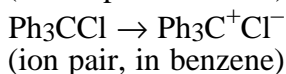
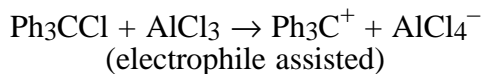
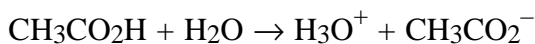


ionization

The generation of one or more ions. It may occur, e.g. by loss of an electron from a neutral *molecular entity*, by the *unimolecular heterolysis* of such an entity into two or more ions, or by a heterolytic substitution reaction involving neutral molecules, such as:



The loss of an electron from a singly, doubly, etc. charged cation is called second, third, etc. ionization. This terminology is used especially in mass spectroscopy.

See also *dissociation*, *ionization energy*.

1994, 66, 1127