

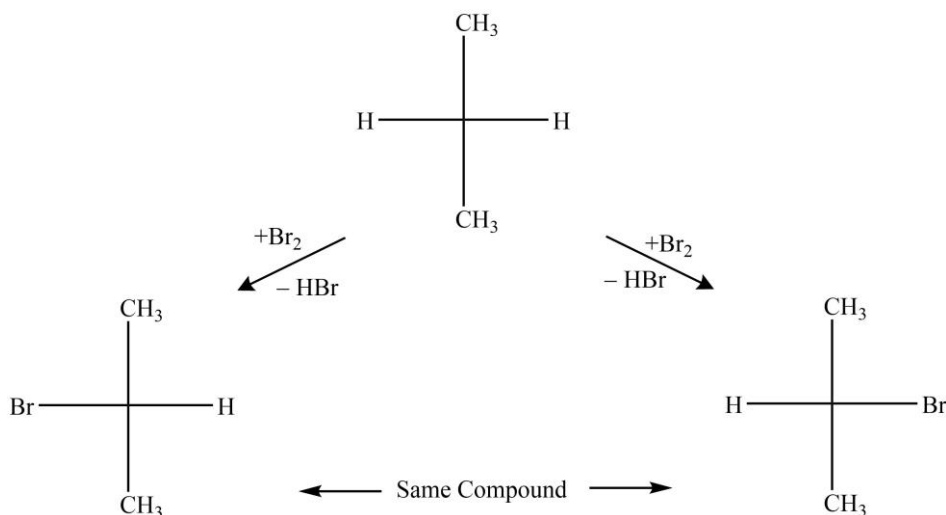
❖ Enantiotopic and Diastereotopic Atoms, Groups and Faces

The topicity in stereochemistry may simply be defined as the stereochemical relationship between substituents and the structure with which they are bonded. Based on such relationships, groups can be classified as homotopic, enantiotopic, or diastereotopic. A general discussion on these three types is given below.

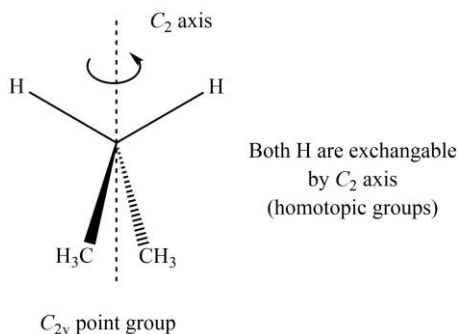
➤ Homotopic Groups and Faces

Homotopic groups and faces in an organic molecule can be found either based on chemical replacement or by using the symmetry criteria.

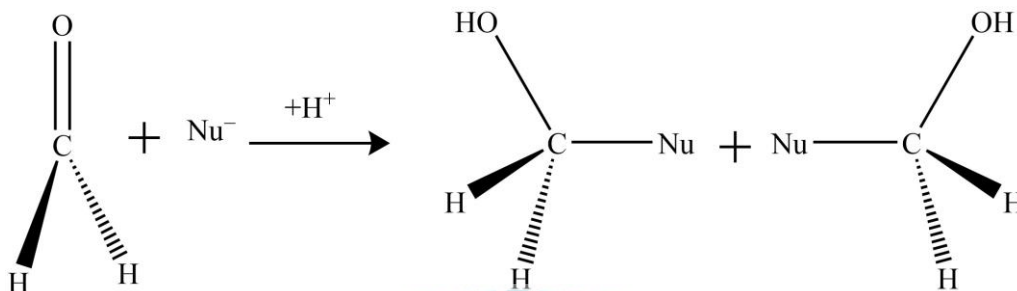
1. Homotopic groups: Homotopic groups in an organic molecule are equivalent groups. Two groups A and B are said to be homotopic if the resulting molecule remains the same (counting stereochemical notation also) when the groups are replaced with some other atom or group (such as bromine) whilst the remaining portion of the molecule is kept intact. Homotopic atoms or groups are always identical whether the environment is chiral or not. Also, NMR-active homotopic groups have the same chemical shift in NMR spectra. For instance, the four H of CH_4 methane are homotopic, like two H or the two Cl groups in CH_2Cl_2 .



On the basis of molecular symmetry, two groups are said to be homotopic in nature if they are exchangeable by a primary symmetry element i.e. proper axis of rotation (C_n).

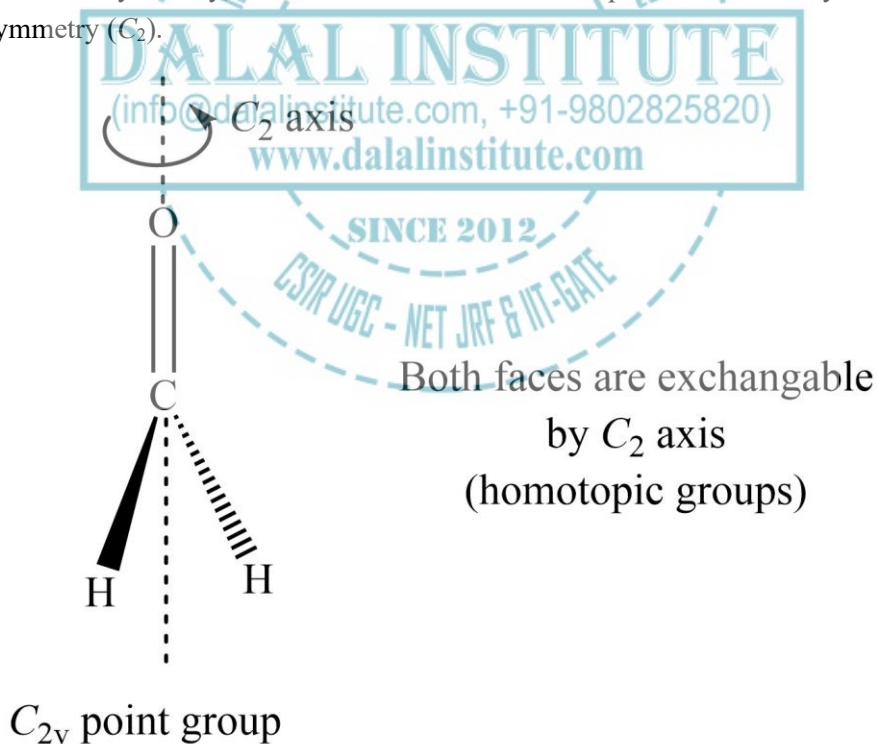


2. Homotopic faces: Homotopic faces in an organic molecule are equivalent faces, i.e., two faces A and B are homotopic if the molecule remains the same (including stereochemically) when the faces are attacked with some reagent (such as Cl^-) while the remaining parts of the molecule stay fixed. Homotopic faces are always identical, in any environment. For instance, two faces of methyl carbocation are homotopic, as the attack on two faces by an incoming nucleophile generates the same products.



Same compound

On the basis of molecular symmetry, two faces are said to be homotopic in nature if they are exchangeable by a two-fold axis symmetry (C_2).



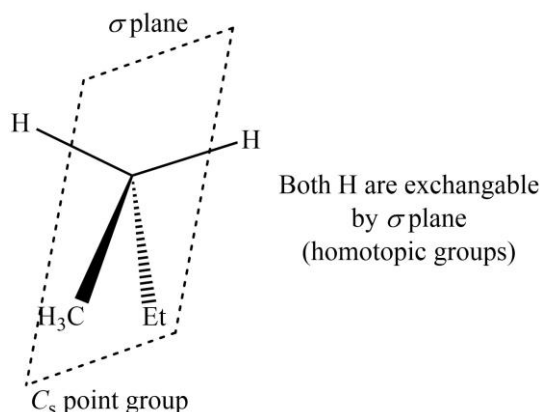
➤ **Enantiotopic Groups and Faces**

Homotopic groups and faces in an organic molecule can be found either on the basis of chemical replacement or by using the symmetry criteria.

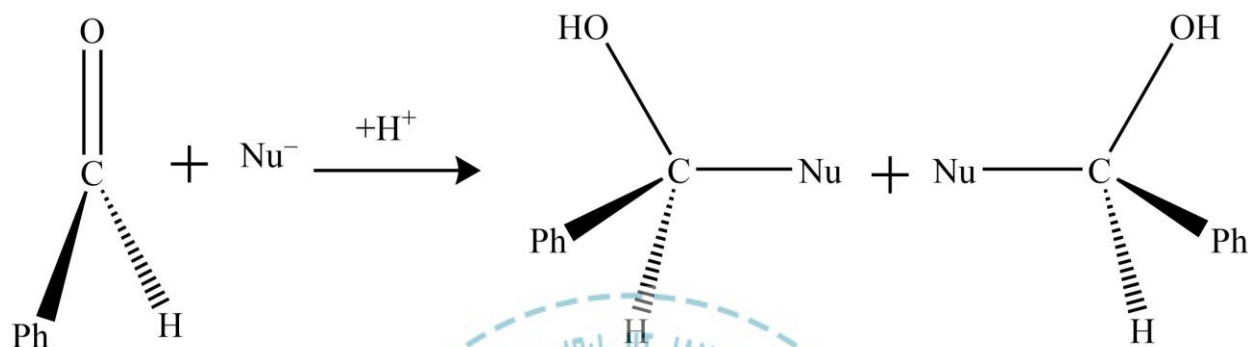
1. Enantiotopic groups: Enantiotopic groups in a chemical compound are non-equivalent groups. Two groups A and B are enantiotopic if the enantiomers are obtained when the groups are interchanged with some other atom (such as bromine) while the remaining parts of the molecule stay fixed. Enantiotopic atoms are always identical in any achiral media while different in chiral media. Enantiotopic NMR-active nuclei have the same chemical shift in an NMR spectrum in achiral media and different chemical shifts in chiral media. For example, the two hydrogen atoms in CH_2ClBr are enantiotopic with one another, as the replacement by a third group gives rise to the enantiomeric pair.



On the basis of molecular symmetry, two groups are said to be enantiotopic in nature if they are exchangeable by a secondary symmetry element i.e. plane of symmetry (σ), the center of symmetry (i), or alternating axis of symmetry (S_n).

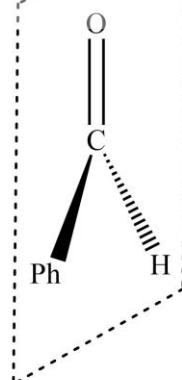


2. Enantiotopic faces: Enantiotopic faces in a chemical compound are non-equivalent faces, i.e., two faces A and B are enantiotopic if the molecule gives rise to enantiomeric pair when the faces are attacked with some reagent (such as Cl^-) while the remaining parts of the molecule stay fixed. Enantiotopic faces are always identical in the achiral environment and different in chiral media. For instance, two faces of primary carbocation are homotopic, as the attack on two faces by an incoming nucleophile generates enantiomeric pair.



On the basis of molecular symmetry, two faces are said to be enantiotopic in nature if they are exchangeable by a secondary symmetry element i.e. plane of symmetry (σ), the center of symmetry (i), or alternating axis of symmetry (S_n).

σ plane



C_s point group

Both faces are exchangeable
by C_2 axis
(homotopic groups)

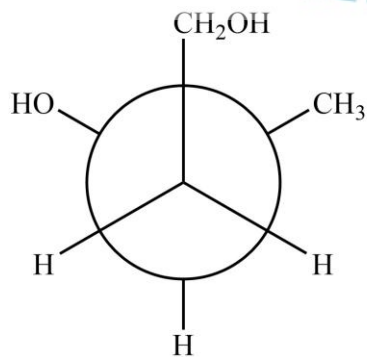
➤ **Diastereotopic Groups and Faces**

Diastereotopic groups and faces in an organic molecule can be found either on the basis of chemical replacement or by using the symmetry criteria.

1. Diastereotopic groups: Diastereotopic groups in a chemical compound are non-equivalent groups. Two groups A and B are diastereotopic if the diastereomers are obtained when the groups are interchanged with some other atom (such as bromine) while the remaining parts of the molecule stay fixed. Diastereotopic atoms are always different in any type of media whether it is chiral or achiral. Diastereotopic NMR-active nuclei have different chemical shifts in an NMR spectrum in any medium and different chemical shifts in achiral media. For example, the two hydrogen atoms in (Et)(OH)(Me)C-CH₂ClBr are CH₂ClBr with one another, as the replacement by a third group gives rise to the diastereomeric pair.



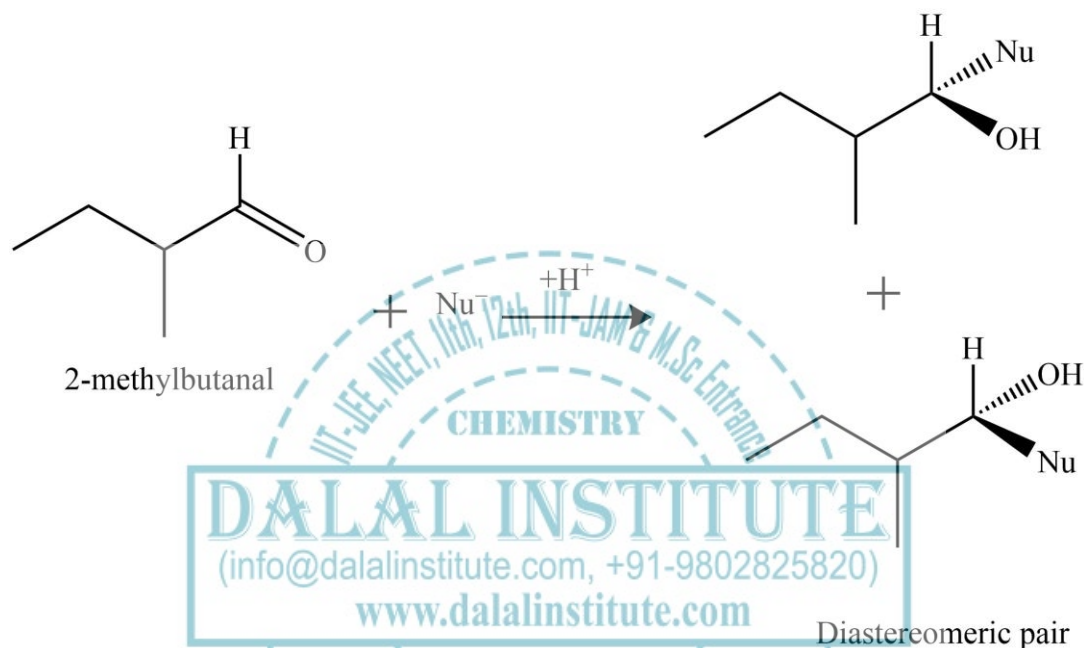
Based on molecular symmetry, two groups are said to be diastereotopic if they are not exchangeable by any symmetry element whether it is primary or secondary.



Both H are not exchangeable by any symmetry element (diastereotopic groups)

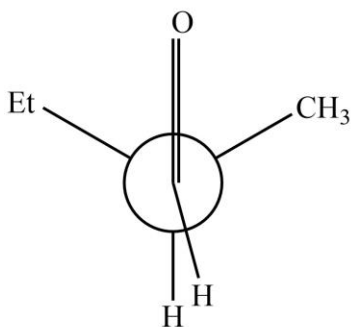
C₁ point group

2. Diastereotopic faces: Diastereotopic faces in a chemical compound are non-equivalent faces, i.e., two faces A and B are diastereotopic if the molecule gives rise to diastereotopic pair when the faces are attacked with some reagent (such as Cl^-) while the remaining parts of the molecule stay fixed. Diastereotopic faces are always non-identical in any type of environment whether it is chiral or achiral. For instance, two faces of 2-methylbutanal are diastereotopic, as the attack on two faces by an incoming nucleophile generates diastereomeric pair.



On the basis of molecular symmetry, two faces are said to be diastereotopic in nature if they are not exchangeable by any symmetry element, i.e. neither by primary nor by secondary symmetry element.

Both faces are not exchangeable
by any symmetry element
(diastereotopic faces)



C_1 point group

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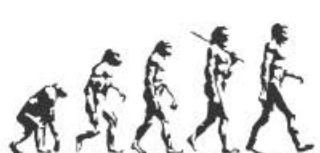
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A TEXTBOOK OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Volume I

MANDEEP DALAL



First Edition

DALAL INSTITUTE

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1	11
Nature of Bonding in Organic Molecules	11
❖ Delocalized Chemical Bonding	11
❖ Conjugation	14
❖ Cross Conjugation	16
❖ Resonance	18
❖ Hyperconjugation	27
❖ Tautomerism	31
❖ Aromaticity in Benzenoid and Nonbenzenoid Compounds	33
❖ Alternant and Non-Alternant Hydrocarbons	35
❖ Huckel's Rule: Energy Level of π -Molecular Orbitals	37
❖ Annulenes	44
❖ Antiaromaticity	46
❖ Homoaromaticity	48
❖ PMO Approach	50
❖ Bonds Weaker Than Covalent	58
❖ Addition Compounds: Crown Ether Complexes and Cryptands, Inclusion Compounds, Cyclodextrins	65
❖ Catenanes and Rotaxanes	75
❖ Problems	79
❖ Bibliography	80
CHAPTER 2	81
Stereochemistry	81
❖ Chirality	81
❖ Elements of Symmetry	86
❖ Molecules with More Than One Chiral Centre: Diastereomerism	90
❖ Determination of Relative and Absolute Configuration (Octant Rule Excluded) with Special Reference to Lactic Acid, Alanine & Mandelic Acid	92
❖ Methods of Resolution	102
❖ Optical Purity	104
❖ Prochirality	105
❖ Enantiotopic and Diastereotopic Atoms, Groups and Faces	107
❖ Asymmetric Synthesis: Cram's Rule and Its Modifications, Prelog's Rule	113
❖ Conformational Analysis of Cycloalkanes (Upto Six Membered Rings)	116
❖ Decalins	122
❖ Conformations of Sugars	126
❖ Optical Activity in Absence of Chiral Carbon (Biphenyls, Allenes and Spiranes)	132
❖ Chirality Due to Helical Shape	137
❖ Geometrical Isomerism in Alkenes and Oximes	140
❖ Methods of Determining the Configuration	146

❖ Problems.....	151
❖ Bibliography.....	152
CHAPTER 3.....	153
Reaction Mechanism: Structure and Reactivity	153
❖ Types of Mechanisms.....	153
❖ Types of Reactions	156
❖ Thermodynamic and Kinetic Requirements.....	159
❖ Kinetic and Thermodynamic Control	161
❖ Hammond's Postulate.....	163
❖ Curtin-Hammett Principle	164
❖ Potential Energy Diagrams: Transition States and Intermediates	166
❖ Methods of Determining Mechanisms.....	168
❖ Isotope Effects	172
❖ Hard and Soft Acids and Bases.....	174
❖ Generation, Structure, Stability and Reactivity of Carbocations, Carbanions, Free Radicals, Carbenes and Nitrenes.....	176
❖ Effect of Structure on Reactivity	200
❖ The Hammett Equation and Linear Free Energy Relationship.....	203
❖ Substituent and Reaction Constants.....	209
❖ Taft Equation.....	215
❖ Problems.....	219
❖ Bibliography.....	220
CHAPTER 4.....	221
Carbohydrates	221
❖ Types of Naturally Occurring Sugars	221
❖ Deoxy Sugars	227
❖ Amino Sugars.....	229
❖ Branch Chain Sugars	230
❖ General Methods of Determination of Structure and Ring Size of Sugars with Particular Reference to Maltose, Lactose, Sucrose, Starch and Cellulose.....	231
❖ Problems.....	239
❖ Bibliography.....	240
CHAPTER 5.....	241
Natural and Synthetic Dyes	241
❖ Various Classes of Synthetic Dyes Including Heterocyclic Dyes	241
❖ Interaction Between Dyes and Fibers	245
❖ Structure Elucidation of Indigo and Alizarin	247
❖ Problems.....	252
❖ Bibliography.....	253
CHAPTER 6.....	254
Aliphatic Nucleophilic Substitution	254
❖ The S_N2 , S_N1 , Mixed S_N1 and S_N2 , S_Ni , S_N1' , S_N2' , S_N1'' and SET Mechanisms.....	254

❖ The Neighbouring Group Mechanisms.....	263
❖ Neighbouring Group Participation by π and σ Bonds	265
❖ Anchimeric Assistance	269
❖ Classical and Nonclassical Carbocations	272
❖ Phenonium Ions.....	283
❖ Common Carbocation Rearrangements.....	284
❖ Applications of NMR Spectroscopy in the Detection of Carbocations	286
❖ Reactivity – Effects of Substrate Structure, Attacking Nucleophile, Leaving Group and Reaction Medium	288
❖ Ambident Nucleophiles and Regioselectivity	294
❖ Phase Transfer Catalysis.....	297
❖ Problems.....	300
❖ Bibliography	301
CHAPTER 7	302
Aliphatic Electrophilic Substitution	302
❖ Bimolecular Mechanisms – SE_2 and SE_i	302
❖ The SE_1 Mechanism	305
❖ Electrophilic Substitution Accompanied by Double Bond Shifts	307
❖ Effect of Substrates, Leaving Group and the Solvent Polarity on the Reactivity	308
❖ Problems.....	310
❖ Bibliography	311
CHAPTER 8	312
Aromatic Electrophilic Substitution	312
❖ The Arenium Ion Mechanism	312
❖ Orientation and Reactivity	314
❖ Energy Profile Diagrams	316
❖ The Ortho/Para Ratio.....	317
❖ <i>ipso</i> -Attack	319
❖ Orientation in Other Ring Systems	320
❖ Quantitative Treatment of Reactivity in Substrates and Electrophiles	321
❖ Diazonium Coupling.....	325
❖ Vilsmeier Reaction	326
❖ Gattermann-Koch Reaction	327
❖ Problems.....	329
❖ Bibliography	330
CHAPTER 9	331
Aromatic Nucleophilic Substitution	331
❖ The $ArSN_1$, $ArSN_2$, Benzyne and S_RN_1 Mechanisms.....	331
❖ Reactivity – Effect of Substrate Structure, Leaving Group and Attacking Nucleophile.....	336
❖ The von Richter, Sommelet-Hauser, and Smiles Rearrangements	339
❖ Problems.....	343
❖ Bibliography	344

CHAPTER 10	345
Elimination Reactions	345
❖ The E ₂ , E ₁ and E ₁ CB Mechanisms	345
❖ Orientation of the Double Bond.....	348
❖ Reactivity – Effects of Substrate Structures, Attacking Base, the Leaving Group and The Medium	352
❖ Mechanism and Orientation in Pyrolytic Elimination.....	355
❖ Problems.....	358
❖ Bibliography.....	359
CHAPTER 11	360
Addition to Carbon-Carbon Multiple Bonds	360
❖ Mechanistic and Stereochemical Aspects of Addition Reactions Involving Electrophiles, Nucleophiles and Free Radicals.....	360
❖ Regio- and Chemoselectivity: Orientation and Reactivity	370
❖ Addition to Cyclopropane Ring	374
❖ Hydrogenation of Double and Triple Bonds	375
❖ Hydrogenation of Aromatic Rings.....	377
❖ Hydroboration	378
❖ Michael Reaction.....	379
❖ Sharpless Asymmetric Epoxidation	380
❖ Problems.....	382
❖ Bibliography	383
CHAPTER 12	384
Addition to Carbon-Hetero Multiple Bonds.....	384
❖ Mechanism of Metal Hydride Reduction of Saturated and Unsaturated Carbonyl Compounds, Acids, Esters and Nitriles	384
❖ Addition of Grignard Reagents, Organozinc and Organolithium Reagents to Carbonyl and Unsaturated Carbonyl Compounds.....	400
❖ Wittig Reaction.....	406
❖ Mechanism of Condensation Reactions Involving Enolates: Aldol, Knoevenagel, Claisen, Mannich, Benzoin, Perkin and Stobbe Reactions	411
❖ Hydrolysis of Esters and Amides.....	433
❖ Ammonolysis of Esters.....	437
❖ Problems.....	439
❖ Bibliography.....	440
INDEX.....	441



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