

3.091 Fall Term 2002
Homework Quiz #4A
solution outline

Calculate the energy required to break the weakest bond in difluoromethane (CH_2F_2).
Bond Energies (kJ/mol): H-H 435; F-F 160; C-C 350.

use the Pauling formula to calculate bond energies

consider C-H

$$E_{C-H} = \sqrt{E_{C-C} \times E_{H-H}} + 96.3(\chi_C - \chi_H)^2 = \sqrt{350 \times 435} + 96.3(2.55 - 2.20)^2 = 402 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

consider C-F

$$E_{C-F} = \sqrt{E_{C-C} \times E_{F-F}} + 96.3(\chi_C - \chi_F)^2 = \sqrt{350 \times 160} + 96.3(2.55 - 3.98)^2 = 433 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

C-H is the weaker bond. It takes 402 kJ/mol to break it.