STEREOISOMERS OF CARBON

COMPOUNDS

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Stereochemistry: That part of the science which deals with structure in three dimensions *Isomers:* Have same molecular formula, but different structures



Chiral compounds: are optically active; they rotate the plane of polarized light.

Achiral compounds: do not rotate the plane of polarized light. They are optically inactive.





Enantiomers, therefore have different physiological responses

Consider Penicillamine







antiarthritic

toxic



Short peptide segment



Optical Activity

- Optically Active: compounds rotate plane polarized light. Chiral compounds (compounds not superimposable on their mirror objects) are expected to be optically active.
- Optically Inactive: compounds do not rotate plane polarized light. Achiral compounds are optically inactive.

Summary of Isomerism Concepts





Constitutional (*Structural***)** *Isomers:* same molecular formula, different connectedness

Butane, a four-carbon molecule, is the simple alkane that has two structural isomers.



Stereoisomers : compounds with the same connectivity, different arrangement in space







Fischer projections of the stereoisomers of 3-bromo-2-butanol

Conformational isomers: are isomers that are not different compounds because they have different arrangements of the atoms of the compound. They are also known as *conformers. Consider butane:* The structure of butane can be represented as shown on the next slide.





Configuration : the arrangement in space of the four different groups about a chiral center.





- *Enantiomers :* Compounds that are no superimposable mirror images. Any molecule that is chiral must have an enantiomer.
- stereoisomers that are non-superimposable mirror images ; only properties that differ are direction (+ or -) of optical rotation

- Also called *asymmetric carbon* atom.
- Carbon atom that is bonded to four different groups is chiral.
- Its mirror image will be a different compound (enantiomer).



Diastereomers : stereoisomers that are not mirror images; different compounds with different physical properties.



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Diastereomers

- Molecules with two or more chiral carbons.
- Stereoisomers that are <u>not</u> mirror images.





(2R,3S) 2-bromo-3-chlorobutane



trans-1-bromo-3-methylcyclohexane





stereochemistry of the product













For example:









Meso compounds: are achiral compounds that has multiple chiral centers. It is superimposed on its mirror image and is optically **inactive** despite its stereocenters.





cis-1,3-dimethylcyclopentane a meso compound



cis-1,2-dibromocyclohexane a meso compound



trans-1,3-dimethylcyclopentane a pair of enantiomers



trans-1,2-dibromocyclohexane a pair of enantiomers













Polari meter - device that measures the optical rotation of the <u>chiral</u> compound

dextrorotatory : when the plane of polarized light is rotated in a clockwise direction when viewed through a Polari meter.

(+) or (d) do not confuse with D

levorotatory : when the plane of polarized light is rotated in a counterclockwise direction when viewed through a Polari meter.



Optical Activity

Enantiomers rotate the plane of polarized light in opposite directions, but same number of degrees.



Polari meter



Dextrorotatory (+)

Levorotatory (-)

Specific Rotation

Observed rotation depends on the length of the cell and concentration, as well as the strength of optical activity, temperature, and wavelength of light.

$$[\alpha] = \frac{\alpha \text{ (observed)}}{c \bullet l}$$

Where α (observed) is the rotation observed in the Polari meter, *c* is concentration in g/mL, and *I* is length of sample cell in <u>decimeters</u>.

Specific Rotation, [α]

[α] = α / cl a = observed rotation c = concentration in g/mL l = length of tube in dm

Dextrorotary designated as *d* or (+), clockwise rotation **Levorotary** designated as *l* or (-), counter-clockwise rotation

Solved Problem

When one of the enantiomers of 2-butanol is placed in a Polari meter, the observed rotation is 4.05° counterclockwise. The solution was made by diluting 6 g of 2-butanol to a total of 40 mL, and the solution was placed into a 200-mm Polari meter tube for the measurement. Determine the specific rotation for this enantiomer of 2butanol.

Solution

Since it is levorotatory, this must be (-)-2butanol The concentration is 6 g per 40 mL = 0.15 g/mL, and the path length is 200 mm = 2 dm. The specific rotation is

$$[a] {}^{25}_{\text{D}} = -13.5^{\circ}_{(0.15)(2)} = -13.5^{\circ}_{(0.15)(2)}$$

Solved Problem

A sample of a compound A in chloroform (0.500 g/mL) at 25.0°C shows a rotation of $+2.5^{\circ}$ in a 1.0 decimeter cell. What is the specific rotation?

