





With m substitution, th FG is never adjacent to the carbocation, so the FG can neither stabilize or destabilize these intermediates; i.e. all these cations (resonance structures) are equally stable.

How are meta products favored???

The product distribution (ratio of o, p & m isomers) is controlled by this family of resonance structures:





If the FG stabilizes a ⊕ by e⁻ donating groups, then the o, p substitution is FAVORED



If the FG destabilizes a ⊕ by e⁻ withdrawing groups, then the o, p substitution is DISFAVORED

In the family of resonance structures from the o, p isomers:



FG which are e⁻ donating groups, will stabilize THIS resonance structure and favor o,p isomers. Groups which have lone pairs of e⁻ such as N and O.



FG, which are e⁻ withdrawing groups, will DE-STABILIZE this resonance structure and DISFAVOR the o, p isomers and by default, FAVOR the m isomer. Electropositive groups containing a carbonyl