# The Structure and Chemistry

of Benzene

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = **78.11** g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water = 1.79 g dm<sup>-3</sup> at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = 78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water = 1.79 g dm<sup>-3</sup> at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Question:

 What is the concentration of a saturated solution of benzene in water at 25 °C?

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = **78.11** g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water =  $1.79 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$  at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Answer:

moles in 1 dm<sup>3</sup> = mass in grams  $\div$  molar mass moles in 1 dm<sup>3</sup> = 1.79 g  $\div$  78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup> moles in 1 dm<sup>3</sup> = 0.023 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = 78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water = 1.79 g dm<sup>-3</sup> at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Question:

 Comment on the relatively low solubility of benzene in water.

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = 78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water = 1.79 g dm<sup>-3</sup> at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Answer:

Water is polar (electronegativity values of oxygen and hydrogen are 3.5 and 2.1 respectively) while benzene is non-polar (electronegativity values of carbon an hydrogen are 2.5 and 2.1 respectively).

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = 78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water = 1.79 g dm<sup>-3</sup> at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Question:

• What is the physical state of benzene at 21.0 °C?

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = **78.11** g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water =  $1.79 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$  at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Answer:

Solid  $\leftarrow 5.5 \,^{\circ}C \rightarrow \text{Liquid} \leftarrow 80.1 \,^{\circ}C \rightarrow \text{Gas}$ 

Hence benzene will be a liquid at room temperature and pressure.

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = 78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water = 1.79 g dm<sup>-3</sup> at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Question:

• Write a balanced chemical equation for the complete combustion of benzene.

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = 78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water = 1.79 g dm<sup>-3</sup> at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Answer:

 $C_6H_6 + 7\frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow 6CO_2 + 3H_2O_2$  $2C_6H_6 + 15O_2 \rightarrow 12CO_2 + 6H_2O_2$ 

The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = 78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water = 1.79 g dm<sup>-3</sup> at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Question:

 Comment on the appearance of the flame that is produced when benzene burns in air.



The general properties of benzene are outlined below:

- Molecular formula =  $C_6H_6$
- Molar mass = 78.11 g mol<sup>-1</sup>
- Density = 0.88 g cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Solubility in water =  $1.79 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$  at 25 °C
- Melting point = 5.5 °C
- Boiling point = 80.1 °C

### Answer:

Benzene will burn with a luminous and sooty flame due to the high ratio of carbon to hydrogen within the compound. Hexane C:H = 3:7Benzene C:H = 1:1

The hazards associated with using benzene:





Michael Faraday (1791 – 1867). Benzene was discovered in 1825 by the English scientist *Michael Faraday*, who isolated it from oil gas.

In 1833, the German chemist *Eilhard Mitscherlich* produced benzene by distilling benzoic acid (from gum benzoin) in the presence of lime.



Eilhard Mitscherlich (1794 – 1863).

Question:

 Complete the two chemical equations below to show the synthesis of benzene from a) benzoic acid and calcium oxide and b) benzoic acid and calcium hydroxide:



Answer:

 Carbon dioxide is removed from the benzoic acid molecule (a process known as *decarboxylation*) to yield benzene, calcium carbonate and water.





August Wilhelm von Hofmann (1818 – 1892). In 1845, the English chemist *Charles Mansfield*, working under *August Wilhelm von Hofmann*, isolated benzene from coal tar. Four years later, Mansfield began the first industrial scale production of benzene based on the coal tar method.

## Isomers of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>

For many years there was speculation over the structure of benzene. After 1834, when the molecular formula was established as  $C_6H_6$ , chemists started to propose structural formulae for benzene.

### Question:

Imagine that you were a chemist living and working in 1834. Propose at least *four* structural formulae for benzene.

## Isomers of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>

### Answer:

The structural formulae of some compounds with the formula  $C_6H_6$ :



## Isomers of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>

### Answer:

The structural formulae of some compounds with the formula  $C_6H_6$ :





In 1865, August Kekulé suggested the structure of benzene shown below:



August Kekulé (1829 – 1896).

There are many stories of how Kekulé deduced the structure of benzene. Some say that he dreamt one night of a snake swallowing its own tale (a symbol known as the **Ouroboros**) while other stories say that he fell asleep on top of a London trolley bus and dreamt of six monkeys holding hands and then entwining their tails!



Ouroboros.

Great events in Chemistry...



1865: Kekulé, moments before his brilliant insight into the structure of benzene.





However, the Kekulé structure of benzene is *incorrect* because it fails to explain three important properties of benzene.

**Question One:** 

How would you expect Kekulé's benzene to react with bromine?

State what you would expect to observe and write a balanced chemical equation to explain your observation.

### Answer:

Kekulé's benzene contains three carbon-to-carbon double covalent bonds. Such a highly unsaturated compound would be expected to undergo an *addition reaction* with bromine resulting in an orange to colourless colour change.



### Reality:

If bromine is added to benzene at room temperature and pressure, the mixture *remains orange* and no colour change is observed. This indicates that there is no chemical reaction taking place between the bromine and the benzene.

### Inference:

The actual structure of benzene results in the compound being more stable and hence less reactive than the structure of benzene proposed by Kekulé.

### **Question Two:**

The molar enthalpy change for the catalytic hydrogenation of cyclohexene is -120 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>:



Write a balanced chemical equation for the catalytic hydrogenation of Kekulé's benzene and hence calculate the molar enthalpy change for its catalytic hydrogenation.

Answer:

 $C_6H_6 + 3H_3 \rightarrow C_6H_{12}$ 



 $(-120 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}) \times 3 = -360 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ 

### Reality:

The actual molar enthalpy change for the catalytic hydrogenation benzene measured by experiment is -208 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>.

### Inference:

The catalytic hydrogenation of real benzene releases less energy (-208 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) than the value calculated for Kekulé's benzene (-360 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>). This demonstrates that real benzene is more stable than Kekulé's benzene by 152 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>.

The actual structure of benzene (b) is 152 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> more stable than the Kekulé structure of benzene (a).

Energy



Question Three:

The length of a carbon-to-carbon *single* covalent bond is 0.154 nm while the length of a carbon-to-carbon *double* covalent bond is 0.134 nm.

Use this information to draw the structure of Kekulé's benzene, clearly indicating the shape of the molecule.

#### Answer:

The resulting structure contains three carbon-to-carbon bonds which are 0.154 nm long alternating with three carbon-to-carbon bonds which are 0.134 nm long.





Kathleen Lonsdale (1903-1971).

#### Reality:

Kathleen Lonsdale analysed the structure of benzene by a technique known as x-ray crystallography. Her results showed that benzene is a cyclic, planar molecule in which all of the carbon-to-carbon covalent bonds have the same length of 0.139 nm, which is longer than a C = C bond (0.134 nm) but shorter than a C — C (0.154 nm).



The x-ray diffraction pattern of benzene.

### Inference:

Real benzene contains carbon-to-carbon covalent bonds which are a hybrid of the individual C - C or C = Cbonds originally proposed by Kekulé.




If white light is shone through a prism, it is *diffracted* to produce a *continuous spectrum* of colours; red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.





If atoms and molecules are heated to sufficiently high temperatures, they emit light of certain wavelengths. The diagram below shows a discharge tube containing a gaseous element. The observed spectrum consists of a number of coloured lines on a black background. The spectrum is called an *atomic emission spectrum* or *line spectrum*.





# The atomic emission spectra of *mercury*, *lithium*, *cadmium*, *strontium*, *calcium* and *sodium*:



The visible spectrum of *hydrogen* consists of 4 bands of light of specific wavelengths. This spectrum is generated when gaseous hydrogen is excited by an electrical current and the light given off by the gas is split by a prism.

and the second	1	-					
a contrast of the	Control of Control of C	Sector Sector		and the second second		interaction in a factor	and the second
4000	4500	5000	5500	6000	6500	7000	7500

Viewed through a *spectrometer*, the emission spectrum of hydrogen is seen to be a number of separate sets of lines, or a *series* of lines. Each series of lines is named after the scientist who discovered them as shown in the diagram below:



A more detailed view of the *Balmer* series of hydrogen is shown in the diagram below:



Note how the intervals between the frequencies of the lines becomes smaller and smaller towards the higher frequency end of the spectrum until the lines *converge together* to form a *continuous spectrum* of light.

• Why do atoms absorb or emit light of certain frequencies?

• Why do atomic spectra consist of discrete (separate) lines?

 Why do the spectral lines converge at higher frequencies to form a continuous spectrum?



Niels Bohr (1885 – 1962) Nobel Prize for Physics 1922.

In 1913, Niels Bohr put forward his structure of the atom to answer these questions. Bohr referred to Max Planck's recently discovered quantum theory, according to which energy can be absorbed or emitted in certain amounts, like separate packets of energy, called *quanta*.



Max Planck (1858 – 1947) Nobel Prize for Physics 1918.



Niels Bohr and Albert Einstein.

Niels Bohr suggested the following:

1) An electron moving in an orbit can only have certain amounts of energy, not an infinite number of values, *i.e.* the electron's energy is *quantised*.

2) The energy that an electron needs to move in a particular orbit depends upon the radius of the orbit. An electron that is moving in an orbit *distant* from the nucleus has a *higher* energy compared to an electron that is moving in an orbit near to the nucleus of the atom.

 If the energy of the electron is quantised, then the radius of the orbit must also be quantised. An atom therefore contains a restricted number of orbits, not an infinite number of orbits.

4) An electron moving in one of these orbits does not emit energy. In order to move to an orbit further away from the nucleus, the electron must *absorb* energy to do work against the attraction of the nucleus. If an atom absorbs a *photon* of light, then the absorbed energy can promote (*excite*) an electron from an inner orbit to an outer orbit. When an electron falls (*relax*) from a higher orbit to a lower orbit, then energy is *released* as a photon of light.

For an electron to move from an orbit of energy  $E_1$  to  $E_2$ , the light absorbed must have a frequency given by *Planck's equation:* 

 $hv = E_2 - E_1$  where v = frequency and h = Planck's constant.



The emission spectrum arises when electrons which have been excited (raised into orbits of higher energy) fall back to orbits of lower energy. As these electrons relax, they emit energy as light with a frequency given by Planck's equation.



Bohr assigned *quantum numbers* to the orbits. He gave the orbit of lowest energy (closest to the nucleus) the quantum number 1. An electron in this orbit is said to be in its *ground state*. The next energy level has a quantum number of 2.





The emission spectrum of hydrogen arises when the electron in its ground state absorbs energy and is excited into a higher energy orbit. When the electron relaxes into a lower energy orbit, it releases energy as light with a frequency given by Planck's equation:

hv = E2 - E1





Arnold Sommerfeld (1868 – 1951) and Niels Bohr Arnold Sommerfeld elaborated on Bohr's theory in1916. He proposed that each quantum number governed the energy of a circular orbit and also a set of *elliptical orbits* of similar energy.



Sommerfeld also called *n* the *principle quantum number* and introduced a second quantum number to describe the shapes of the elliptical orbits.

The second quantum number, *I*, can have values from (n - 1)down to *O*. For example, if n = 4, then the values of *I* would be 3,2,1 and *O*.



Louis de Broglie (1892 – 1987) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1929.

According to the wave theory of light, refraction and diffraction can be explained by the properties of waves. Other properties of light, such as the origin of line spectra and the photoelectric effect need a particle or photon theory for their explanation. The success of the duel theory of light led Louis de Broglie to speculate in 1924 on whether particles might have wave properties. He made the bold suggestion that electrons have wave properties as well as the properties of particles.



Scan @American Institute of Physics

Erwin Schrödinger (1887 – 1961) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1933.



Paul Dirac (1902 – 1984) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1933.

*Erwin Schrödinger* used this theory to work out a wave theory for the atom. One version of Schrödinger's famous wave equation is given below:

$$\frac{\delta^2 \Psi}{\delta x^2} + \frac{\delta^2 \Psi}{\delta y^2} + \frac{\delta^2 \Psi}{\delta z^2} + \frac{8m\pi^2}{h^2} (E - V)\Psi = 0$$

The solution to the wave equation gives the *probability density* of the electron. This is the probability that the electron is present in a small given region of space.



The graph on the left shows a probability density diagram for a hydrogen atom in its ground state. The maximum probability of finding an electron is 0.053 nm from the nucleus.



There is a possibility that the electron will be either closer to the nucleus or outside the radius of 0.053 nm. The probability of finding the electron decreases sharply as the distance from the nucleus increases beyond 3r. The volume of space in which there is a 95% chance of finding the electron is called the atomic orbital.

Solutions of the wave equation can be obtained if the orbitals are described by *four quantum numbers*.

The first is Bohr's principle quantum number, *n*.

The second quantum number, *I*, corresponds to Sommerfeld's quantum number describing the shape of the elliptical orbits. The values of *I* are assigned letters:

```
l = 0 = s
l = 1 = p
l = 2 = d
l = 3 = f
```

If an electron has a principle quantum number n = 2 and a second quantum number l = 0, it is said to be a 2s electron. For various values of *n*, the different combinations of the two quantum numbers are:

> 1s 2s 2p 3s 3p 3d 4s 4d 4d 4f

Schrödinger's wave equation leads to a third quantum number, *m*<sub>l</sub>. This gives the maximum number of orbitals for the different values of *I*:

one	S	orbital
three	p	orbitals
five	d	orbitals
seven	f	orbitals

The fourth quantum number is called the *spin quantum number*,  $m_s$ . It has values of  $+\frac{1}{2}$  and  $-\frac{1}{2}$  and represents the spin of the electron on its own axis.



Wolfgang Pauli (1900 - 1958)Awarded the Nobel Prize

for Physics in 1945.

that no two electrons in an atom can have the same four quantum numbers. It therefore follows that if two electrons in an atom have the same values of *n*, *l*, and *m<sub>l</sub>*, they must have different values of  $m_{s}$ *i.e. their spins must be opposed.* The consequence of this is that an orbital can hold a maximum number of two electrons with opposite spins.

Pauli's exclusion principle states

(

The shape of an *s-orbital* is spherically symmetrical about the nucleus. The orbital has no preferred direction. The probability of finding an electron at a distance *r* from the nucleus is the same in all directions.



A *p*-orbital is concentrated in certain directions. *p*-orbitals exits in groups of *three* arranged at 90° to each other.



#### *d-orbitals* are arranged in groups of *five*.



# **Electron Configurations**

The term *shell* is used for a group of orbitals with the same principle quantum number (*n*). A *sub-shell* is a group of orbitals with the same principle and second quantum numbers (*n* and *I*), *e.g.* the *3p subshell*.

When writing out the electron configurations of atom, it is convenient to remember the following:

- Electrons should be arranged so that they have the minimum possible energy.
- The Pauli Exclusion Principle no two electrons in the same atom can have the same four quantum numbers.
  Orbitals fill-up in the order 1s, 2s, 2p, 3s, 3p, 4s, 3d, 4p.

# **Electron Configurations**

It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Hydrogen


It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Helium



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Lithium



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

### Beryllium



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Boron



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

### Carbon



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Nitrogen



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Oxygen



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Fluorine



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Neon



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Sodium



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Magnesium



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

### Aluminium



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Silicon



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

### Phosphorus



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

### Sulphur



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

### Chlorine



It is convenient to draw "*electrons in boxes*" diagrams to show the arrangement of electrons in orbitals. Arrows are used to represent the electrons. Arrows pointing in opposite directions represent electrons with opposite spin.

#### Argon



The electron configuration of carbon is given below:

Carbon



### Questions:

From the electron configuration shown above, how many covalent bonds would you expect a carbon atom to make?
How is it possible for a carbon atom to make *four* covalent bonds?







### The sp<sup>3</sup> hybridisation of carbon.



The bonding in methane (CH<sub>4</sub>):

The four *sp*<sup>3</sup> *hybridised orbitals* of the carbon atom (blue) overlap with the *s-orbitals* of four hydrogen atoms (red) to form four *σ-bonds*.







The bonding in ethene  $(C_2H_4)$  #1:

The three sp<sup>2</sup> hybridised orbitals of each carbon atom (blue) overlap with each other and also with the s-orbitals of four hydrogen atoms (red) to form a total of five  $\sigma$ -bonds.



The bonding in ethene  $(C_2H_4)$  #2:

The *p*-orbitals of each carbon atom which are not hybridised (green) are arranged parallel to each other. They overlap above and below the plane of the molecule forming a  $\pi$ -bond.

### $\sigma$ -Bonds and $\pi$ -Bonds



A comparison of  $\sigma$ -bonds and  $\pi$ -bonds:

*o*-bonds are formed when the region of orbital overlap lies directly between the nuclei of the two bonding atoms.

 $\pi$ -bonds are formed when the region of orbital overlap does not lie directly between the nuclei of the two bonding atoms, but instead lies above and below the plane of the molecule.

### The Existence of $C \equiv C$ Bonds

#### Question:

Elaborate on this information to propose a model for the bonding in *ethyne*:

#### $H-C\equiv C-H$

Your answer should take into account:

The existence of *s-orbitals* and *p-orbitals*.
The ability for carbon's *2s* and *2p* orbitals to *hybridise*.
The *linear* shape of the ethyne molecule.







The bonding in ethyne  $(C_2H_2)$  #1:

The *sp hybridised orbitals* of each carbon atom (blue) overlap with each other and also with the *s-orbitals* of two hydrogen atoms (red) to form a total of three *σ-bonds* arranged in a *linear* formation.



The bonding in ethyne  $(C_2H_2)$  #2:

Each carbon atom has two p-orbitals (green) which are not hybridised. They arranged at 90° to each other within the same carbon atom and parallel to each other between the individual carbon atoms. Overlap of the four p-orbitals results in the formation of two  $\pi$ -bonds between the two carbon atoms.

## A Summary of sp<sup>3</sup>, sp<sup>2</sup> and sp Hybridisatio



The carbon atoms forming a C – C bond are sp<sup>3</sup> hybridised.
The carbon atoms forming a C = C bond are sp<sup>2</sup> hybridised.

• The carbon atoms forming a  $C \equiv C$  bond are *sp hybridised*.

### The Modern Structure of Benzene

Question:

With this information, propose a structure for benzene which takes into account:

The existence of *s-orbitals* and *p-orbitals*.
The ability for carbon's *2s* and *2p* orbitals to *hybridise*.
The shape of the benzene molecule as determined by *x-ray crystallography*.
The relative *stability* of benzene.

### The Modern Structure of Benzene



### The Modern Structure of Benzene

Carbon (*sp<sup>2</sup> hybridised*)



1s



sp<sup>2</sup> hybridised



2p










The structure of benzene #1.

All six of the carbon atoms in benzene are  $sp^2$  hybridised. This results in  $\sigma$ -bonding between the  $sp^2$  hybridised orbitals of carbon (blue) and the *s*-orbitals of hydrogen (red).



The structure of benzene #2.

The *p*-orbitals of carbon which are not hybridised (purple) are arranged parallel to each other and overlap both above and below the plane of the benzene ring forming a cloud of *delocalised of*  $\pi$ -bonding electrons.



Delocalisation of the  $\pi$ -bonding electrons around the benzene ring lowers the energy of the structure by approximately 150 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, a value often referred to as the delocalisation enthalpy.



A cloud of *delocalised*  $\pi$ -bonding electrons exists above and below the plane of the benzene ring.



Benzene is a regular, planar hexagon in which all of the bond angles are 120° and all of the carbon-to-carbon covalent bond lengths are 0.139 nm.

Try to make your own model of benzene!









Benzene usually undergoes *electrophilic substitution* reactions in which the delocalised  $\pi$ -bonding electron system is preserved, therefore retaining the molecule's stability.





When benzene reacts, the energy of the substituted product is much less than that of the corresponding addition product, i.e. the substituted product is more stable than the addition product. As a consequence, the chemistry of benzene favours substitution reactions.

*Question:*What is an *electrophile*?

#### Answer:

An *electrophile* is chemical species that is attracted towards a region of negative charge, such as an *anion*,  $\delta$ - *atom* in a polar covalent bond or a cloud of  $\pi$ -bonding electrons.

An electrophile is also described as an *electron pair acceptor*.

Electrophiles are either *cations* or  $\delta$ + *atoms* in a polar covalent bond.

The general mechanism for electrophilic substitution into benzene:



The electrophile is attracted towards the delocalised cloud of π-bonding electrons that exists above and below the plane of the benzene ring.
Formation of the electrophile requires a *Friedel-Crafts catalyst* which is usually *AlCl*<sub>3</sub> or *FeBr*<sub>3</sub>.

Nitration of benzene:

 $H_2SO_4 + HNO_3 \rightarrow HSO_4^- + H_2NO_3^+$  $H_2NO_3^+ \rightarrow NO_2^+ + H_2O$ 



#### Nitration of benzene:



Friedel-Crafts chlorination of benzene:



Friedel-Crafts alkylation of benzene:



Friedel-Crafts acylation of benzene:



#### Friedel-Crafts acylation of benzene:





Paracetamol

Paracetamol is both an *analgesic* and an *antipyretic*. Unlike aspirin and ibuprofen, paracetamol has no *anti-inflammatory* properties. Paracetamol is toxic to the liver and consequently high doses can be fatal:

Acute poisoning – 10g in a single dose.

Chronic poisoning – 5g every 24 hours for a prolonged period of time.

Step #1: Synthesis of Chlorobenzene from Benzene:



Step #1: Synthesis of Chlorobenzene from Benzene:



Step #2: Synthesis of Phenol from Chlorobenzene:



Chlorobenzene

Step #2: Synthesis of Phenol from Chlorobenzene:



Step #3: Nitration of Phenol:



Step #3: Nitration of Phenol:



Step #4: Reduction of the Nitro Group to an Amine:



Step #4: Reduction of the Nitro Group to an Amine:



Step #5: Synthesis of the Amide:



Step #5: Synthesis of the Amide:



Question:

 If each step in the synthesis of paracetamol gives a yield of 80%, what mass of paracetamol will be synthesised from 1.0 kg of benzene?

# The Synthesis of Ibuprofen from Benzene (Macroconcept – Change)

Ibuprofen is classified as a *non-steroidal anti-inflammatory* drug (abbreviated to NSAID). Ibuprofen is mostly used to treat pain resulting from inflammation, *e.g.* rheumatism. The side-effects of ibuprofen are far less significant than those of other NSAID compounds such as aspirin.

Ibuprofen

H<sub>3</sub>C

 $CH_3$ 

CH<sub>3</sub>

OH
Step #1: Friedel-Crafts alkylation:



Step #1: Friedel-Crafts alkylation:



Step #2: Friedel-Crafts acylation:



Step #2: Friedel-Crafts acylation:



Step #3: Reduction of the ketone to an alcohol:



Step #3: Reduction of the ketone to an alcohol:



Step #4: Substitution of –OH by –Br:



Step #4: Substitution of –OH by –Br:



Step #5: Substitution of -Br by -C=N:



Step #5: Substitution of -Br by -C=N:



Step #6: Hydrolysis of -C = N to form -COOH:



Step #6: Hydrolysis of -C = N to form -COOH:



Question:

• The United Kingdom market for ibuprofen is 3 000 000 kg per year.

a) If a typical ibuprofen tablet contains 0.2g of the drug, how many ibuprofen tablets are produced each year in the United Kingdom?

b) The population of the United Kingdom is 60 000 000.
i) How many ibuprofen tablets does a single person consume in the United Kingdom each year?
ii) Evaluate how reasonable your answer is.

#### **References:**

Advanced Chemistry, Michael Clugston and Rosalind Flemming, Oxford University Press, 2000, ISBN: 0-19-914633-0

> A-Level Chemistry (4<sup>th</sup> Edition), E.N. Ramsden, Nelson Thornes Ltd., 2000, ISBN: 0-7487-5299-4

> > http://en.wikipedia.org/

http://www.nobel.se/

http://cwx.prenhall.com/bookbind/pubbooks/hillchem3/

Chris Slatter – Nanyang Girls' High School.