

Acid-Base Indicators For Functional Applications

Ram W. Sabnis

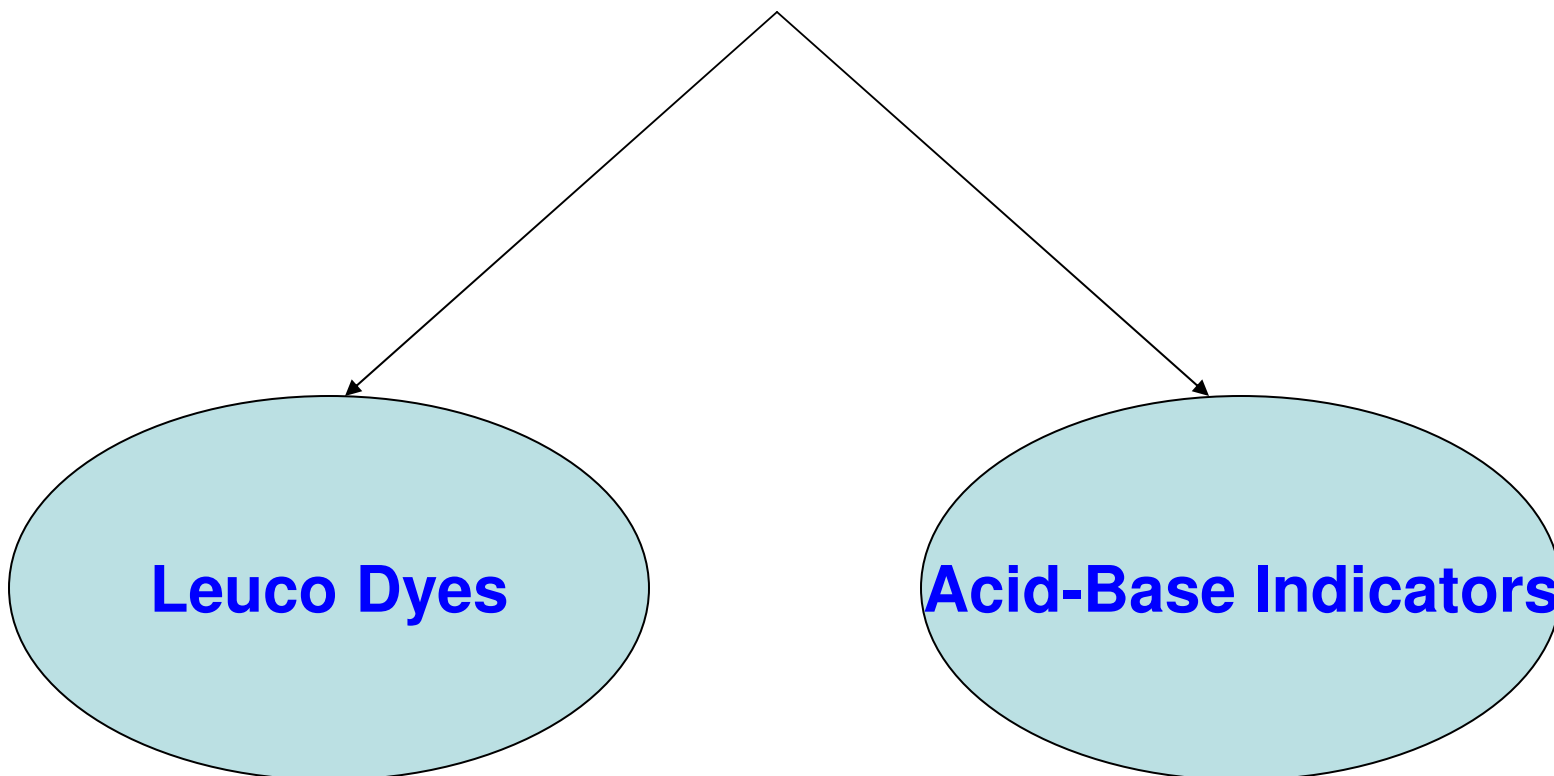
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP

San Francisco, CA, USA

Colour-change Concept

- ❖ Coloured to colourless
- ❖ Colourless to coloured
- ❖ One colour to another colour
- ❖ One colour to second colour to third colour

Commonly used colour-change systems



Colour-changing Systems

Leuco Dyes

- ❖ Colour former
- ❖ Phenol
- ❖ Long chain alcohol

Leuco Dye System Limitations

- ❖ 3-Component system
- ❖ Multi-step synthetic procedures of colour former
- ❖ Poor yield/purity
- ❖ Only solvent based (alcohol)
- ❖ Not applicable to aqueous systems
- ❖ Very few commercially available
- ❖ Cost

Acid-Base Indicators

- ❖ 1-Component system
- ❖ Facile synthesis
- ❖ Excellent purity & yield
- ❖ Can be used in solvent as well as in aqueous systems
- ❖ Commercially available
- ❖ Inexpensive

Classification

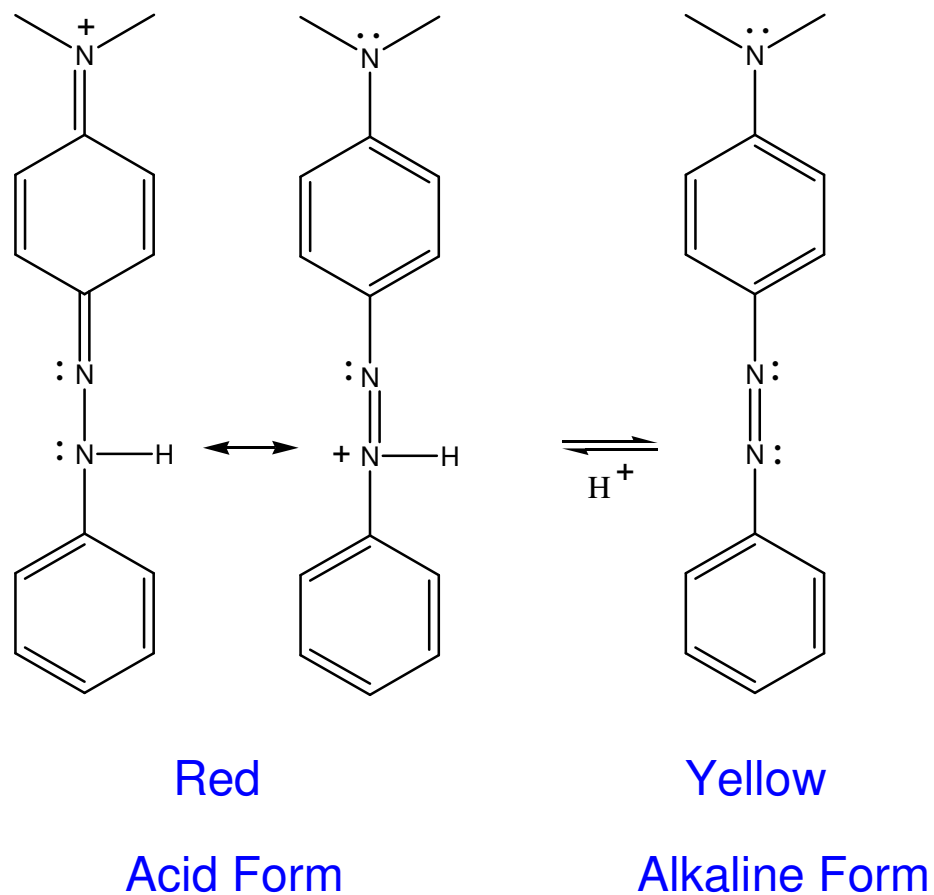
- ❖ Azo
- ❖ Benzoin
- ❖ Nitro
- ❖ Phthalein
- ❖ Sulfonephthalein
- ❖ Triphenylmethane
- ❖ Fluorescent
- ❖ Miscellaneous

Azo Acid-Base Indicators

COC-2007,
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Colour-change Mechanism



Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
Acid Blue 89	11.0-12.0	Blue to red
Acid Blue 92	11.0-12.0	Blue to pink
Alizarin Yellow GG	10.0-12.0	Yellow to orange
Alizarin Yellow R	10.0-12.1	Yellow to orange-red
Benzopurpurin B	1.3-4.0	Blue-violet to red
Brilliant Yellow	6.4-8.0	Yellow to red-orange
Calmagite	7.1-9.1	Red to blue
Carbazol Yellow	12.0-14.0	Yellow to red
Chrome Orange GR	10.5-12.0	Yellow to red
Chrysoidin	4.0-7.0	Orange to yellow
Congo Red	3.0-5.0	Blue to red
4-Dimethylamino-2-methyl-azobenzene	2.8-4.4	Red to yellow
Direct Blue 72	13.0-14.0	Blue to violet
Ethyl Orange	3.4-4.8	Red to yellow
Ethyl Red	4.5-6.5	Red to yellow

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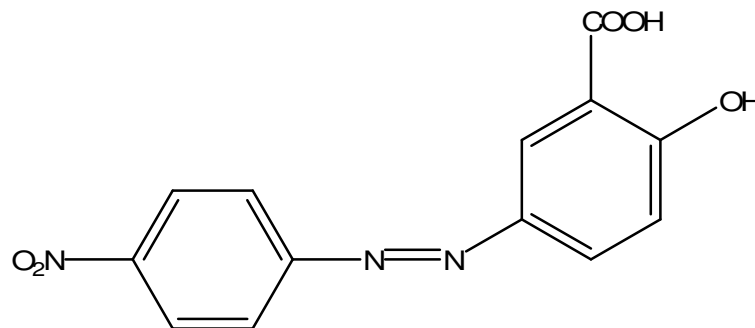
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Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
Lanacyl Violet BF	11.0-13.0	Violet to orange
Metanil Yellow	1.2-2.3	Red to yellow
Methyl Orange	3.0-4.4	Red to yellow
Methyl Red	4.4-6.2	Red to yellow
Methyl Yellow	2.9-4.0	Red to yellow
α -Naphthyl Red	3.7-5.0	Red to yellow
Nitrazine Yellow	6.0-7.2	Bright yellow to bright blue
4-(Phenylazo)diphenylamine	1.2-2.5	Red to yellow
Propyl Red	4.6-6.6	Red to yellow
Solochrome Violet RS	6.5-9.0	Orange-red to violet
Thiazol Yellow G	11.0-13.0	Yellow to red
Tropaeolin O	11.0-12.7	Yellow to red
Tropaeolin OO	1.4-2.6	Red to yellow
Tropaeolin OOO	7.4-8.6	Amber to orange
	10.2-11.8	Orange to red

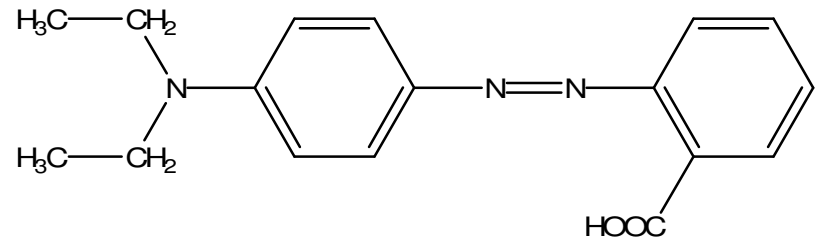
Alizarin Yellow R: Applications

- ❖ Display Device
- ❖ Photoresists
- ❖ Nanoparticles
- ❖ Sensors
- ❖ Photoconductive materials
- ❖ Photography
- ❖ Copying materials
- ❖ Optical Engineering applications
- ❖ Cosmetics
- ❖ Diapers
- ❖ Food storage
- ❖ Measurement of acidity in juice
- ❖ Determination of albumins
- ❖ Counting leukocytes
- ❖ Antifungal agent



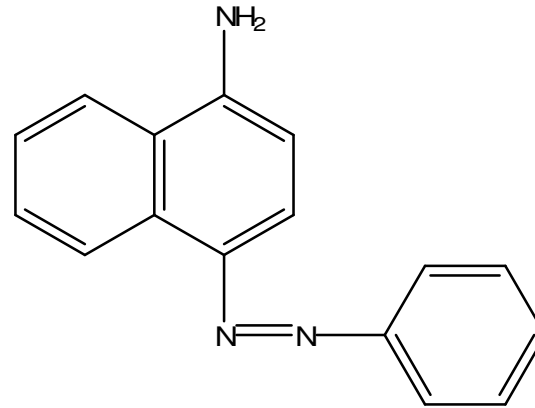
Ethyl Red: Applications

- ❖ Optical materials
- ❖ Photoresists
- ❖ Flexible electronic circuitry
- ❖ Counting leukocytes
- ❖ Enzyme binding assays
- ❖ DNA chips



α -Naphthyl Red: Applications

- ❖ Display Device
- ❖ Semiconductors
- ❖ Sensors
- ❖ Photosensitive materials
- ❖ Recording materials
- ❖ Imaging materials
- ❖ Inks
- ❖ Lubricants
- ❖ Hair dyes
- ❖ Food storage
- ❖ Dental materials

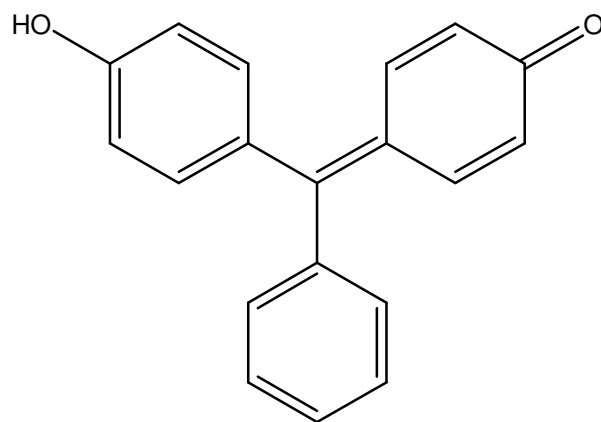


Benzein Acid-Base Indicators

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General Benzoin Structure

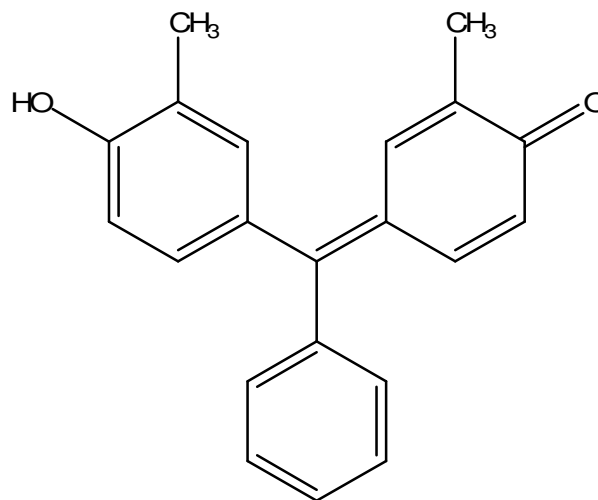


Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
o-Cresolbenzein	7.2-8.6	Yellow to red
Dibromothymolbenzein	5.6-7.2	Yellow to blue
α -Naphtholbenzein	9.8-11.0	Brownish to green-blue
Phenolbenzein	6.0-7.6	Yellow to red
Thymolbenzein	1.5-2.5	Red to yellow
	7.6-9.0	Yellow to blue

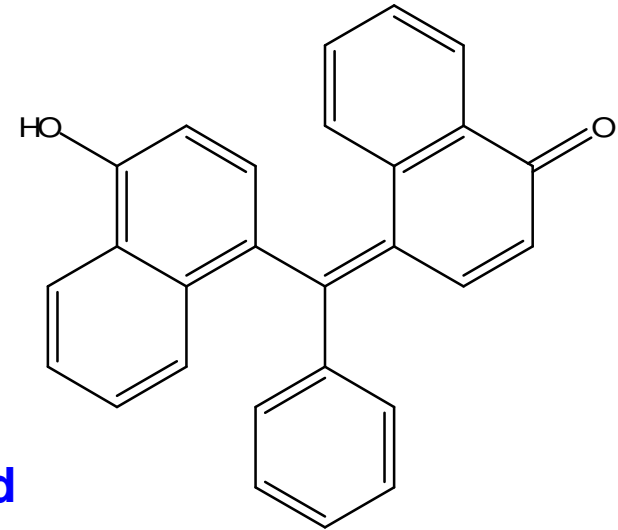
o-Cresolbenzein: Applications

❖ Cosmetics



α -Naphtholbenzein: Applications

- ❖ Semiconducting polymers
- ❖ Concrete
- ❖ Correction fluid
- ❖ Food storage
- ❖ Determining bacterial growth in packed food
- ❖ Personal hygiene products
- ❖ Detecting viable cells
- ❖ Detecting enzymes
- ❖ Detecting bacterial growth in patients

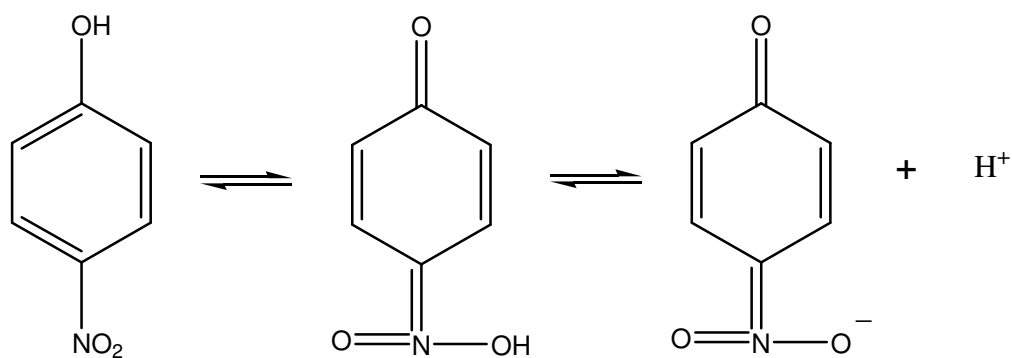


Nitro Acid-Base Indicators

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Colour-change Mechanism



Colourless

Acid Form

Yellow

Alkaline Form

Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
Dinitrocresol	2.4-3.8	Colorless to yellow
α -Dinitrophenol	2.0-4.7	Colorless to yellow
β -Dinitrophenol	1.7-4.4	Colorless to yellow
γ -Dinitrophenol	4.0-5.8	Colorless to yellow
ε -Dinitrophenol	3.9-5.9	Colorless to yellow
δ -Dinitrophenol	4.3-6.3	Colorless to yellow
Dinitrothymol	2.2-3.4	Colorless to yellow
Ethyl-bis(2,4-dinitrophenyl)-acetate	7.5-9.1	Colorless to deep blue
Isopicramic acid	4.0-5.6	Rose to yellow
Martius Yellow	2.0-3.2	Colorless to yellow

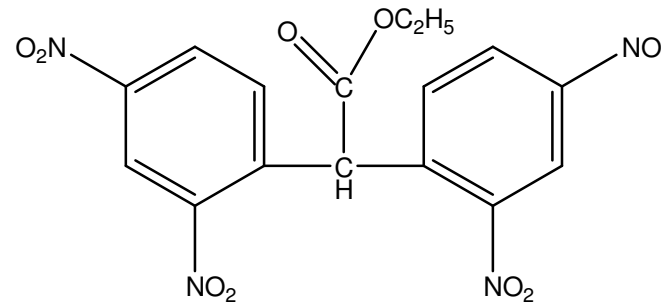
Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
Nitramine	10.8-13.0	Colorless to red-brown
p-Nitrobenzhydrazide	8.2-9.5	Colorless to yellow
p-Nitrobenzyl cyanide	11.4-12.9	Yellow to Orange-red
4-Nitrocatechol	3.9-6.3	Straw to lemon yellow
o-Nitrophenol	5.0-7.0	Colorless to yellow
m-Nitrophenol	6.8-8.6	Colorless to yellow
p-Nitrophenol	5.6-7.6	Colorless to yellow
Picric acid	0.0-1.3	Colorless to yellow
Trinitrobenzene	11.5-14.0	Colorless to orange
Trinitrobenzoic Acid	12.0-13.4	Colorless to orange
Trinitrotoluene	11.5-14.0	Colorless to orange

Ethyl bis-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)acetate:

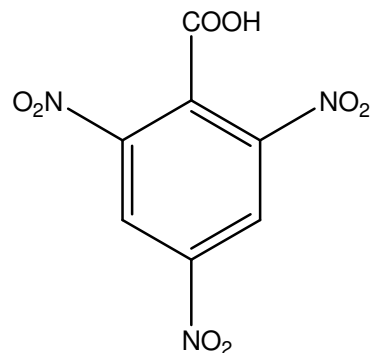
Applications

- ❖ Imaging materials
- ❖ Microcapsule toner
- ❖ Electrophotographic toner
- ❖ Decoder system
- ❖ Inks
- ❖ Paints
- ❖ Adhesives



Trinitrobenzoic acid: Applications

- ❖ Explosives
- ❖ Liquefied gas fuels
- ❖ Energetic materials
- ❖ Anti-wear
- ❖ Photography
- ❖ Photoconductors
- ❖ Recording materials
- ❖ Inks
- ❖ Adhesives

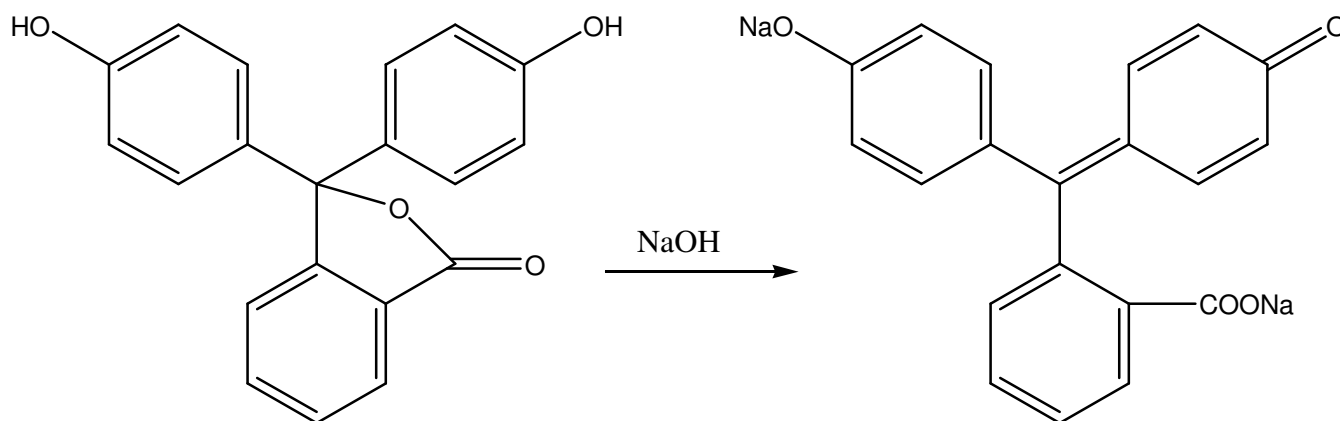


Phthalein Acid-Base Indicators

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Colour-change Mechanism



Colourless Lactone

Acid Form

Highly Coloured

Alkaline Form

Red, Pink, Purple, Violet, Blue, Bluish-Green

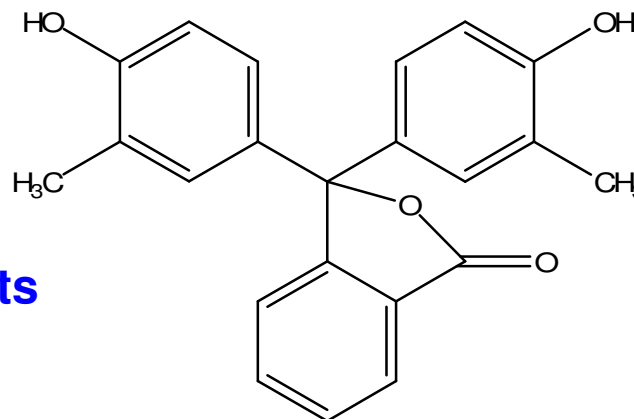
Baeyer, A. Ueber die verbindungen der phtalsaure mit den phenolen. *Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem.* **1880**, 202, 36-140

Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
Carvacrolphthalein	9.5-10.0	Colorless to blue
o-Cresolphthalein	8.2-9.8	Colorless to red
o-Cresolphthalein complexon	8.2-9.8	Colorless to red
Guaiacolphthalein	8.4-10.2	Colorless to violet-blue
α -Naphtholphthalein	7.3-8.7	Colorless to greenish-blue
Phenolphthalein	8.0-10.0	Colorless to pink
Tetrabromophenolphthalein	7.6-9.4	Colorless to violet
Thymolphthalein	9.3-10.5	Colorless to blue
Xylenolphthalein	9.0-10.5	Colorless to indigo blue

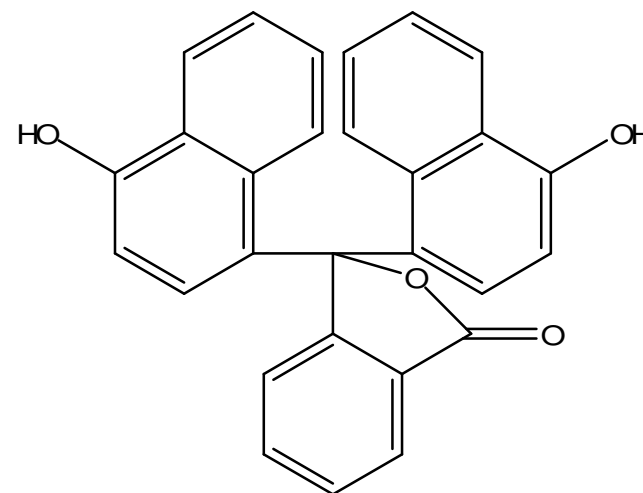
o-Cresolphthalein: Applications

- ❖ Sensors
- ❖ Display device
- ❖ Photoresists
- ❖ Recording materials
- ❖ Imaging materials
- ❖ Authentication system for secure documents
- ❖ Decoder system
- ❖ Lithium cells
- ❖ Inks/Markers
- ❖ Toners
- ❖ Correction fluid
- ❖ Paints
- ❖ Adhesives
- ❖ Food storage
- ❖ Diapers
- ❖ Lotion
- ❖ Urine analysis test strips
- ❖ Drugs
- ❖ Blood analysis



α -Naphtholphthalein: Applications

- ❖ Sensors
- ❖ Sol-gel materials
- ❖ Thermochromic materials
- ❖ Recording materials
- ❖ Imaging materials
- ❖ Authentication system for secure documents
- ❖ Inks/Markers
- ❖ Toners
- ❖ Paints
- ❖ Adhesives
- ❖ Rubber
- ❖ Lubricants
- ❖ Food storage
- ❖ Fruits/vegetable packaging
- ❖ Detecting viable cells
- ❖ Drugs
- ❖ Oral hygiene products
- ❖ Dental materials

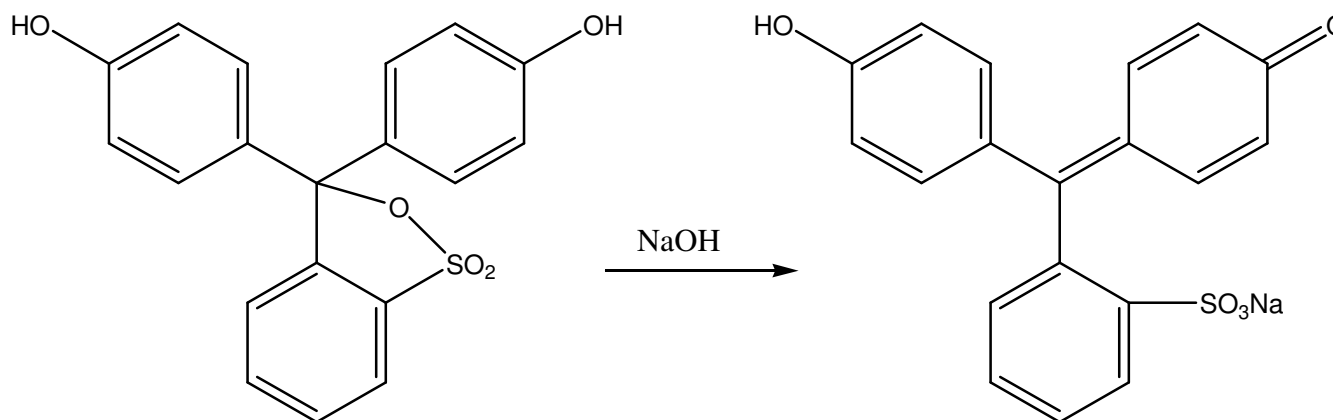


Sulfonephthalein Acid-Base Indicators

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Colour-change Mechanism



Yellow
Acid Form

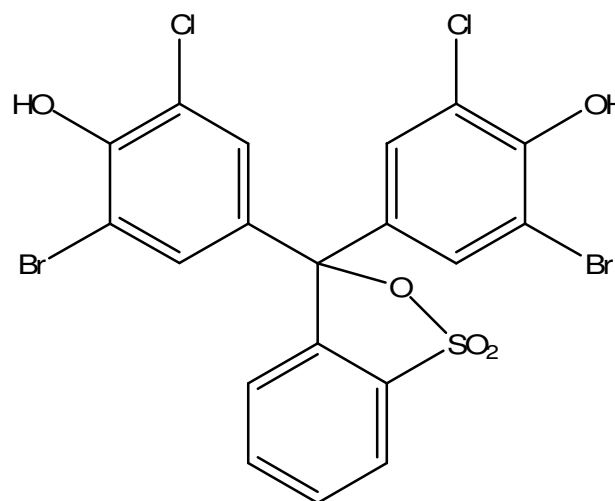
Highly Coloured
Alkaline Form

Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
Bromochlorophenol Blue	3.0-4.6	Yellow to purple
Bromocresol Green	3.8-5.4	Yellow to blue-green
Bromocresol Purple	5.2-6.8	Yellow to purple
Bromophenol Blue	3.0-4.6	Yellow to purple
Bromophenol Red	5.2-6.8	Yellow to red
Bromothymol Blue	6.0-7.6	Yellow to blue
Bromoxlenol Blue	6.0-7.6	Yellow to blue
Chlorophenol Red	4.8-6.4	Yellow to red
m-Cresol Purple	7.4-9.0	Yellow to purple
o-Cresol Red	7.0-8.8	Yellow to reddish-purple
Phenol Red	6.8-8.4	Yellow to red
Thymol Blue	8.0-9.6	Yellow to blue
Xylenol Blue	8.0-9.6	Yellow to blue

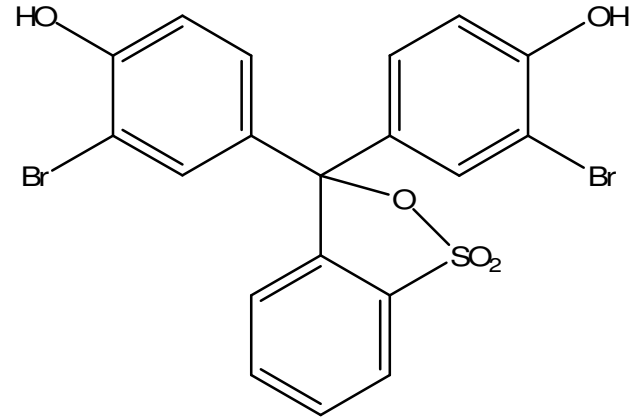
Bromochlorophenol Blue: Applications

- ❖ Display device
- ❖ pH sensors
- ❖ Inks
- ❖ Photoreceptors
- ❖ Lithographic plates
- ❖ Photographic materials
- ❖ Lubricants
- ❖ Food shelf life
- ❖ Protein assays/detection
- ❖ Vaginal infection test



Bromophenol Red: Applications

- ❖ Sensors
- ❖ Sol-gel matrix
- ❖ Recording materials
- ❖ Thermochromic materials
- ❖ Inks
- ❖ Paints
- ❖ Lubricants
- ❖ Soaps
- ❖ Cosmetics
- ❖ Identifying fresh & stale rice
- ❖ Determining acidity in wine
- ❖ Food storage
- ❖ Determination of bacterial growth
- ❖ Anti-amyloid agents
- ❖ Evaluating dental caries activity
- ❖ Determination of Streptococci in human saliva
- ❖ Diagnosis of enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli*
- ❖ Treatment of acute leukemia



Triphenylmethane Acid-Base Indicators

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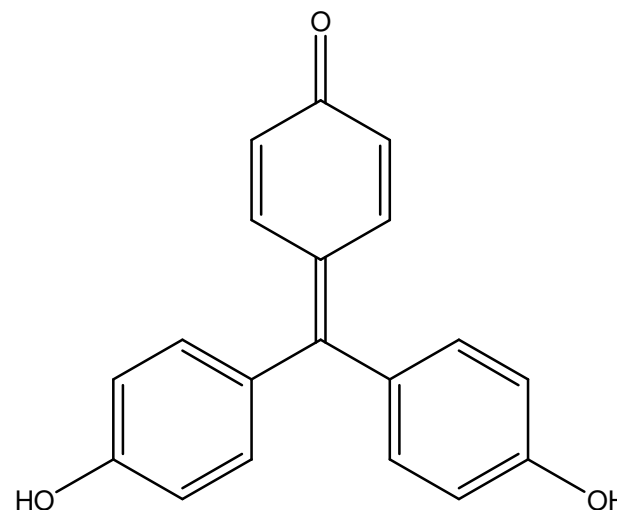
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Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
Acid Fuchsin	12.0-14.0	Red to colorless
Alkali Blue	9.4-14.0	Blue-violet to red-pink
Aurin	6.6-8.0	Yellow to red
Crystal Violet	0.0-2.0	Yellow to blue-violet
Ethyl Green	0.1-2.3	Yellow to greenish-blue
Ethyl Violet	0.0-3.5	Yellow to blue
Heptamethoxy Red	5.0-7.0	Red to colorless
Hexamethoxy Red	2.6-4.6	Reddish-pink to colorless
Malachite Green	0.0-2.0	Yellow to green
	11.5-14.0	Blue to colorless
Methyl Green	0.1-2.3	Yellow to greenish-blue
Methyl Violet	0.15-3.2	Yellow to violet
Patent Blue V	0.8-3.0	Yellow-orange to deep blue
Pentamethoxy Red	1.2-3.2	Reddish-violet to colorless
Poirrier Blue C 4B	11.0-13.0	Blue to violet-red

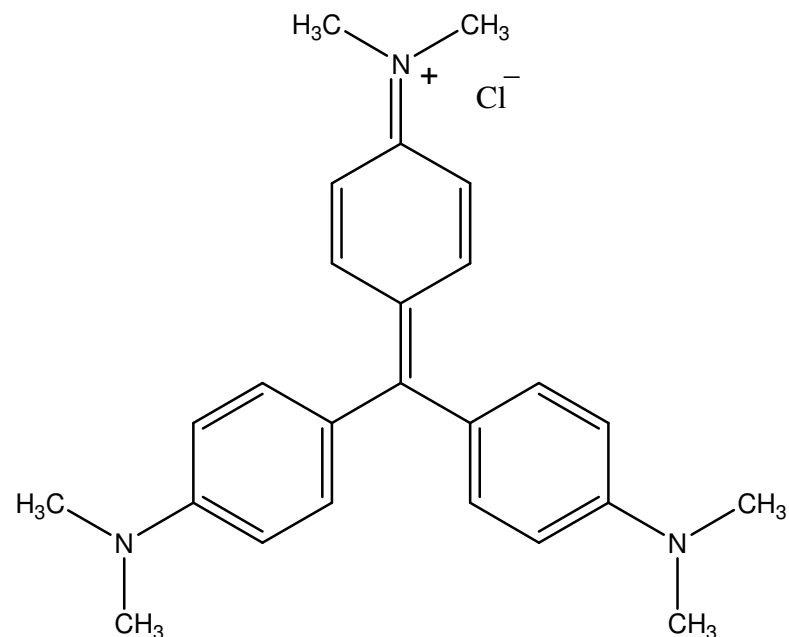
Aurin: Applications

- ❖ Antireflective coatings
- ❖ Thermochromic materials
- ❖ Photoresists
- ❖ Film patterning
- ❖ Recording materials
- ❖ Lithium battery
- ❖ Semiconductors
- ❖ Inks
- ❖ Corrosion inhibitors
- ❖ Adhesives
- ❖ Drugs
- ❖ Detecting viable cells
- ❖ Treatment of Alzheimer's disease



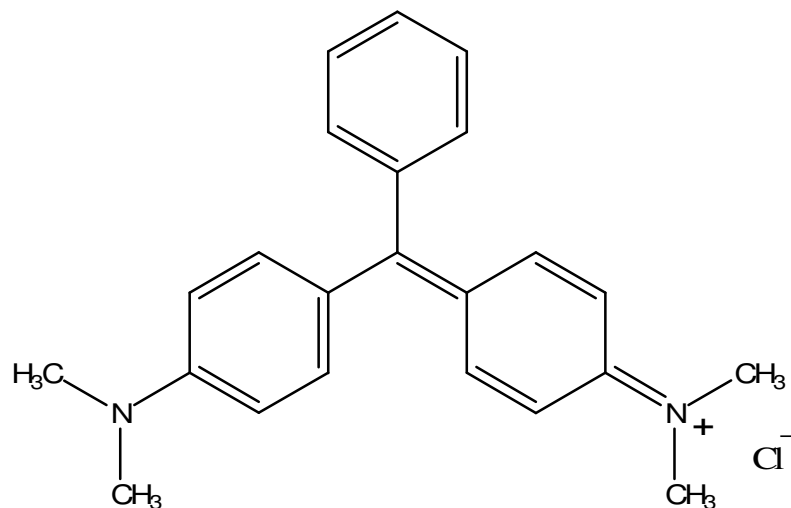
Crystal Violet: Applications

- ❖ Photoresists
- ❖ Lithographic plates
- ❖ Circuit board
- ❖ Inks
- ❖ Detergents
- ❖ Hair dyes
- ❖ Shampoo
- ❖ Drug screening method
- ❖ Bone cement preparation
- ❖ Treating microorganism
- ❖ Treating hemorrhoids
- ❖ Antifungal agent
- ❖ Antibacterial agent
- ❖ Antimalarial agent
- ❖ Dental applications



Malachite Green: Applications

- ❖ Photoresists
- ❖ Color filter
- ❖ Sol-gel matrix
- ❖ Liquid crystal displays
- ❖ Inks
- ❖ Herbicides
- ❖ Cosmetics
- ❖ Identifying mammal genes
- ❖ Detecting nucleic acids
- ❖ Detecting bacterial growth
- ❖ Multidrug resistance inhibitors
- ❖ Radiochemotherapy
- ❖ Antitumor agent
- ❖ Treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis



Fluorescent Acid-Base Indicators

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Miscellaneous Acid-Base Indicators

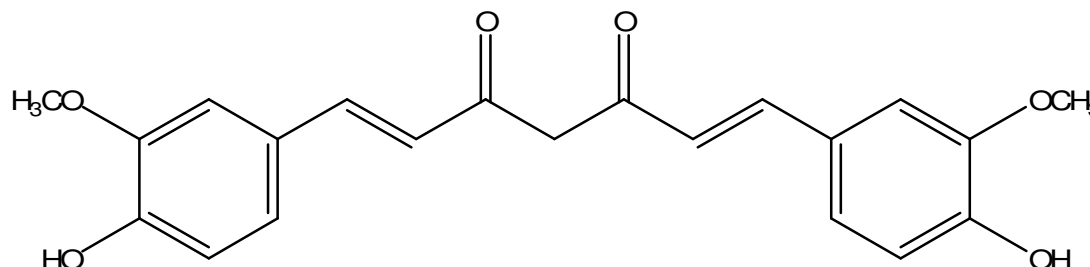
- ❖ Chalcone
- ❖ Flavone
- ❖ Indigo
- ❖ Malein
- ❖ Anthraquinone
- ❖ Quinoline

Colour Transition

Indicator	pH Range	Colour Change
Curcumin	7.8-9.2	Yellow to red-brown
Hematoxylin	0.0-1.0	Red to yellow
	5.0-6.0	Pale yellow to violet
Indigo Carmine	11.5-14.0	Blue to yellow
Isonitrosothiocamphor	8.6-9.0	Violet to yellow
Neutral Red	6.8-8.0	Red to yellow-orange
Phenolmalein	8.5-10.5	Colorless to straw
Resazurin	3.8-6.5	Orange to purple-violet
Alizarin Red	10.1-12.1	Violet to purple
	5.5-6.8	Yellow to violet
Alizarin Red S	3.7-5.2	Yellow to purple
Pinachrome	5.6-8.0	Colorless to red-violet
Quinaldine Red	1.4-3.2	Colorless to red
Quinoline Blue	7.0-8.0	Colorless to blue-violet

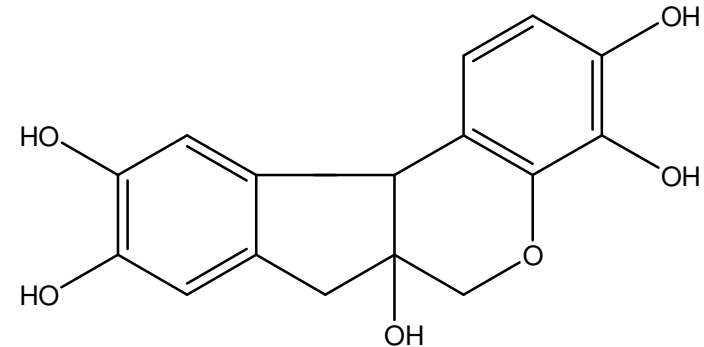
Curcumin: Applications

- ❖ Cosmetics
- ❖ Drug-eluting stents
- ❖ Antimicrobial agent
- ❖ Antiviral agent
- ❖ Antiinflammatory agent
- ❖ Treatment of skin diseases
- ❖ Treatment of diabetes
- ❖ Treatment of obesity
- ❖ Treatment of leukemia
- ❖ Treatment of Alzheimer's disease
- ❖ Treatment of neurofibromas
- ❖ Treatment of prostate cancer
- ❖ Treatment of coronary restenosis
- ❖ Inhibition of formation of skin wrinkles



Hematoxylin: Applications

- ❖ Plasma displays
- ❖ Hair dyes
- ❖ Diagnosis of cancer progression
- ❖ Diagnosis of cervical disease
- ❖ Diagnosis of CNS malfunctions
- ❖ Detecting genes
- ❖ Detecting breast cancer
- ❖ Detecting collagen in a tissue sample
- ❖ Detecting apoptosis
- ❖ Detecting demyelinating diseases
- ❖ Detecting antigens
- ❖ Treatment of age-related macular degeneration
- ❖ Treatment of burns
- ❖ Treatment of prostate cancer
- ❖ Treatment of diabetes & obesity
- ❖ Treatment of viral diseases
- ❖ Treatment of periferal neural & vascular ailments
- ❖ Treatment of skin disorders
- ❖ Biotechnological applications



Major Applications Summary

- ❖ **Electronics (Displays, color filter, semiconductors, photoresists, nanomaterials, sensors, sol-gel matrix, battery)**
- ❖ **Photography (Recording, copying, imaging materials)**
- ❖ **Inks (Inks, markers, highlighters, toners, correction fluid)**
- ❖ **Paints/Concrete/Rubber/Adhesives/Lubricants**
- ❖ **Detergents/Cleaners/Herbicides/Pesticides/Insecticides**
- ❖ **Personal care and Health/Beauty products (Cosmetics, lipsticks, lotions, hair dyes, soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, diapers, food storage)**
- ❖ **Medical (Assays, detection, diagnosis & treatment of diseases, medical devices, dental/oral products)**
- ❖ **Defense/Security/Explosives**

Literature

- ❖ Kolthoff, I. M. *Acid-Base Indicators*; The MacMillan Co.: New York, USA, **1937**.
- ❖ Tomicek, O. *Chemical Indicators*; Butterworths Scientific Publications: London, U.K., **1951**.
- ❖ Bishop, E. *Indicators*; Pergamon Press: Oxford, U.K., **1972**.

Handbook of Acid-Base Indicators: 200+

- ❖ Other Names
- ❖ CA Index Names
- ❖ CAS Registry Number
- ❖ Merck Index Number
- ❖ Chemical Structure
- ❖ Chemical/Dye Class
- ❖ Molecular Formula
- ❖ Molecular Weight
- ❖ pH Range
- ❖ Color Change at pH
- ❖ pKa
- ❖ Physical Form
- ❖ Solubility
- ❖ UV-Visible Spectrum
- ❖ Melting Points
- ❖ Boiling Points
- ❖ Synthesis
- ❖ Applications
- ❖ Safety/Toxicity

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Thank You

- ❖ Prof. Dr. V. R. Kanetkar, Head, Dyestuff Technology Department, ICT
- ❖ Dr. P. Bineesh, Dyestuff Technology Department, ICT
- ❖ Dyestuffs Manufacturers Association of India & Sponsors
- ❖ Dyestuff Technology Department, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai
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