

# Geometrical Isomerism

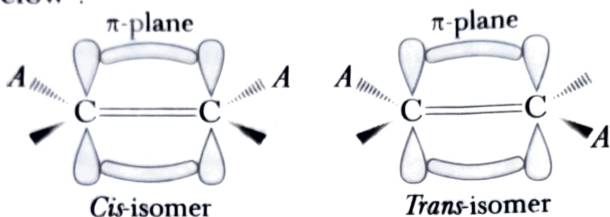
Geometrical isomerism arises due to restricted rotation of atoms or groups about a covalent bond. There are two important classes of organic compounds where rotation about a covalent bond is restricted, they are (i) compound containing multiple bonds and (ii) cyclic compounds.

Geometrical isomerism is further classified into two categories as *cis-trans* isomerism and *E - Z* isomerism.

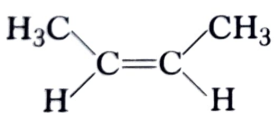
## Cis-trans isomerism

(a) **Cis-trans isomerism in acyclic compounds** *Cis-trans* isomerism in acyclic compound can be observed due to restricted rotations of atoms or groups about carbon-carbon double bond or in compound containing double bond between carbon and other atoms *viz* "N" or double bond between two atoms which may be similar or different.

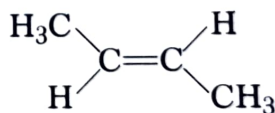
- In the compound containing carbon-carbon double bond, if identical atoms or groups lies on the same side of a  $\pi$  plane, the stereoisomer is known as **cis-isomer**, and if identical atoms or groups lies on opposite side of a  $\pi$  plane, the stereoisomer is known as **trans-isomer** as shown below :



In the above shown structures, it is evident that  $\pi$ -plane is perpendicular to the molecular plane. In *cis*-isomer, the identical groups *A* are on same side to the  $\pi$ -plane *i.e.*, behind the  $\pi$ -plane. In the *trans*-isomer the identical groups *A* are on the opposite side of plane *i.e.*, one behind the  $\pi$ -plane and one in the front side of  $\pi$ -plane. *i.e.*,



*Cis*-2-butene

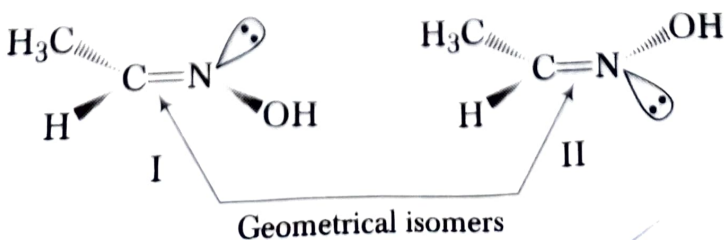


*Trans*-2-butene

**Note** The main conditions for geometrical isomerism are.

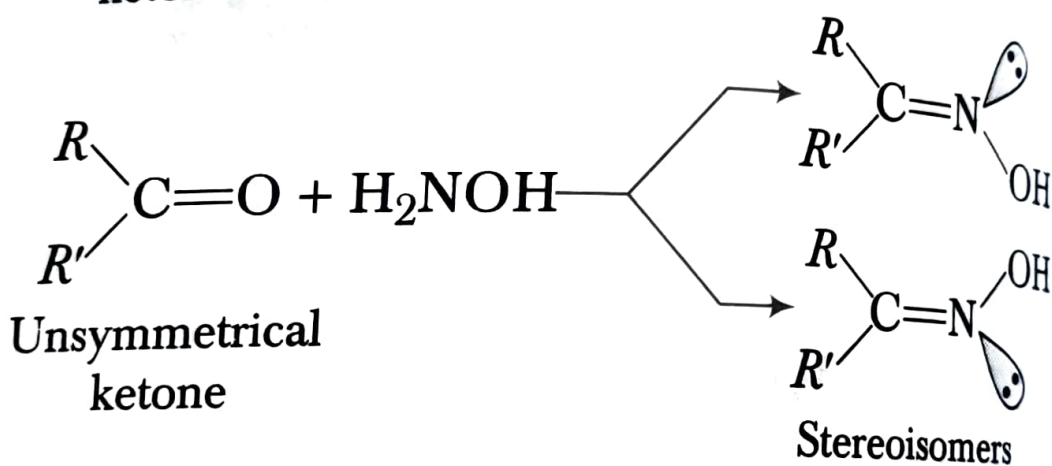
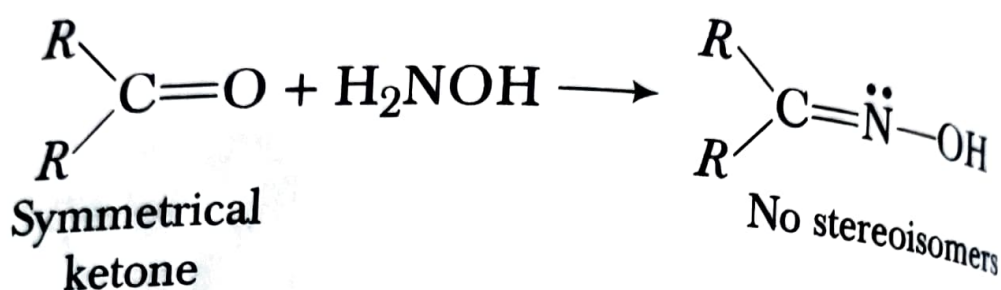
- The molecule must have a double bond.
- The two atoms or groups attached to the same carbon atom must be different.
- There are several functional groups, when present in a compound, involve geometrical isomerism although they do not contain carbon-carbon double bond. They are :

(i) Oximes contain  $C=N$  and may give rise to geometrical isomerism. All aldo-oxime (except formaldoxime) show geometrical isomerism.



Here, structure I and II represents different configuration and they are non-interconvertible due to restricted rotation about carbon-nitrogen double bond.

In case of ketones, symmetrical ketones will not form stereoisomers after formation of keto-oxime, but all unsymmetrical ketones will result in the formation of two stereoisomers of keto-oxime after condensation with hydroxyl amine.



(ii) Imines, also contain  $C=N$  and may give rise to geometrical isomerism as



Geometrical isomers



Geometrical isomers