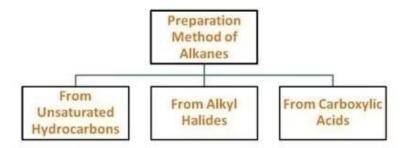
#### ALKANES

## Method of Preparation of Alkanes



# 1. From unsaturated hydrocarbons

 By adding dihydrogen gas to alkenes and alkynes in the presence of finely divided catalysts like platinum, palladium or nickel to form alkanes. This process is called hydrogenation.

For ex.

(i)

$$\mathbf{CH}_2 = \mathbf{CH}_2 + \mathbf{H}_2 \xrightarrow{-\mathbf{Pt}/\mathbf{Pd}/\mathbf{Ni}} \mathbf{CH}_3 - \mathbf{CH}_3$$

Ethene

Ethane

(ii)

$$CH_3-C\equiv C-H+2H_2 \xrightarrow{Pt/Pd/Ni} CH_3-CH_2-CH_3$$
  
Propyne Propane

## 2. From alkyl halides

· On reduction with zinc and dilute hydrochloric acid

$$CH_3-C1+H_2 \xrightarrow{Zn, H^+} CH_4 + HC1$$
  
Chloromethane Methane

Wurtz Reaction

Used for the preparation of higher alkanes

$$\begin{array}{ll} {\rm C_2H_5Br} {+} {\rm 2Na} {+} {\rm BrC_2H_5} {\stackrel{\rm dry\;ether}{\longrightarrow}} {\rm C_2H_5} {-} {\rm C_2H_5} \\ {\rm Bromoethane} \\ \end{array}$$

#### 3. From carboxylic acids

· By elimination carbon dioxide from carboxylic acid

$$CH_3COO^-Na^++NaOH \xrightarrow{CaO} CH_4+Na_2CO_3$$
  
Sodium ethanoate

# Kolbe's electrolytic method

On electrolysis of aqueous solution of sodium or potassium salt of a carboxylic acid gives alkane containing even number of carbon atoms

$$2CH_3COO^-Na^+ + 2H_2O$$
  
Sodium acetate  
 $\downarrow$ Electrolysis  
 $CH_3-CH_3+2CO_2+H_2+2NaOH$