

Waste Generation

- What is the reason why we have high E-factor in fine chemicals than bulk chemicals
- High margins :- People don't care much about waste
- Lower Process efficiency and more importance is given to new products
- Complicated molecular Structure

Molecular structure

- Suppose we have a molecule and we want a functional group on one of the carbon or particular chirality
- If we do any uncontrolled reaction we can get many undesired molecules
- For this we can use selective catalysts
- These things bring complexity to the process for fine chemicals which add to waste generation
- Suppose there's a policy change that we cannot produce this much amount of waste
- So we look for alternate catalyst
- And selectivity :-
- Example we have acetophenone
- One particular route uses H_2SO_4 and Cr^{+6} and ketone forms and $\text{Cr}_2\text{SO}_4 + 3$ forms
- Another route is simply H_2O_2 and ketone is formed along with water

- Therefore we have E-factor for second route to be zero or 100% atom efficiency
- One of the reasons for waste generation is homogenous catalyst
- Some of the people use H_2SO_4 or HCl as homogenous catalyst and the products are dissolved along with H_2SO_4 / HCl
- This is cheap but more steps are involved in separation and other processing therefore more waste is produced
- We can use solid catalyst like zeolites which can be separated easily
- Chemoselectivity selectivity among two reactions
- Regioselectivity selectivity among positions
- Stereoselectivity Bond angles can be different
- How do we make selection for better alternatives
- Reaction path has E factor E_1 and reaction path has E factor E_2
- Along with E factor something else must be accounted for
- Like toxicity associated with that waste
- Environmental Quotient(Q)
- For HCl Q is 1
- Therefore we multiply E by Q to decide which path to choose

Environmental Impact

- The impact that we are making to the society through technological intervention through process efficiency

- It is proportional to process inefficiency * consumption per capita * population

Life cycle analysis

- Cradle to grave
- Mining(Cradle) -> transportation -> Process -> transportation -> disposed (grave)