Conformational Analysis

Cyclohexane Conformations Alkane conformations

Views of Ethane



The Newman Projection



Rotational Conformations of Ethane



Definitions

- Conformations Different spatial arrangments that a molecule can adopt due to rotation about sigma bonds.
- Staggered A low energy conformation where the bonds on adjacent atoms bisect each other (60° dihedral angle), maximizing the separation.
- Eclipsed A high energy conformation where the bonds on adjacent atoms are aligned with each other (0° dihedral angle).

Definitions

- Anti Description given to two substitutents attached to adjacent atoms when their bonds are at 180° with respect to each other.
- Syn Description given to two substitutents attached to adjacent atoms when their bonds are at 0° with respect to each other.
- Gauche Description given to two substitutents attached to adjacent atoms when their bonds are at 60° with respect to each other.

60° Rotation Causes Torsional or Eclipsing Strain



Types of Strain

- Steric Destabilization due to the repulsion between the electron clouds of atoms or groups. Groups try to occupy some common space.
- Torsional Destabilization due to the repulsion between pairs of bonds caused by the electrostatic repulsion of the electrons in the bonds. Groups are eclipsed.
- Angle Destabilisation due to distortion of a bond angle from it's optimum value caused by the electrostatic repulsion of the electrons in the bonds. e.g. cyclopropane



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Butane Conformations (C₂-C₃)



Gauche Interaction in Butane



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Strain Energy can be Quantified

TABLE 4.1 Energy Costs for Interactions in Alkane Conformers

		Energy cost	
Interaction	Cause	(kJ/mol)	(kcal/mol)
$\mathbf{H} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{H} \text{ eclipsed}$	Torsional strain	4.0	1.0
$H \leftrightarrow CH_3 \text{ eclipsed}$	Mostly torsional strain	6.0	1.4
$\mathrm{CH}_3 \leftrightarrow \mathrm{CH}_3 \operatorname{eclipsed}$	Torsional plus steric strain	11	2.6
$\mathrm{CH}_3 \iff \mathrm{CH}_3$ gauche	Steric strain	3.8	0.9

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Butane has Steric and Torsional Strain When Eclipsed



Totally eclipsed conformation of butane

PE Diagram for Butane (link)





1-Chloropropane





Most stable (staggered)

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Least stable (eclipsed)

Saturated Cyclic Compounds





Cyclopropane Angle and Torsional Strain



nonlinear overlap

Electron Density Map



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3n $(CH_2)_n$ $\rightarrow n \operatorname{CO}_2 + n \operatorname{H}_2\operatorname{O} + \operatorname{Heat}$ O_2 ©2004 Thomson - Brooks/Cole



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All Dihedral Angles = 0°



Cyclobutane is not Planar



Cyclopentane





Newman projection showing relief of eclipsing of bonds

Cyclohexane



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Chair Conformation



chair conformation



viewed along the "seat" bonds





Boat Conformation



boat conformation



symmetrical boat



Newman projection



"twist" boat







adding "wedges" helps show the 3D structure



The chair can be obtained by drawing opposite sides as 3 sets of parallel lines



angled

horizontal





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Axial bonds and Equatorial bonds

Axial bonds: The six axial bonds, one on each carbon, are parallel and alternate up-down.



Equatorial bonds: The six equatorial bonds, one on each carbon, come in three sets of two parallel lines. Each set is also parallel to two ring bonds. Equatorial bonds alternate between sides around the ring.



Completed cyclohexane



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Rings can Flip from one Chair Conformation to Another



Flipping Chair Conformations

- All axial bonds become equatorial
- All equatorial bonds become axial
- All "up" bonds stay up
- All "down" bonds stay down



Axial-up becomes Equatorial-up



Axial bromocyclohexane

Equatorial bromocyclohexane



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Equatorial Conformation is Preferred (link)



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Axial Methyl group is Gauche to C_3 in the ring



Equatorial Methyl Group is Anti to C_3 in the ring



γ	Strain o 1,3-diaxia (kJ/mol)	of one H–Y l interaction (kcal/mol)	$H \longleftrightarrow Y$
$\begin{array}{c}F \\Cl \\Br \\OH \\CH_3 \\CH_2CH_3 \\CH(CH_3)_2 \\C(CH_3)_3 \\C_6H_5 \\C$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.5 \\ 1.0 \\ 1.0 \\ 2.1 \\ 3.8 \\ 4.0 \\ 4.6 \\ 11.4 \\ 6.3 \\ 0.0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.12 \\ 0.25 \\ 0.25 \\ 0.5 \\ 0.9 \\ 0.95 \\ 1.1 \\ 2.7 \\ 1.5 \\ 0.7 \end{array}$	
-CN	0.4	0.1	

TABLE 4.2 Steric Strain in Monosubstituted Cyclohexanes

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cis 1,3-Dimethylcyclohexane



diaxial—very unfavorable

diequatorial-much more stable

trans 1,3-Dimethylcyclohexane

Chair conformations of trans-1,3-dimethylcyclohexane



cis-1,2-Dimethylcyclohexane



trans-1,2-Dimethylcyclohexane

One gauche interaction (3.8 kJ/mol)



2



Four CH₃-H diaxial interactions (15.2 kJ/mol)





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cis 1-Chloro-4-t-butylcyclohexane



$2 \times 1.0 = 2.0$ kJ/mol steric strain

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 $2 \times 11.4 = 22.8$ kJ/mol steric strain





cis-Decalin



trans-Decalin

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