

# Conformations

**Course Name:** General Chemistry

**Course Code:** CHEM F111

**Lecture Instructor Name:** Prof. Subhasish Roy

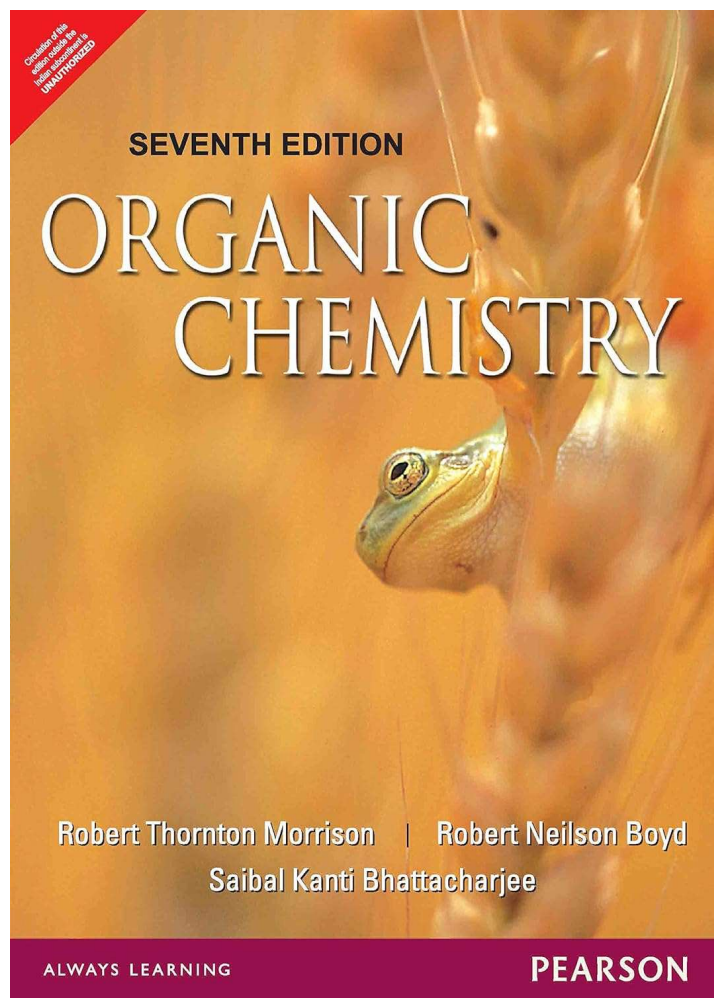
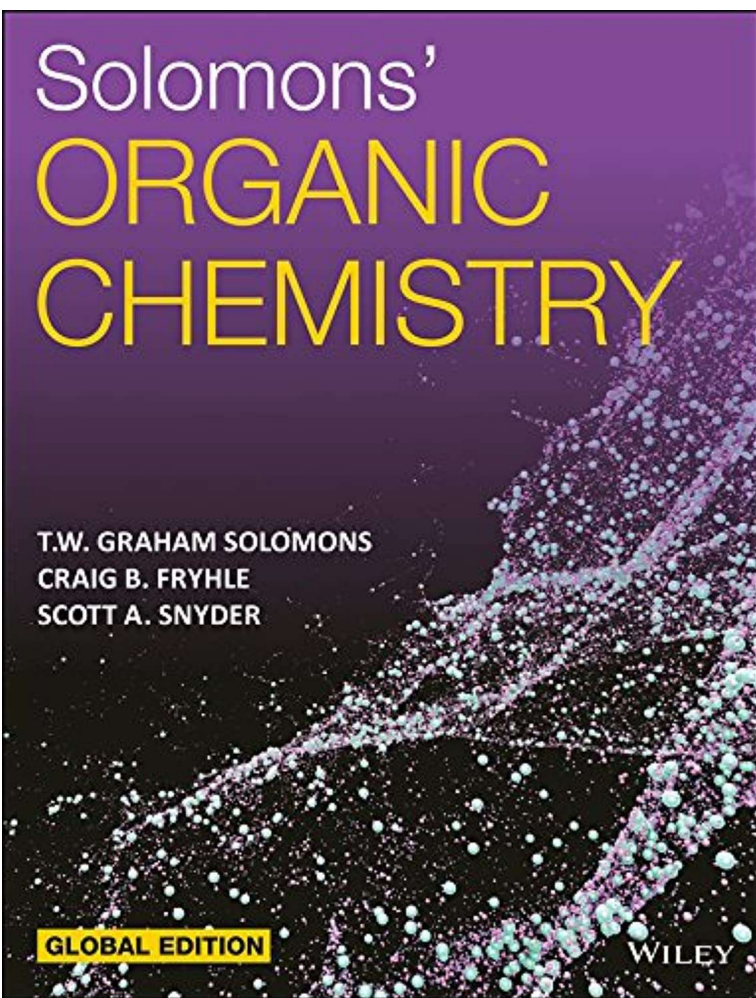
**Department:** Chemistry

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**Chamber No:** C 223

**Chamber Consultation Hours:** Thursday 4:00 PM to 4:50 PM

# Text and Reference Books



Acknowledgement:  
Most of the Lecture Slides are made from the text book. I am gratefully acknowledging Solomon's Organic Chemistry Book and many other Organic Chemistry Books.

# Conformations

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4.8 Sigma Bonds and Bond Rotation

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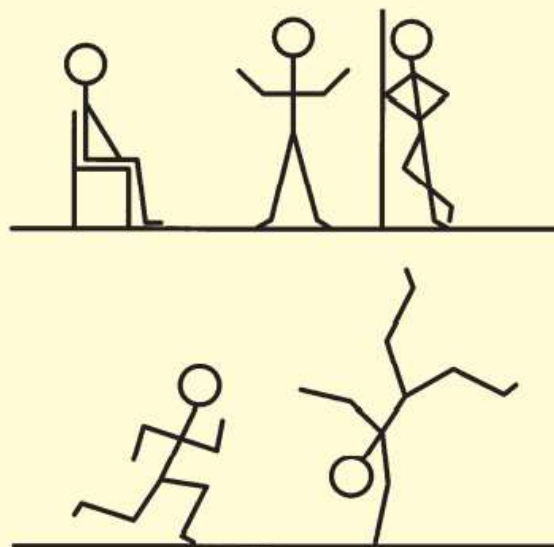
4.10 The Relative Stabilities of Cycloalkanes: Ring Strain (SS)

4.11 Conformations of Cyclohexane: The Chair and the Boat

4.12 Substituted Cyclohexanes: Axial and Equatorial Hydrogen Groups

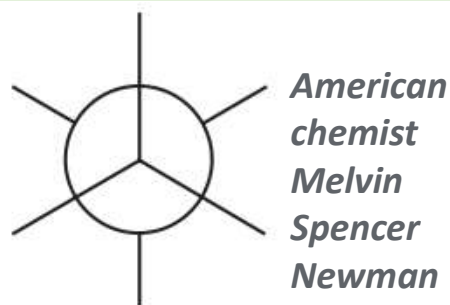
4.13 Disubstituted Cycloalkanes: Cis–Trans Isomerism

Some conformations are more stable than others...

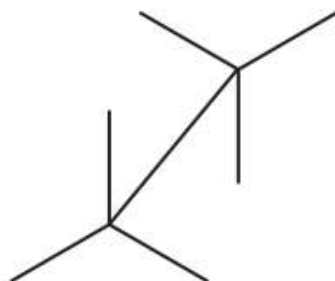


## 4.8 Sigma Bonds and Bond Rotation

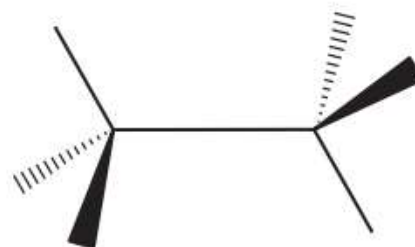
- Two groups bonded by only a single bond can undergo rotation about that bond with respect to each other.
- The *temporary molecular shapes* that result from such a rotation are called **conformations** of the molecule.
- Each possible structure is called a **conformer**.
- An analysis of the energy changes that occur as a molecule undergoes rotations about single bonds is called a **conformational analysis**.



**Newman projection  
formula**

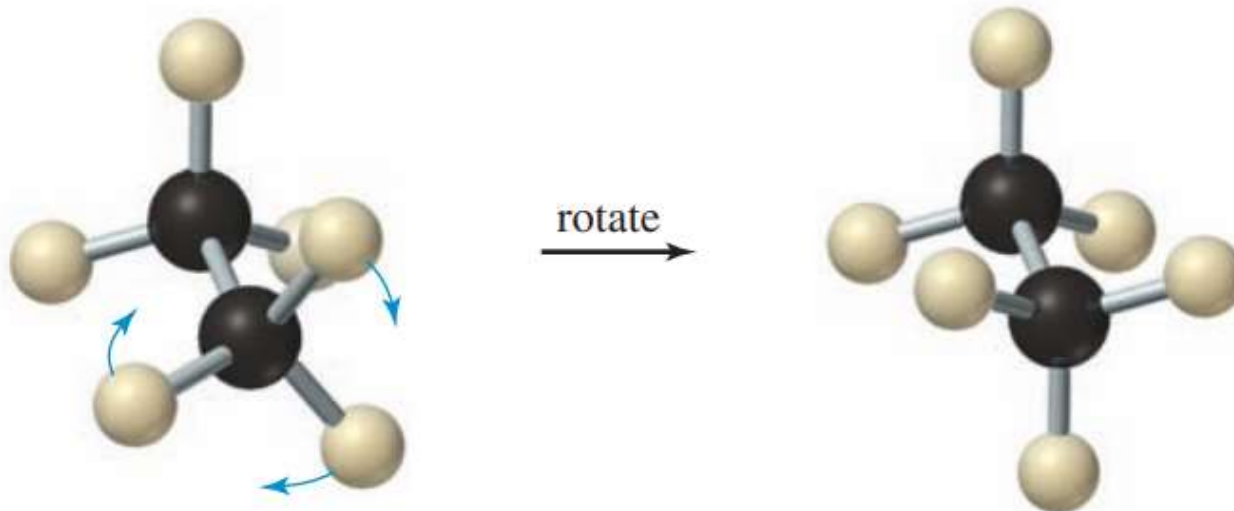
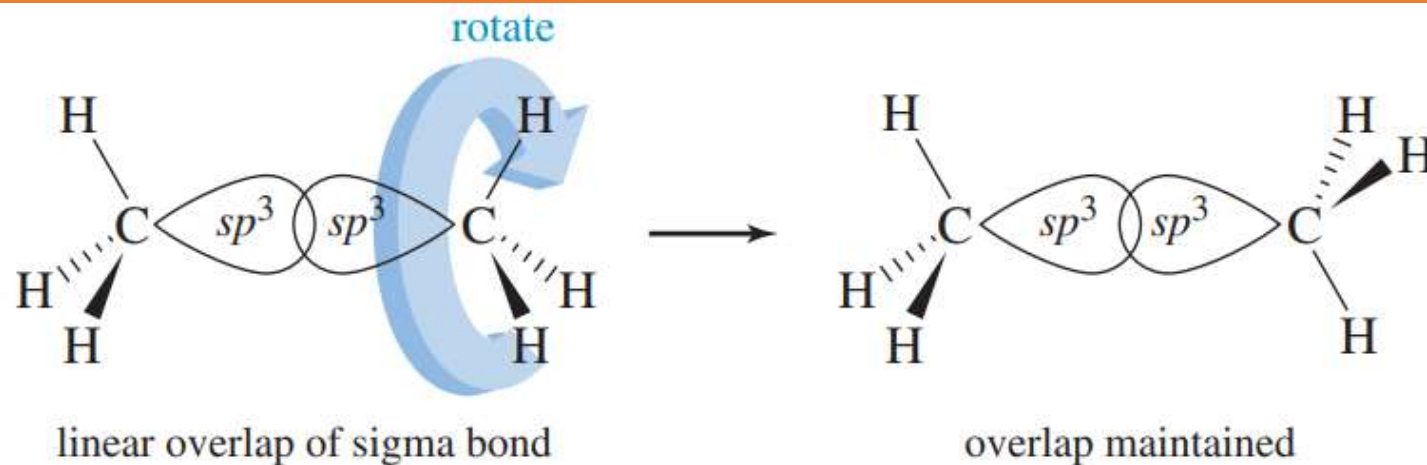


**Sawhorse formula**



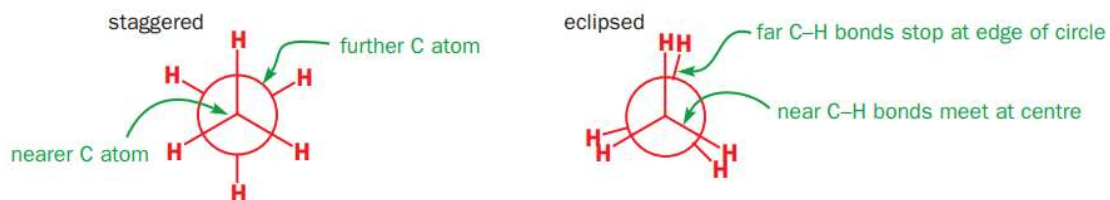
Sawhorse meaning a  
rack supporting  
wood for sawing

## 4.8 Sigma Bonds and Bond Rotation

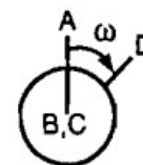




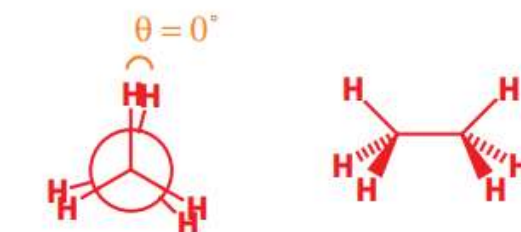
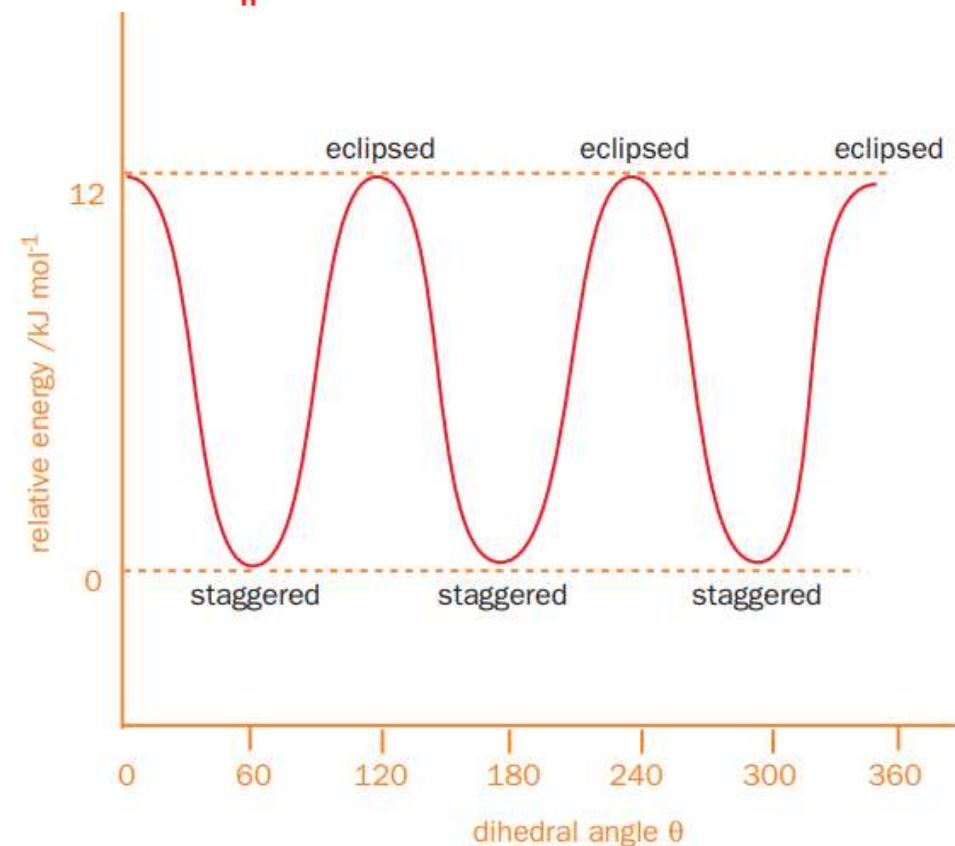
# 4.8 Sigma Bonds and Bond Rotation



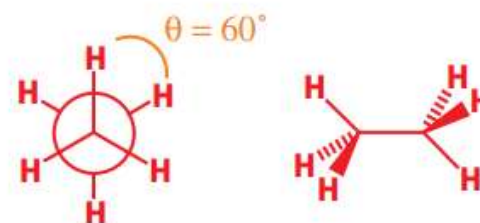
Conformations of A-B-C-D.



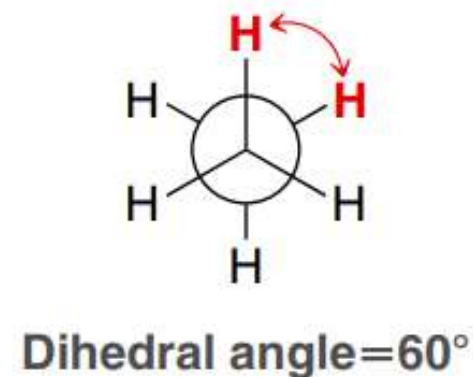
$$180^\circ > \omega > -180^\circ$$



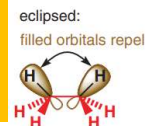
in the eclipsed conformation,  
 $\theta = 0, 120, \text{ or } 240^\circ$



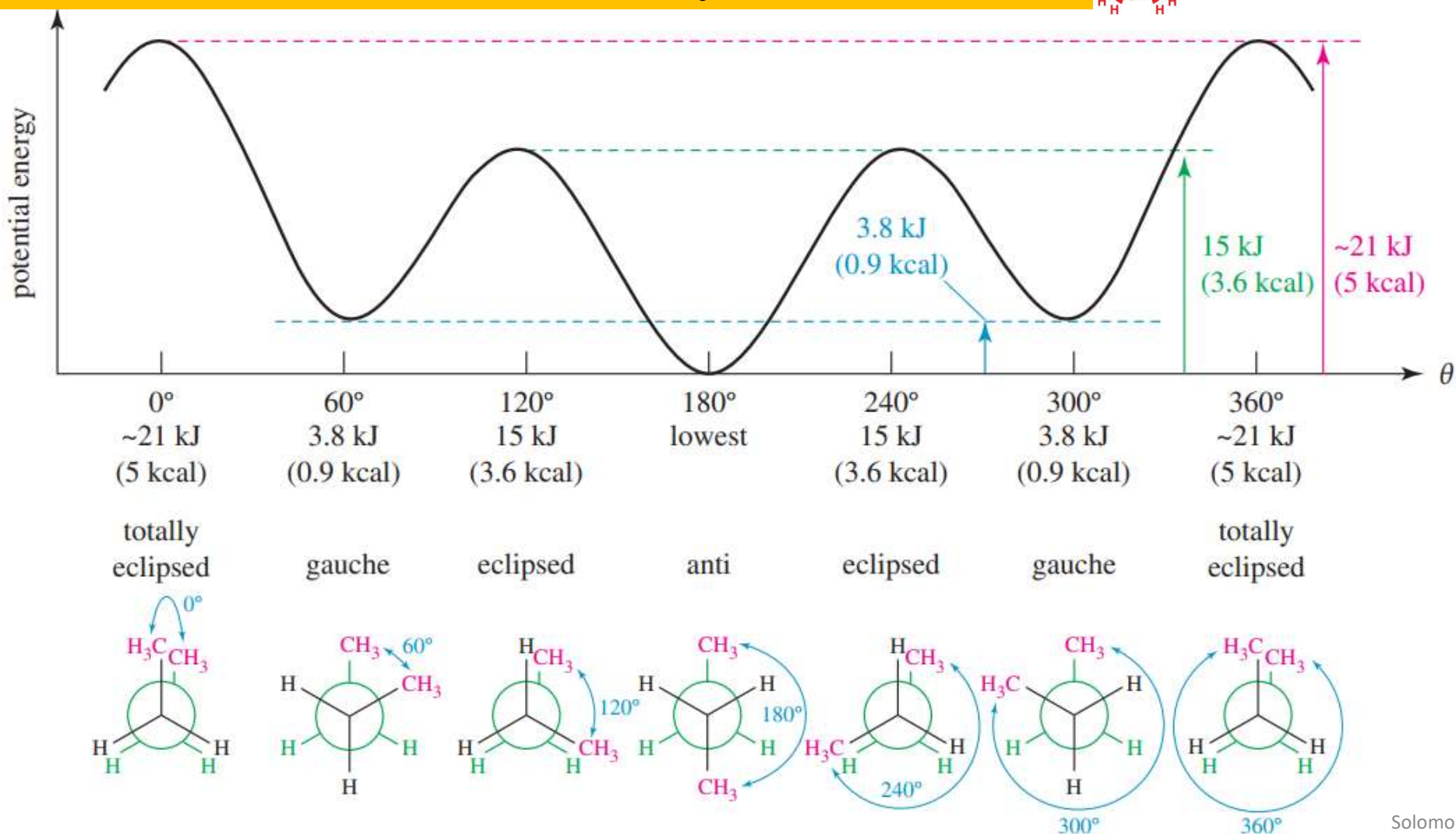
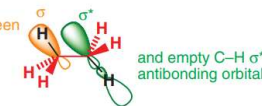
in the staggered conformation,  
 $\theta = 60, 180, \text{ or } 300^\circ$



# 4.9 Conformational Analysis of Butane



staggered:  
stabilizing interaction between  
filled C-H  $\sigma$  bond...



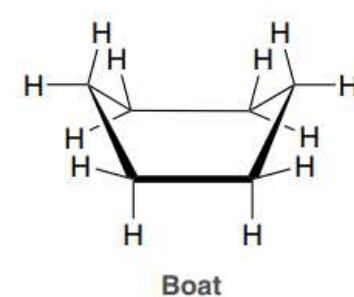
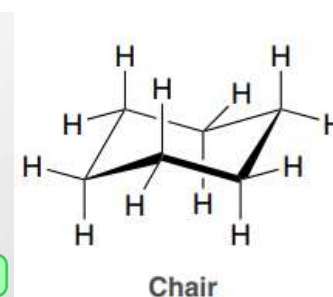
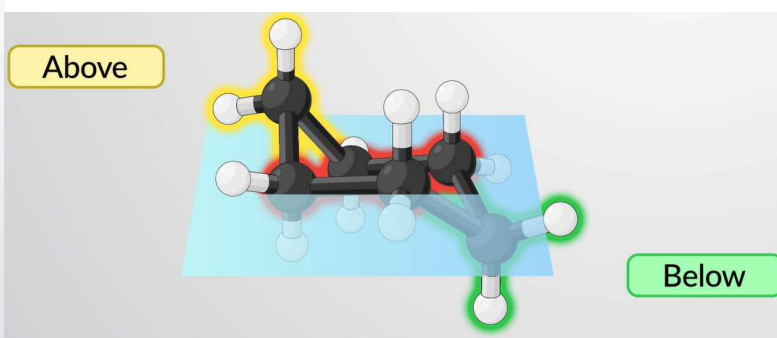
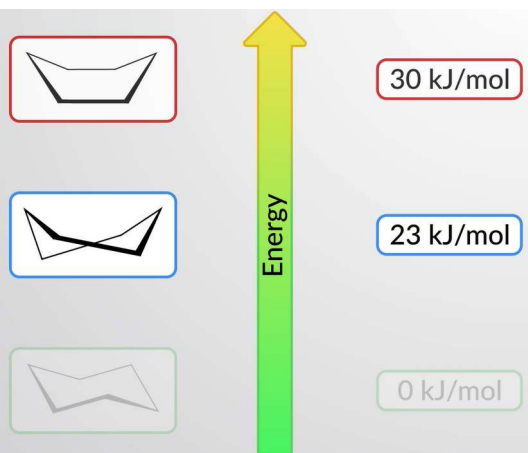
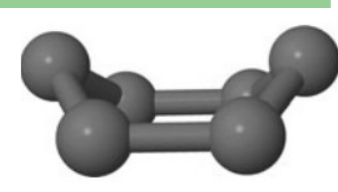
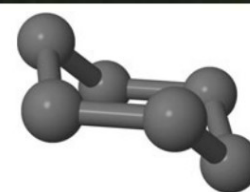
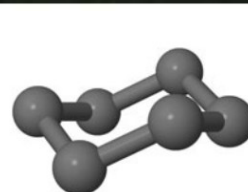
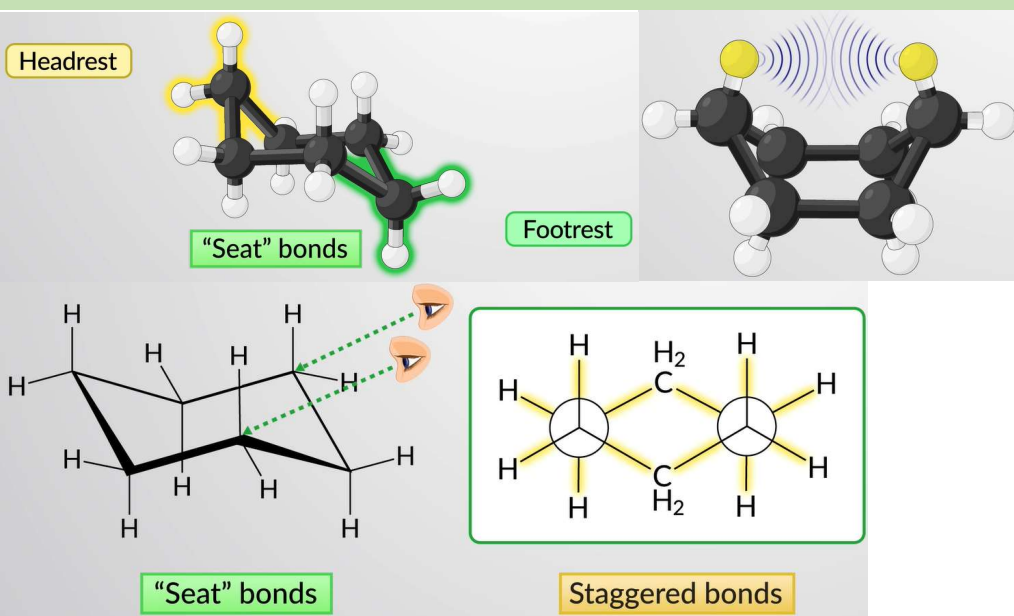
## 4.9A Stereoisomers and Conformational Stereoisomers

- ❖ Gauche conformers **///** and **V** of butane are examples of stereoisomers (check previous slide).
- ❖ Stereoisomers have the same molecular formula and connectivity but different arrangements of atoms in three-dimensional space.
- ❖ Conformational stereoisomers are related to one another by bond rotations.
- ❖ Conformational analysis is but one of the ways in which we will consider the three-dimensional shapes and stereochemistry of molecules.
- ❖ We shall see that there are other types of stereoisomers that cannot be interconverted simply by rotations about single bonds. Among these are cis–trans cycloalkane isomers that we shall consider.

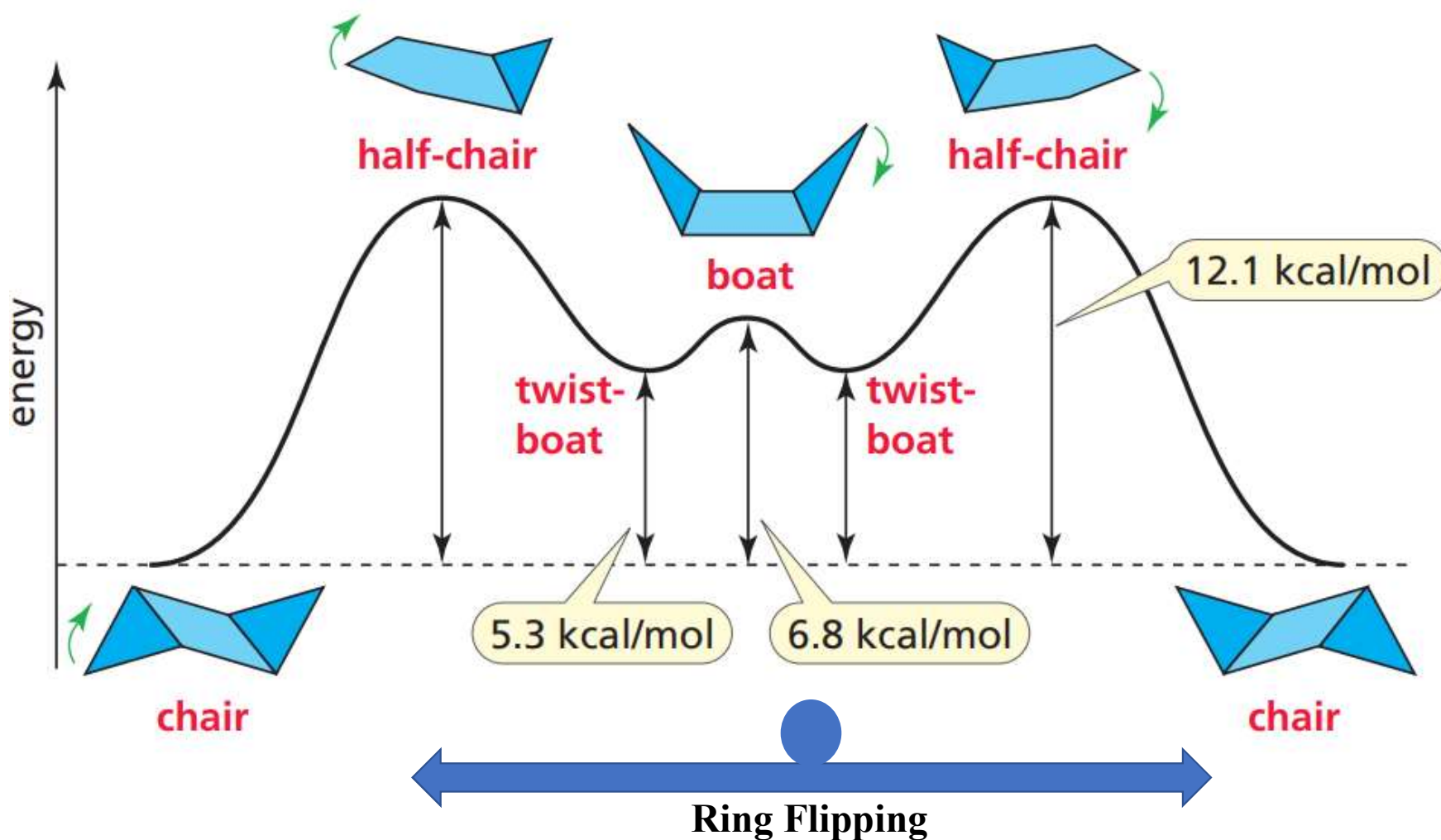
Energy Costs for Interactions in Alkane Conformers			Energy Costs
Interaction	Cause	Energy cost	
		(kJ/mol)	(kcal/mol)
H ↔ H eclipsed	Torsional strain	4.0	1.0
H ↔ CH <sub>3</sub> eclipsed	Mostly torsional strain	6.0	1.4
CH <sub>3</sub> ↔ CH <sub>3</sub> eclipsed	Torsional and steric strain	11.0	2.6
CH <sub>3</sub> ↔ CH <sub>3</sub> gauche	Steric strain	3.8	0.9



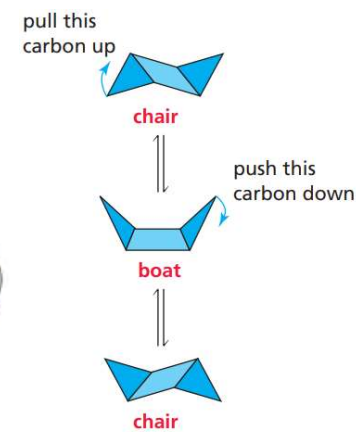
# 4.11 Conformations of Cyclohexane: The Chair, the Boat & Twist-Boat



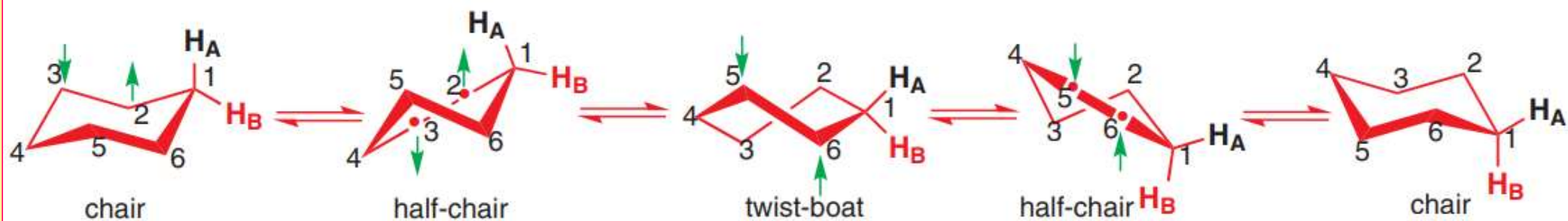
## 4.11 Conformations of Cyclohexane: The Chair and the Boat



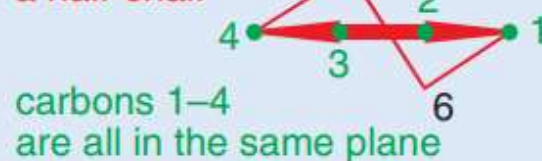
### Ring Flipping



## 4.11 The whole inversion process: Ring Flipping

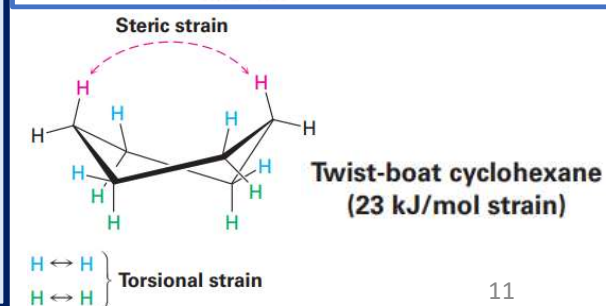
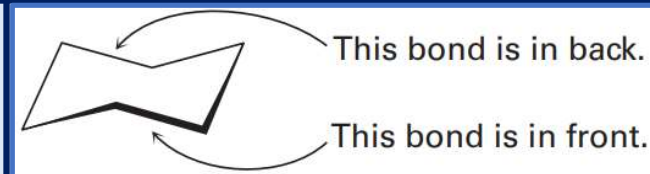
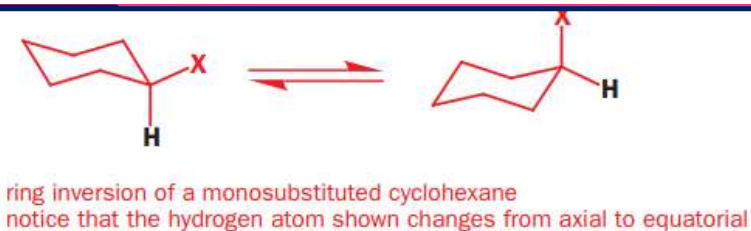


the easiest way to draw a half-chair

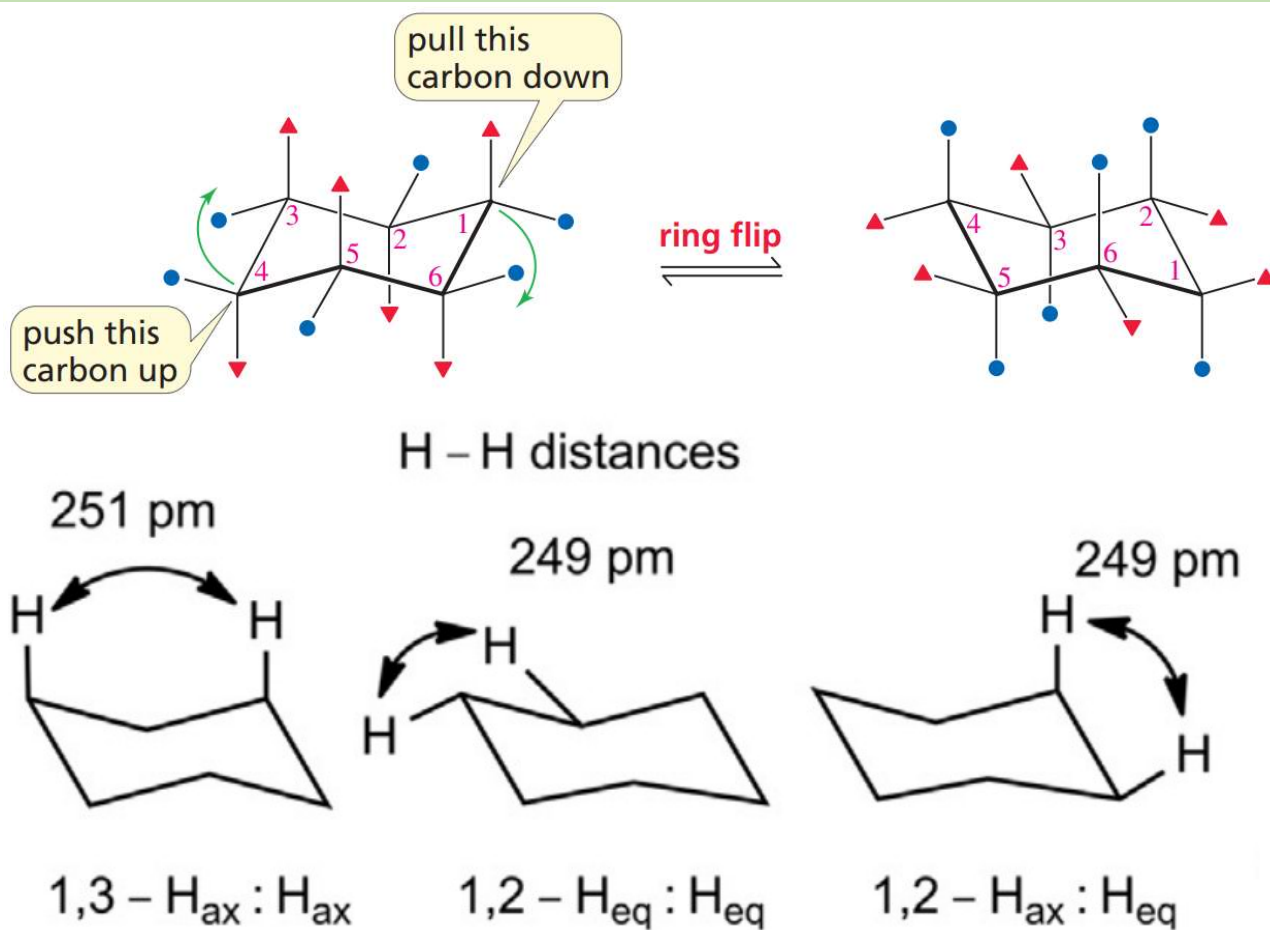
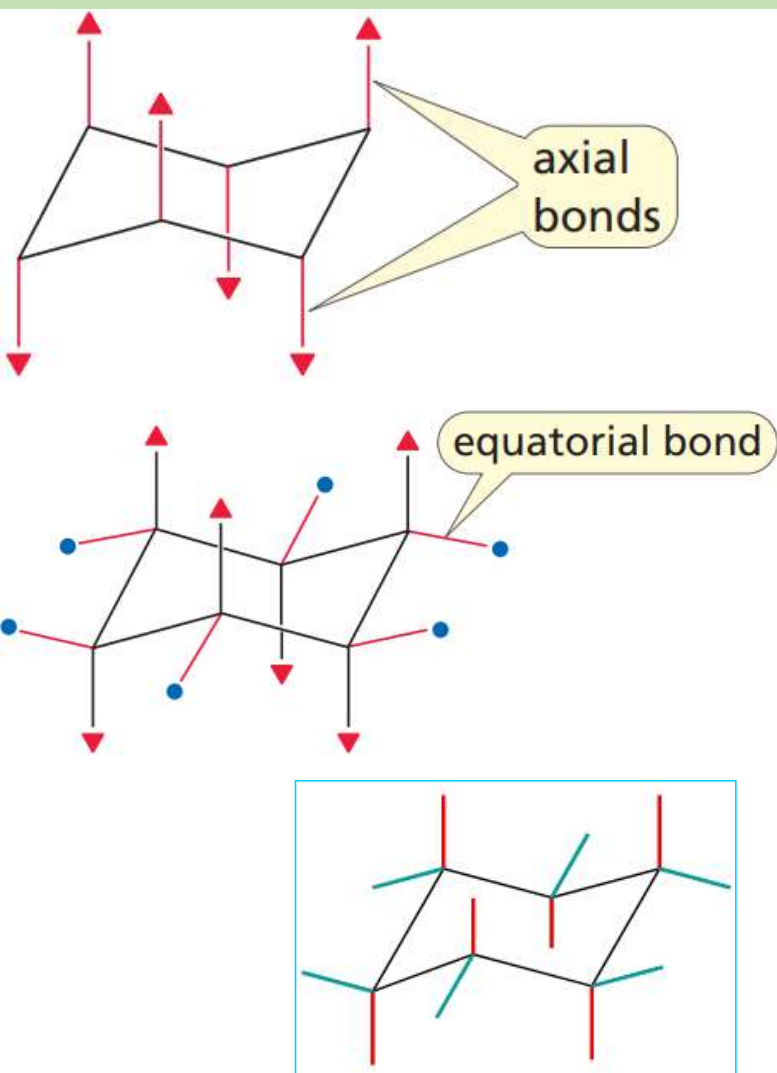


There are also a number of ways of drawing a twist-boat conformer but the easiest is this:

the easiest way to draw the twist-boat conformation

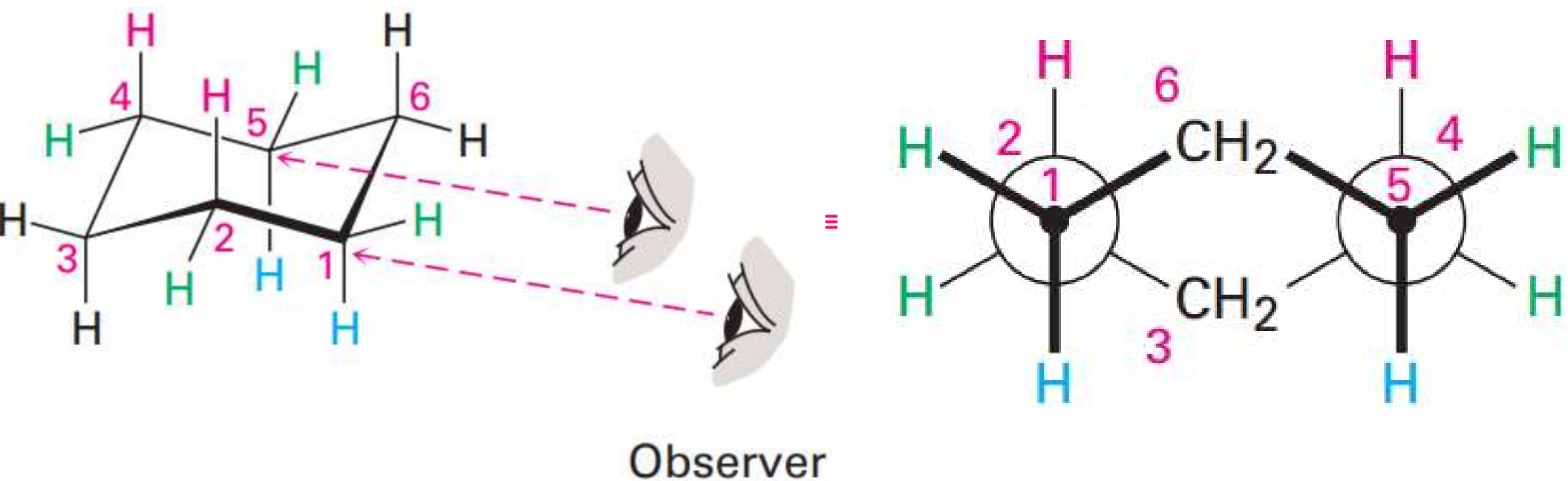


## 4.11 Conformations of Cyclohexane: The Chair





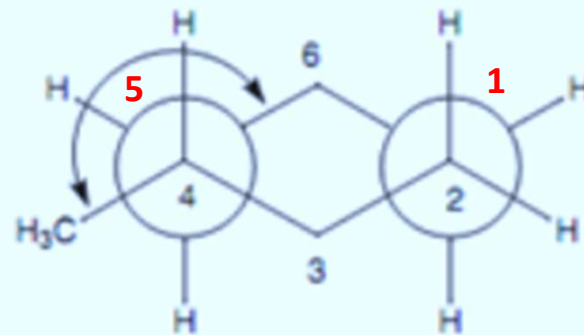
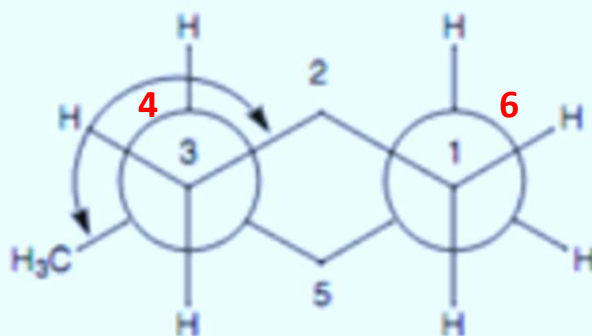
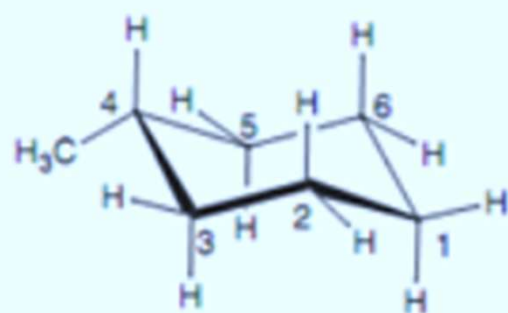
## 4.11 Conformations of Cyclohexane: Chair in (Double) Newman Projection



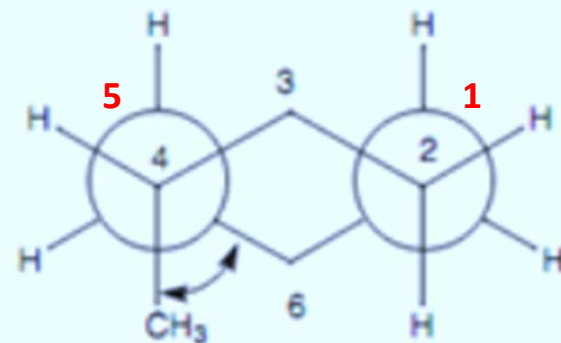
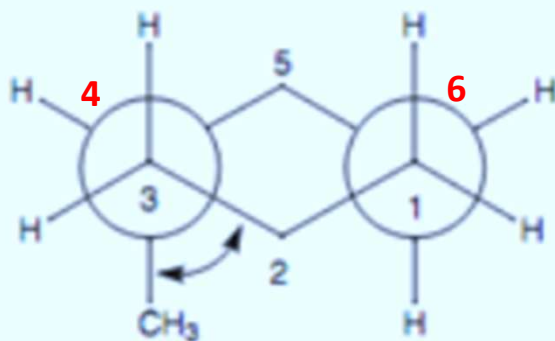
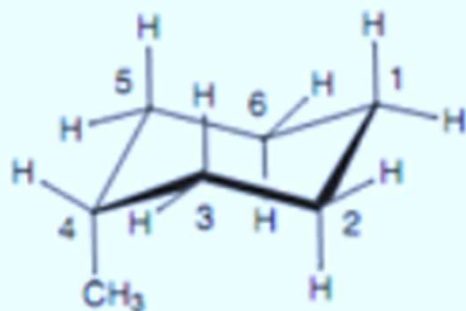


## 4.11 Conformations of Cyclohexane: Chair in Newman Projection

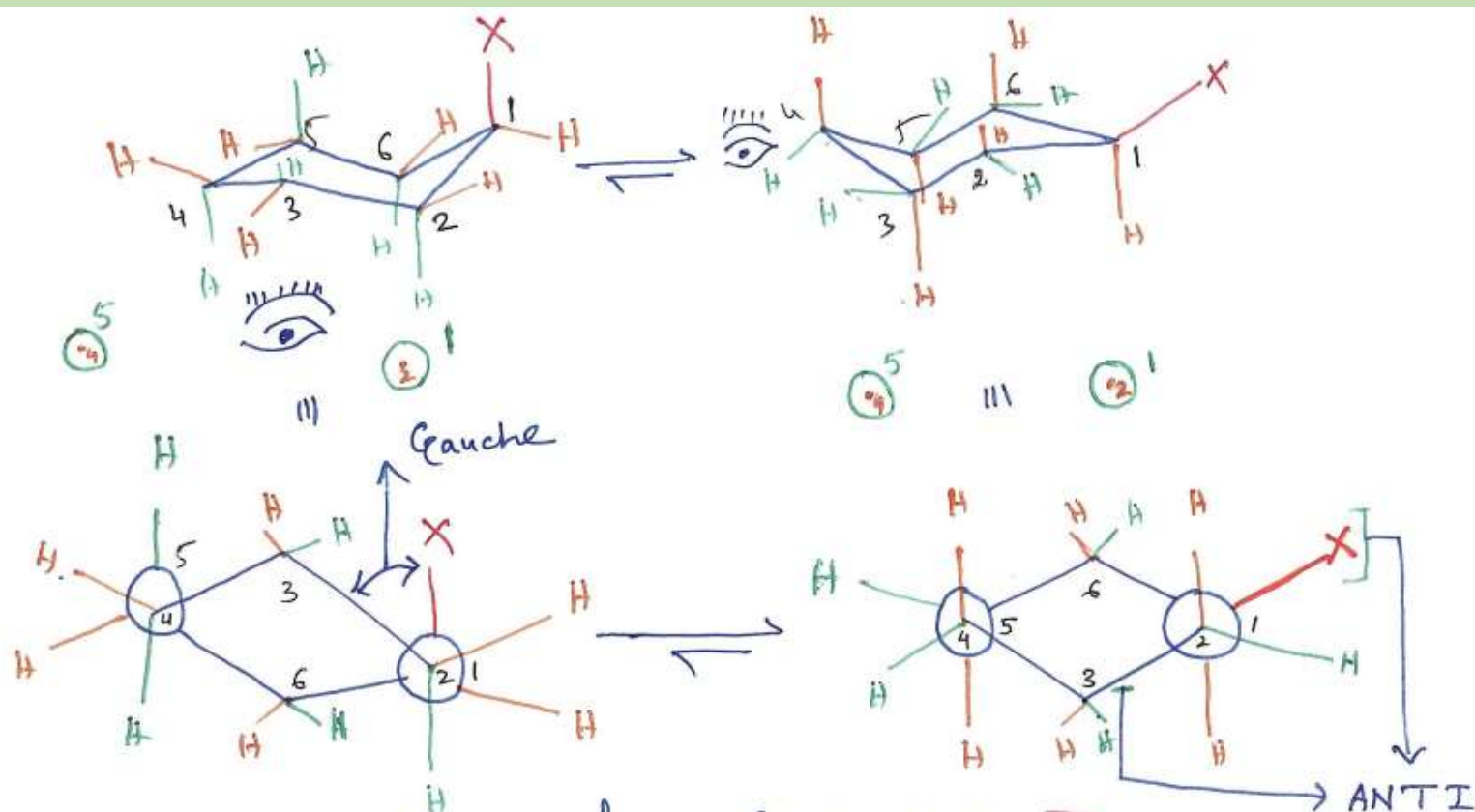
Equatorial methyl



Axial methyl



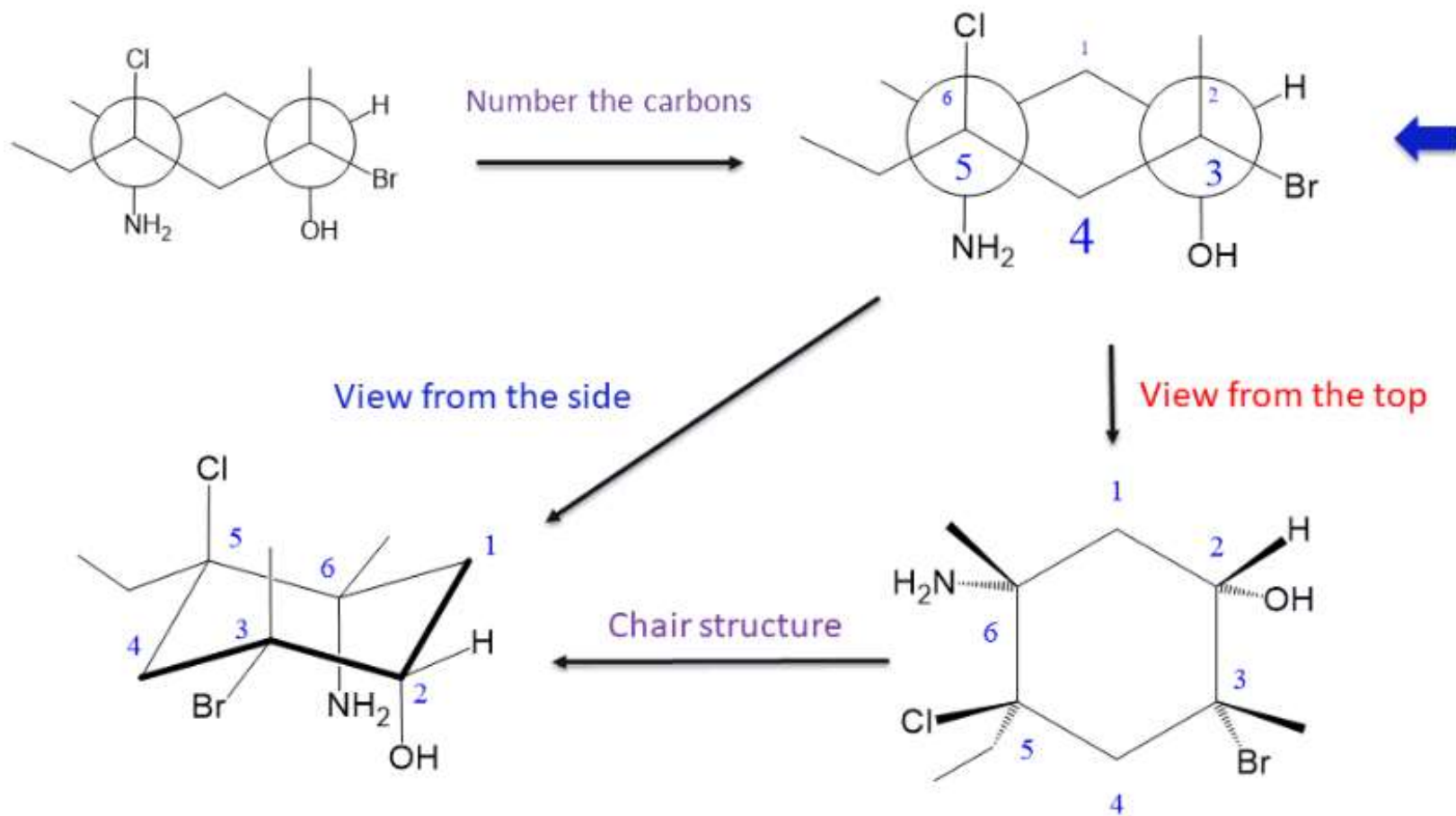
## 4.11 Ring Flipping in Newman Projection



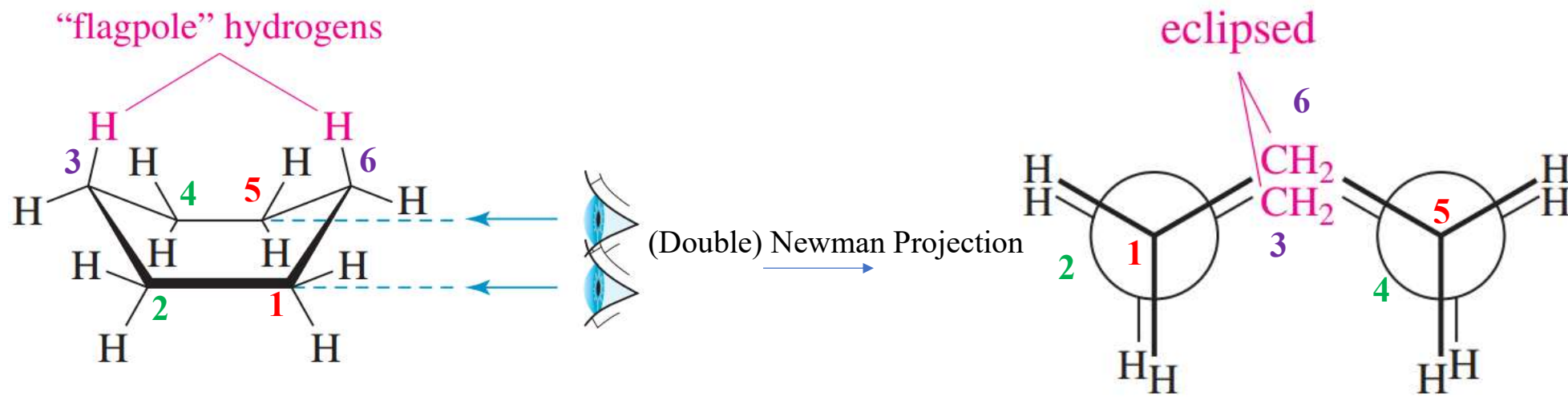
- \* Clockwise  $60^\circ$  rotation of C1 (back carbon)
  - \* Anticlockwise  $60^\circ$  rotation of C2 (front carbon)
  - \* Clockwise  $60^\circ$  rotation of C4 (front carbon)
  - \* Anticlockwise  $60^\circ$  rotation of C5 (back carbon)
- Ring flipping in Newman projection procedure

## 4.11 Chair in Newman Projection to Bond-line Structure

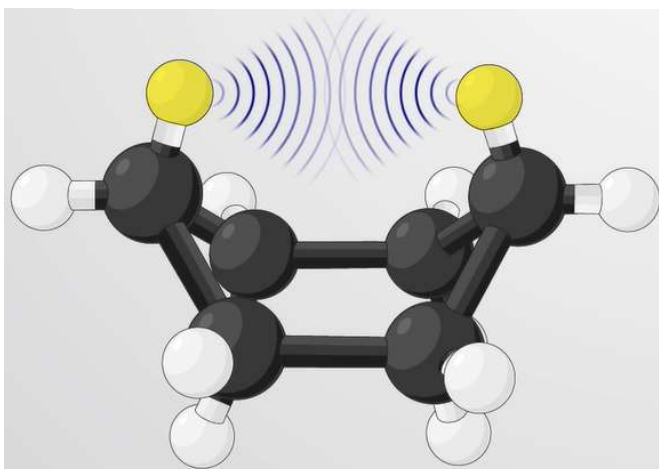
Draw the bond-line structure of the following molecule



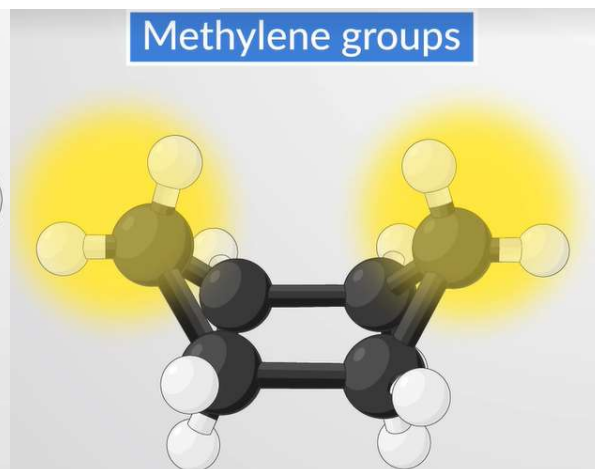
## 4.11 Conformations of Cyclohexane: The Boat in (Double) Newman Projections



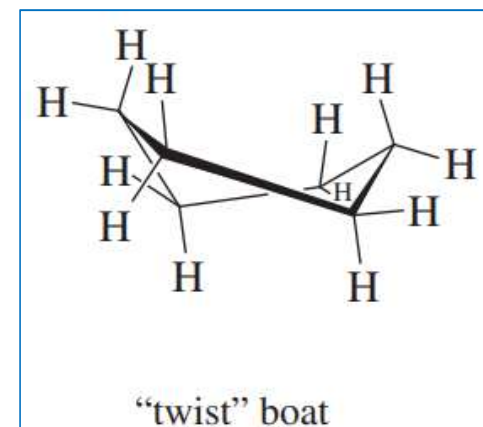
symmetrical boat



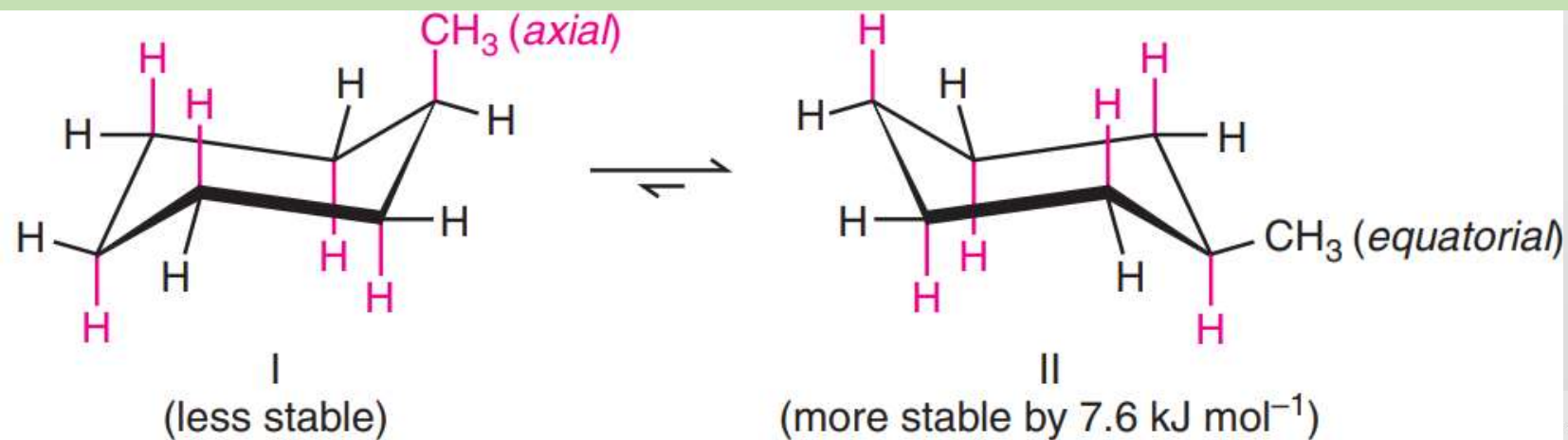
Methylene groups



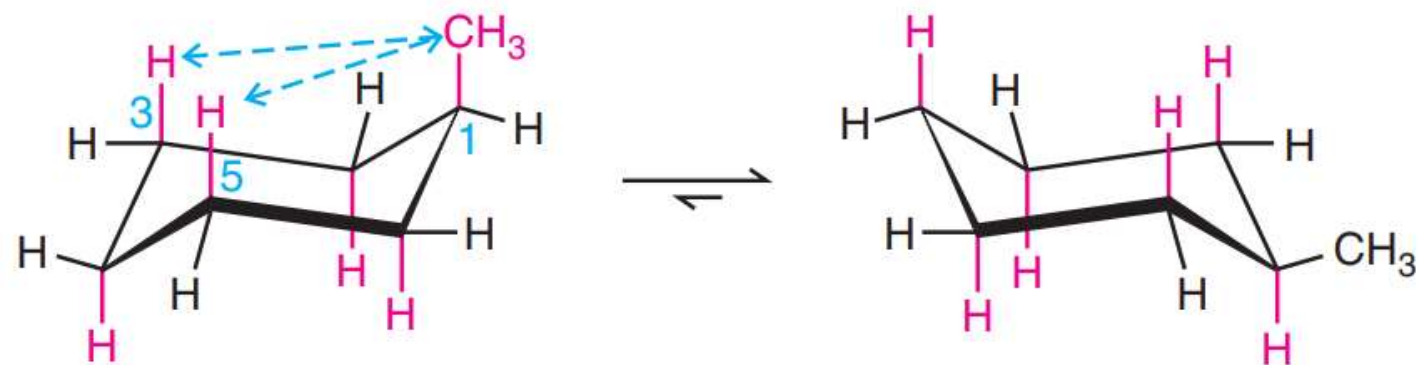
Newman projection



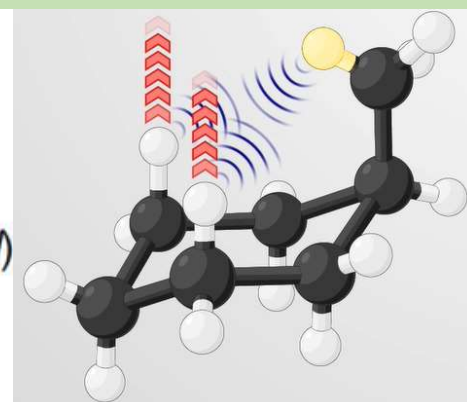
## 4.12 Mono-Substituted Cyclohexanes: A Conformational Analysis of Methylcyclohexane



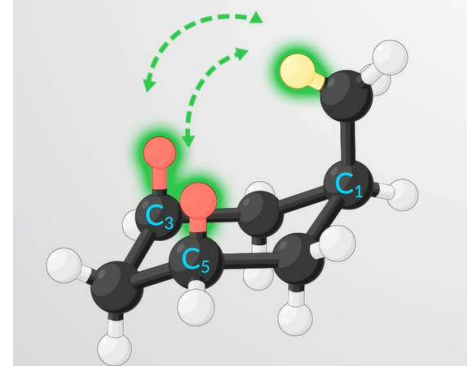
(a)



(b)

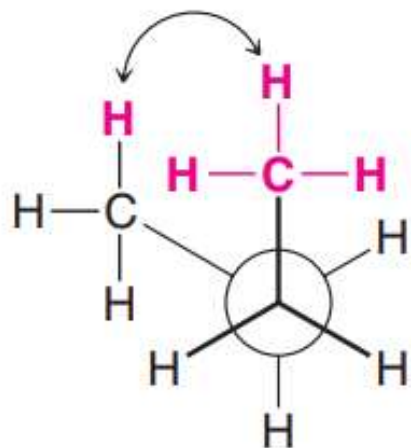


1,3-Diaxial Interaction

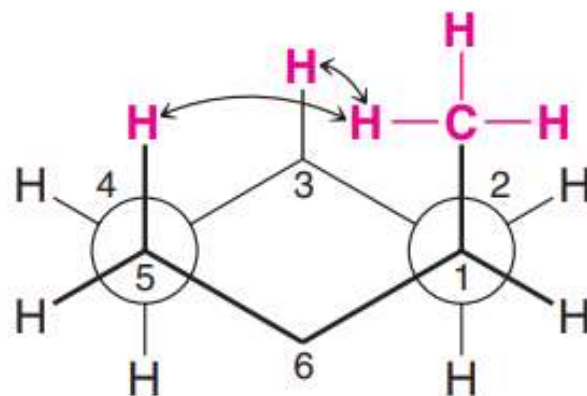




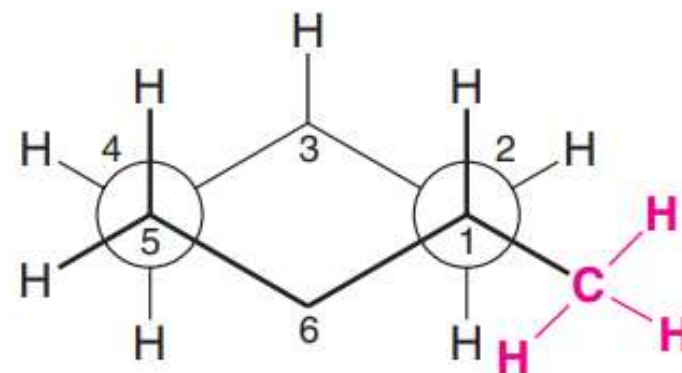
## 4.12 Mono-Substituted Cyclohexanes: A Conformational Analysis of Methylcyclohexane



*gauche*-Butane  
(3.8 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> steric strain)



Axial methylcyclohexane  
(two *gauche* interactions =  
7.6 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> steric strain)



Equatorial methylcyclohexane  
(more stable by 7.6 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>)

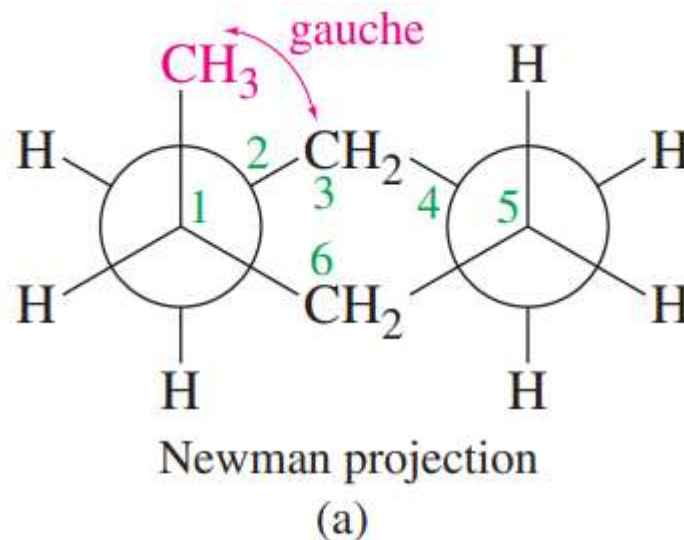
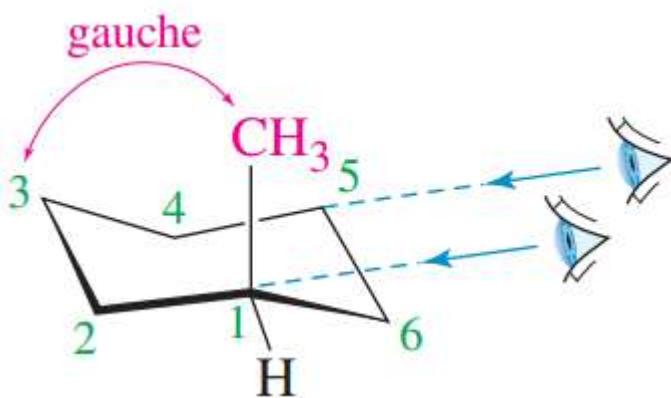
### LEARN THE STRATEGY

$$K_{\text{eq}} = \frac{[\text{equatorial conformer}]}{[\text{axial conformer}]} = \frac{18}{1}$$

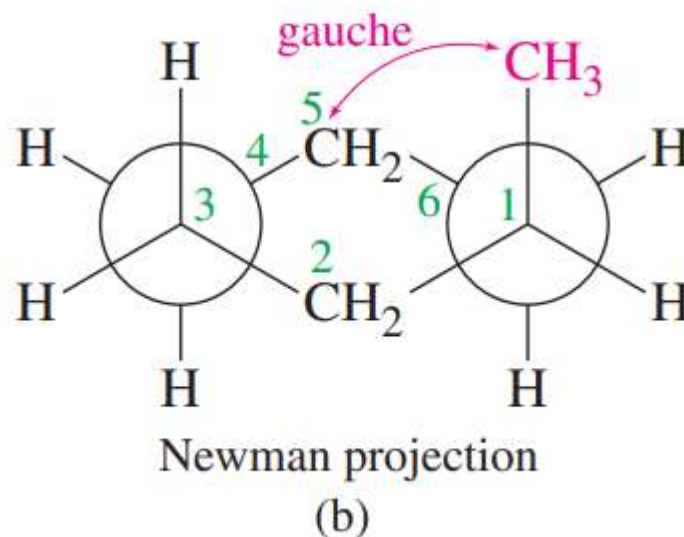
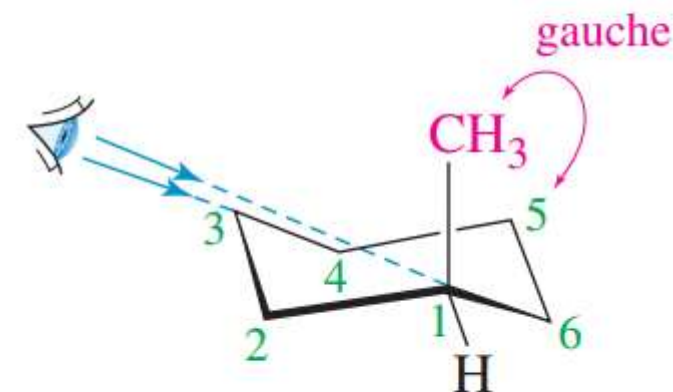
$$\% \text{ of equatorial conformer} = \frac{[\text{equatorial conformer}]}{[\text{equatorial conformer}] + [\text{axial conformer}]} \times 100$$

$$\% \text{ of equatorial conformer} = \frac{18}{18 + 1} \times 100 = 95\%$$

*Two gauche interactions for axial methylcyclohexane is more clearly shown in the next slide*

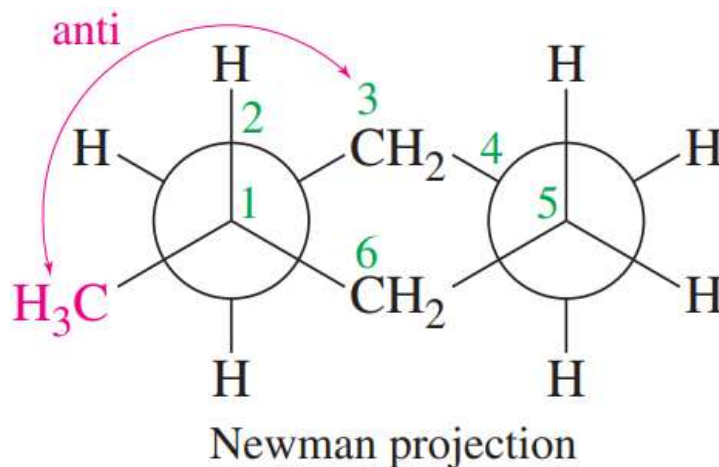
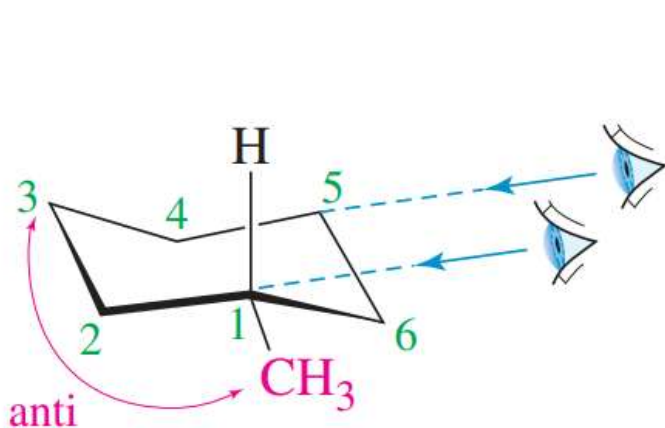


**(a)** When the methyl substituent is in an axial position on C1, it is gauche to C3.



**(b)** The axial methyl group on C1 is also gauche to C5 of the ring.

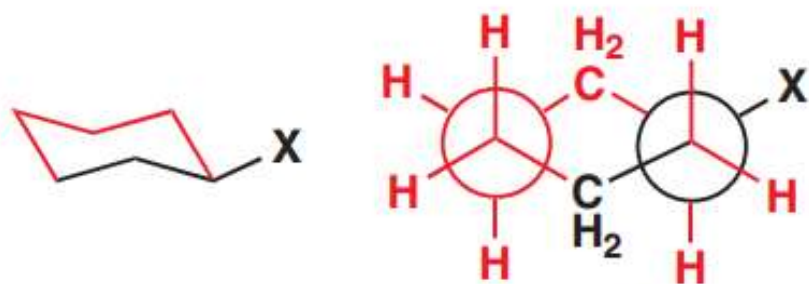
*Anti methyl to C3 for equatorial methylcyclohexane is more clearly shown in the next slide*



Looking down the C1-C2 bond of the equatorial conformation. Notice that the methyl group is anti to C3.

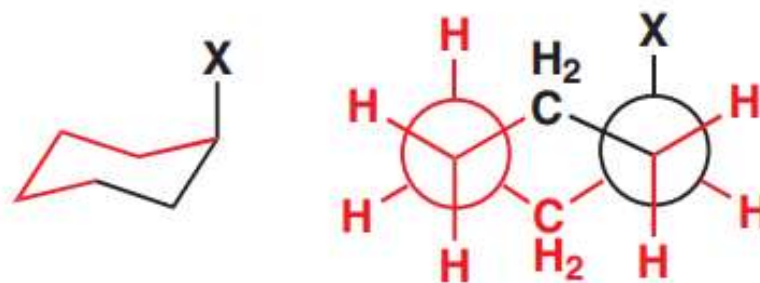
## Summary

equatorially substituted cyclohexane:



the black bonds are anti-periplanar (only one pair shown for clarity)

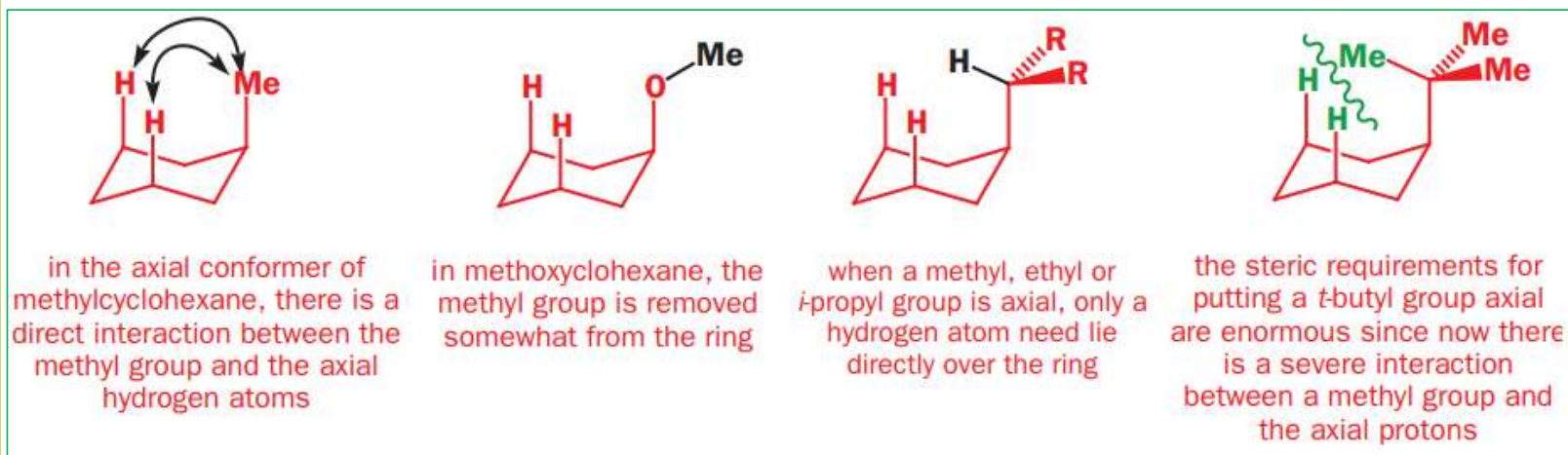
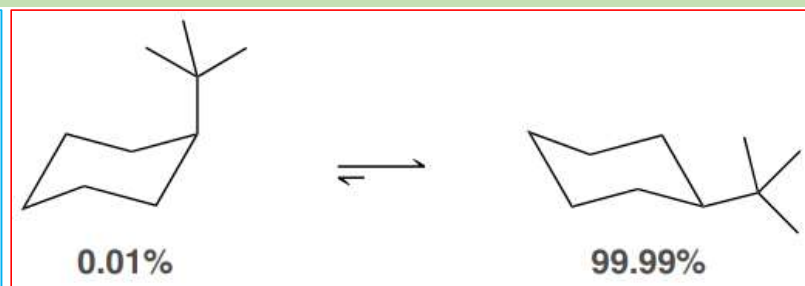
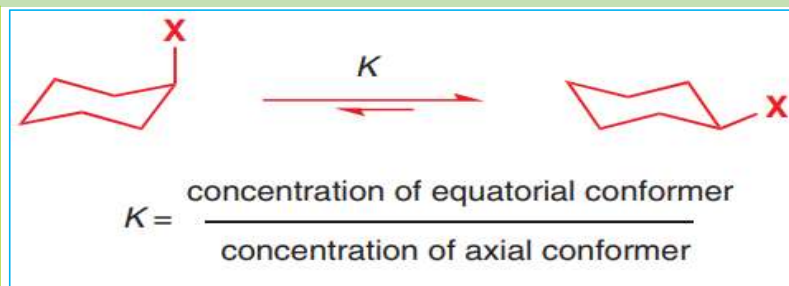
axially substituted cyclohexane:



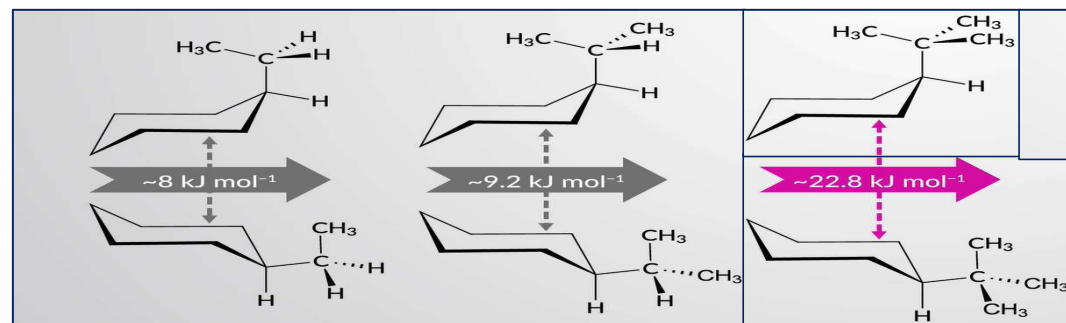
the black bonds are synclinal (gauche) (only one pair shown for clarity)

## 4.12 Equilibrium Constants for Several Monosubstituted Cyclohexanes at 25 °C

Substituent	$K_{eq} = \frac{[\text{equatorial}]}{[\text{axial}]}$
H	1
CH <sub>3</sub>	18
CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	21
$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\   \\ \text{CH}_3\text{CH} \\   \\ \text{CH}_3 \end{array}$	35
$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\   \\ \text{CH}_3\text{C} \\   \\ \text{CH}_3 \end{array}$	4800
CN	1.4
F	1.5
Cl	2.4
Br	2.2
I	2.2
HO	5.4

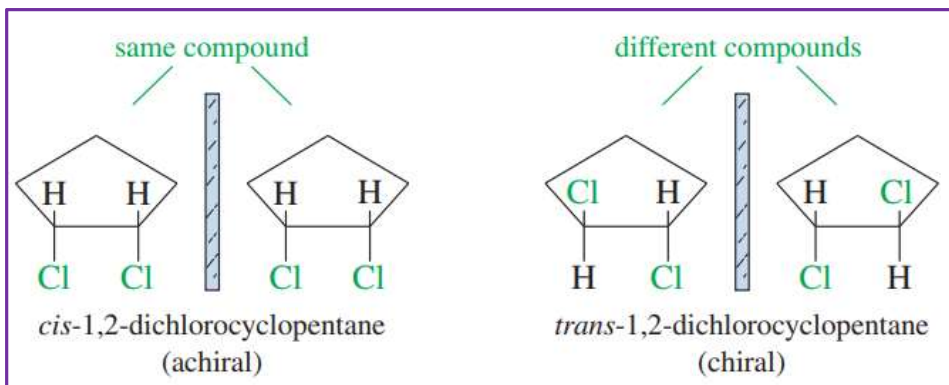
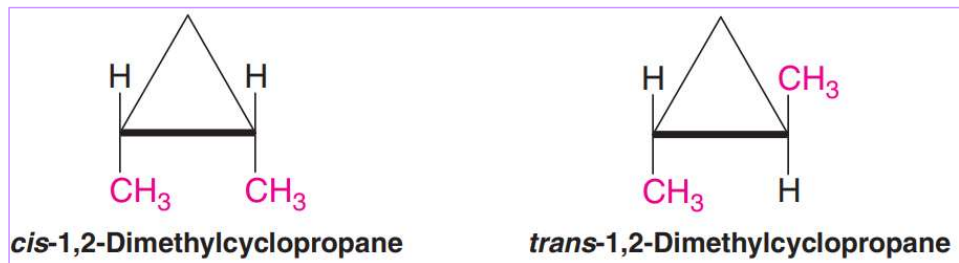


X	Equilibrium constant, $K$
OMe	2.7
Ph	110



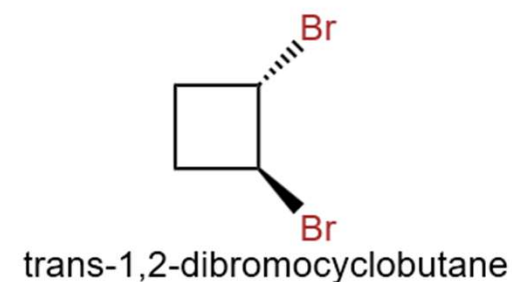
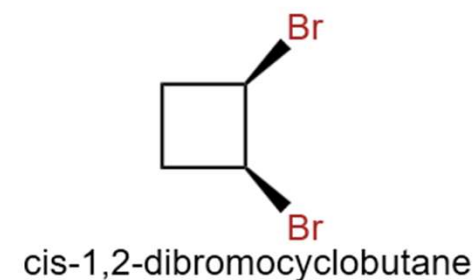
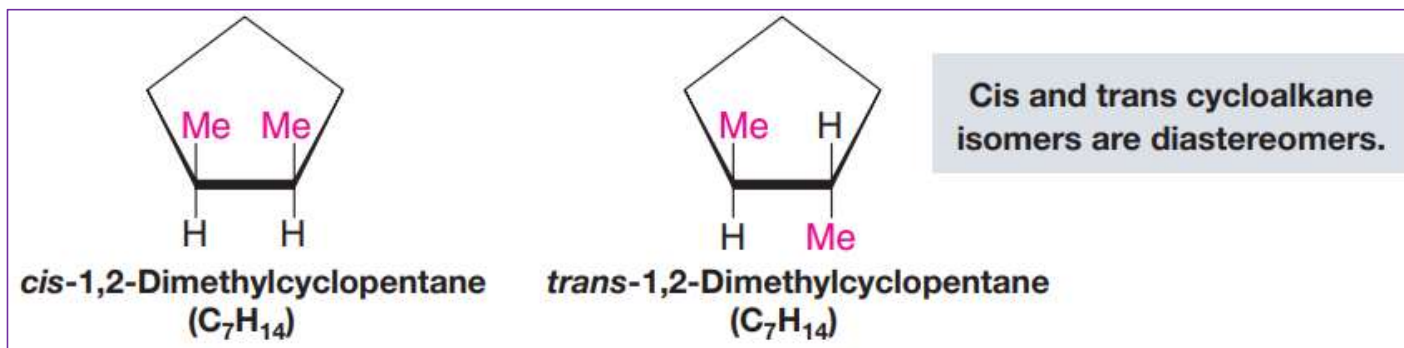


## 4.13 Disubstituted Cycloalkanes: *Cis–Trans* Isomerism



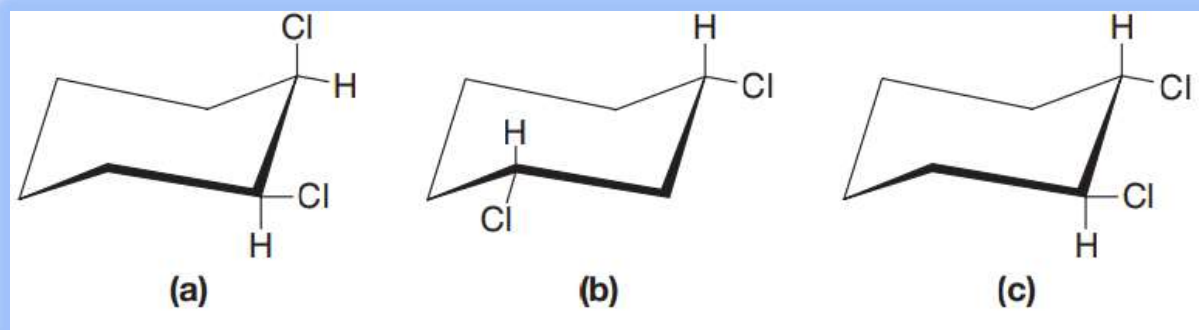
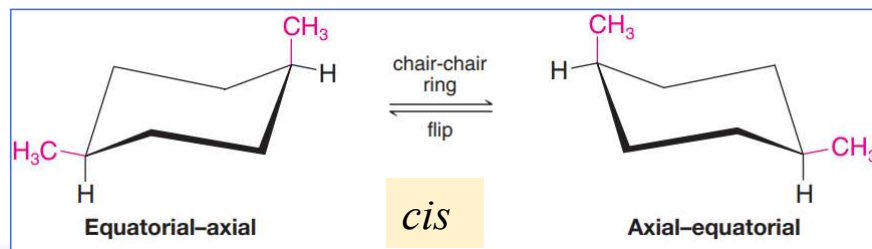
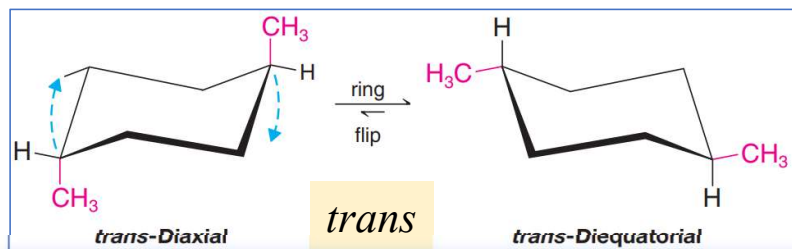
Chemists class rings as small, normal, medium, or large depending on their size.

small,  $n = 3$  or  $4$   
 normal,  $n = 5, 6$ , or  $7$   
 medium,  $n = 8$  to about  $14$   
 large,  $n >$  about  $14$

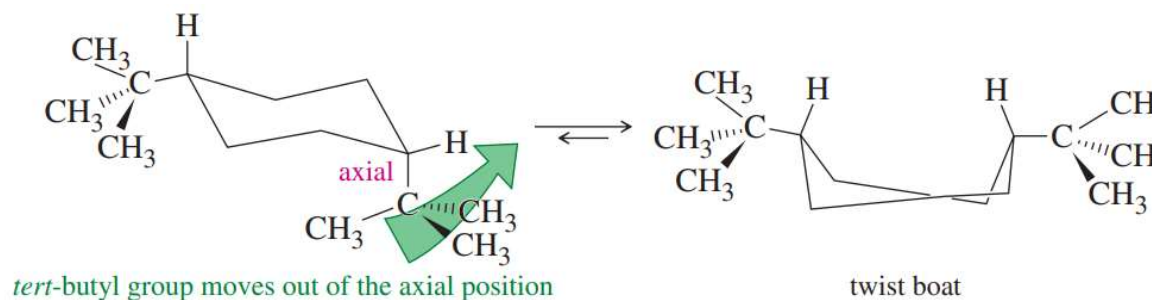
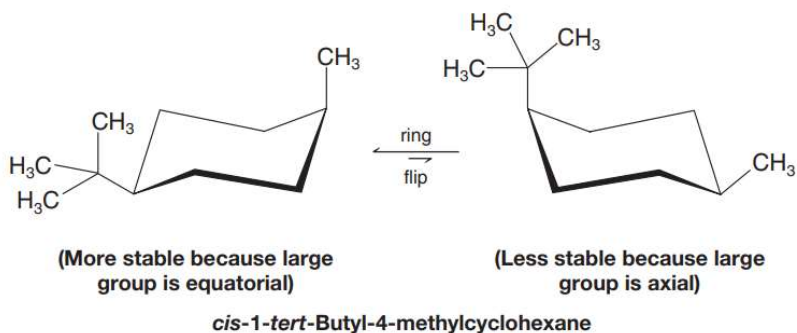




## 4.13 Disubstituted Cyclohexane: 1,4-Disubstituted Cyclohexanes

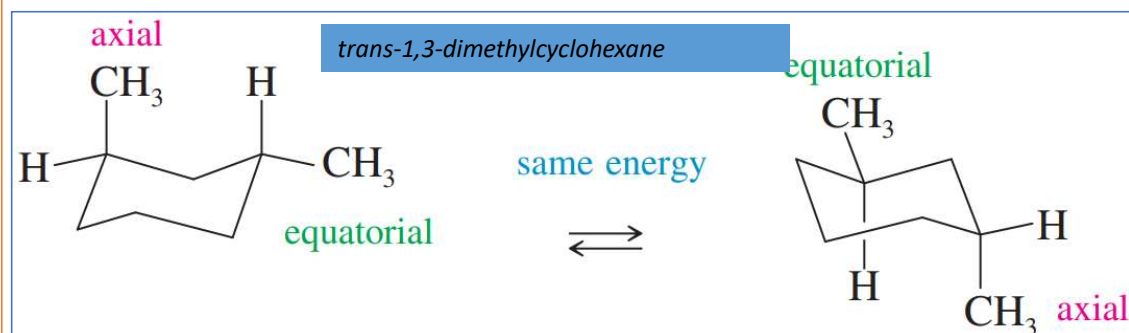
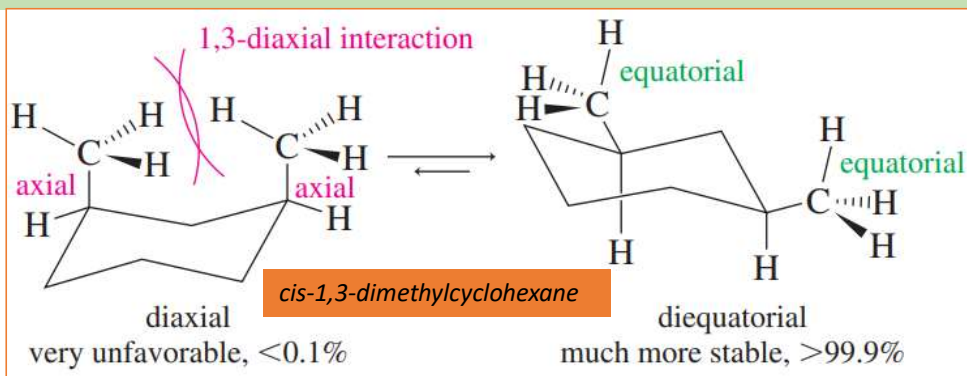


Consider each of the following conformational structures and tell whether each is cis or trans?

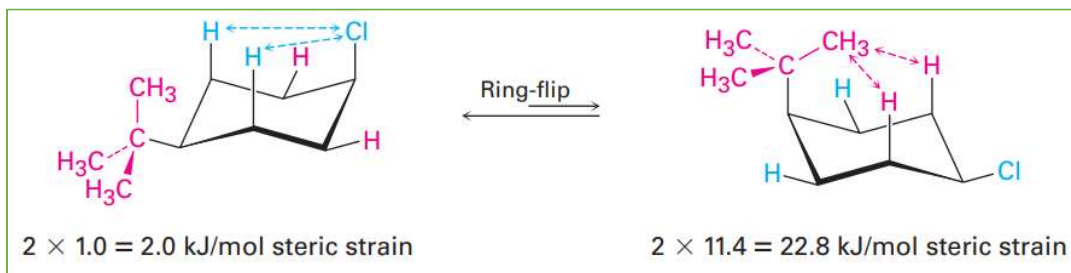
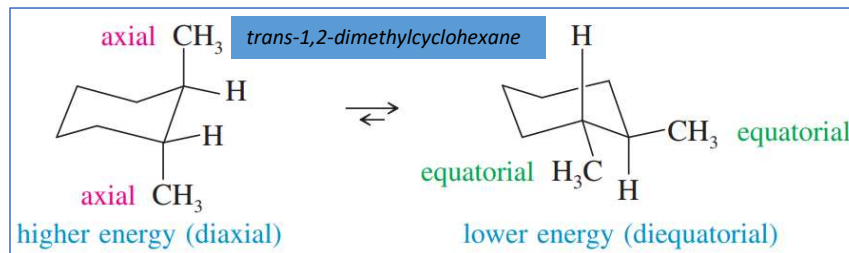
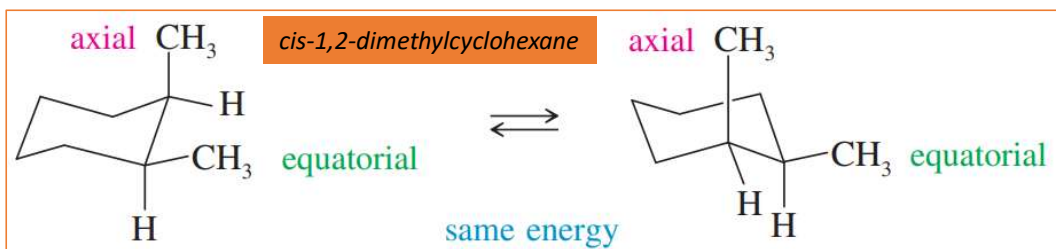


*Cis*-1,4 ditert-Butyl cyclohexane

## 4.13 Disubstituted Cyclohexane: 1,3-Disubstituted Cyclohexanes

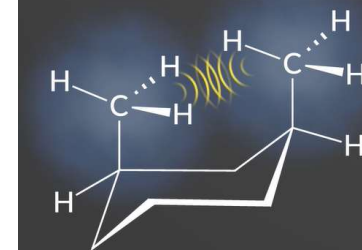


## 4.13 Disubstituted Cyclohexane: 1,2-Disubstituted Cyclohexanes

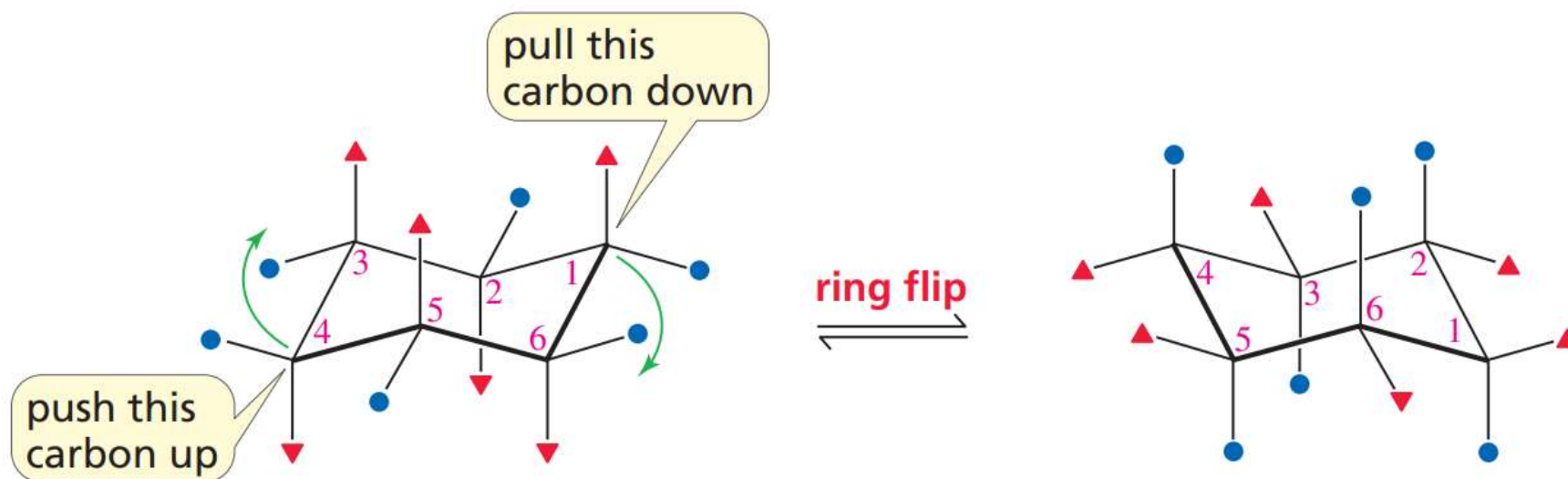


*cis-1-chloro, 4-tert-Butylcyclohexane*

*1,3 diaxial interaction*



## @ Ring Flipping and its consequences



@ Ring flipping does not disturb the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  orientations

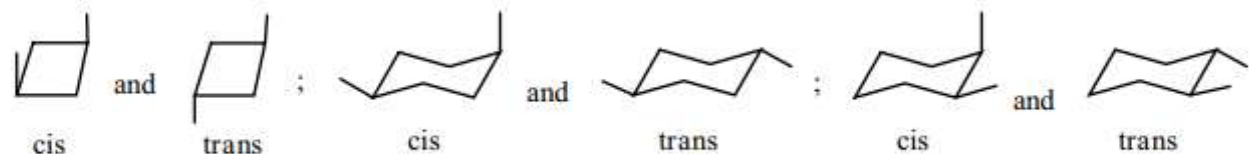
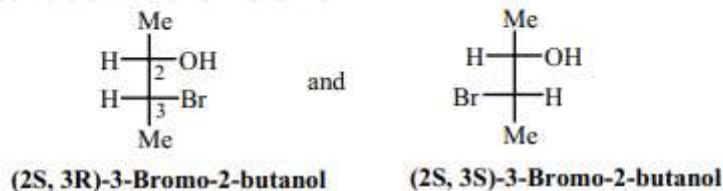
@ Ring flipping does not change the configurational nomenclature ( $R$ ,  $S$ )

@ Ring flipping only results interchange of equatorial and axial bonds

# @ Conformational and Configurational Isomers

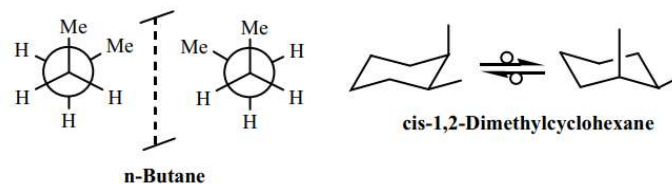
## Configurational Diastereomers (e): Examples

(Anisometric) Relative positions of all atoms – not same

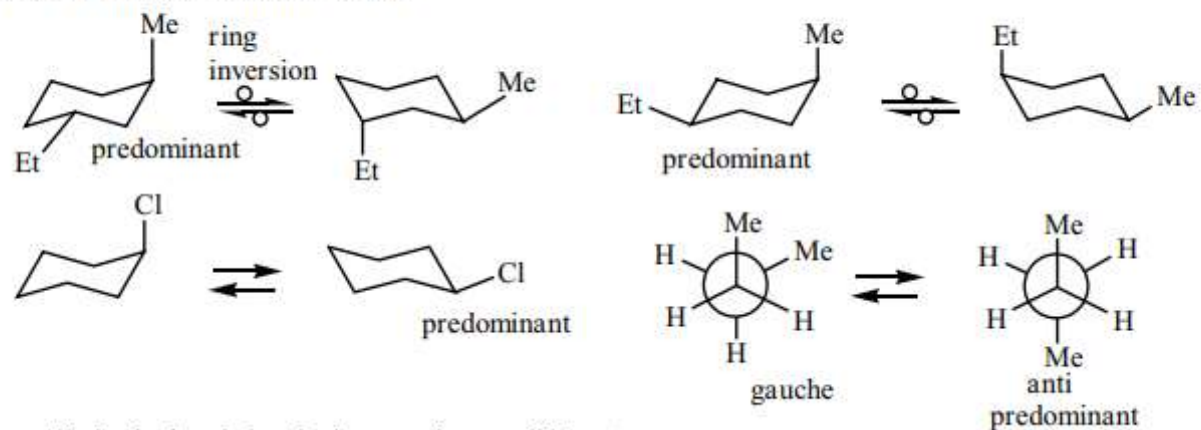


All physical and chemical properties are different

## Conformational Enantiomers (d)

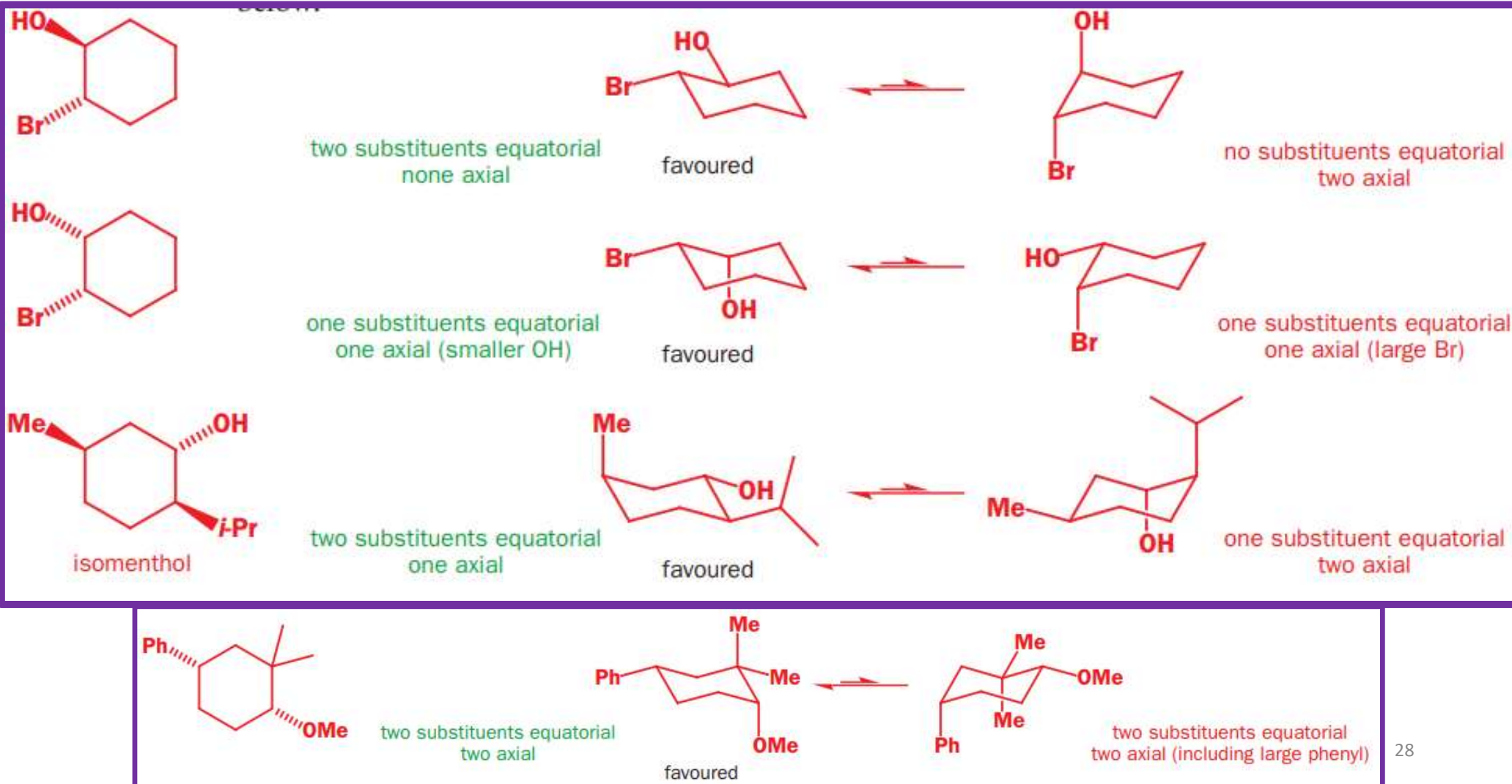


## (f) Conformational Diastereomers



All physical and chemical properties are different

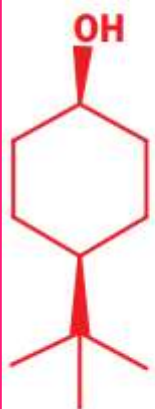
# Conformers Drawing in chair: Favored Conformer





# Conformers Drawing in chair: Favored Conformer

*cis*-4-*t*-butylcyclohexanol



in the *cis* diastereoisomer, the hydroxyl group is forced into an axial position

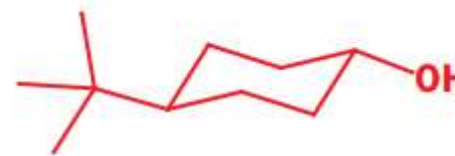


in both compounds, the *t*-butyl group is equatorial

*trans*-4-*t*-butylcyclohexanol



in the *trans* diastereoisomer, the hydroxyl group is forced into an equatorial position



in both compounds, the *t*-butyl group is equatorial

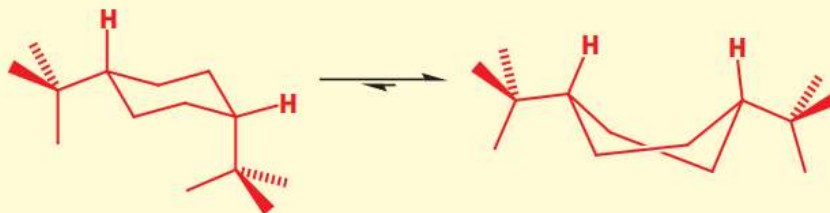
## *Cis*-1,4-di-*t*-butylcyclohexane

An axial *t*-butyl group really is very unfavourable. In *cis*-1,4-di-*t*-butylcyclohexane, one *t*-butyl group would be forced axial if the compound existed in a chair conformation. To

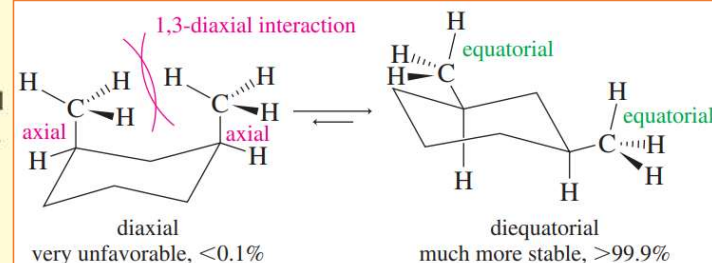
avoid this, the compound prefers to pucker into a twist boat so that the two large groups can both be in equatorial positions (or 'pseudoequatorial', since this is not a chair).



*cis*-1,4-di-*t*-butylcyclohexane



the twist-boat conformer (with both *t*-butyl groups in pseudoequatorial positions) is lower in energy than the chair conformer.



## *cis*-1,3-dimethylcyclohexane