# Chapter 7: Alcohols, Phenols and Thiols













# Nomenclature of Alcohols

In the IUPAC system, the hydroxyl group in alcohols is indicated by the ending **-ol**. In common names, the separate word *alcohol* is placed after the name of the alkyl group.









CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCH<sub>2</sub>OH

2-propen-1-ol (allyl alcohol)

cyclohexanol (cyclohexyl alcohol)

CH<sub>2</sub>OH

phenylmethanol (benzyl alcohol)

Name the following alcohols





**Industrial Alcohols** 

$$CO + 2H_2 \xrightarrow{ZnO - Cr_2O_3} CH_3OH$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_{12}H_{22}O_{11} + H_2O \xrightarrow{\text{yeast}} 4 \text{ CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH} + 4 \text{ CO}_2\\ \hline \text{cane sugar} & \text{ethanol} \end{array}$$

#### **Classification of Alcohols**



# Nomenclature of Phenols



The hydroxyl group is named as a substituent when it occurs in the same molecule with carboxylic acid, aldehyde, or ketone functionalities, which have priority in naming. Examples are



#### Hydrogen bonding in Alcohols and Phenols









Electronic potential map for 1-propanol

The lower-molecular-weight alcohols can readily replace water molecules in the hydrogen-bonded network. This accounts for the complete miscibility of such alcohols with water.

#### Table 7.1 Boiling Point and Water Solubility of Some Alcohols

Name	Formula	bp, °C	Solubility in H <sub>2</sub> 0 g/100 g at 20°C
methanol	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	65	completely miscible
ethanol	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	78.5	completely miscible
1-propanol	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	97	completely miscible
1-butanol	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	117.7	7.9
1-pentanol	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	137.9	2.7
1-hexanol	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	155.8	0.59

**Review of Acidity and Basicity** 



Bronsted-Lowry definition, Acid proton donor, and base proton acceptor

For a generic acid HA, the dissociation/ionization constant  $K_a$  expression is;

 $HA + H_2O \Longrightarrow H_3O^+ + A^-$ 

 $K_a = \frac{[\mathrm{H}_3\mathrm{O}^+][\mathrm{A}^-]}{[\mathrm{H}\mathrm{A}]}$ 

$$pK_a = -\log K_a$$

# Lewis definition:

A Lewis Acid is a substance that can accept an electron pair While a Lewis base is a substance that can donate an electron pair



Compounds with an element whose valence shell is incomplete also act as Lewis acids.



Similarly, when  $FeCI_3$  and  $AlCI_3$  acts as catalysts for electrophilic aromatic chlorination or Friedel-Crafts reactions, they are acting as Lewis acids: where the metal atoms accepts an electron pair from chlorine to form an alkyl or acyl chloride

Finally some substances can react as acids or bases depending on other reactants



#### The Acidity of Alcohols and Phenols



Phenols are much stronger acids than alcohols mainly because the corresponding phenoxide ions are stabilized by resonance. The negative charge of an alkoxide ion is concentrated on the oxygen atom, while the negative charge on the phenoxide ion can be delocalized to the *ortho* and *para* ring positions through resonance



Name	Formula	р <i>К<sub>а</sub></i>
water	HO—H	15.7
methanol	CH₃O—H	15.5
ethanol	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O—H	15.9
<i>t</i> -butyl alcohol	(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CO—H	18
2,2,2-trifluoroethanol	CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O—H	12.4
phenol	н	10.0
<i>p</i> -nitrophenol	0 <sub>2</sub> N-0-H	7.2
picric acid	0 <sub>2</sub> N-0-Н NO <sub>2</sub>	0.25

#### Table 7.2 — p K<sub>a</sub>'s of Selected Alcohols and Phenols in Aqueous Aolution

Stabilization by inductive effect



Electron-withdrawing groups increase acidity by stabilizing the conjugate base, while electron-donating groups decrease acidity because they destabilize the conjugate base.





Ordinary treatment of alcohols with sodium hydroxide does not convert them to their alkoxides. This is because alkoxides are stronger bases than hydroxide ion, so the reaction goes in the reverse direction. Phenols, however, can be converted to phenoxides ions in this way.

 $ROH + Na^+HO^- \neq RO^-Na^+ + H_2O$ 



#### The Basicity of Alcohols and Phenols



Dehydration of Alcohols to Alkenes

$$\begin{array}{c} H-CH_2CH_2-OH \xrightarrow{H^+, 180^{\circ}C} CH_2=CH_2 + H-OH \\ ethanol & ethylene \end{array}$$









$$\begin{array}{c} H \\ \downarrow \\ CH_2 \\ - CH_2 \\ - CH_2 \\ - CH_2 \\ - H \\ - \end{array} \\ H \\ - H \\$$

Sometimes a single alcohol gives two or more alkenes



The Reaction of Alcohols with Hydrogen Halides

 $\begin{array}{ccc} R - OH + H - X \longrightarrow & R - X & + H - OH \\ alcohol & alkyl halide \end{array}$ 

# $(CH_3)_3COH + H - Cl \xrightarrow{rt} (CH_3)_3C - Cl + H - OH$ *t*-butyl alcohol *t*-butyl chloride

# $(CH_3)_3C^+ + Cl^- \xrightarrow{fast} (CH_3)_3CCl$



Reaction occurs by an  $S_N^2$  mechanism when the alcohol is protonated by an acid.

$$CH_{3}CH_{2}CH_{2}CH_{2}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{O}}H + H^{+} \rightleftharpoons CH_{3}CH_{2}CH_{2}CH_{2}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{O}}H + H^{+} \underset{H}{\overset{.}{\longrightarrow}} CH_{3}CH_{2}CH_{2}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{O}}H + H^{+} \underset{H}{\overset{.}{\longrightarrow}} CH_{3}CH_{2}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{O}}H + H^{+} \underset{H}{\overset{.}{\longrightarrow}} CH_{3}CH_{2}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{O}}H + H^{+} \underset{H}{\overset{.}{\longrightarrow}} CH_{3}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{O}}H + H^{+} \underset{H}{\overset{.}{\longleftrightarrow} CH_{3}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{O}}H + H^{+} \underset{H}{\overset{.}{\bullet} CH_{3}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{\bullet} CH_{3}-\overset{.}{\overset{.}{\bullet} CH_{3}-\overset{.}{\overset{.$$



Other Ways to Prepare Alkyl Halides from Alcohols





## A Comparison of Alcohols and Phenols



Phenyl cations are energetically unstable and are difficult to form. Phenols can also never undergo displacement by the  $S_N 2$  mechanism

Oxidation of Alcohols to Aldehydes, Ketones, and Carboxylic Acids







With primary alcohols, oxidation can be stopped at the aldehyde stage by special reagents, such as Pyridinium Chlorochromate (PCC)







In the body, similar oxidation are accomplished by enzymes, together with rather complex coenzyme called nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, NAD<sup>+.</sup> This reaction takes place in the liver and is a key step in the body's attempt to rid itself of imbibed alcohol. The resulting acetaldehyde is also toxic and is further oxidized to acetic acid and eventually carbon dioxide and water.



# Alcohols with More Than One Hydroxyl Group



Ethylene glycol (1,2-ethanediol) bp 198 <sup>0</sup>C





Glycerol (glycerine) 1,2,3-propanetriol bp 290 °C Sorbitol 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexanehexaol Mp 110-112 <sup>o</sup>C



#### Aromatic Substitutions in Phenols







## Phenols and Antioxidants



#### Thiols, the Sulfur Analogs of Alcohols and Phenols

CH<sub>3</sub>SH

#### CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SH

SH

methanethiol

1-butanethiol (methyl mercaptan) (*n*-butyl mercaptan) (phenyl mercaptan)





 $2 \text{ RSH} + \text{HgCl}_2 \longrightarrow (\text{RS})_2 \text{Hg} + 2 \text{ HCl}$ a mercaptide



Thymol is an antibacterial oil obtained from thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*). The IUPAC name of this compound is 2-isopropyl-5-methylphenol. Draw the structure of thymol.