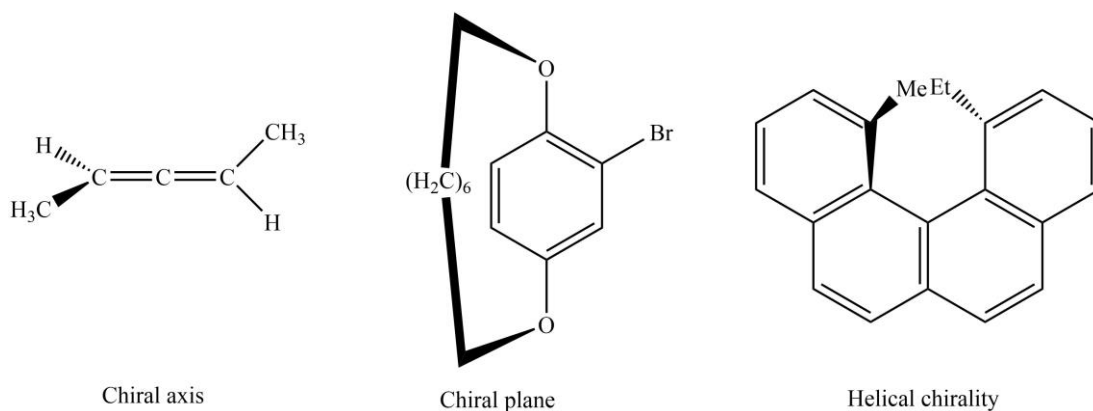


❖ Optical Activity in Absence of Chiral Carbon (Biphenyls, Allenes and Spiranes)

As we discussed earlier in this chapter, optically active compounds can primarily be divided into four categories on the basis of their geometrical profile; molecules with the chiral center, chiral axis, chiral plane, and helical chirality.



In this section, we will study two kinds of optically active molecules without chiral carbon, compounds with chiral axis, and chiral plane.

➤ *Optically Active Compounds with Chiral Axis*

This type of chirality arises when a tetrahedrally coordinated prochiral molecule becomes chiral by extending the center along an axis. In other words, a prochiral molecule can no longer be superimposed on its mirror image if its center has been extended to a line with the same groups at different ends.

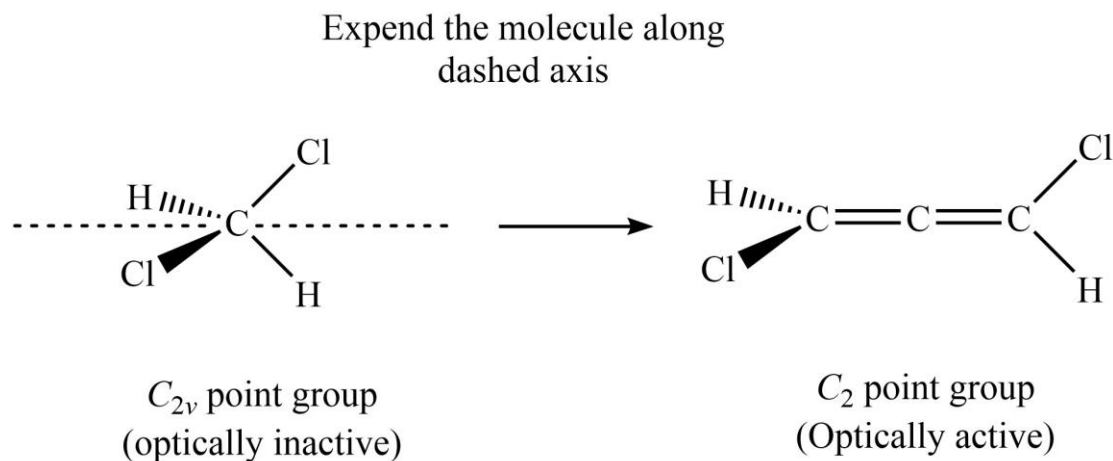
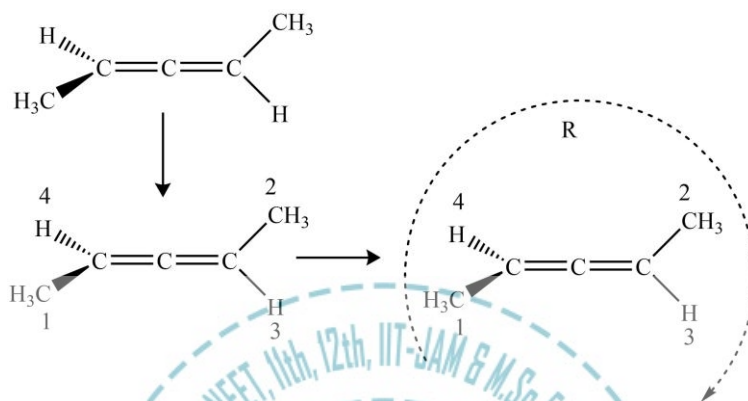


Figure 3. Conversion of an optically inactive molecule to optically active via chiral axis.

1. R-S nomenclature of Optically active compounds with chiral axis:

The whole procedure includes two steps; the first is the priority assignment of different groups at both ends using Chan-Ingold-Prelog and the second step involves the assignment of absolute configuration. It is worthy to note that the highest and lowest priorities (1, 4) should be assigned to the “out-of-plane” unit and intermediary priorities (2, 3) must be assigned to the “in-plane” unit.

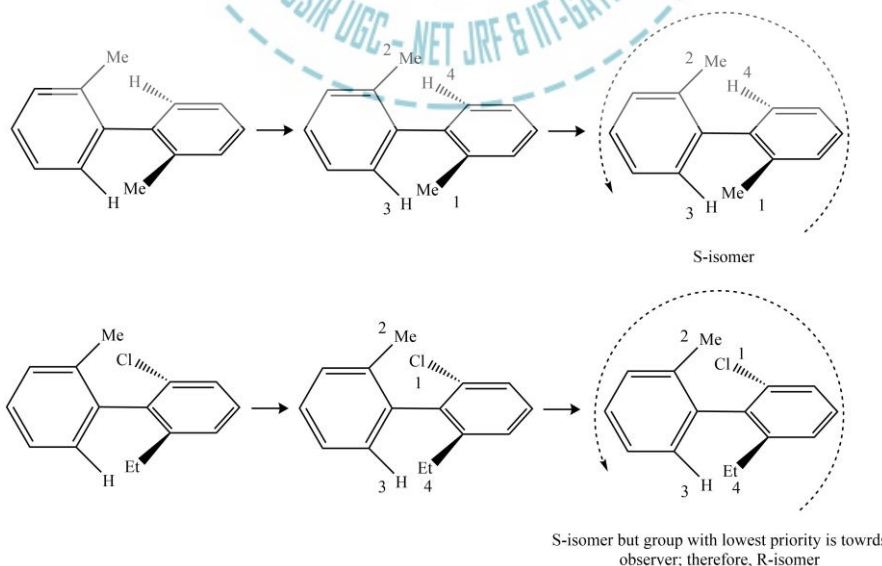


After assigning priorities to different groups, if the tracking of decreasing priority of the remaining three groups comes gives rise to clockwise flight, the molecules should be labeled as R and vice-versa. However, if the group of lowest priority is towards observer, revert the result from R to S and vice-versa.

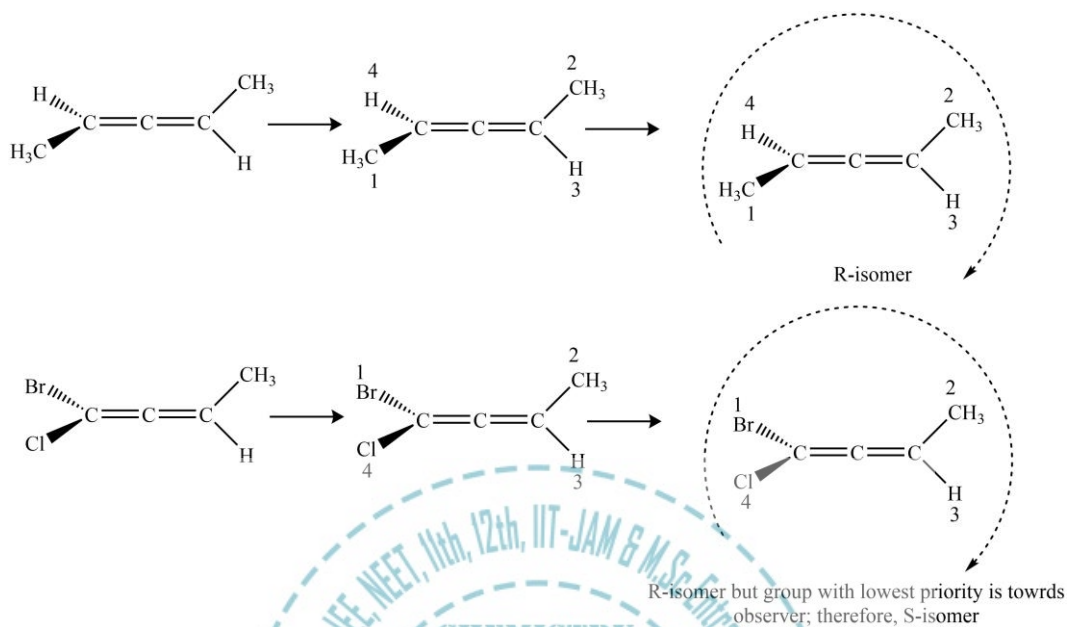
2. Examples of Optically active compounds with chiral axis:

Some of the most common examples of organic molecules with this type of chirality are biphenyls, allenes, and spiranes derivatives.

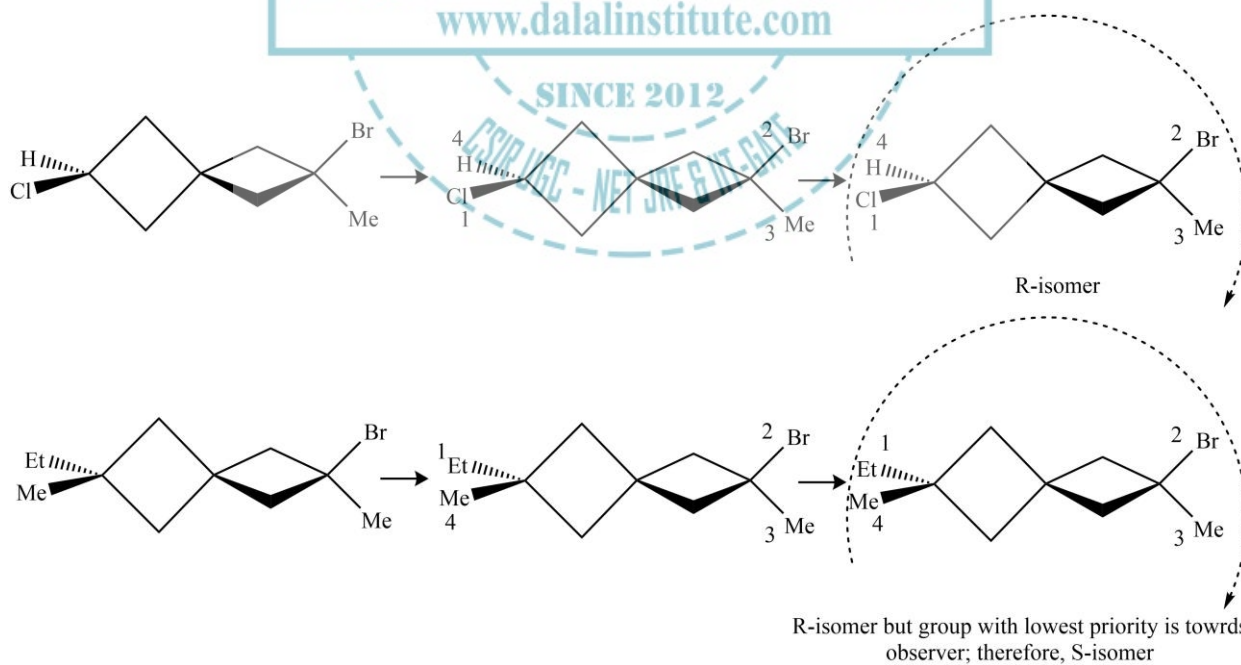
i) Optically active biphenyls:



It is clear that biphenyl derivative will only be optically active groups on both ends are not the same.

ii) *Optically active allenes:*

It is also obvious that the allene derivative compounds will only be optically active groups on both ends are not the same.

iii) *Optically active Spiranes:*

It is also obvious that the spirane derivative compounds will only be optically active groups on both ends are not the same.

➤ **Optically Active Compounds with Chiral Plane**

This type of chirality arises when replacing a group in a plane makes the molecule chiral. In other words, an organic molecule can no longer be superimposed on its mirror image if the replacement of a particular group induces chirality.

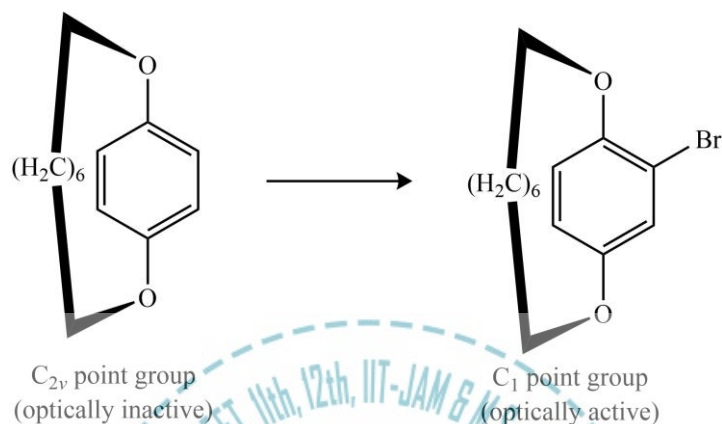
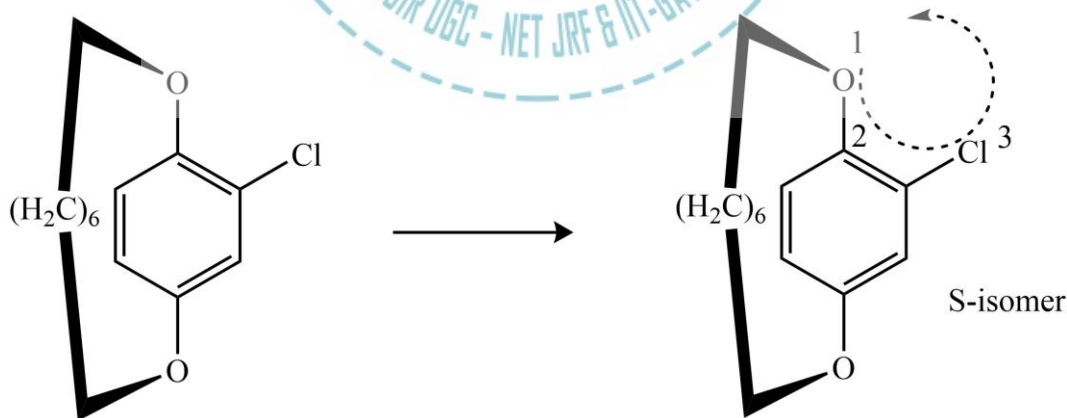


Figure 4. Conversion of an optically inactive molecule to optically active via chiral plane.

1. R-S nomenclature of Optically active compounds with chiral plane:

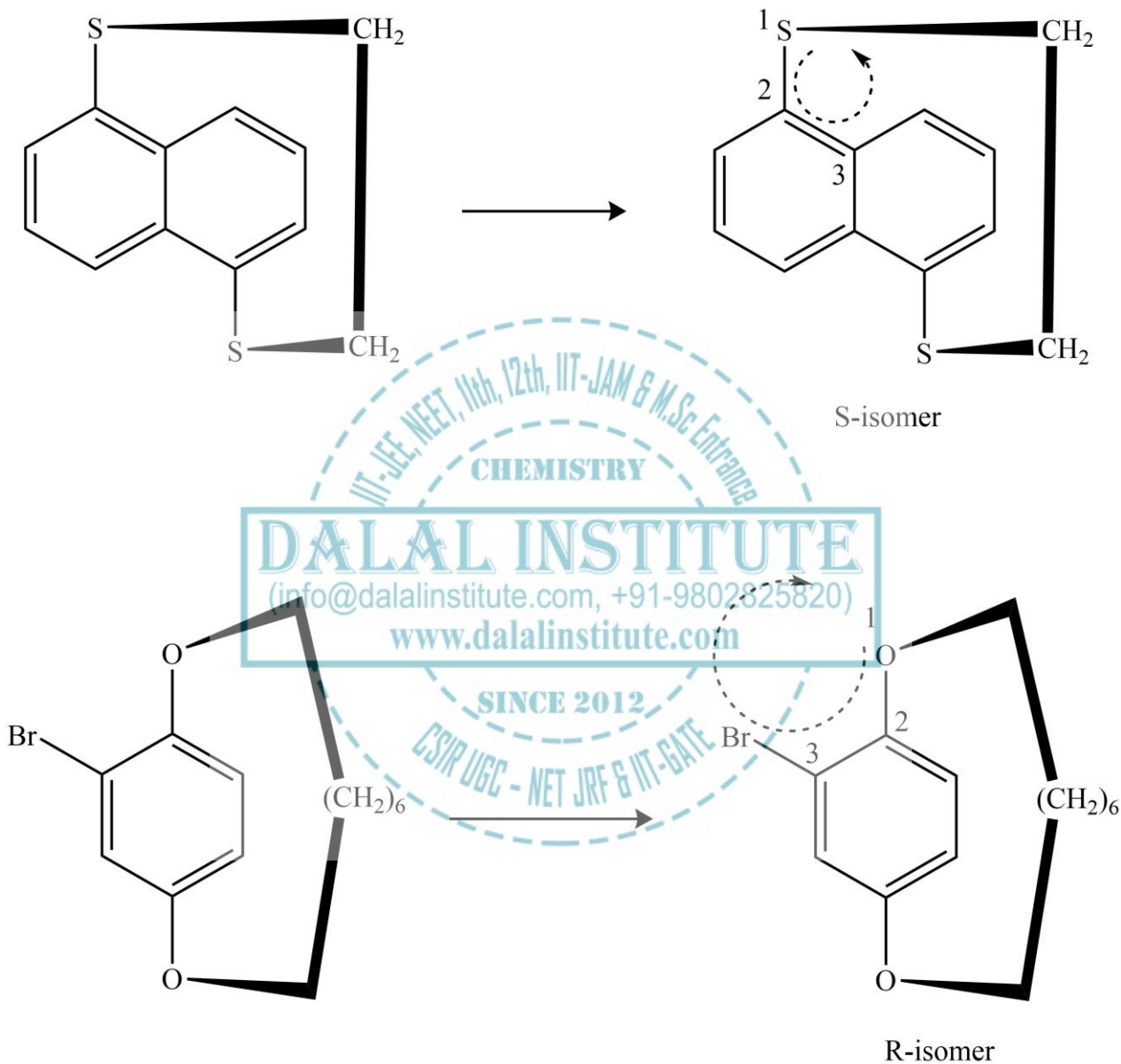
The whole procedure includes two steps; the first is the priority assignment of different groups next to the “pilot atom” (the directly bonded atom above the chiral plane). The atom next to the pilot atom is always assigned 1st priority, followed by the 2nd priority to next atom, and then deciding the priority of the next group using Cahn-Ingold-Prelog rules.



After assigning priorities to different groups, if the tracking of decreasing priority of the remaining three groups comes gives rise to clockwise flight, the molecules should be labeled as R. However, if the tracking of decreasing priority of the remaining three groups comes gives rise to anticlockwise flight, the molecules should be labeled as S.

2. Examples of Optically active compounds with chiral plane:

Some of the most common examples of organic molecules with this type of chirality are ansa compounds' derivatives.



The enantiomer of any optically active ansa compound can simply be obtained by flipping the chain below the chiral plane.

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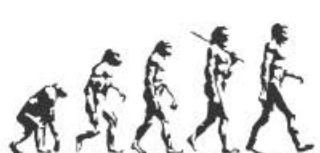
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A TEXTBOOK OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Volume I

MANDEEP DALAL



First Edition

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Mandeep Dalal

(M.Sc, Ph.D, CSIR UGC – NET JRF, IIT-GATE)

Founder & Educator, Dalal Institute

E-Mail: dr.mandeep.dalal@gmail.com

www.mandeepdalal.com

Mandeep Dalal is an Indian research scholar who is primarily working in the field of Science and Philosophy. He received his Ph.D in Chemistry from Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, in 2018. He is also the Founder of "Dalal Institute" (India's best coaching centre for academic and competitive chemistry exams), the organization that is committed to revolutionize the field of school-level and higher education in Chemistry across the globe. He has published more than 40 research papers in various international scientific journals, including mostly from Elsevier (USA), IOP (UK), and Springer (Netherlands).

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