Introduction to Organic Chemistry Unit 1: Importance of Functional Groups

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

- convert a Lewis structure of an organic molecule to its condensed form and vice versa
- given a condensed form of a structure of an organic molecule determine its molecular formula, determine the hybridization of each atom in the molecule and identify the functional groups present in it
- by recognizing the functional groups label in a molecule all bonds as polar or non-polar and identify the various types of intermolecular forces (van der Waals, dipole-dipole and hydrogen-bonding) that are possible
- given a series of organic molecules of similar molecular weight predict their relative melting and/or boiling points

What is organic chemistry?

- By definition it is a branch of chemistry of compounds that contain the element carbon. While this seems like a very narrow group of compounds, of the more than 10 million known molecules over 80% are classified as organic molecules!
- Organic chemistry is ubiquitous- from the moment you woke up this morning you have constantly experienced aspects of organic chemistry in your life!
- O You likely eliminated organic molecules in your trip to the toilet
- You used organic molecules in the shower to wash and shave, and brush your teeth. The smells in your after shave or perfumes are organic molecules.
- Your breakfast included organic molecules like starch in your toast and cereal and your orange juice had vitamins, your coffee caffeine and sugar
- Medications or vitamins you take are organic molecules
- O The clothes on your back, the shoes on your feet are made from organic molecules and dyes
- o The Gazette you're reading, television, your ipodneed organic molecules
- The car/ bus you took to campus has plastics, needs tires and fuels
- You are a carbon based life form- DNA, proteins, peptides, neurotransmitters etc!

Examples of organic molecules in your life!

NH2 O H

Adenine

Thymine

Progesterone/testosterone

Guanine

Cytosine

caffeine

Hydrocarbons- fuels

O NH₂ S COOH

ampicillin

Structural Formulas

- Because many organic compounds contain many carbon and hydrogen atoms as well as other atoms, drawing full Lewis structures becomes too complicated and messy.
- Organic chemists use short-hand techniques to show (imply) the locations of electrons and bonds in molecules. The conventions are shown below for ethanol, molecular formula C_2H_6O , but more commonly written as C_2H_5OH .

Full Lewis dot structure (all valence electrons shown)



Lewis structure, with covalent bonds represented as lines.

Covalent bonds omitted, but assumed. With or without non-bonding pairs. Used for simple molecules.

C-C bonds shown only by a line.

H atoms bonded to C not shown

These line diagrams only show the bonding sequences and are not designed or intended to show the actual 3D structure.

Line diagrams are often used for larger molecules.

- Each solid line represents a two electron covalent bond
- When no atom is drawn at the intersection of two covalent bonds (two lines) it is assumed to be a carbon atom, and there are enough hydrogen atoms around each carbon as necessary to make it tetravalent (ie, 4 bonds)
- All non-carbon atoms (heteroatoms) are drawn with the hydrogens bonded to them
- Lone pairs are often not drawn, and are assumed to be there

Eg. Capsaicin- the molecule responsible for the spiciness of hot peppers

Practice: What is the molecular formula for capsaicin (without looking at the diagram on the left!)

Molecular Shapes

• The basic shapes of organic molecules are well-predicted by VSEPR theory discussed in the previous section.

| Regions of e density around central atom | Predicted shape of electrons | Angles | Examples |
|--|------------------------------------|--------|---|
| 4 | tetrahedral | 109.5° | H |
| 3 | trigonal planar | 120° | $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ |
| 2 | linear | 180° | •O=C=O• H—C≡C—H |

- Lone pairs of electrons exert a greater repulsive force than pairs in bonds, causing a reduction in bond angles.
- Double and triple bonds act as single bonds (a single region of electron density)
 in VSEPR theory
- By applying VSEPR shapes to all bonded sites in a molecule, the correct shape of nearly every organic molecule can be predicted and drawn in 3D
- The dot-line-wedge symbolism is the most common way of depicting threedimensional structures:

Line: represents a bond

in the plane of the paper

Dotted line: represents a bond directed

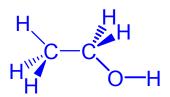
behind the plane of the paper

Wedged line: represents a bond

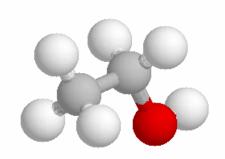
directed in front of the plane of the

paper

• The 3D structure of ethanol is therefore represented as:



- The best 3D representation of ethanol is given by molecular models, or drawn as ball and stick models.
 - C = grey, H = white, O = red



We will see more of this latter in this type of representation later in this organic unit.

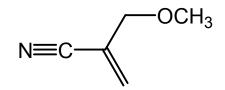
Hybridization

- Recall we discussed hybridization in the previous unit
- For organic molecules there are only three types of hybridization we need to worry about

| Regions of e ⁻ density | Atomic orbitals | Hybrid orbitals | Electronic arrangement |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 | one s, one p | two sp | Linear |
| 3 | one s, two p | three sp ² | trigonal planar |
| 4 | one s, three p | four sp³ | tetrahedral |

- Regions of electron density: an NB pair, a single bond, or a multiple bond each constitutes one region.
- The arrangement of the electron pairs is not always the same as the molecular shape if there is one or more NB pair present.

• Example: Indicate the hybridization and give the approximate bond angles for C, N, and O in this molecule.



Functional Groups

- A functional group is an atom or a group of atoms within a molecule that have characteristic physical properties and are often the sites of chemical reactivity.
- A functional group determines all of the following properties of a molecule:
 - o Bonding and shape
 - Type and strength of intermolecular forces
 - Physical properties
 - Chemical reactivity
 - Nomenclature

In Chem 020/023 we will introduce the first three and leave how functional groups determine reactivity (and their nomenclature) to second year organic chemistry.

Functional Groups: Hydrocarbons

| Type of Compound | General structure | Functional Group | Hybridization | Example |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| alkane | R_3C-H C_nH_{2n+2} | | sp ³ | CH ₃ CH ₃ CH ₂ CHCH ₃ |
| alkene | $R_2C=CR_2$ C_nH_{2n} | Double bond | C=C sp ² | |
| alkyne | RC≡CR C _n H _{2n-2} | Triple bond | <i>C</i> ≡ <i>C</i> sp | HC≡CCH(CH ₃) ₂ |
| aromatic compounds | contain 🔘 | Phenyl group | C-C sp² | |

In all functional groups listed above, R = any chain of carbon atoms, or sometimes, an H atom, if H does not result in a different functional group.

Functional Groups: compounds containing a C-Z single bond

| Type of Compound | General formula | Functional Group | Hybridization | Example |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| Alkyl (aryl) Halide | R-X (X = F, <i>C</i> I, Br, I) | - X Halo group | Alkyl C-X: sp ³ Aryl C: sp ² ; X: sp ³ | CI Br F F H |
| Alcohol | R-OH | -OH hydroxy group | C: sp³ O: sp³ |) —ОН ()—ОН |
| ether | R-O-R | -OR Alkoxy group | <i>C</i> : sp³ O: sp³ | CH ₃ CH ₂ OCH ₃ |
| amine | R-NH2 Or R2NH Or R3N | -NH2 amino group | <i>C</i> : sp³ N: sp³ | H_2N NH_2 |

| thiol | R-SH | -SH Mercapto group | <i>C</i> : sp ³ S: sp ³ | SH |
|---------|-------|--------------------------|--|---|
| sulfide | R-S-R | -SR alkylthiol | <i>C</i> : sp ³ S: sp ³ | H ₃ C ^S CH ₃ |

In all functional groups listed above, R = any chain of carbon atoms, phenyl or sometimes, an H atom, if H does not result in a different functional group.

Functional Groups: compounds containing a C=O Group

| Type of compound | General formula | Functional group | Hybridization | Example |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| aldehyde | O II RCH | C=O carbonyl | <i>C</i> : sp ² <i>O</i> : sp ² | Н |
| ketone | O II RCR | C=O carbonyl | <i>C</i> : sp ² <i>O</i> : sp ² | CH ₃ CCH ₃ |
| carboxylic acid | O II RCOH | -COOH carboxy | <i>C</i> : sp ² <i>O</i> : sp ² | O II CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ COH |
| ester | O II RCOR | -COOR | <i>C</i> : sp ² <i>O</i> : sp ² | O CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ COCH ₂ CH ₃ |
| amide | O II RCNR ₂ | -CONH2 -CONHR -CONR2 | C: sp ² O: sp ² N: sp ² | CH ₂ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₃ |
| nitrile | R-C≡N | R-C≡N | C: sp N: sp | CO ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃ |

Practice: Identify the functional groups in the following molecules (you can also assign hybridization to each atom and determine their molecular formula)

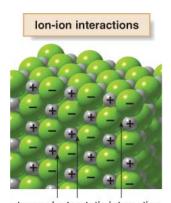
ectasy: methylenedioxymethampetamine

honey bee queen pheromone

Solutions:

Intermolecular Forces

- Intermolecular forces are also referred to as non-covalent interactions or non-bonded interactions, they are weaker interactions than ionic interactions.
- Ionic compounds contain oppositely charged particles held together by extremely strong electrostatic interactions. These ionic inter-actions are much stronger than the intermolecular forces present between covalent molecules.



• Covalent compounds are composed of discrete molecules.

The nature of the forces between these molecules depends on the functional group(s) present.

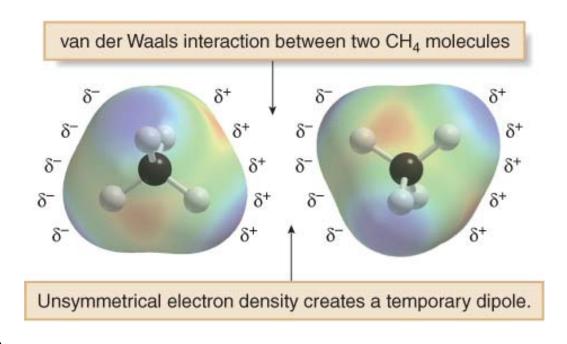
There are three different types of interactions, shown in order of increasing strength:

- van der Waals forces
- dipole-dipole interactions
- hydrogen bonding

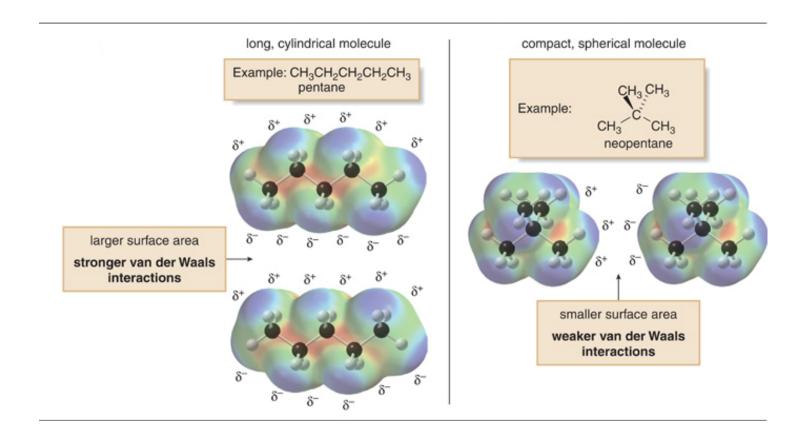
Intermolecular Forces—van der Waals (or London) Forces

- These forces are weak interactions caused by momentary changes in electron density in a molecule.
- They are the only attractive forces present in nonpolar compounds.
- All compounds exhibit van der Waals forces.

Eg. Even though CH₄ (or other alkane) has no net dipole, at any one instant its electron density may not be completely symmetrical, resulting in a temporary dipole. This can induce a temporary dipole in another molecule. The weak interaction of these temporary dipoles is a van der Waals force.

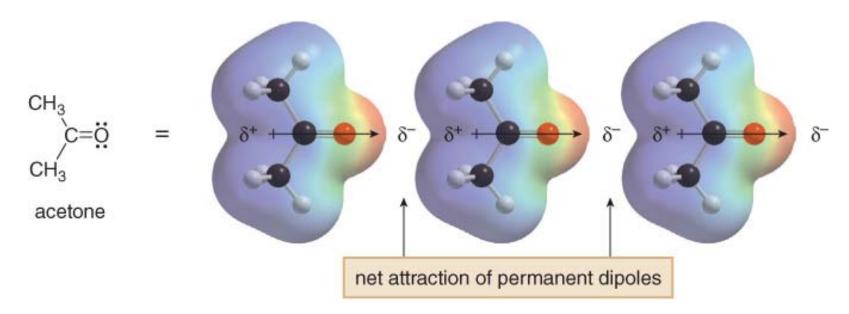


 The surface area of a molecule determines the strength of the van der Waals interactions between molecules. The larger the surface area, the larger the attractive force between two molecules, and the stronger the intermolecular forces.



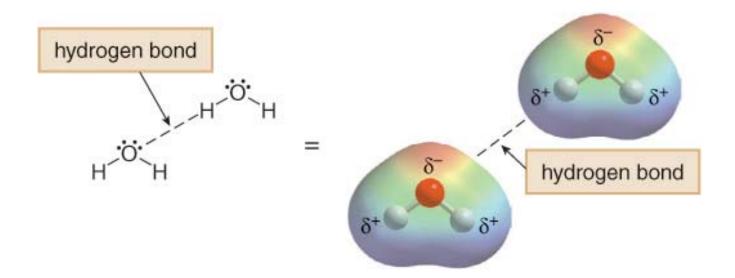
Intermolecular Forces—Dipole-Dipole Interactions

- Dipole—dipole interactions are the attractive forces between the permanent dipoles of two polar molecules.
- The dipoles in adjacent molecules align so that the partial positive and partial negative charges are in close proximity.
- These attractive forces caused by permanent dipoles are much stronger than weak van der Waals forces.



Intermolecular Forces—Hydrogen-Bonding Interactions

Hydrogen bonding typically occurs when a hydrogen atom bonded to O, N, or
F, is electrostatically attracted to a lone pair of electrons on an O, N, or F
atom in another molecule.



Summary of Types of Intermolecular Forces

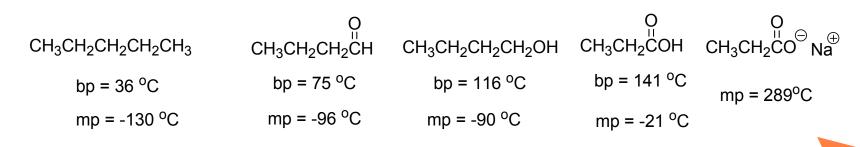
| Type of Force | Relative Strength | Exhibited by | Examples |
|------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Van der Waals | weak | All molecules | CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CHO CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ COOH |
| dipole-dipole | moderate | Molecules with a net dipole | CH3CH2CH2CH2CHO CH3CH2CH2CH2CH2OH CH3CH2CH2CH2COOH |
| hydrogen-bonding | strong | Molecules with N- H, O-H or H-F bonds | CH3CH2CH2CH2CH2OH CH3CH2CH2CH2COOH |
| ion-ion | very strong | Ionic compounds | CH3CH2CH2CH2COO- Na+ NaCl |

Physical Properties - Boiling points and Melting Points

- The stronger the intermolecular forces, the higher the boiling point/melting point.
- Because ionic compounds are held together by extremely strong interactions, they have very high melting points.
- For compounds with approximately the same molecular weight:

| compounds with van der Waals interactionc | compounds with dipole interactions | compounds with Hydrogen Bonding interactionc | compounds with ionic interactions |
|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | |

increased strenth of intermolecular forces Increasing boiling point

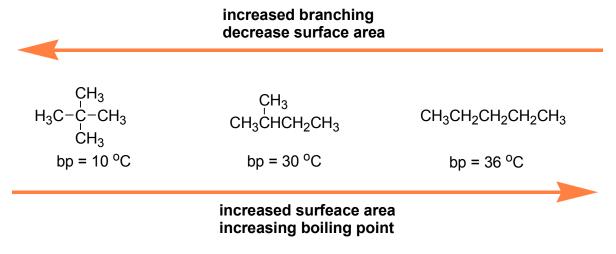


increased strenth of intermolecular forces Increasing boiling point

For two compounds with similar functional groups:

The larger the surface area, the higher the melting and boiling point.

 The boiling point of isomers (same molecular formula, different structure) decreases with branching because of decreasing surface area



- Symmetry plays a role in determining the melting points of compounds having the same functional group and similar molecular weights, but very different shapes.
- A compact symmetrical molecule like neopentane packs well into a crystalline lattice whereas isopentane, which has a CH₃ group dangling from a fourcarbon chain, does not. Thus, neopentane has a much higher melting point.

