

- the parent chain is the longest continous carbon chain containing the carbon of the carbonyl group
- the carbonyl carbon is always assigned the locant value 1
- the names of carboxylic acids end in "oic acid"



• acidity is a measurement of how readily a proton is removed from a molecule

• the more stable the resulting negative charge upon removal of a proton, the more acidic is the molecule • acidity in increases (i.e., pKa decreases) with increasing electronegativity of the atom to which the H is attached

• resonance stabilizes negative charges and results in increased acidity



• the acidity of carboxylic acids is particularly high because: i) the negative charge is initially placed on an electronegative oxygen atom, and ii) resonance delocalizes the charge over TWO electronegative oxygen atoms



• the presence of substituents that stabilize negative charge (electron-withdrawing substituents) will also increase acidity

• the effect is strongest when the substituent is closest to the carboxylic acid group

Predict the relative acidities of the following series of benzoic acids



• carboxylic acids have surprisingly high boiling points due to the unusual dimer-type hydrogen bonding that is unique to their structures since it effectively doubles the intermolecular forces between molecules

Synthesis of Carboxylic Acids







• unlike the oxidative methods above, this method ADDS a carbon atom to the overall length in the carbon chain of the starting alkyl halide



Reduction of Carboxylic Acids



Problems:4,5

Chapter 24: Carboxylic Acids Essential Concepts

- 1. Know how to name simple carboxylic acids and benzoic acids. Recognize the different commonly used ways to represent the carboxylic acid group
- 2. Understand the unusual acidity of carboxylic acids and how substituents can affect relative pKa's.
- 3. Know why carboxylic acids have unusually high boiling points
- 4. Know the common methods for synthesis of carboxylic acids
- 5. Know the reagents commonly used to reduce carboxylic acids and be able to draw products from such reactions.
- 6. Know how to identify carboxylic acids from IR and ¹H NMR spectra.