

4.2.3 Organic Synthesis

Organic techniques

Distillation

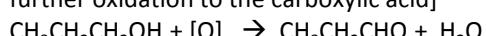
In general used as separation technique to separate an organic product from its reacting mixture. Need to collect the distillate of the approximate boiling point range of the desired liquid.

Classic AS reaction using distillation

Reaction: primary alcohol \rightarrow aldehyde

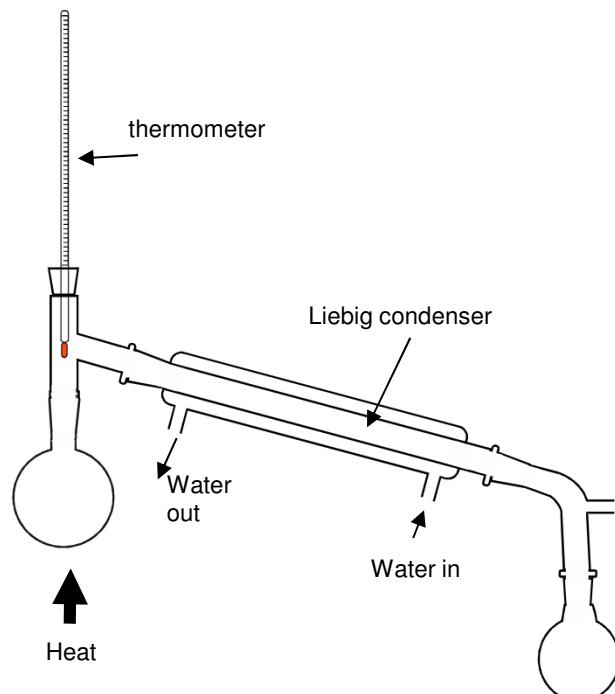
Reagent: potassium dichromate (VI) solution and dilute sulphuric acid.

Conditions: use a limited amount of dichromate and **warm gently and distil** out the aldehyde as it forms [This prevents further oxidation to the carboxylic acid]



Observation

Orange dichromate solution changes to green colour of Cr^{3+} ions



Reflux

Reflux is used when heating organic reaction mixtures for long periods.

The condenser prevents organic vapours from escaping by condensing them back to liquids.

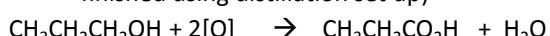
Never seal the end of the condenser as the build up of gas pressure could cause the apparatus to explode. This is true of any apparatus where volatile liquids are heated

Classic AS reaction using reflux

Reaction: primary alcohol \rightarrow carboxylic acid

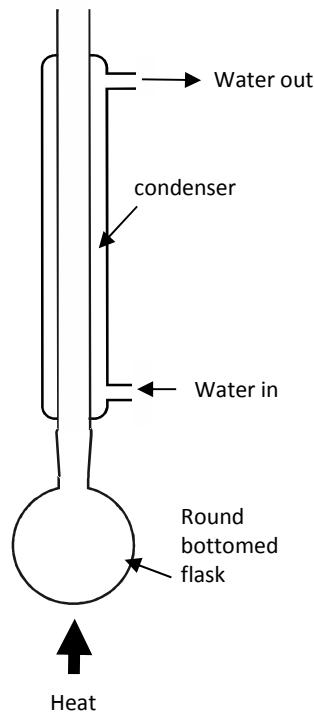
Reagent: potassium dichromate(VI) solution and dilute sulphuric acid

Conditions: use an excess of dichromate, and **heat under reflux**: (distill off product after the reaction has finished using distillation set up)



Observation

Orange dichromate solution changes to green colour of Cr^{3+} ions



Anti-bumping granules are added to the flask in both distillation and reflux to prevent vigorous, uneven boiling by **making small bubbles** form instead of large bubbles

Electric heaters are often used to heat organic chemicals. This is because organic chemicals are normally highly flammable and could set on fire with a naked flame.

It's important to be able to draw and label this apparatus accurately.

- Don't draw lines between flask and condenser.
- Don't have top of condenser sealed
- Condenser must have outer tube for water that is sealed at top and bottom
- Condenser must have two openings for water in and out that are open

Purifying an organic liquid

General method

- Put the distillate of impure product into a separating funnel
- wash product by adding either
 - sodium hydrogencarbonate solution, shaking and releasing the pressure from CO_2 produced.
 - Saturated sodium chloride solution
- Allow the layers to separate in the funnel, and then run and discard the aqueous layer.
- Run the organic layer into a clean, dry conical flask and add three spatula loads of drying agent (e.g. anhydrous sodium sulphate, calcium chloride) to dry the organic liquid. When dry the organic liquid should appear clear.
- Carefully decant the liquid into the distillation flask
- Distill to collect pure product

Separating funnel



Sodium hydrogencarbonate will neutralise any remaining reactant acid.

Sodium chloride will help separate the organic layer from the aqueous layer

The layer with lower density will be the upper layer. This is usually the organic layer

The drying agent should

- be insoluble in the organic liquid
- not react with the organic liquid

Decant means carefully pour off organic liquid leaving the drying agent in the conical flask

Synthetic routes

