# **An Introduction to Organic Chemistry**

# What is Organic Chemistry?

- Organic chemistry is the study of compounds that contain \_\_\_\_\_ atoms bonded to hydrogen, and often to oxygen, nitrogen, halogens, and other elements.
- Why Carbon?
  - o Carbon forms 4 strong \_\_\_\_\_\_bonds.
  - o Can form chains, rings, and complex structures.
  - Found in living organisms and many synthetic materials.

#### **Importance of Organic Chemistry**

- Basis of \_\_\_\_\_ molecules: carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, nucleic acids
- Used in medicine (pharmaceuticals), fuels (gasoline, propane), and materials (plastics, fabrics)
- Essential for understanding life processes and modern technology









# Vitalism Theory (Pre-1800s)

- Scientists believed that organic compounds could only be made by living organisms.
- They thought living cells had a special "vital force" necessary to make these substances.
- This made people believe lab of organic compounds was impossible



#### Friedrich Wöhler's Discovery (1828)

- Friedrich Wöhler accidentally synthesized urea (an organic compound found in urine) by heating ammonium cyanate, an inorganic salt.
- This shocked the scientific community—it showed that \_\_\_\_\_ compounds could be made in the lab.
- This marked the beginning of modern organic chemistry.

Ammonium cyanate  $\rightarrow$  (heat)  $\rightarrow$  Urea NH<sub>4</sub>OCN (NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO Inorganic Organic

# Organic vs. Inorganic

Organic Compounds	Inorganic Compounds				
Contains carbon-hydrogen (C-H) bonds	Usually don't contain C-H bonds				
Often found in living organisms	Often from non-living sources				
Can be large and complex	Often smaller, simpler				
HO NH₂	нн				

# **Bonding in Organic Molecules**

- Carbon can form:
  - Single bonds (alkanes)
  - Double bonds (alkenes)
  - Triple bonds (alkynes)
- Bonding types influence:
  - Shape of molecule
  - Reactivity
  - o Physical \_\_\_\_\_\_ (boiling point, solubility, etc.)

#### **Hydrocarbons**

- Hydrocarbons are molecules made of only \_\_\_\_\_ and hydrogen.
- All atoms are bonded to each other by covalent bonds
- Divided into 2 classes:

#### **Aliphatics**

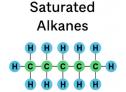
- Alkanes single bonds only
- Alkenes at least one double bond
- Alkynes at least one triple bond

$$H - C = C - H$$

#### **Aromatics**

o Aromatic rings - often benzene

- Can be saturated or unsaturated:
  - o Saturated: contain only single C-C bonds
  - Unsaturated: contain at least one double or triple C-C bond therefore fewer hydrogen atoms are attached than if all C-C bonds were single.



Unsaturated
Alkenes Alkynes

## **Aliphatics**

- Basis of \_\_\_\_\_ molecules: carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, nucleic acids
- Used in medicine (pharmaceuticals), fuels (gasoline, propane), and materials (plastics, fabrics)
- Essential for understanding life processes and modern technology

Туре	<b>General Formula</b>	"Suffix"	C-C bond		
Alkane	C <sub>n</sub> H <sub>2n + 2</sub>	ane	All single		
Alkene	C <sub>n</sub> H <sub>2n</sub>	ene	one double		
Alkyne	C <sub>n</sub> H <sub>2n - 2</sub>	yne	one triple		
*Cycloalkane	C <sub>n</sub> H <sub>2n</sub>	ane	All single		
*Cycloalkene	C <sub>n</sub> H <sub>2n - 2</sub>	ene	One double		

<sup>\*</sup> For cyclic aliphatics, the prefix "cyclo" is used

#### **Different Forms**

- Straight Chain: one continuous chain
  - ∘ eg. Butane, C₄H₁₀

- Branched Chain:
  - o contains at least one \_\_\_\_\_ (substituent) which takes the place of a Hydrogen atom
  - substituent can be an alkyl group (eg. methyl = CH<sub>3</sub>)
     or a halogen atom
  - eg. Methylpropane, C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>
- Cyclic hydrocarbon: has a closed ring

   eg. Cyclobutane, C₄H₂



## **Representing Organic Compounds**

#### Example: 3-methylhexane

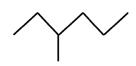
Complete Structural Diagram

Condensed Structural Diagram

$$\begin{array}{c} \operatorname{CH_3-CH_2-CH-CH_2-CH_2-CH_3} \\ \operatorname{CH_3} \end{array}$$

Skeleton Structural Diagram

Line Structural Diagram

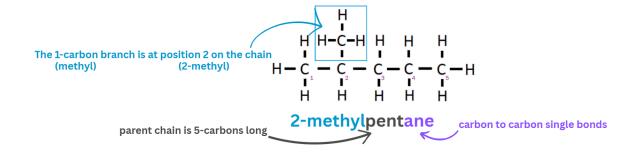


**Prefixes used in Naming Hydrocarbons** 

# C atoms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Prefix	meth	eth	prop	but	pent	hex	hept	oct	non	dec

## Naming Organic Compounds (IUPAC Basics)

- Prefix = number of carbon atoms (meth-, eth-, prop-, but-, pent-, etc.)
- Suffix = type of bonds or functional group
  - o -ane (alkane)
  - o -ene (alkene)
  - -yne (alkyne)
- Number the carbon chain to give \_\_\_\_\_ possible numbers to double/triple bonds or branches



## **Functional Groups (Preview)**

- Functional groups are specific atoms or groups that change the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of organic molecules.
- Examples:
  - Hydroxyl (-OH) → alcohols
  - Carboxyl (-COOH) → carboxylic acids
  - Amino  $(-NH_2)$  → amines
  - o Halides (-Cl, -Br, -I)





### **Physical Properties of Organic Compounds**

- 1. Boiling and Melting Points
  - As the number of carbon atoms \_\_\_\_\_\_, so do the boiling and melting points.
- 2. Intermolecular Forces
  - Dispersion Forces increase with molecular size and number of electrons, making larger molecules harder to separate.
- 3. Physical State by Carbon Count
  - Small hydrocarbons = gases (1–4 carbons)
  - Medium-sized = liquids (5–16 carbons)
  - Large molecules = solids (17+ carbons)







CH₄

C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>18</sub>

 $C_{20}H_{42}$ 

#### **Real-Life Applications**

- Pharmaceuticals: aspirin, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
- Fuel sources: methane, gasoline
- Household: rubbing alcohol, vinegar
- Biochemistry: DNA, proteins







## **Safety with Organic Compounds**

- Many are \_\_\_\_\_ handle with care
- Use in well-ventilated spaces
- Always wear gloves and goggles
- Dispose of according to lab protocol