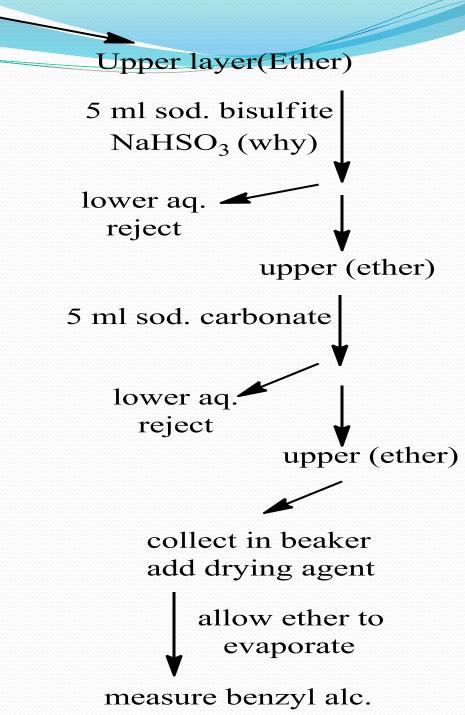
Beaker

20 ml conc. HCl 10 ml H₂O

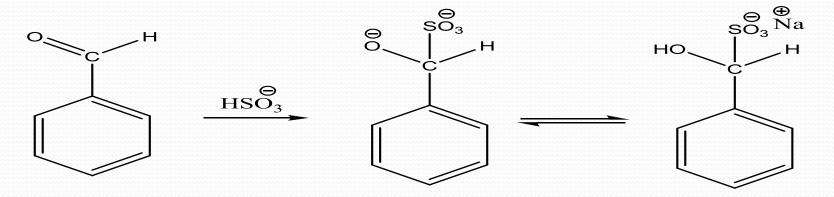
ppt. (benzoic acid)

cool

Filter(collect ppt.) Benzoic acid on filter papper.



- Why we use Sod. bisulfite NaHSO₃ solution in the purification of benzyl alcohol to the ethereal layer?
- To get rid of excess unreacted of benzaldehyde



 α -hydroxy benzyl sulfonate

- Why we add sodium carbonate to ethereal layer after that?
- To get rid any excess unreacted of sodium bisulfite

$$Na_2CO_3 + 2 NaHSO_3 \longrightarrow CO2 + H_2O + 2 Na_2SO_3$$

excess