

**ORGANIC CHEMISTRY-SEM-2H**

# **CONFORMATIONAL ANALYSIS**

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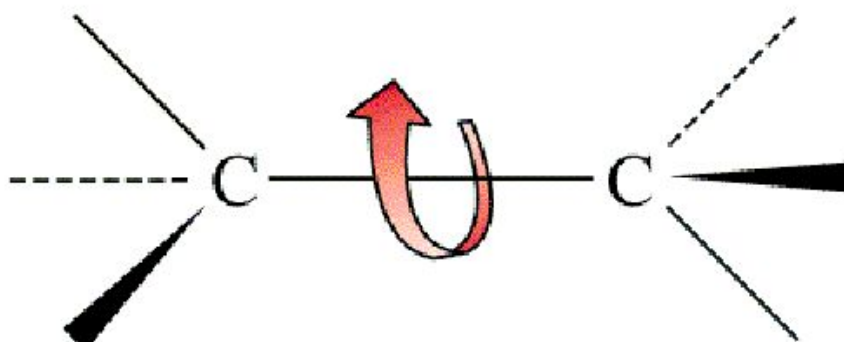
**KOLKATA – 700108**

Syllabus: Conformation: conformational nomenclature: eclipsed, staggered, gauche, syn and anti; dihedral angle, torsion angle; Klyne-Prelog terminology; P/M descriptors; energy barrier of rotation, concept of torsional and steric strains;

Relative stability of conformers on the basis of steric effect, dipole-dipole interaction and H-bonding; butane gauche interaction; conformational analysis of ethane, propane, n-butane, 2methylbutane and 2,3-dimethylbutane; haloalkane, 1,2-dihaloalkanes and 1,2-diols (up to four carbons); 1,2-halohydrin; conformation of conjugated systems (s-cis and s-trans).

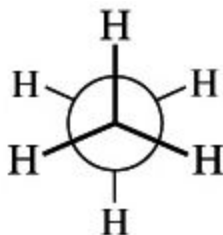
# Conformations of Alkanes: Rotation about C-C Single Bonds

- Different spatial arrangements of atoms that result from rotation about carbon-carbon single bonds are known as **conformations**
- Different conformations also are called **conformational isomers** or **conformers**



# Newman Projections

- A convenient way to describe conformation isomers is to look at the molecule along the axis of the bond of interest
- A **Newman projection** is a graphical representation of such a view



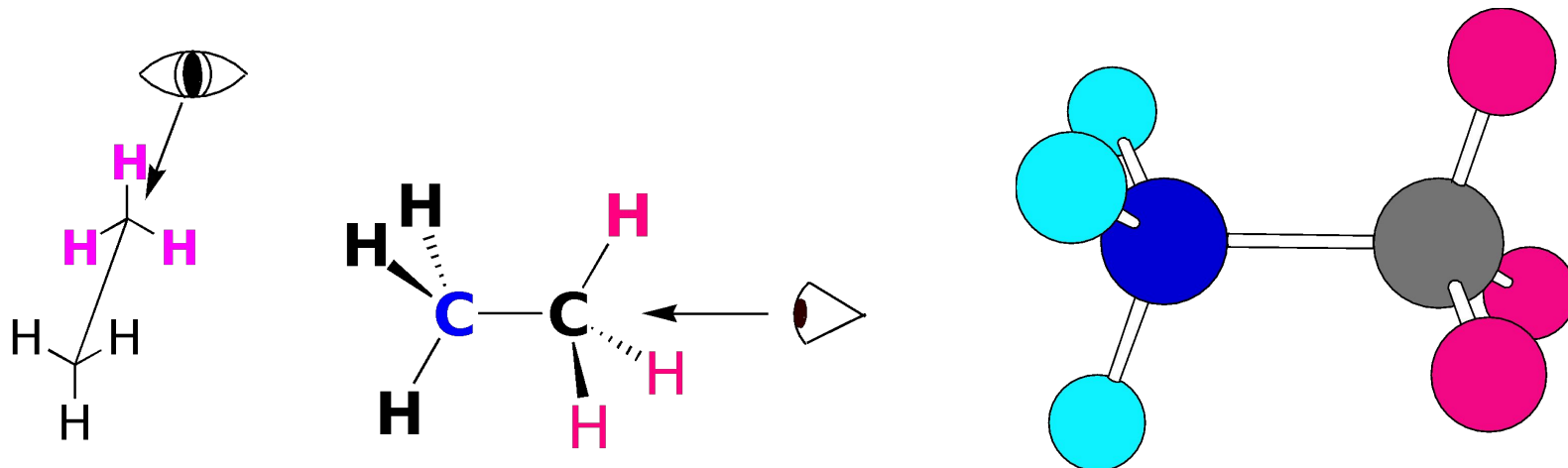
# Ch. 3: Alkanes and Cycloalkanes: Conformations and cis-trans Stereoisomers

Stereochemistry: three-dimensional aspects of molecules

Conformation: different spatial arrangements of atoms that result from rotations about single ( $\sigma$ ) bonds

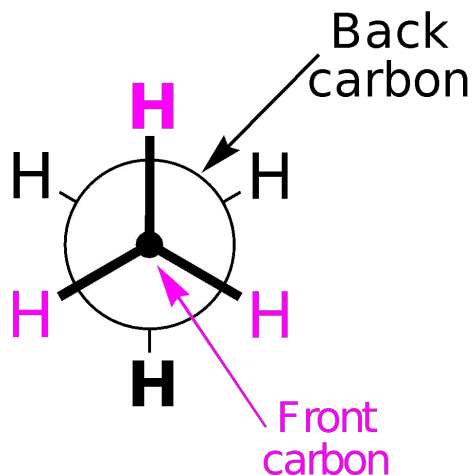
Conformer: a specific conformation of a molecule

## 3.1: Conformational Analysis of Ethane

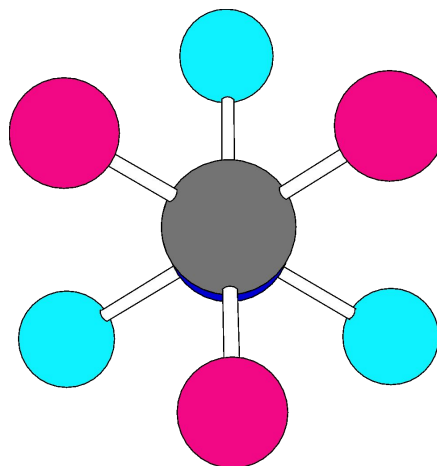


Sawhorse

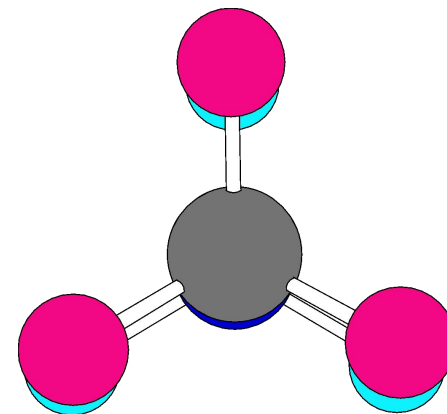
There are two conformations of ethane:



Newman projection



Staggered



Eclipsed

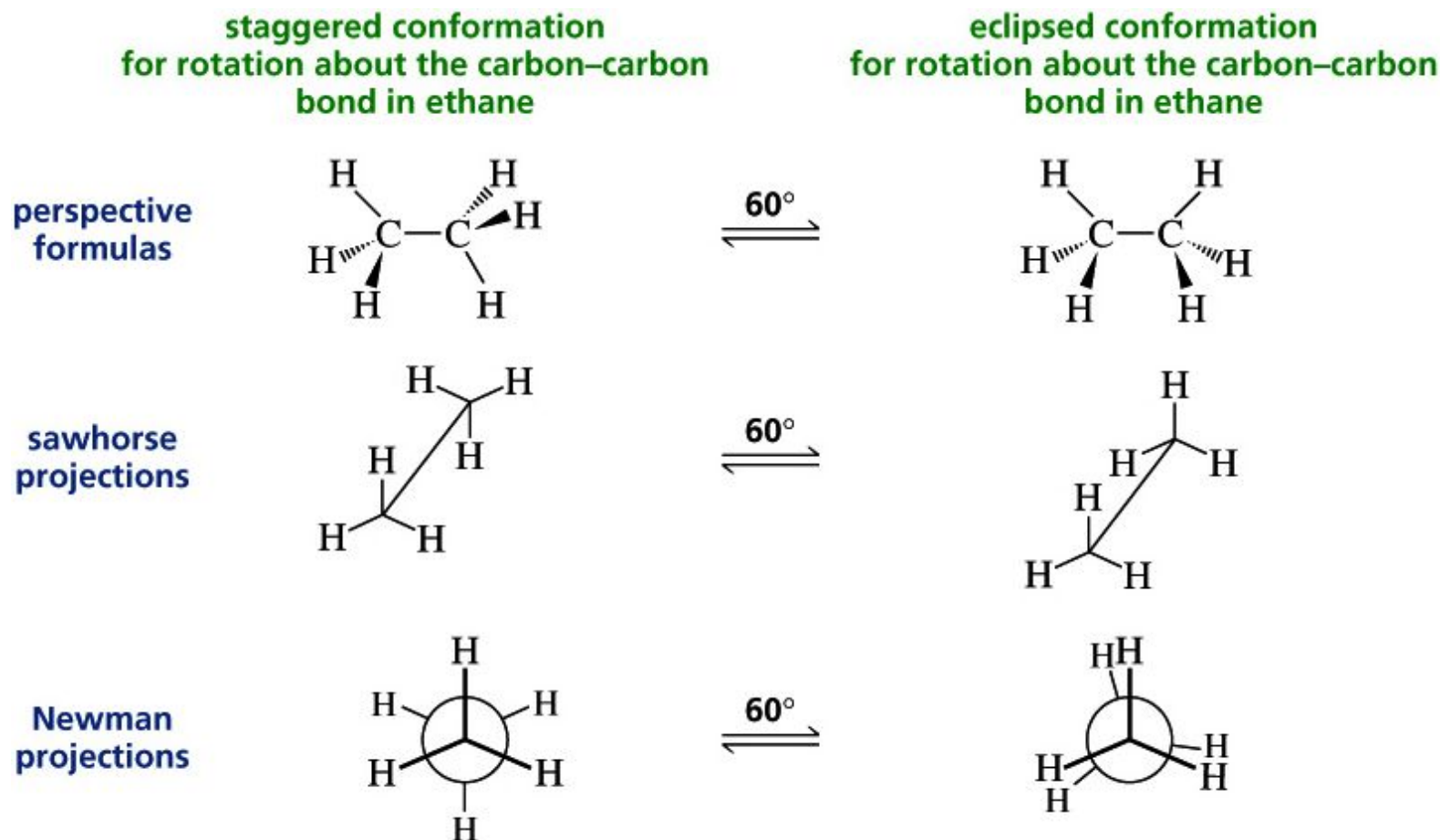
Dihedral (torsion) angle: angle between an atom (group) on the front atom of a Newman Projection and an atom (group) on the back atom

Dihedral angles of ethanes:

Staggered conformation:  $60^\circ$  (gauche),  $180^\circ$  (anti), and  $300^\circ$  ( $-60^\circ$ , gauche)

Eclipsed conformation:  $0^\circ$ ,  $120^\circ$ , and  $240^\circ$  ( $-120^\circ$ )

# Conformations of Alkanes: Rotation About C-C Single Bonds



# Conformations of Alkanes: Rotation About C-C Single Bonds

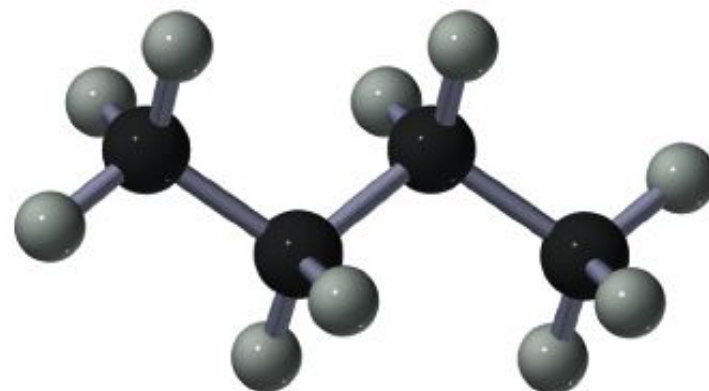
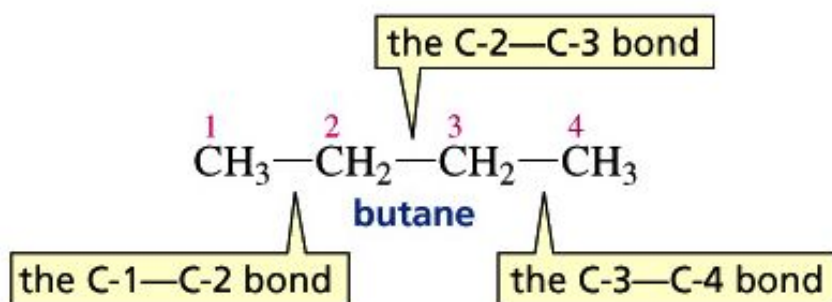
- Rotation about the C-C bond of ethane is not completely free
- Electrons of C-H bonds repel electrons of other C-H bonds if they get too close together
- For these reasons the eclipsed conformation is not as stable as the staggered conformation

- The extra energy of the eclipsed conformation is called **Torsional Strain**

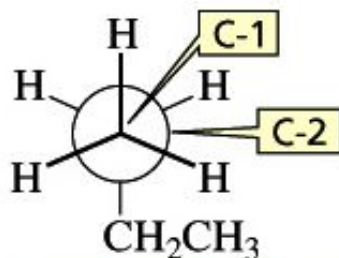




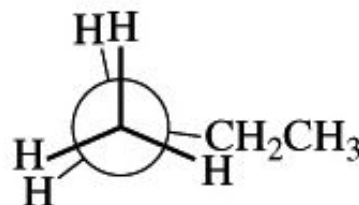
# Conformations of Butane: Rotation About the C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> Single Bond



ball-and-stick model of butane

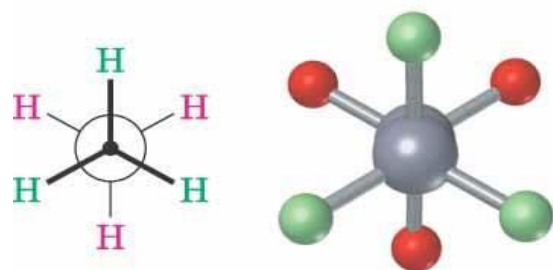


staggered conformation for rotation about the C-1—C-2 bond in butane



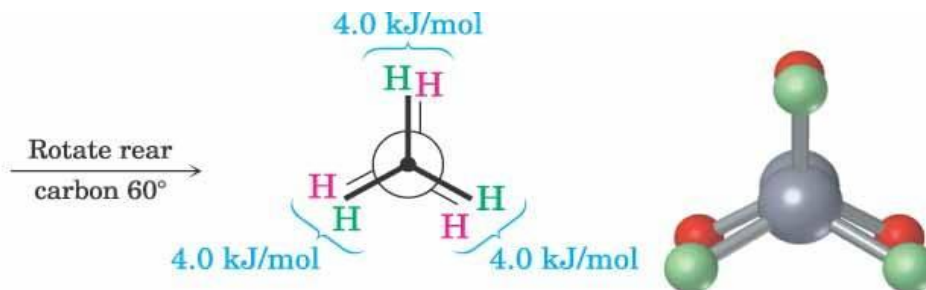
eclipsed conformation for rotation about the C-1—C-2 bond in butane

# Ethane's Conformations



**Ethane—staggered  
conformation**

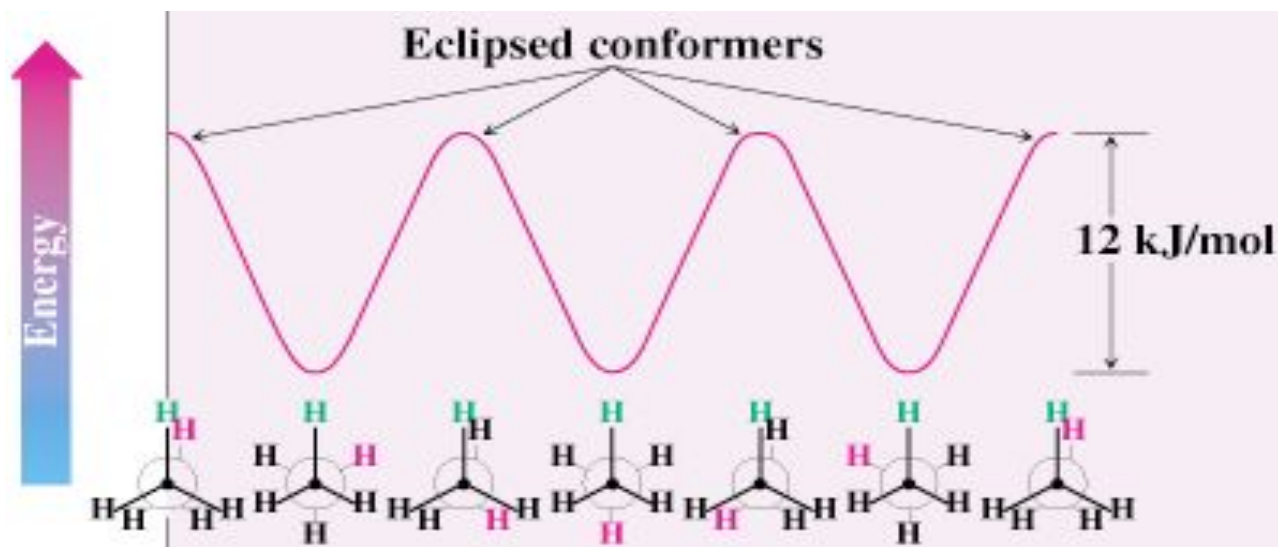
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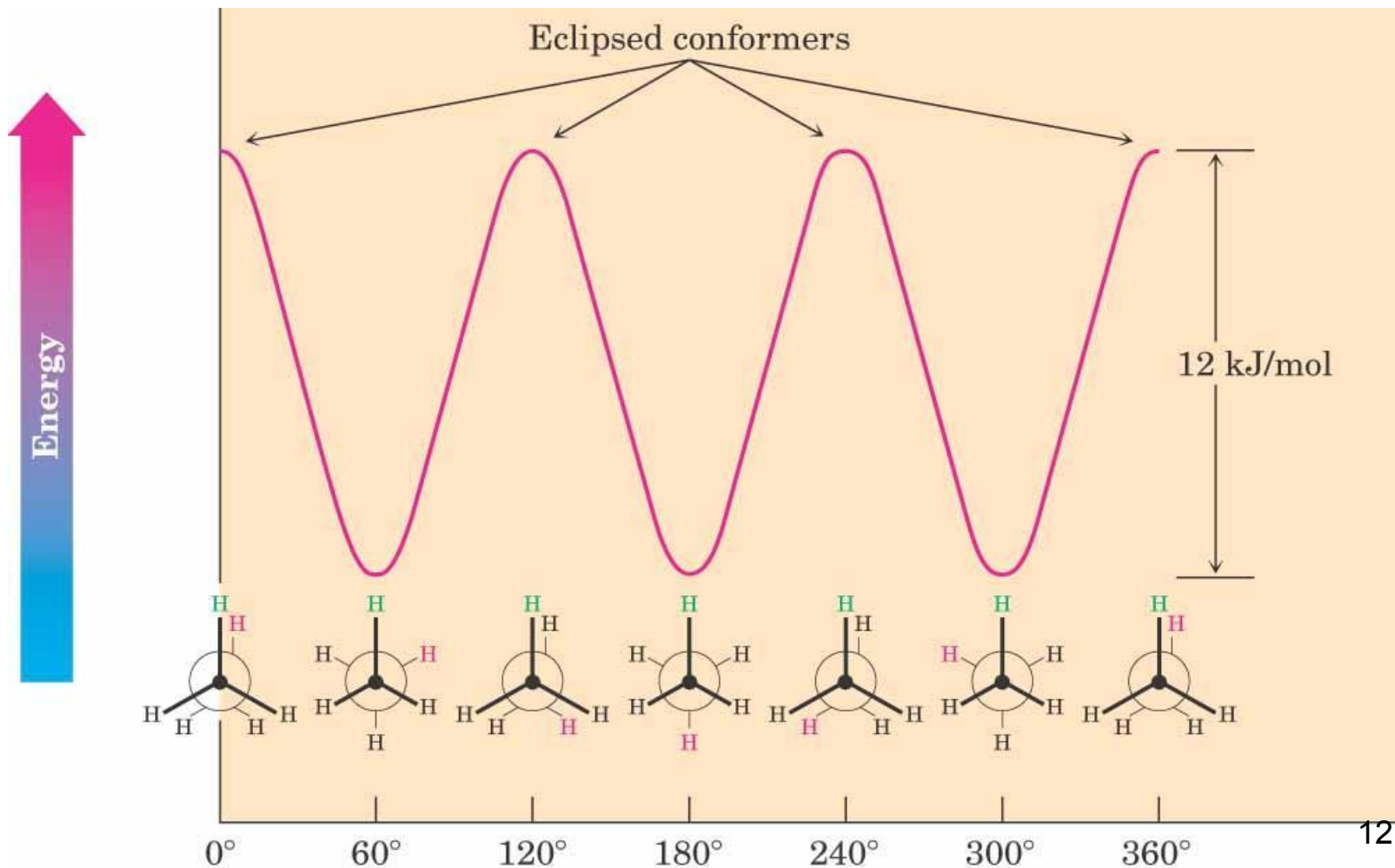
**Ethane—eclipsed  
conformation**

# Ethane's Conformations

- There barrier to rotation between conformations is small (12 kJ/mol; 2.9 kcal/mol) The most stable conformation of ethane has all six C–H bonds away from each other (**staggered**)
- The least stable conformation has all six C–H bonds as close as possible (**eclipsed**) in a Newman projection – energy due to torsional strain

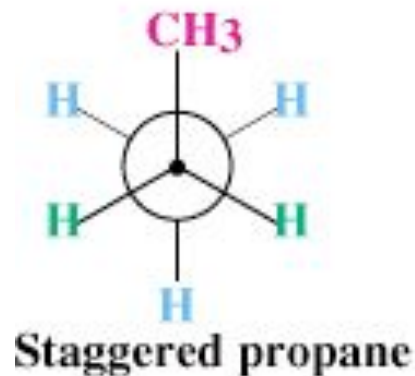


# Ethane's Conformations

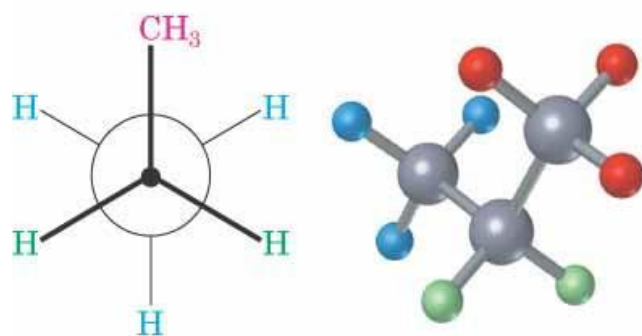


## 2.2 Conformations of Propane

- Propane ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$ ) torsional barrier around the carbon–carbon bonds 14 kJ/mol
- Eclipsed conformer of propane has two ethane-type H–H interactions and an interaction between C–H and C–C bond



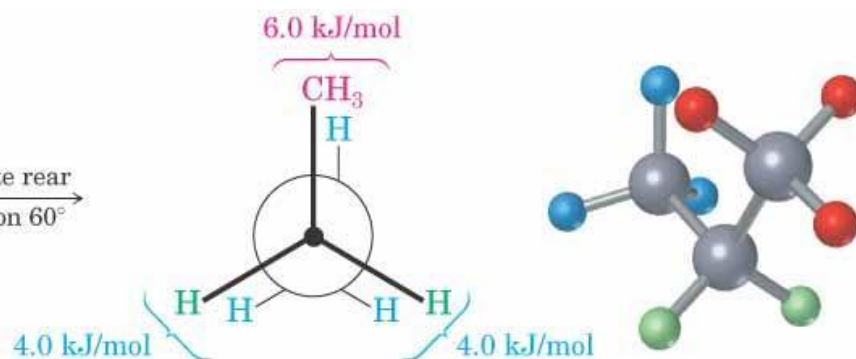
# Propane conformations



Staggered propane

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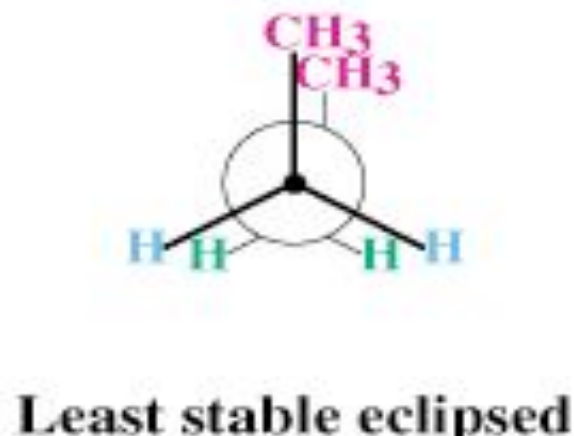
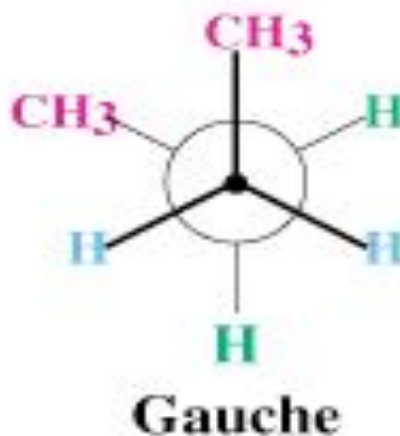
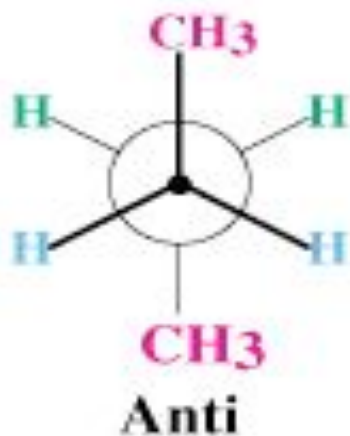
Rotate rear  
carbon 60°



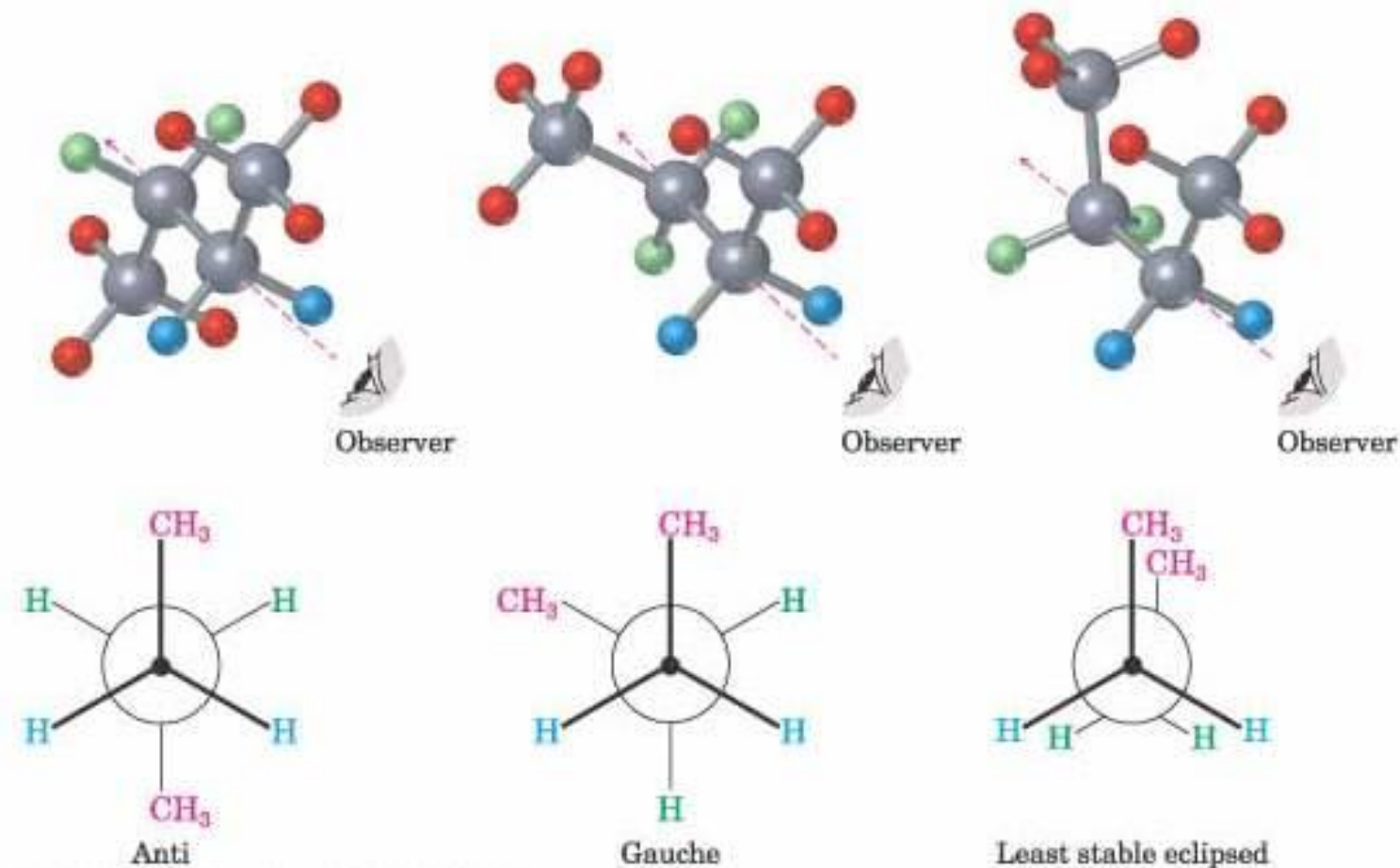
Eclipsed propane

## 2.3 Conformations of Butane

- **anti conformation** has two methyl groups  $180^\circ$  away from each other
- Rotation around the C2–C3 gives eclipsed conformation
- Staggered conformation with methyl groups  $60^\circ$  apart is **gauche conformation**

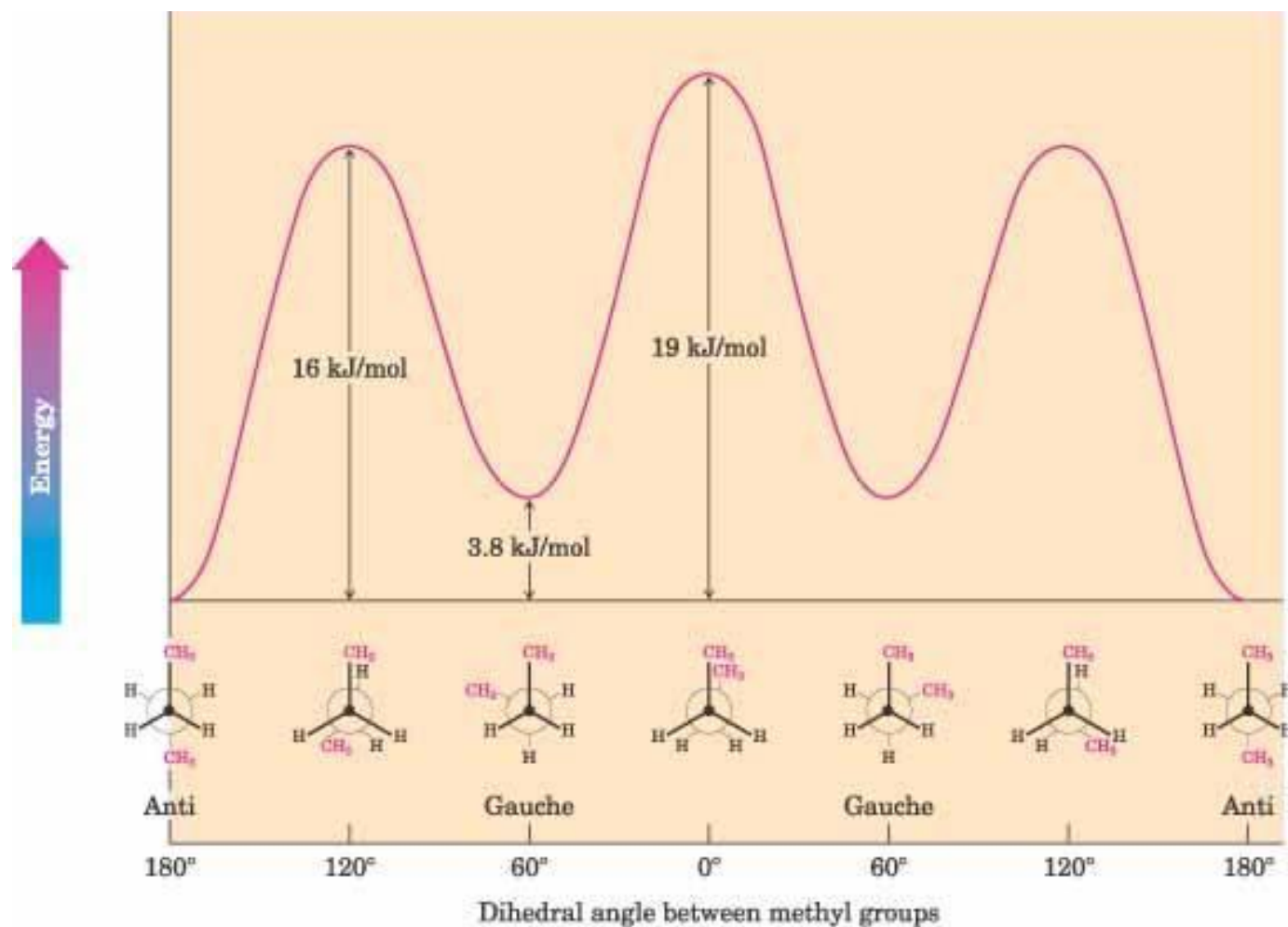


# Conformations of Butane

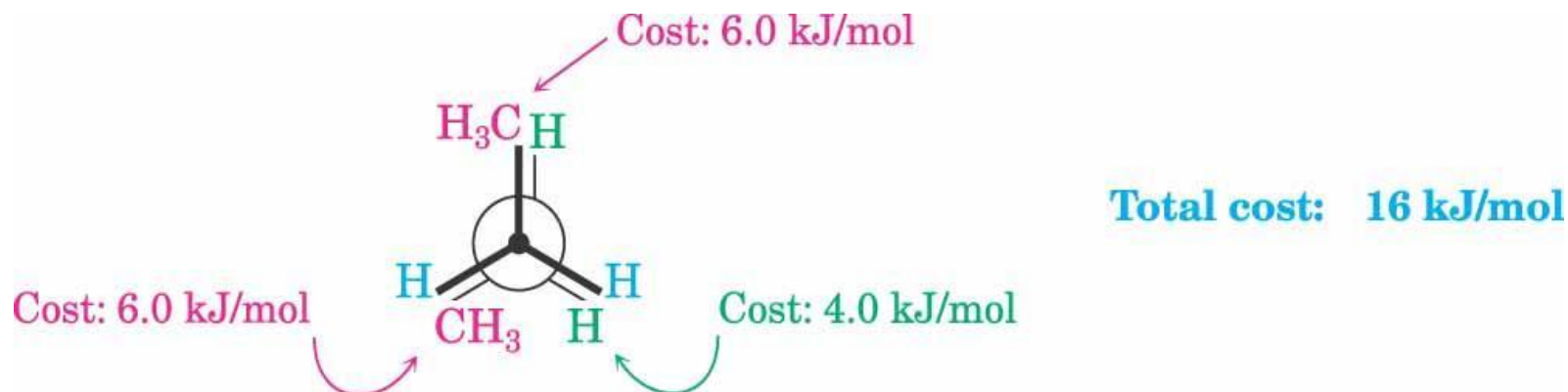




# Conformations of Butane



# Eclipsed Conformations of Butane

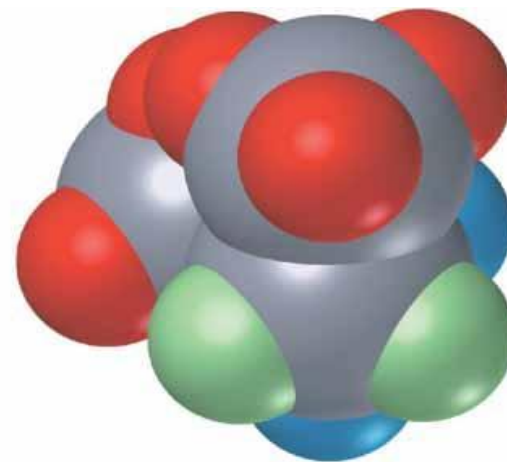
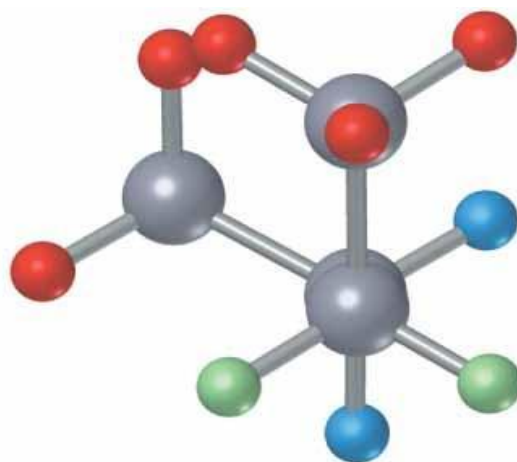
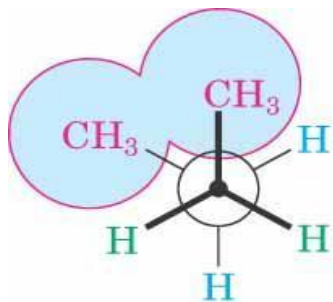


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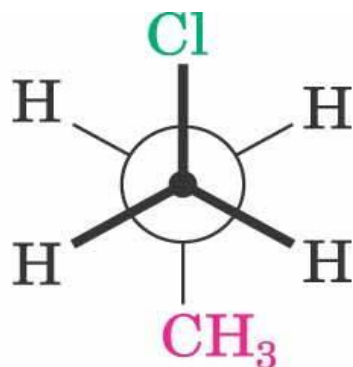
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# Gauche conformation: steric strain



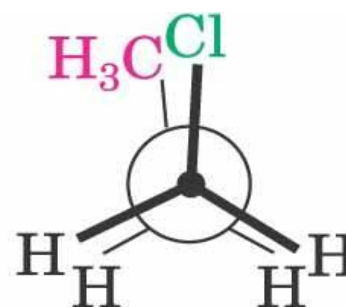
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# 1-chloropropane



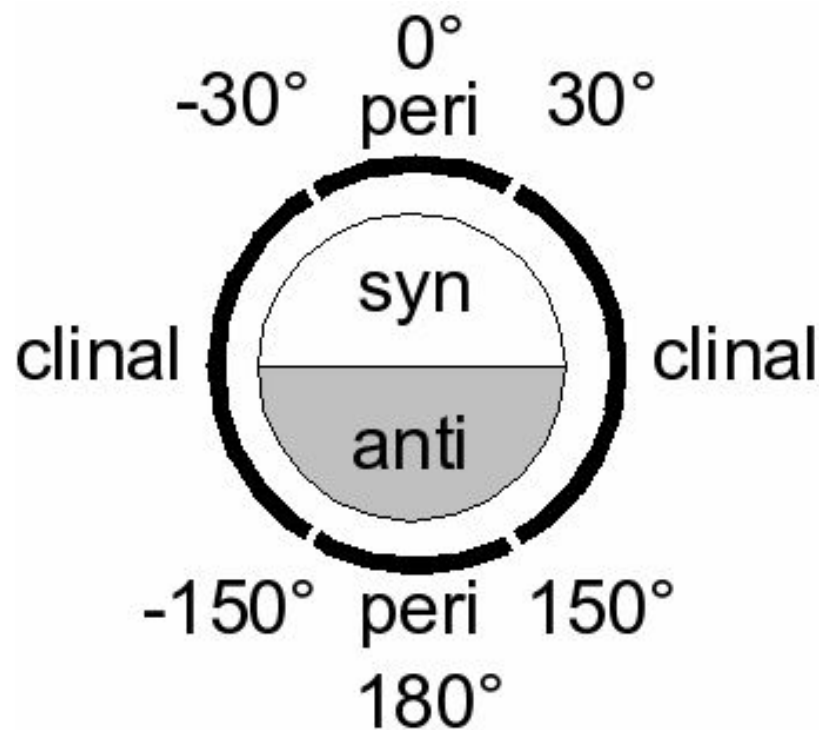
**Most stable (staggered)**

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**Least stable (eclipsed)**

# Klyne-Prelog terminology of Conformations



## syn/anti peri/clinal

Many definitions that describe a specific conformer (IUPAC Gold Book) exist, developed by William Klyne and Vladimir Prelog, constituting their Klyne–Prelog system of nomenclature:

- a torsion angle of  $\pm 60^\circ$  is called **gauche [g]**
- a torsion angle between  $0^\circ$  and  $\pm 90^\circ$  is called **syn (s)**
- a torsion angle between  $\pm 90^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$  is called **anti (a)**
- a torsion angle between  $30^\circ$  and  $150^\circ$  or between  $-30^\circ$  and  $-150^\circ$  is called **clinal (c)**
- a torsion angle between  $0^\circ$  and  $\pm 30^\circ$  or  $\pm 150^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$  is called **periplanar (p)**

□ a torsion angle between  $0^\circ$  to  $30^\circ$  is called **synperiplanar or syn- or cis-conformation (sp)**

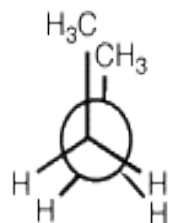
□ a torsion angle between  $30^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$  and  $-30^\circ$  to  $-90^\circ$  is called **synclinal or gauche or skew (sc)[g]**

□ a torsion angle between  $90^\circ$  to  $150^\circ$ , and  $-90^\circ$  to  $-150^\circ$  is called **anticlinal (ac)**

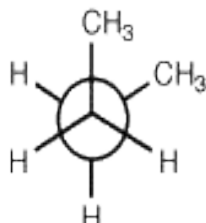
□ a torsion angle between  $\pm 150^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$  is called **antiperiplanar or anti or trans (ap)**.

Torsional strain results from resistance to twisting about a bond.

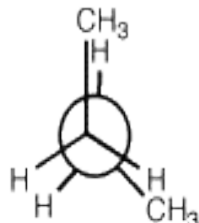
# Conformations of butane: N & Relative stabilities



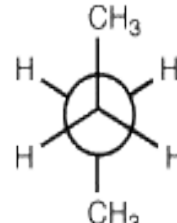
Dihedral angle  $0^\circ$   
**SYNERIPLANAR**  
 least stable eclipsed



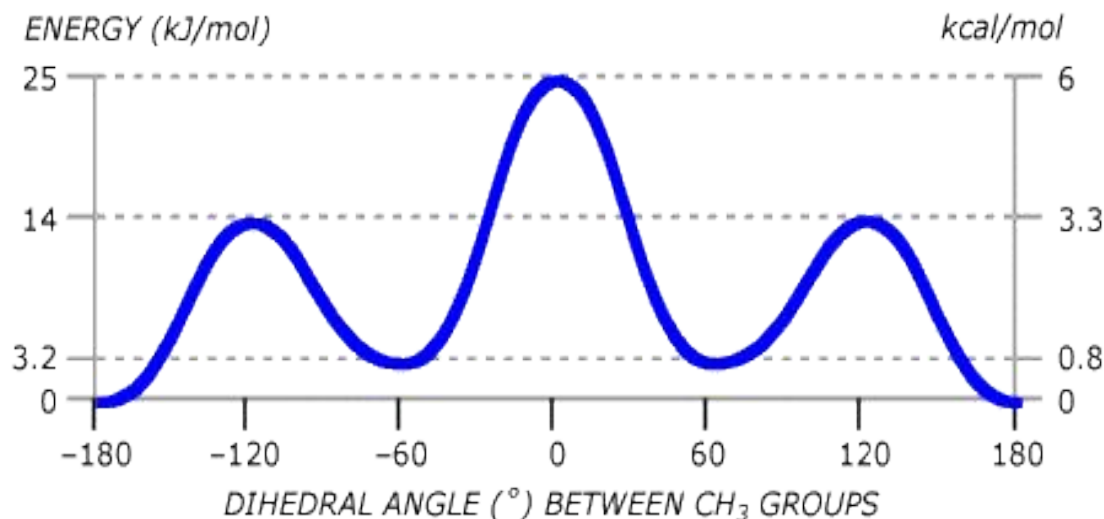
$60^\circ$   
**GAUCHE**



$120^\circ$   
**ANTICLINAL**  
 eclipsed



$180^\circ$   
**ANTIPERIPPLANAR**  
 most stable



**synperiplanar** has **two** different types of strain:

**TORSIONAL STRAIN**  
 Three eclipsed pairs of bonds (total cost about 12 kJ/mol)

**STERIC STRAIN**  
 Eclipsed [CH<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>]  
 (costs about 13 kJ/mol)

**gauche** is less stable than **anti**:

**STERIC STRAIN**  
 Gauche [CH<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>]  
 costs 3.2 kJ/mol



# Torsional Strain & Steric Strain

**Torsional Strain:** When rotating a molecule around a bond, the **torsional strain** is the repulsion caused by the electrons in between different groups when they pass by each other. 3. **Steric Strain: Strain** caused by the electrons in between different groups.

**Torsional strain** or eclipsing **strain** is the increase in potential energy of a molecule due to repulsion between electrons in bonds that do not share an atom. eg:  
Consider two conformations of ethane: The smallest dihedral angle is  $60^\circ$  in 1; it is  $0^\circ$  in 2. ...  
Consequently, **torsional strain** is greater in 2 than in 1.

# QUESTIONS

1. The gauche conformation of ethylene glycol is more stable than the anti conformation. Offer an explanation with structures.
2. The intramolecular H-bonding in *active*-butan-2,3-diol is relatively stronger than that in *messso*-butan-2,3-diol; Explain.
3. Draw the most stable & least stable conformers of n-butane for the rotation about C2-C3 sigma bond and label with Klyne-Prelog terminology of Conformations.
4. Explain why the gauche conformation of 1-chloropropane is found to be more stable than its anti form.
5. What do you mean by torsional angle and dihedral angle?