

Introduction :-

In electrophilic aromatic substitution, a strong electrophile replaces a proton on the aromatic ring.

In nucleophilic aromatic substitution, a strong

nucleophile replaces a leaving group e.g. a halide

A nucleophile can be introduced into the ring

provided it is sufficiently π -electron deficient due

to the presence of an electron withdrawing group.

i.e. NO_2 . The more effective leaving groups are halogen

The nucleophile attacks the carbon atom to

which the leaving group is attached, the aryl

halides undergoes nucleophilic substitution with

great difficulty unless strong electron withdrawing

ing groups are present in the ortho or para

position to the halogen atom.

The SNAr mechanism :-

The reaction of p-chloronitrobenzene with

nucleophiles e.g. hydroxide ion, replaces the

halogen with hydroxide ion, this reaction is

called as nucleophilic substitution reaction.

and the key to its success is the presence

of at least one strong electron withdrawing

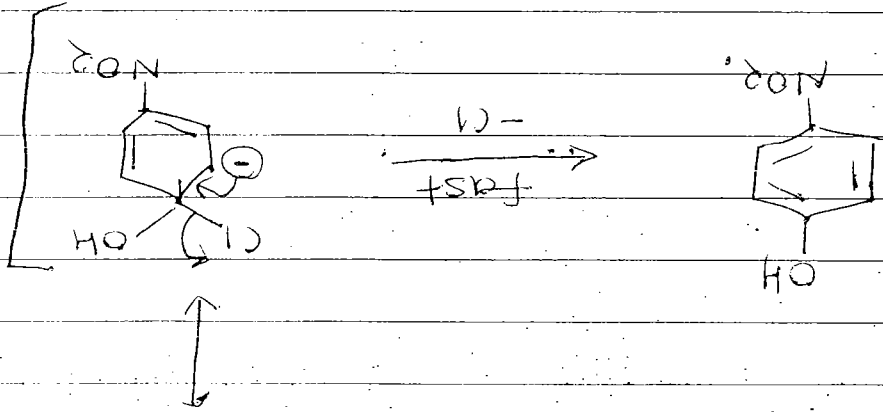
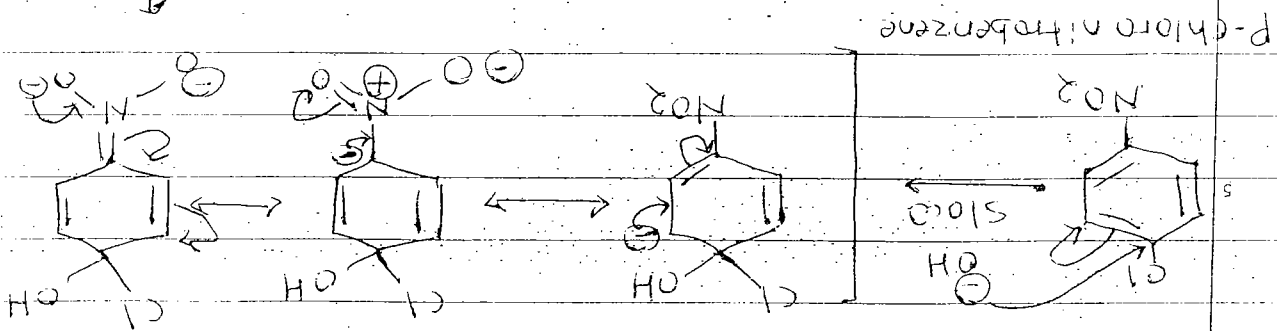
group on benzene ring at ortho or para to

the leaving group. presence of these substitu

ents decreases the electron density in the

benzene ring making it more favourable for

nucleophilic attack. A general representation of SNAr mechanism is shown below.



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In this first step is slow step - ipso addition by the nucleophile gives an anion with a highly delocalised charge. The important feature of this intermediate is the ability of a negative charge to be delocalised into the electron withdrawing group.

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In the second step, the leaving group is eliminated to regenerate the aromatic ring. The reactivity of haloarenes in nucleophilic substitution increases with the no. of electron withdrawing group on the ring. If they are in ortho & para position.

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under drastic conditions i.e. under high temperature or high pressure or both in the presence or absence of catalysts, aromatic nucleophilic substitution may take place.

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on the other hand properly substituted aromatic compound having -R or -I group at ortho or para or both the positions undergo nucleophilic substitution with less difficulty because -R & -I groups decrease electron density on the aromatic ring and activate it for nucleophilic substitution. Aromatic compounds undergo the following three types of nucleophilic substitution reaction.

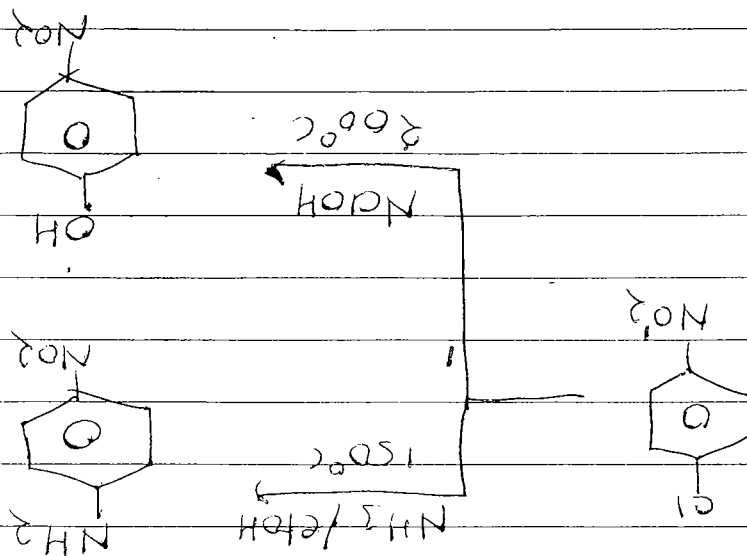
1) $ArSN_1$ reaction.

ii) $ArSN_2$ reaction

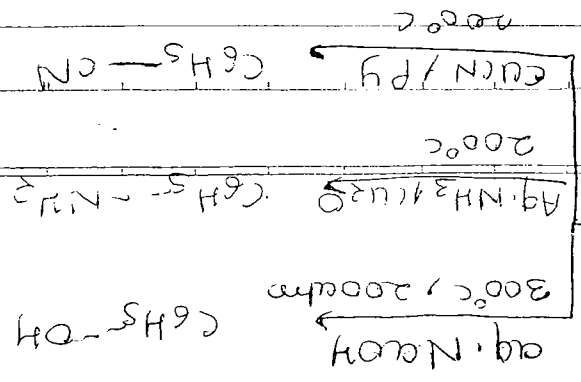
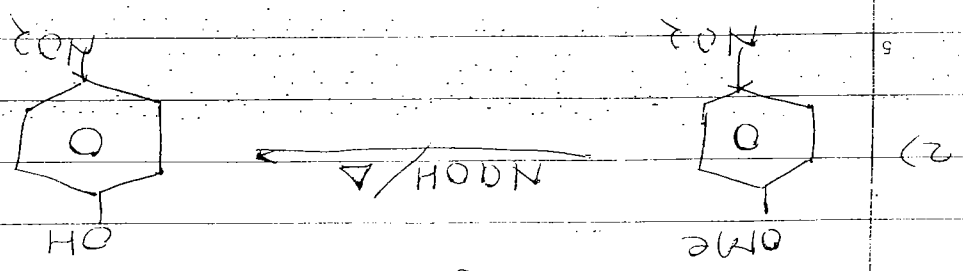
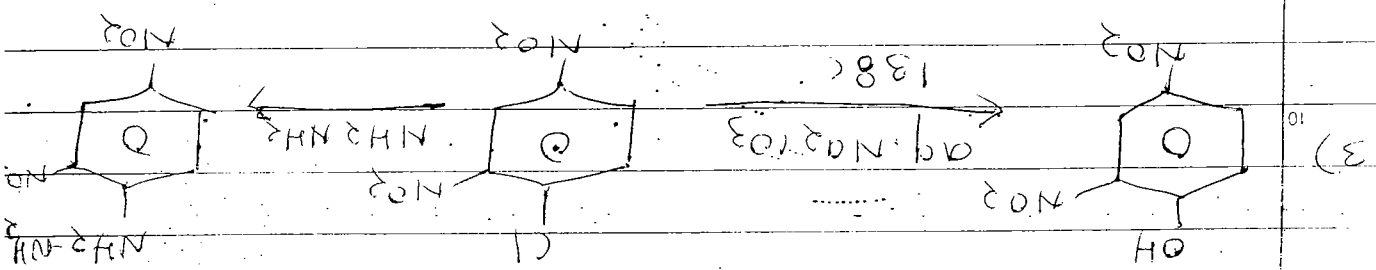
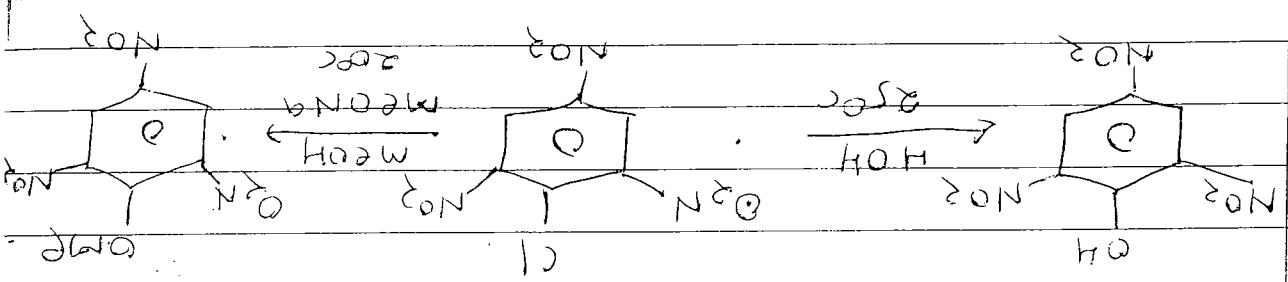
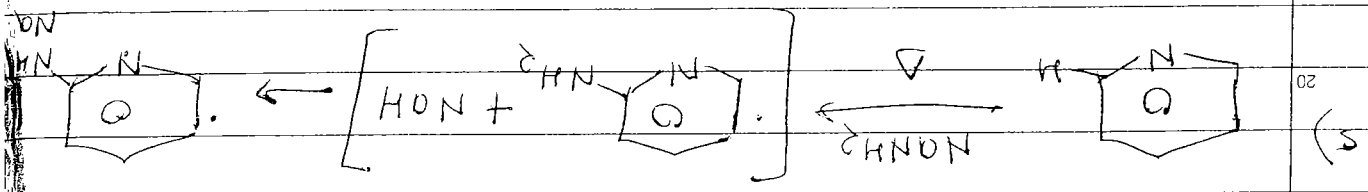
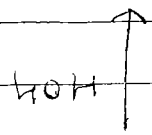
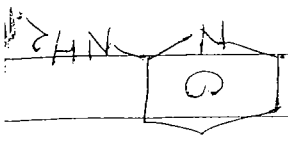
iii) Aromatic nucleophilic substitution reaction via benzynes.

$ArSN_2$ is the most common aromatic nucleophilic substitution reaction. the reactivity of substrate for $ArSN_2$ also called as $SNAr$ reaction.

some example of $ArSN_2$ reactions:



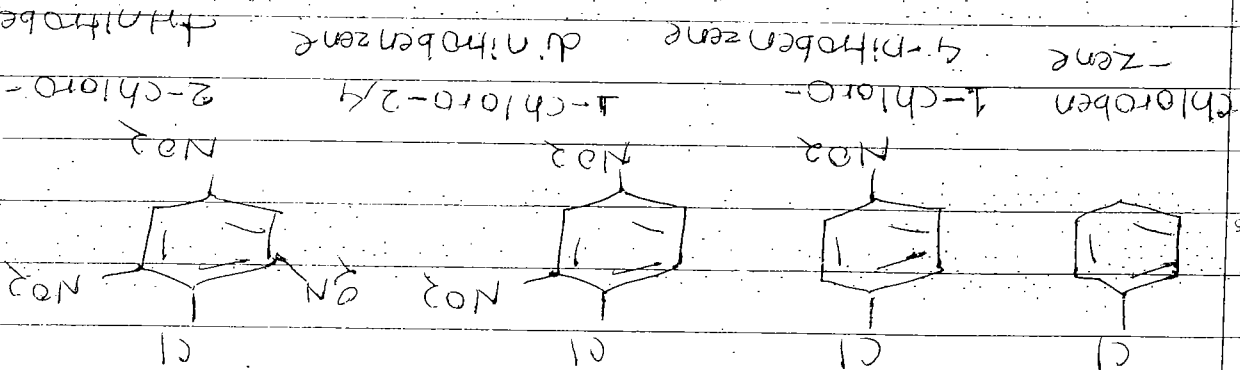
The following points may be noted,
1) The reaction becomes facile when two or more nitro group are present in the ortho.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

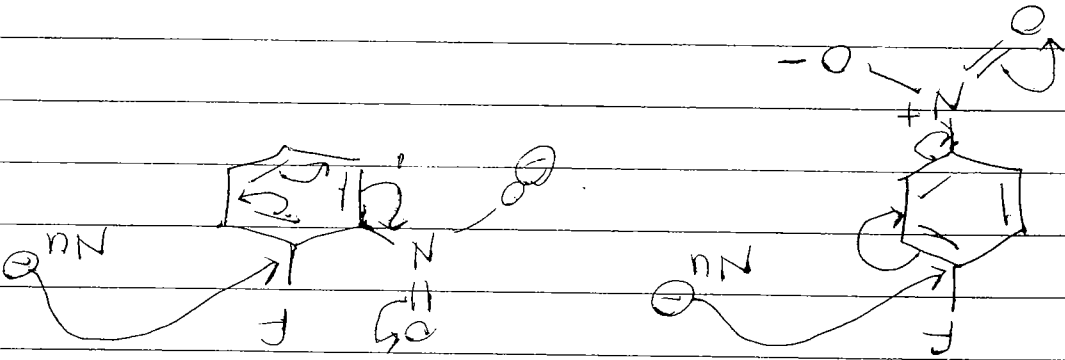
Ipso attack: A position which is already occupied by non-hydrogen substituent in an aromatic ring called Ipso position, then attack on this position called Ipso attack.

and para position as indicated by rate data



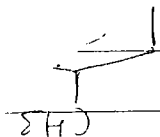
Increasing rate of aromatic nucleophilic substitution

2) The presence of electron withdrawing group is essential at the ortho and para positions to the site of nucleophilic attack, only then charge of nucleophile can be delocalised.

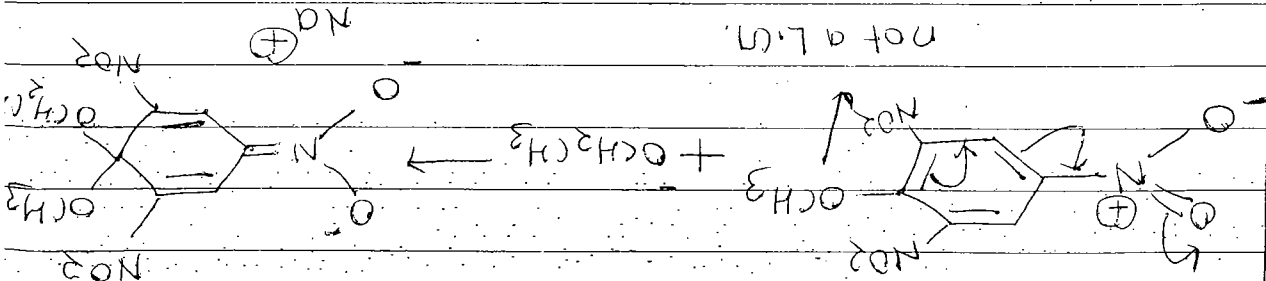


3) 2,4,6-trinitrofluorobenzene does not bear a halide leaving group thus its reaction with sodium ethoxide give a Meisenheimer complex.

which corresponds to the product obtained by the nucleophile addition stage of an SNAr mechanism, this shows that nucleophilic attack on aryl halide initially gives a resonance



stabilised carbanion intermediate known as Meisenheimer complex by the initial ipso addition by the nucleophile.



2,4,6-trinitroanisole

Meisenheimer complex

In case this mechanism is similar to either the S_N1 or S_N2 mechanism, the $Ar-X$ bond should break in the rate-determining step. In the S_N1 mechanism, the bond is not broken until after the rate-determining step.

As expected a change in L.M. should not effect the rate of reaction and this has been found to be the case.

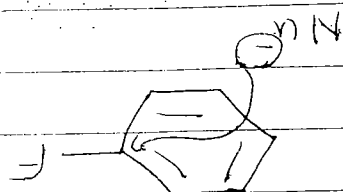
Since the nature of leaving group (X) effects the rate at which nucleophile attacks.

When the electronegativity of leaving group is more, there would be a decrease in e^- density at the site of attack leading to a faster attack by the nucleophile.

The fact from among halogens, fluoro is the best leaving group in several aromatic nucleophilic substitution shows this mechanism to be different from S_N1 & S_N2 mechanism, where fluoro is the poorest of the leaving group.

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arylhalides cannot adopt the geometry for a backside attack. since the ring shields the backside of the C-X bond



→ No reaction.

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The most common type of reactants in nucleophilic aromatic substitution are those which have a $\text{C}=\text{C}$ double bond. However

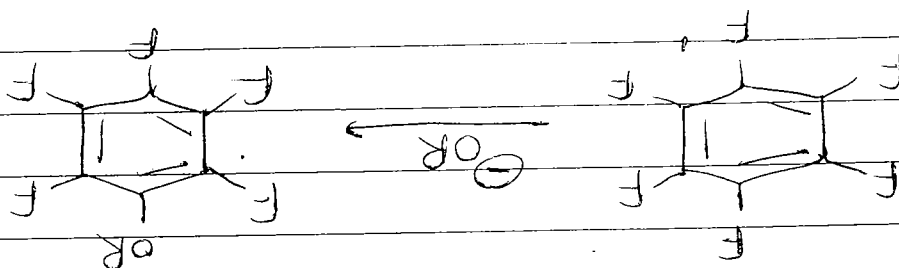
highly fluorinated hydrocarbons fit the

requirements for such a reaction & hexa

fluorobenzene undergo substitution of one of

its fluorines on reaction with nucleophile

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The $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1$ mechanism in nucleophilic aromatic substitution - Diazonium salts : →

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When aryl diazonium salts are hydrolyzed

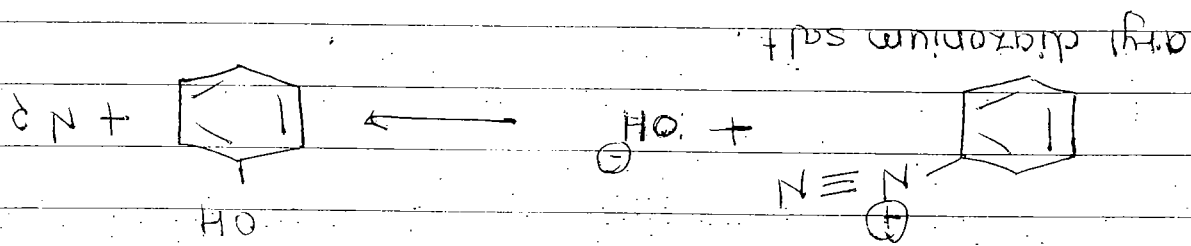
in water these give the corresponding phenol.

The net result of the reaction is substitution

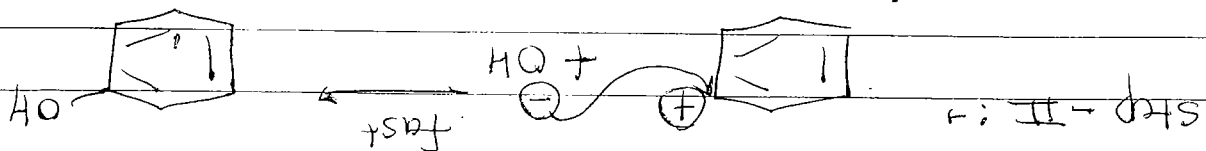
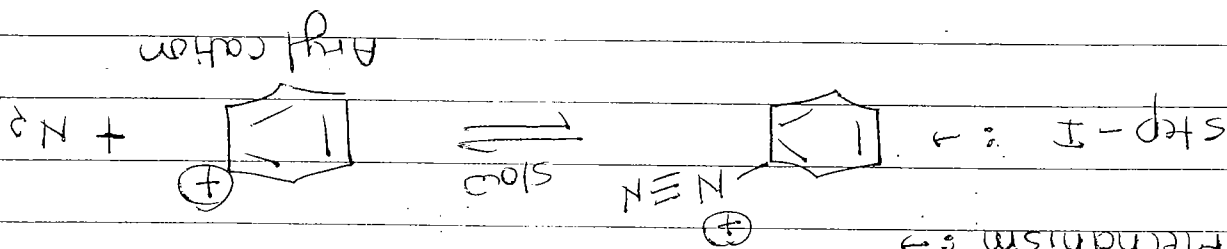
of the nucleophile for the diazonium group.

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There is sufficient evidence that this reaction proceeds through an aryl cation. In the case of aryl halides and sulphates a unimolecular mechanism has never been established. However, this mechanism is significant only in the case of diazonium salts, the driving force for formation of this reaction is departure of the good leaving group, nitrogen.



Mechanism $\Rightarrow$

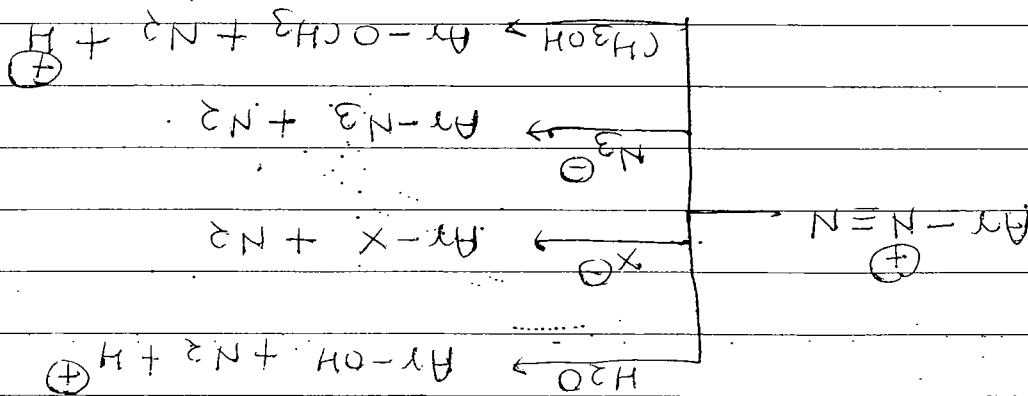


The main evidence in support of the above mechanism is the rate of decomposition of diazonium salt follows the first order kinetics and is independent of the nature and conc. of the nucleophiles present.

ii) the effect of substituents on the rate are consistent with unimolecular rate-determining cleavage

i.e. electron releasing meta substituents (OH, OMe, Me) increase the rate of reaction & electron withdrawing meta substituents (COOH, NO₂, Cl) retard the rate of reaction.

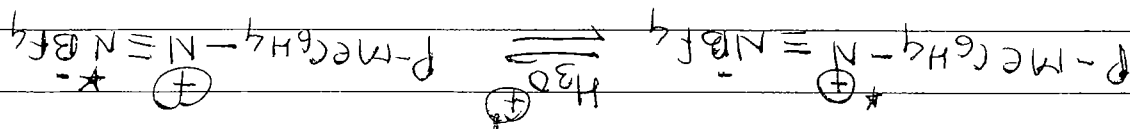
Some example of ArSN₂ reaction of aromatic diazonium cation are given below:



Presence of electron donating group at ortho or para or both positions increases the reactivity of substituted diazonium cation for ArSN₂ reaction. Similarly EWG at these position decreases reactivity.

3) Isomerization of isotopically labelled p-toluenes (one molecule converted into another which has exactly same structure but have diff. arrangement)

-diazonium ¹⁵N fluoroborate. was observed during hydrolysis. this could be possible only when the nitrogen detaches from the ring & then reattaches.

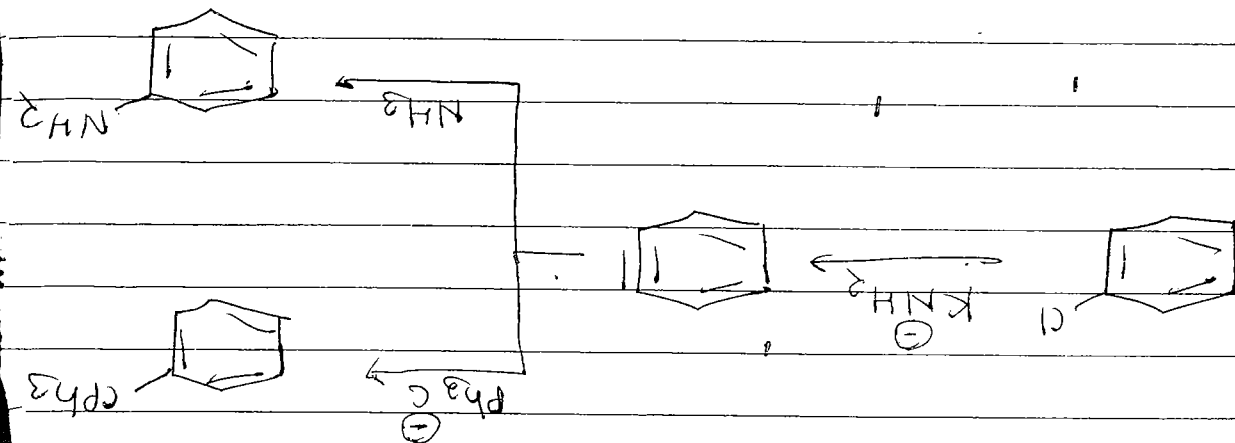


Aromatic nucleophilic substitution via Benzynes

Benzynes is a highly reactive intermediate. The formation of benzyne type of intermediate from a simple haloarene is favoured when the amide ion (NH_2^-) is used as base. due to its strong basic nature it successfully abstracts hydrogens from the aromatic ring as protons with the formation of ammonia. The halide ion X^- departs to give benzyne.

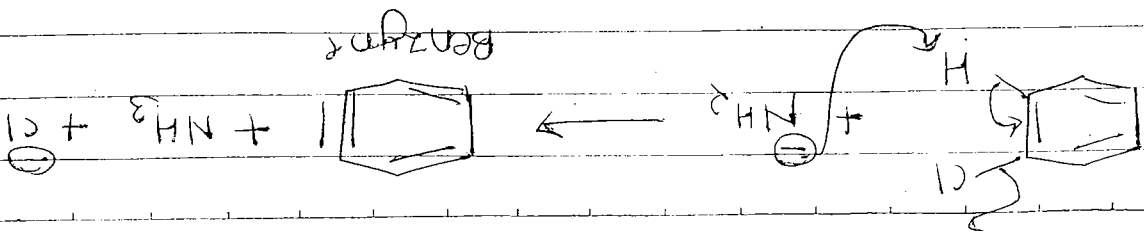
one must have a hydrogen ortho to halogen undergo nucleophilic substitution with a very strong base like KNH_2 or NaNH_2 in liquid ammonia, the reaction also occurs with base such as PhLi & PhMgBr . This reaction proceeds via benzyne intermediate.

An interesting feature of this reaction is the rate of the mechanism is called benzyne mechanism. Incoming nucleophile does not necessarily take the position vacated by the leaving group.



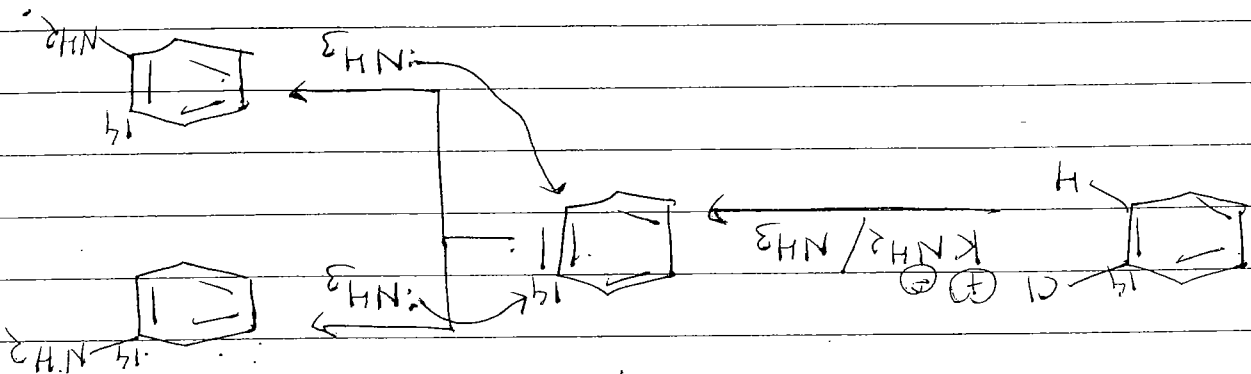
Benzyne mechanism :-

This mechanism involves elimination, followed by addition. It is also called elimination-addition mechanism of aromatic nucleophilic substitution.

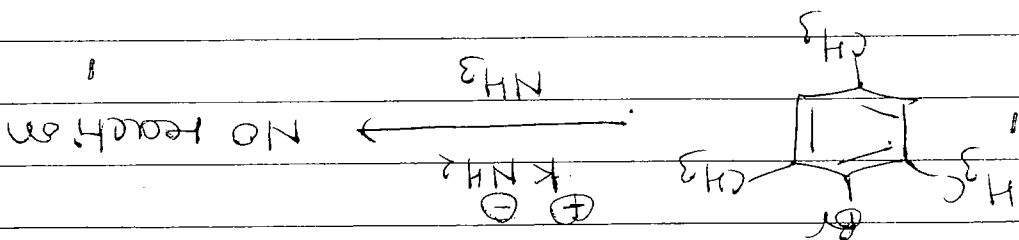


evidence in support of the benzyne mechanism :-

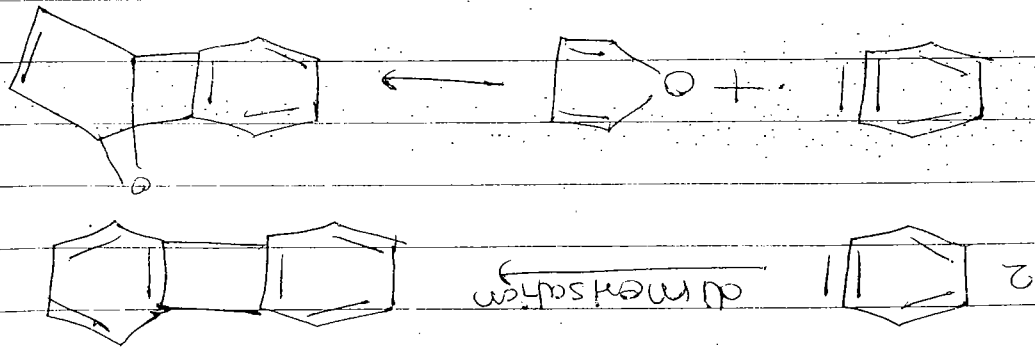
1-¹⁴C-chlorobenzene on treatment with potassium amide in liquid ammonia gives almost equal amount of 1-¹⁴C-aniline & 2-¹⁴C-aniline. The formation of these two products can be explained if the reaction is proceeding through a symmetrical intermediate which can be attacked by ammonia at either of the two positions as follows.



Any halides having no hydrogen ortho to the halogen do not react under the same condition



Benzyne are usually detected by spectroscopy or by their participation in dimerisation and by trapping through cycloaddition to compound such as furan and anthracene.



Prediction of major products in the reactions

proceeding via benzyne $\Rightarrow$

In the case of ortho or para position substituted

halobenzenes two products are possible, while meta

also gives different products, one can predict

the major product in these product mixtures

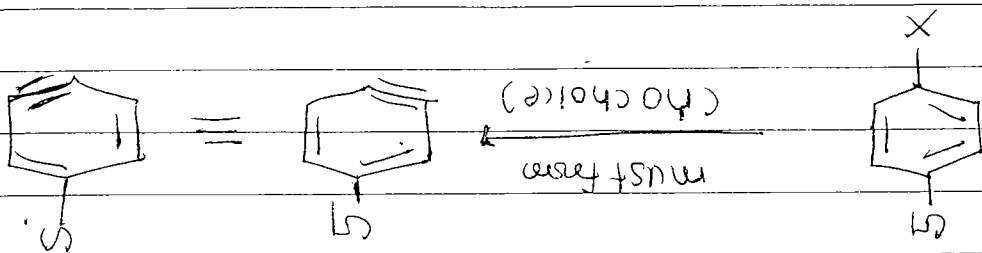
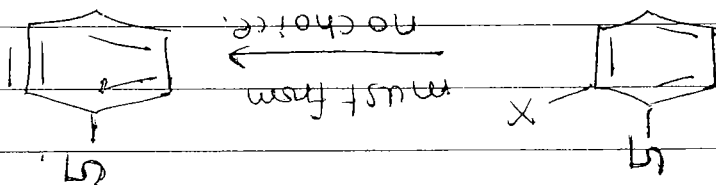
two factors govern the position of the incoming

group in reactions involving benzyne intermediate

1) direction in which benzyne is formed $\Rightarrow$

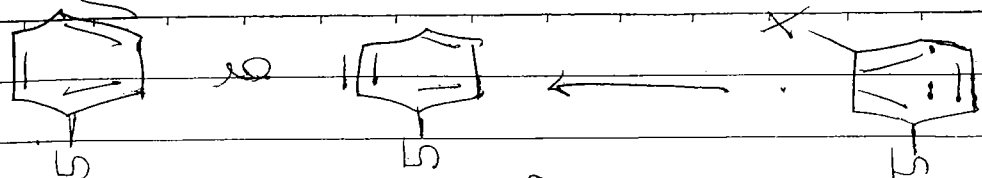
In the case of ortho or para substituted halob

-benzenes there is no choice



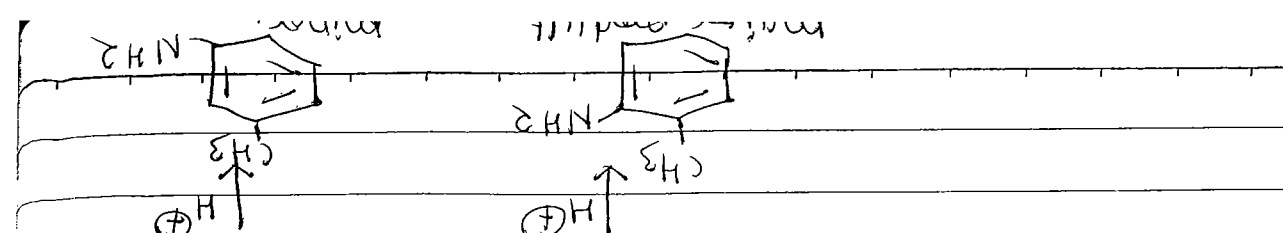
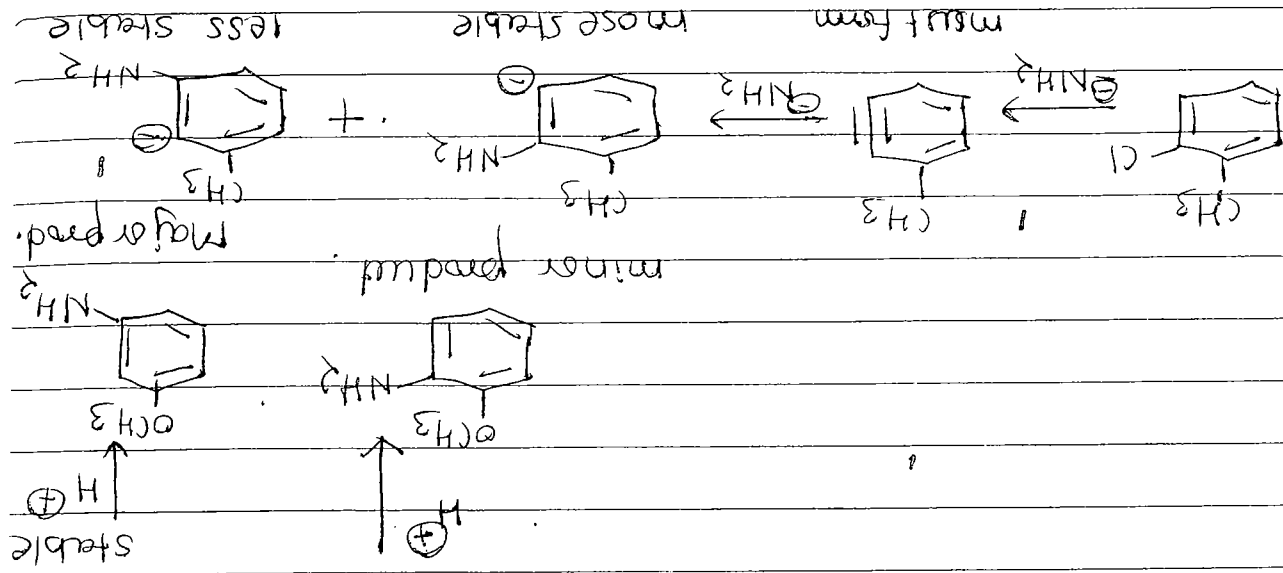
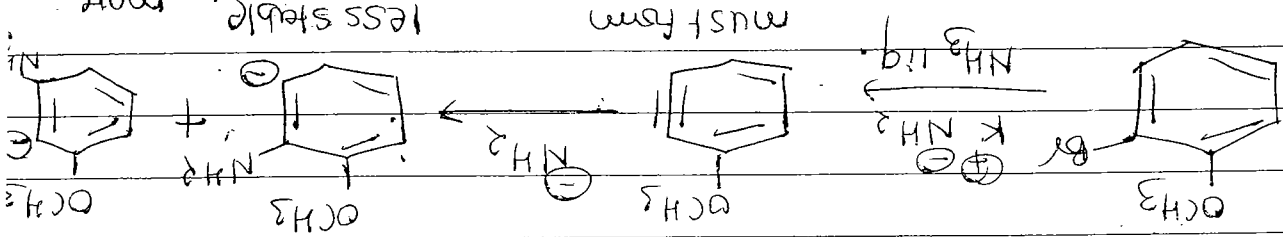
But in the case of meta substituted halobenzenes

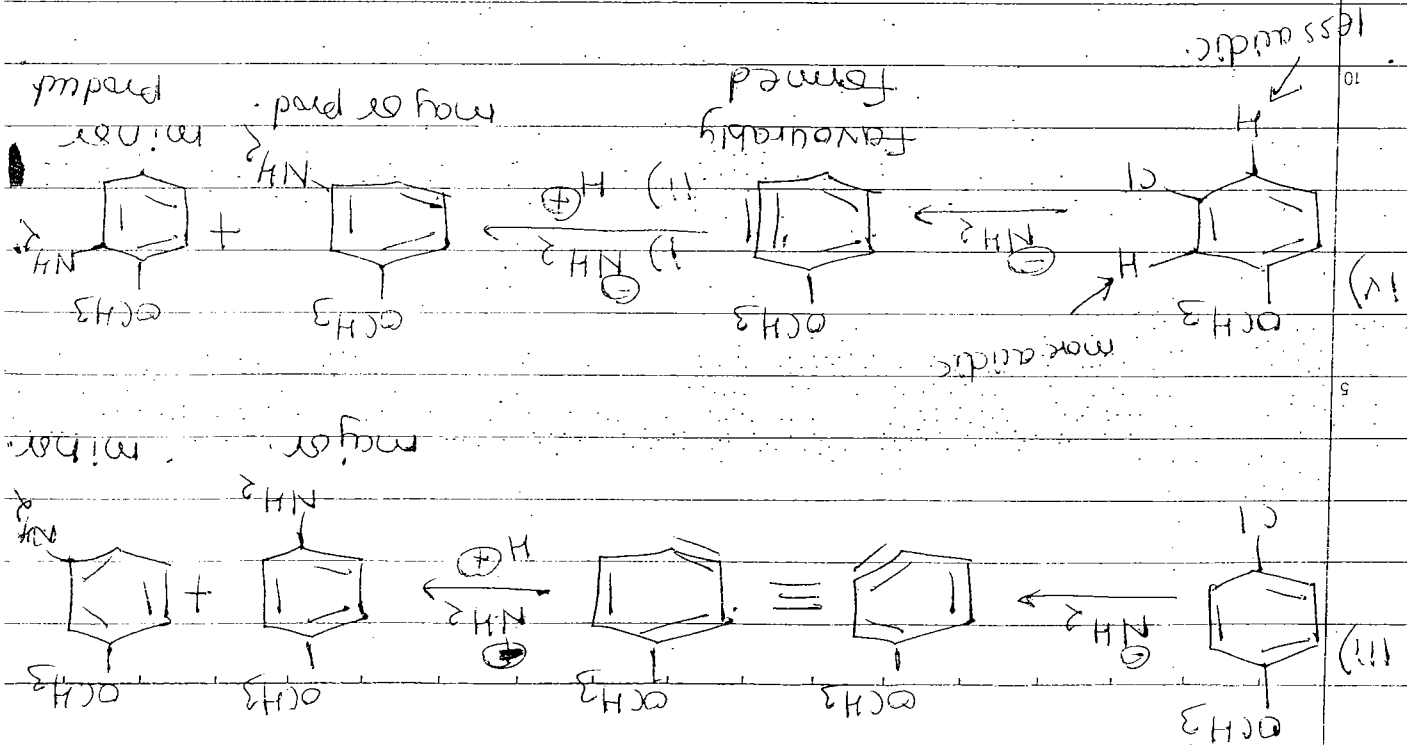
two different benzyne may be formed



In such cases the more acidic hydrogen is removed i.e. if it is a -I group, then it will favour removal of hydrogen ortho to it. When it is a +I group, it will favour removal of the hydrogen para to it.

2. The benzyne formed may be attacked at two positions the favoured position is that which give the more stable carbanion. If group is a -I group then the more stable carbanion is that in which the negative charge is closer to the substituent (or). The following reactions illustrate the above generalisations.





SRN1 mechanism :-

When 5-iodo-1,2,4-trimethylbenzene on treatment

with KNH_2 in liq. NH_3 give II & III in the

ratio 0.63 : 1. The presence of an unactivated

substrate, strong base and the formation of

give along with normal substitution product

indicate that the reaction proceeds through a

benzyne mechanism. However, the 6-iodo isomer

of (I) should have given II, & III in the

same ratio because the same arylne intermediate

rate would be formed in both cases but

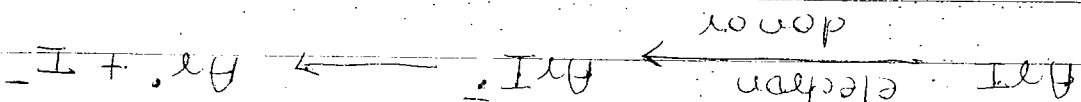
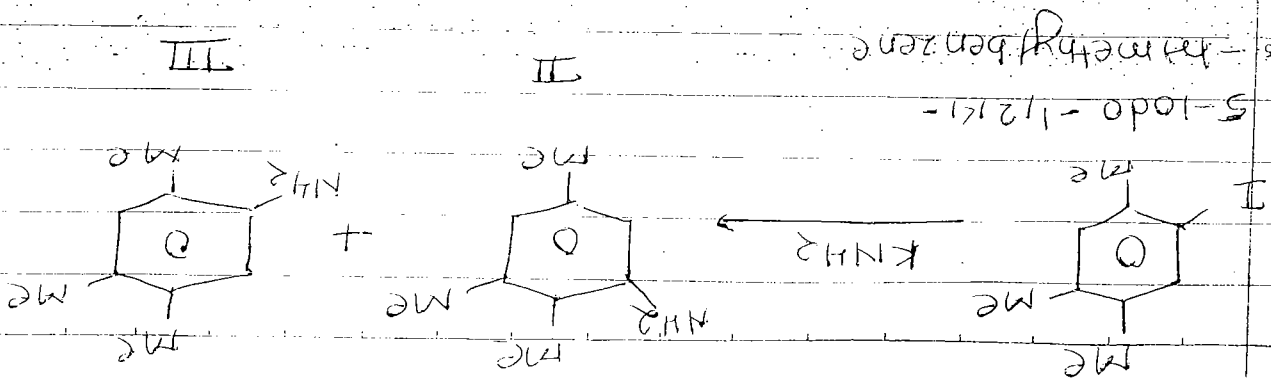
in this case the ratio of II to III was 5:91

To explain the result of Iodo, it has been proposed

that besides the benzyne mechanism, ~~there~~

the following mechanism called as SRN1 mechanism

is also operating here



Ar[•] + NH₃ → ArNH₂[•] + ArI → ArNH₂ + ArI[•]
 This is called the SRN1 mechanism. The last step of the mechanism produce ArI[•] radical ion, so the process is a chain mechanism. e⁻ donor is required to initiate the reaction. In the above case it was solvated electron from KNH₂ in liq. NH₃. Evidence in support of the SRN1 mechanism,

addition of potassium metal (a good producer of solvated electrons in liq. NH₃) completely suppressed the cine substitution.

2) Addition of radical scavengers (which would suppress a free radical mechanism) led to II:III ratio much closer to 1:46:1

3) Some 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene was found among the products which could easily be formed.

by abstraction of H by Ar from the solvent
liq. NH_3 .

Besides, initiation by solvated electrons SRN1 reactions have been initiated photochemically, electrochemically & even thermally.

SRN1 reactions have a fairly wide scope, there is no requirement for activating group or strong bases. Alkyl, Alkyl, aryl & carbonyl groups do not interfere although MeCN , DMSO & NO_2 groups do interfere. Fine substitution is not found

#15 Effect of substrate, leaving group & Nucleophile

① Effect of substrate :-

SNAr mechanism are accelerated by electron-withdrawing groups, especially in the σ & ρ positions to the leaving group & retarded by electron donating group. Heteroatoms of the ring are

also strongly activating e.g. nitrogen which is more activating when quaternized, thus $\sigma = 0.44$ - chloropyridine for example are used as substrate

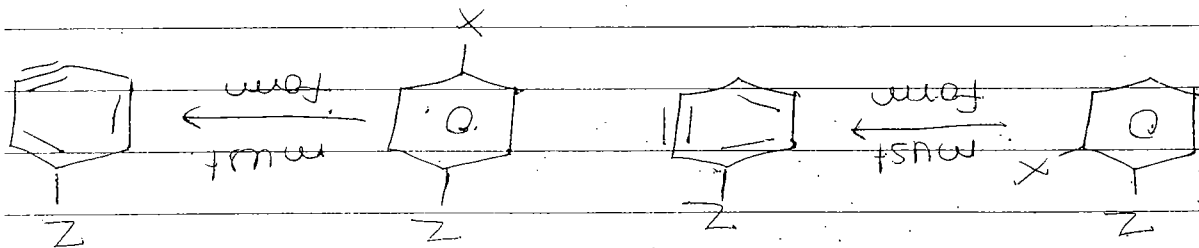
Heterocyclic N-oxides are readily attacked by nucleophiles in the σ & ρ positions but the oxygen is generally lost in these reactions. decreasing order of activating power of some groups in first row is given below.

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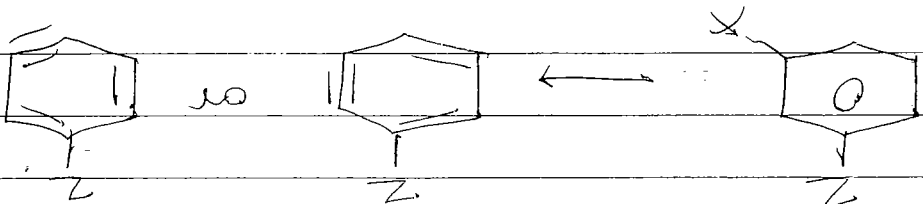
$NH_3 > NO_2 > CF_3 > CN > SO_3H > CHO > CO > COOH > HOO > CONH_2 > F > Cl > Br > I$

Benzene mechanism :-

two factors affect the position of the incoming group, the first being the direction in which the aryl forms where there are groups ortho or para to the leaving group. there is no choice



but when a meta group is present, the aryl can form in two different ways:



In such cases, the more acidic hydrogen is removed.

effect of leaving group :-

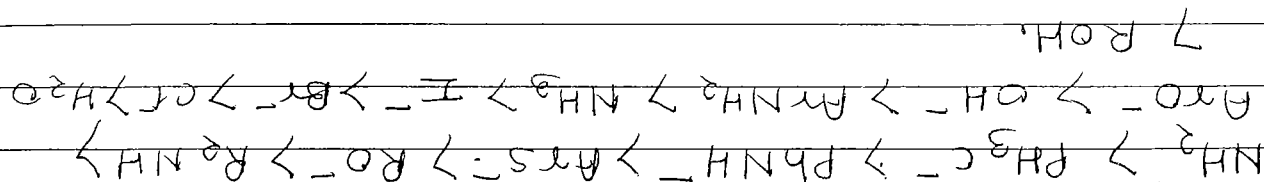
The common leaving groups in aromatic nucleophilic substitution are halide, sulfate, sulfonate etc. are also common leaving group in aromatic nucleophilic substitution, but the group NO_2 , OR , SO_3R and SR which are not generally lost in aromatic systems, leaving

if these groups when attached to aromatic rings are leaving group. NO_2 is particularly good leaving group, order of leaving group ability is $\text{F} > \text{NO}_2 > \text{OTf} > \text{SO}_3\text{H} > \text{Cl} > \text{Br} > \text{I}$. However $\text{NR}_3^+ > \text{OR} > \text{SR} > \text{NH}_2$. This depends greatly on the nature of the nucleophile.

The four halogen as well as sp^3 , NMe_3 & $\text{O}(\text{Ac})_2$ have been shown to be leaving groups in the $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1$ mechanism. The only important leaving group in the $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1$ mechanism is NR_3 .

③ effect of the attacking nucleophile.

It is not possible to construct the nucleophilicity order because different substrate and different conditions lead to different of nucleophilicity, but an overall approximate order is

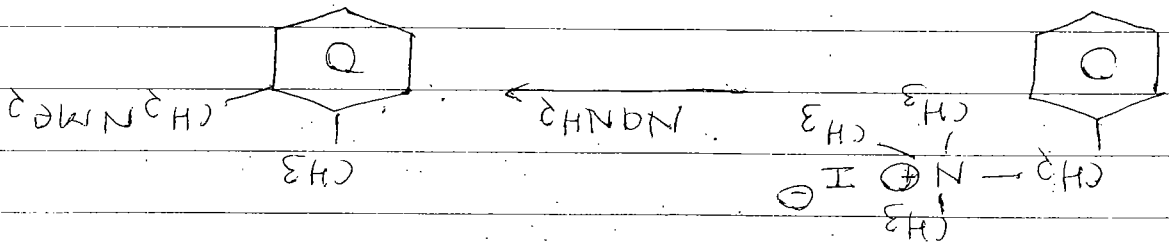


CN^- is not a nucleophile for aromatic system, except for sulfonic acid salts.

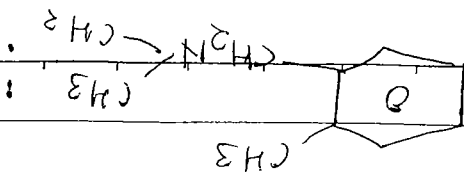
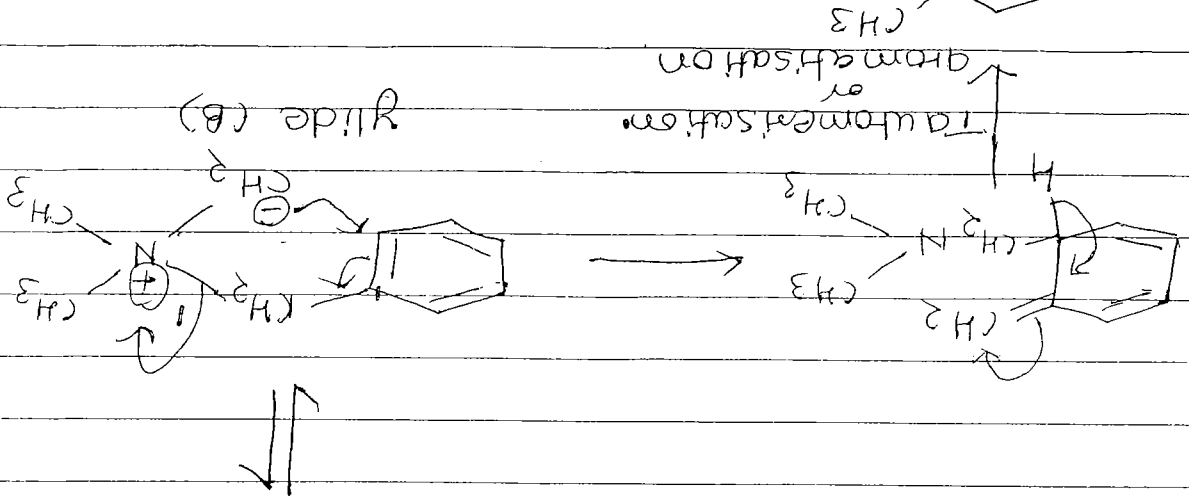
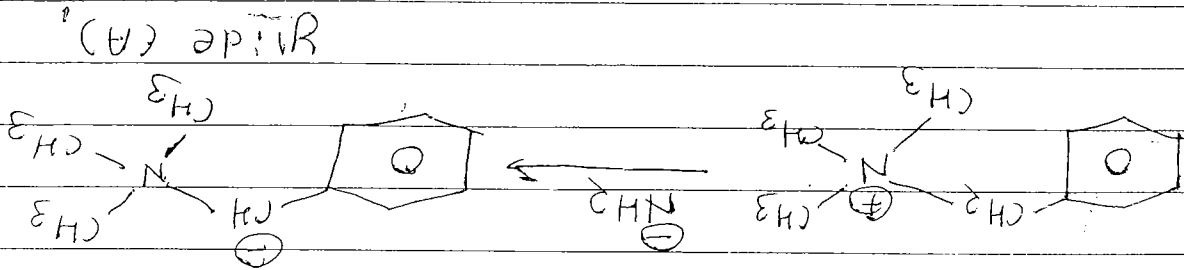
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Sommelet-Hauser rearrangement :-

When benzylic quaternary ammonium salts are treated with alkali-metal amides, undergo a rearrangement called Sommelet-Hauser rearrangement. Since, the product is a benzylic tertiary amine it can be further alkylated and the product again, subjected to the rearrangement. This process can be continued around the ring until an ortho position is blocked.

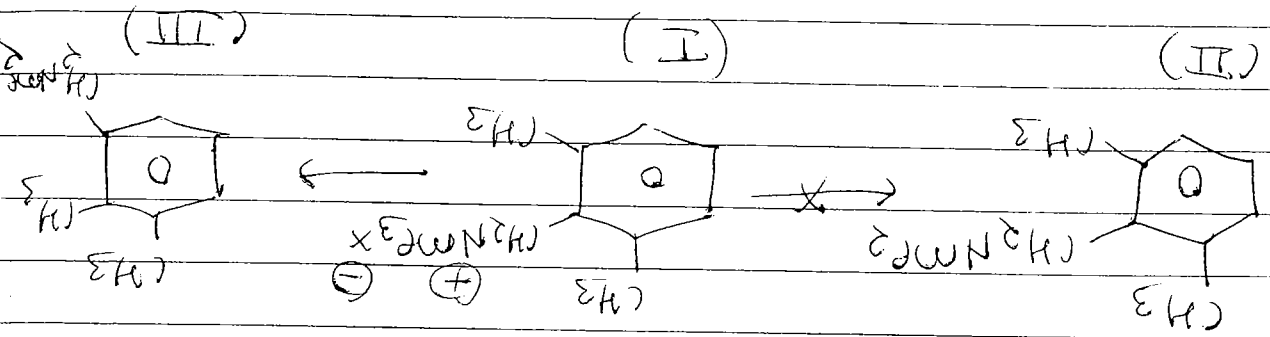


Mechanism :-

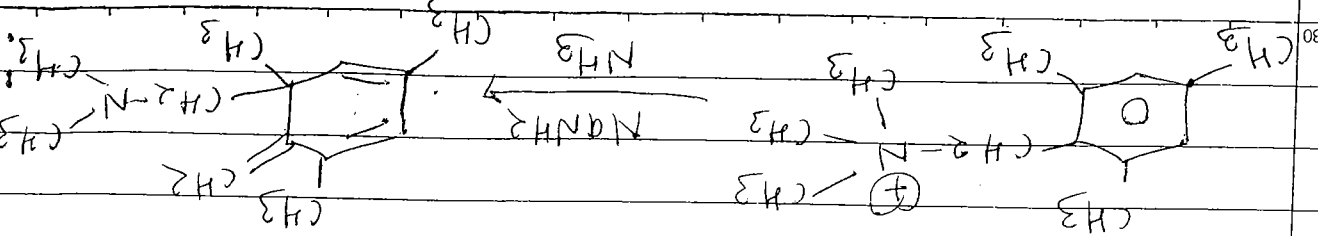


The reaction is most often carried out with three methyl group on nitrogen but other groups can also be used.

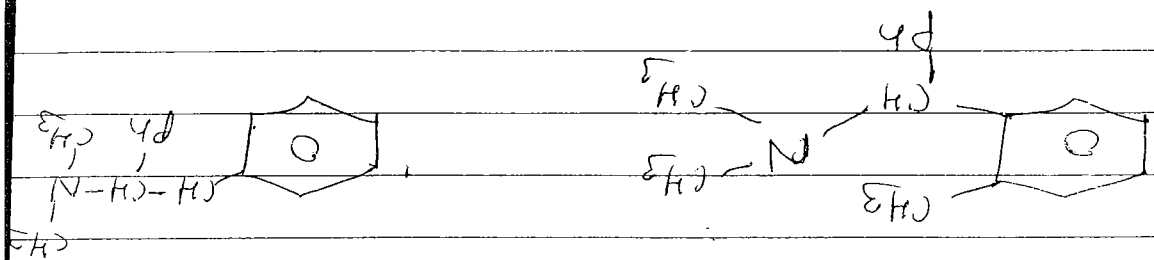
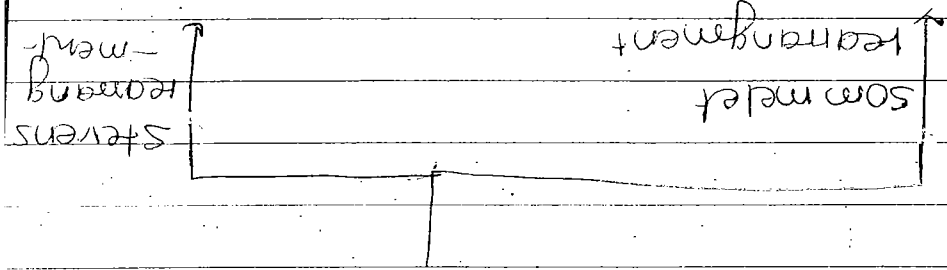
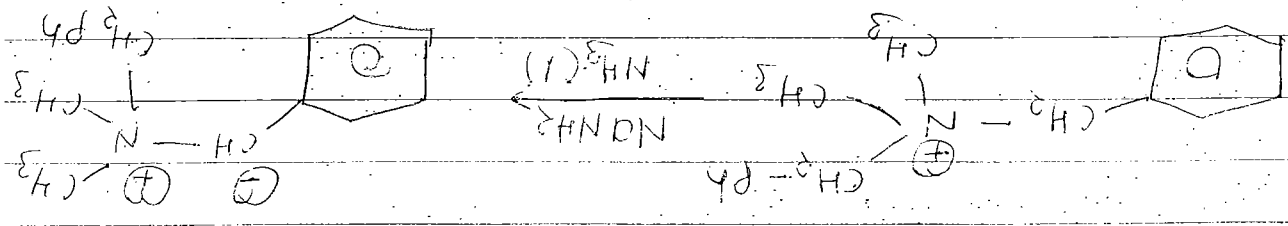
The benzylic methylene proton is acidic and deprotonation takes place to produce the benzylic anion (I). This anion is in equilibrium with (II) anion that is formed by deprotonation of one of the ammonium methyl groups. Though the second anion is undergoes a 2/3-sigmatropic rearrangement and subsequent aromatization to form the final product. A mechanism in which a methyl group is detached from the nitrogen and then attached itself to the ring is not acceptable. This is because in the following reaction II is not formed from I but III is formed as expected from the first mechanism.



gemethylene derivatives VI has been isolated this clearly indicates that the formation of the glide B in the above mechanism.

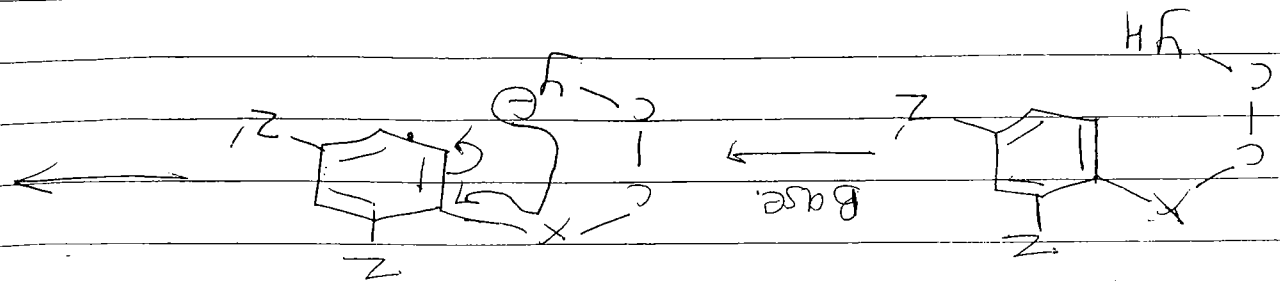


the main drawback of sommelet rearrangement is that it is accompanied by stevens rearrangement, when both rearrangements are possible the stevens is favored at high temperatures and the sommelet-Hauser at low temp.

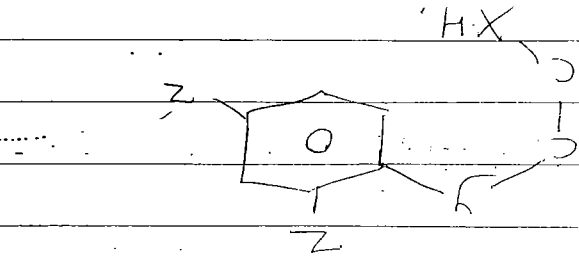
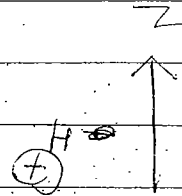
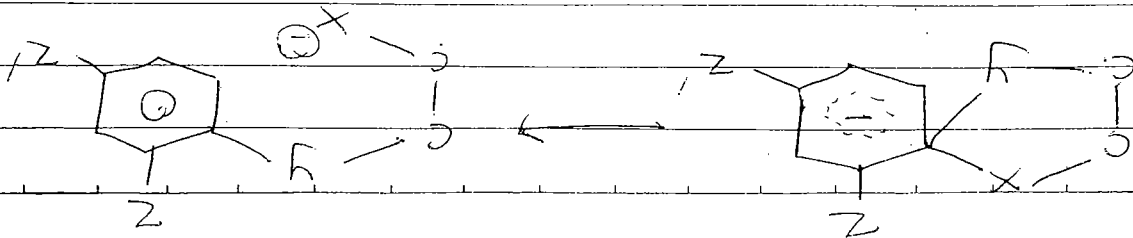


Smiles Rearrangement :-

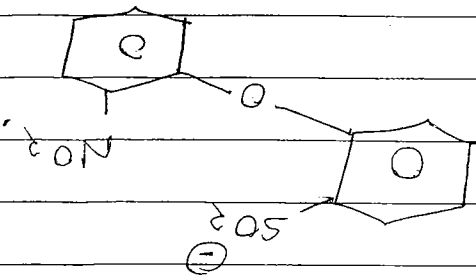
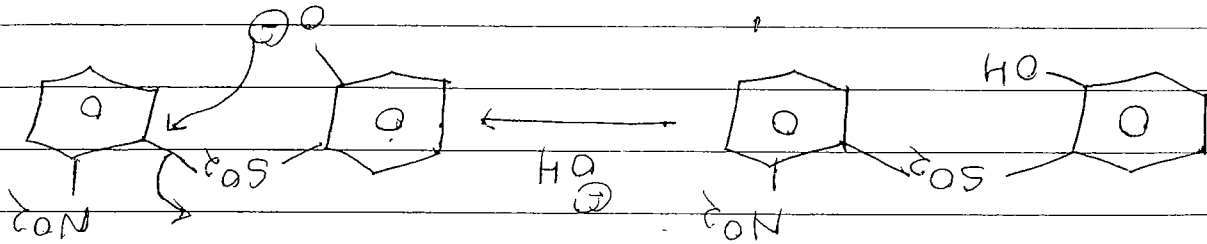
Smiles rearrangements are simply intramolecular nucleophilic substitutions.



cyclohexadienyl anion.



The smiles rearrangements actually comprises a group of rearrangements that follow the pattern given above. A specific example is

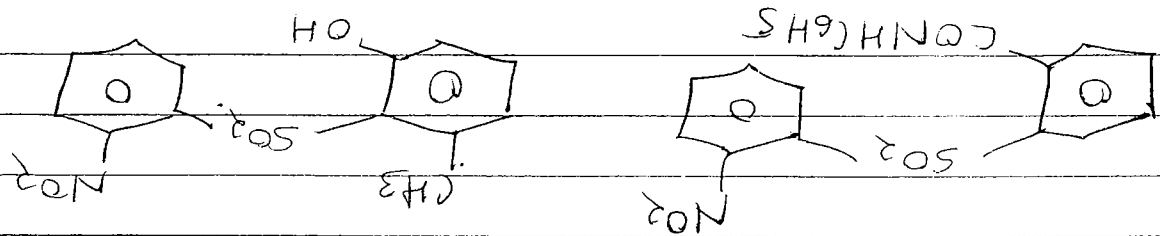
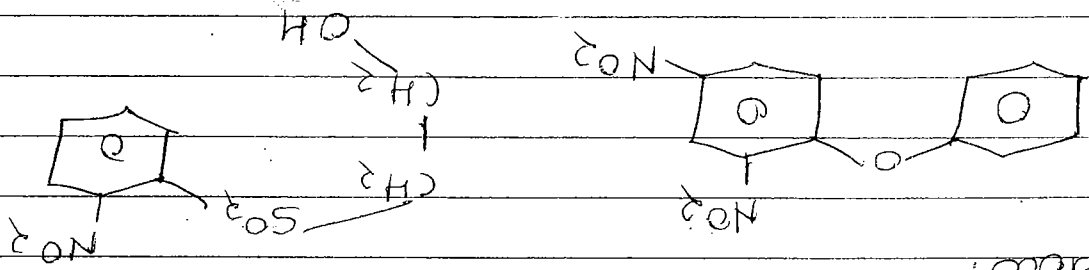


In the above example, ArSO_2 is the leaving group & ArO^- is the nucleophile and nitro activates the ortho position or para position.

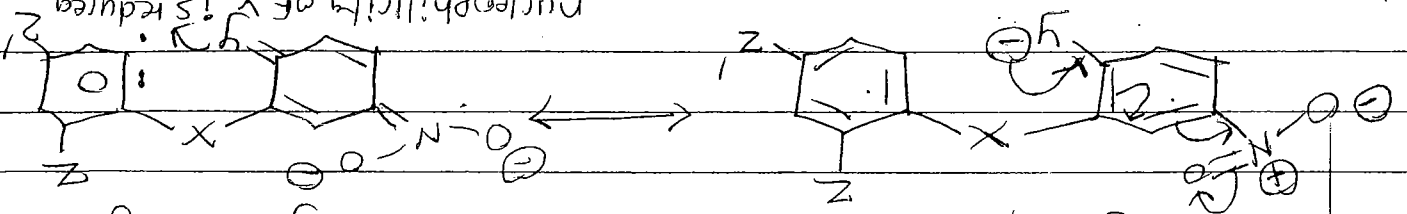
X is usually S, SO, SO₂, O or COO.
 Y is usually conjugate base of OH, NH₂, NHR, SH, CH₃ & the reaction has also been carried out with Y = PhI, BuI. In this particular case the rearrangement is known as Trice - Smiles rearrangement.

Z & Z' are activating group for nucleophilic aromatic substitution reaction. Z and Z' should be an electron-withdrawing group such as NO₂, CN or CF₃ to stabilise the cyclohexadienyl anion formed.

In this rearrangement the chain linking X & Y can be aromatic as well as aliphatic. The rearrangement also takes place in heterocyclic aromatic system. Some example of substrates that undergo Smiles rearrangement are given below.



The presence of an electron withdrawing group para to the YH in the substrate retards the rate of the Smiles rearrangement. Because such group reduce the nucleophilicity of Y.



examples of spiro rearrangement:-

