Heterolysis or heterolytic bond cleavage is the breakage of a single bond with the two electrons in the bond distributed unequally between the two atoms bound by the bond.

\[ \text{A} \quad \text{B} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{A}^+ \quad + \quad \text{B}^- \]

eg. 1:

\[ (\text{CH}_3)_3\text{C} \quad \text{Br}^- \quad \rightarrow \quad (\text{CH}_3)_3\text{C}^+ \quad + \quad :\text{Br}^- \]

eg. 2:

\[ \text{H} \quad \text{Cl}^- \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{H}^+ \quad + \quad :\text{Cl}^- \]

see also homolysis

**Contributors**

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