

CONCEPT: WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISOMERS?

In a previous chapter, we used the following flowchart to identify constitutional isomers:

Step 1. (Are the atoms all the same?) Count non-_____ atoms and IHD in both compounds

- If not exactly the same, they are _____

- If the same, then go to step 2

Step 2. (Are the atoms all connected the same?) Look for a _____ atom, then count bonds from there.

- If not exactly the same, they are _____

- If the same, then _____

Due to the possibility of stereoisomers, now we have to add one more step to the flowchart:

Step 3. Count the number/type of stereogenic centers on the molecule

- If _____ chiral/trigonal centers, the two molecules are _____

- If _____ chiral center,

• Same: _____

• Different: _____

- If _____ chiral centers,

• All same: _____

• If one or more different: _____

• All different: _____

- If _____ chiral centers, symmetrical, opposite: _____

- If _____ trigonal center,

• Same: _____

• Different: _____

PRACTICE: Identify the following compounds as identical, constitutional isomers, enantiomers or diastereomers

