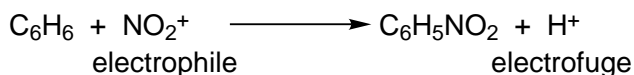


electrophile (electrophilic)

An electrophile (or electrophilic reagent) is a reagent that forms a *bond* to its reaction partner (the *nucleophile*) by accepting both bonding electrons from that reaction partner.

An ‘electrophilic *substitution reaction*’ is a *heterolytic* reaction in which the reagent supplying the entering group acts as an electrophile. For example:



Electrophilic reagents are *Lewis acids*. ‘Electrophilic catalysis’ is catalysis by Lewis acids.

The term ‘electrophilic’ is also used to designate the apparent polar character of certain *radicals*, as inferred from their higher relative reactivities with reaction sites of higher electron density.

See also *electrophilicity*.

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