Class - B.Sc. Part II (Honours)
Subject - chemistry
Paper - III C
Topic - Hydroxy acid
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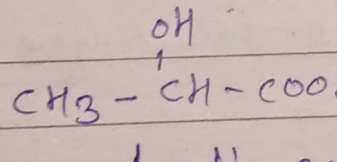
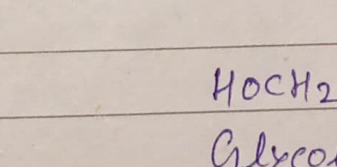
Hydroxy acids

Hydroxy acids are the derivatives of carboxylic acids in which one or more H-atoms of the hydrocarbon group are replaced by as many -OH groups and at the same time may be mono or polybasic acids. They are refered to as α, β, γ etc., hydroxy acids according to the position of hydroxyl gr. (-OH) with respect to the carboxyl group.

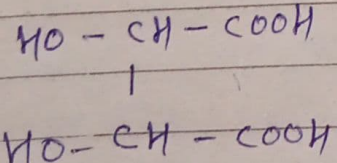
Some of the important hydroxy acids are :-



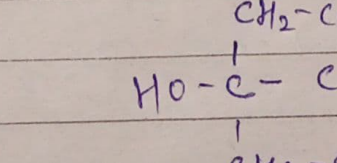
Lactic acid
(α-hydroxy propionic acid)



Glycollic acid
(Hydroxy acetic acid)



Tartaric acid

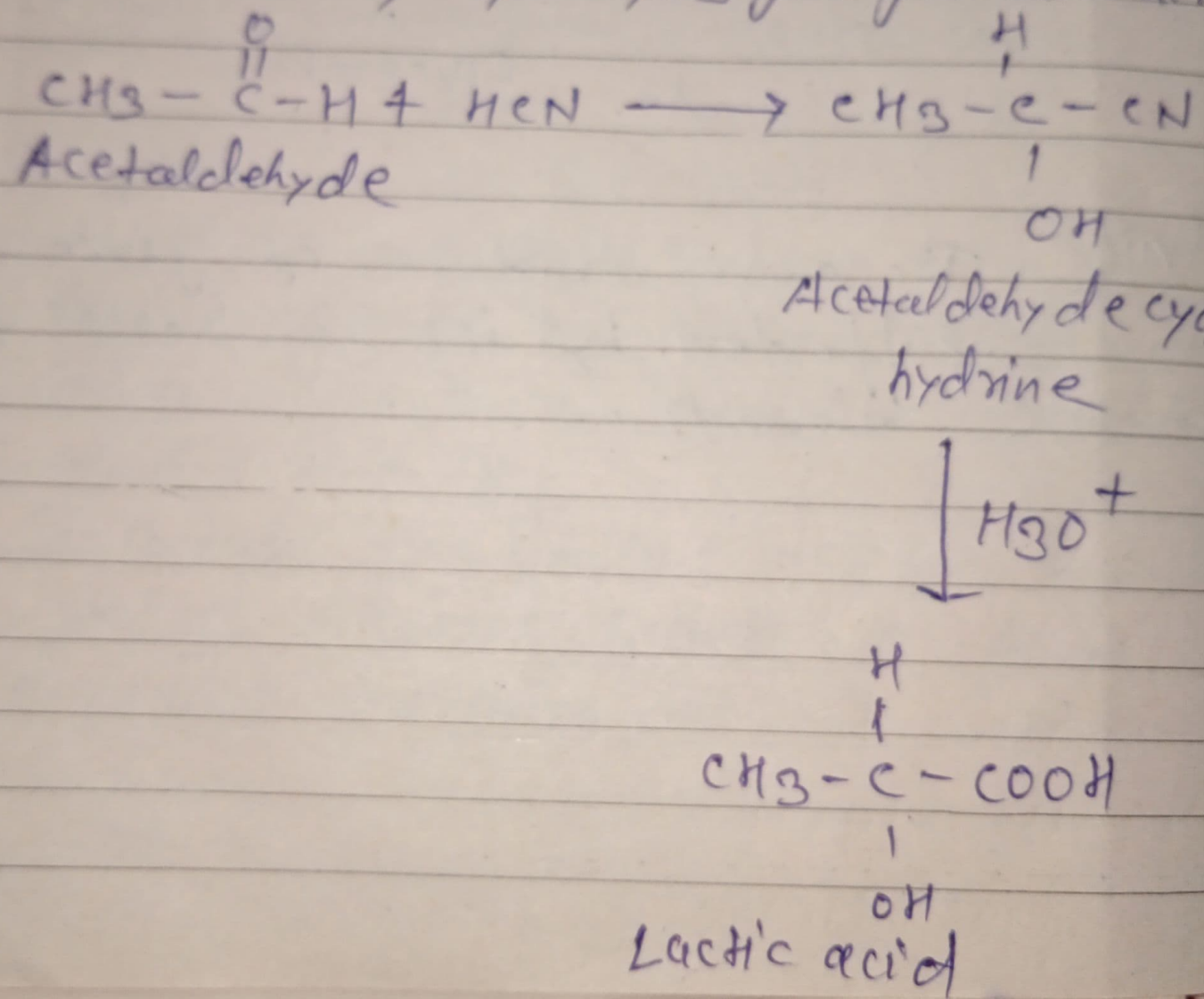


citric acid

Lactic acid [$CH_3-CHOH-COOH$]
(2-hydroxy propanoic acid)

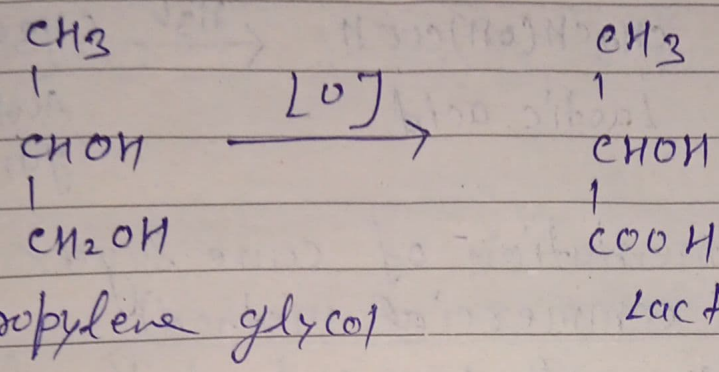
Methods of preparation :-

① <u>From Acetaldehyde</u> :- Acetaldehyde reacts with HCN followed by hydrolysis giving lactic acid.

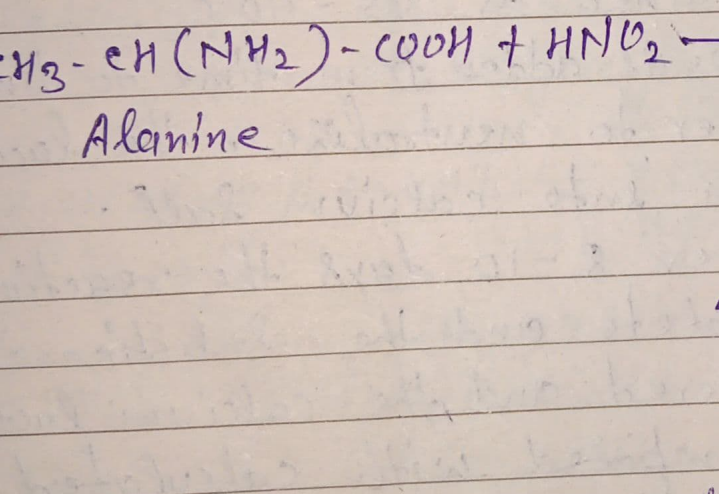


(2) By the oxidation of Propylene glycol :-

propylene glycol on oxid^n gives lactic acid



(3) From Alanine :- Alanine on treatment with nitrous acid at $0^0 - 5^0C$ leads to the formation of lactic acid.



(4) Synthesis :- Synthesis of lactic acid is done by acetaldehyde which in turn is obtained by passing acetylene in dil. H_2SO_4 containing mercuric salt (as catalyst). Acetaldehyde is reacts with HCN to give acetaldehyde cyanohydrine which is hydrolysed

into lactic acid.

$$2C + H_2 \xrightarrow[\text{arc}]{\text{electric}} \underset{\text{Acetylene}}{C_2H_2} \xrightarrow[Hg^{+2}]{H_2SO_4} CH_3CHO$$

$$CH_3CHO \xrightarrow{HCN} CH_3CH(OH)CN$$

Acetaldehyde-cyanohydrine

$$CH_3CH(OH)CN \xrightarrow{H_3O^+} CH_3CH(OH)COOH$$

Lactic acid

(5) Fermentation of cane sugar :— (commercial method)

This method consist in the following steps :—

a. A dilute solution of cane sugar or glucose is treated with Bacillus acidi-laevolactiti (B.A.L) and the solⁿ is mentained as 35-40°c

b. $CaCO_3$ is added from time to time in order to neutralise, the lactic acid form into calcium salt.

c. After 8-10 days the reaction becomes complete and the solution is warmed, filtered and the calcium lactate is decomposed with calculated amount of H_2SO_4 to give lactic acid.

$$\underset{\text{Glucose}}{C_6H_{12}O_6} \xrightarrow{\text{Fermentation}} \underset{\text{methyl glyoxal}}{CH_3 \cdot CO \cdot CHO}$$

$$CH_3 \cdot CO \cdot CHO \xrightarrow{2H_2O} CH_3CH(OH)COOH$$

Lactic acid

$$2\,CH_3CH(OH)COOH + CaCO_3 \longrightarrow$$

$$H_2O + CO_2 + (CH_3CH(OH)COO)_2Ca$$

calcium lactate

$$(CH_3CHOHCOO)_2Ca + H_2SO_4 \longrightarrow$$

$$2\,CH_3CHOHCOOH + CaSO_4$$

Lactic acid