

Angle strain  
 Chair + boat forms of cyclohexane  
 Cis + trans  
 axial vs equatorial  
 ring flips

highly - strained

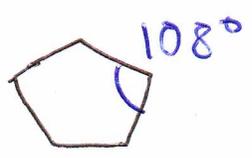


Cyclopropane

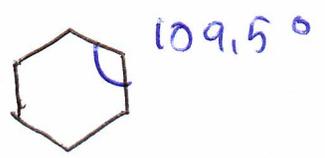


Cyclobutane

Angle strain - higher potential caused by distortion of bonds caused by deviation of molecular geometry from ideal bond angles



cyclopentane

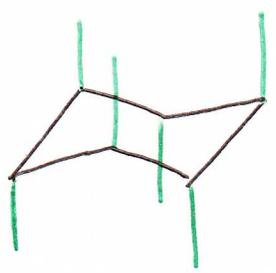
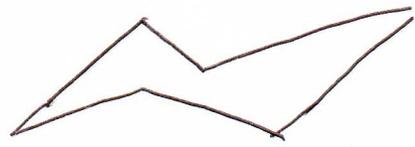


cyclohexane

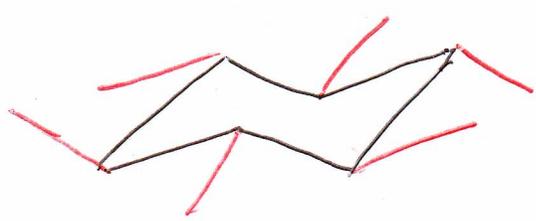
little or no angle strain

- Rings with 7-11 carbons have a very small amount of strain; Past 11, rings again have no strain.

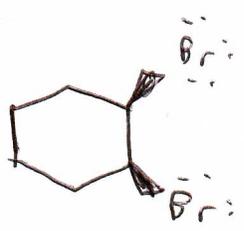
Cyclohexane  
 chair form



axial substituents



equatorial substituents



vicinal dihalide

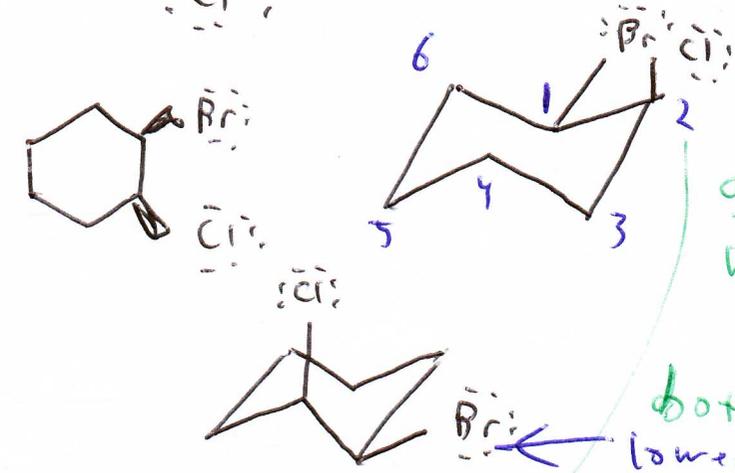
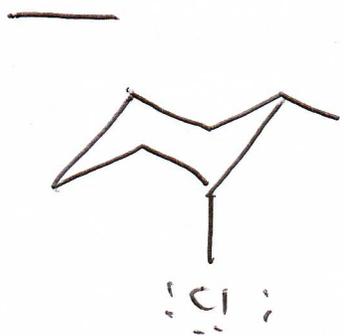
cis - both substituents pointed the same way

vicinal - neighboring positions  
 geminal - double substitution at one position

For vicinal cis-substituted cyclohexane rings, #3  
 one substituent must always be axial, the other equatorial.

ring flip - an inversion of a cyclohexane ring in which the axial substituents become equatorial and vice versa.

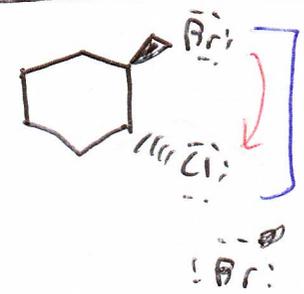
← This is an improper ring flip because the axial + equatorial positions were simply exchanged, producing a mirror image molecule.



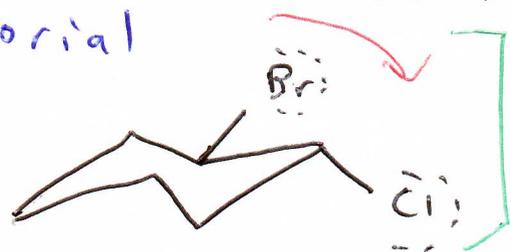
This is a proper ring flip because the relative geometry (up vs down) was maintained.

both acceptable lower energy since larger group is equatorial

ways  
 trans-substituents are pointed opposite  
 For vicinal trans-substituted cyclohexanes, both substituents must be axial or equatorial



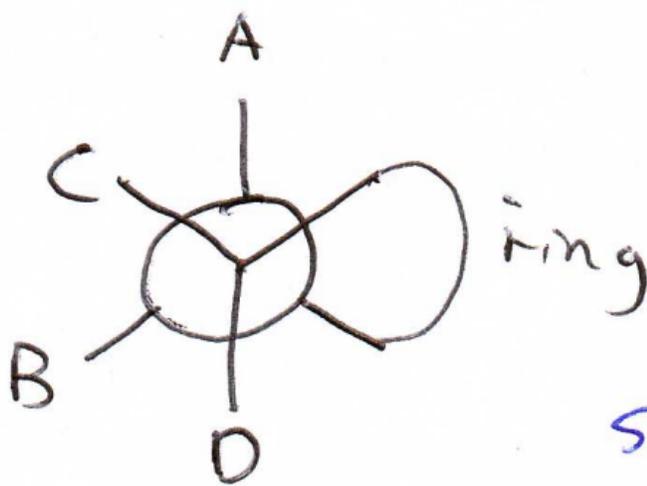
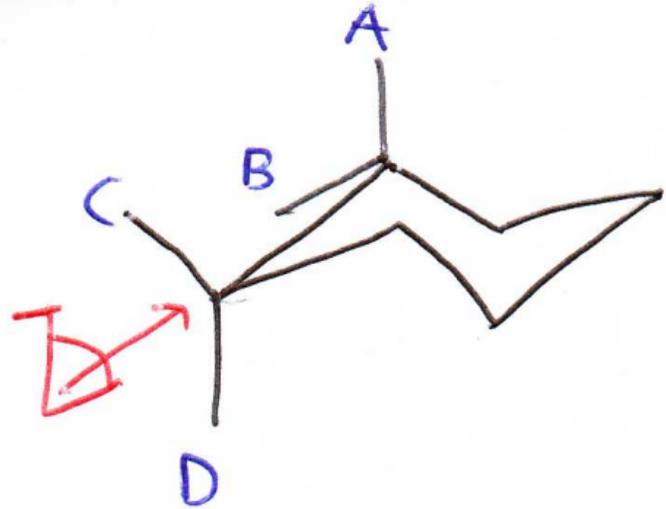
ring flip



higher energy, both substituents axial

lower energy, both substituents equatorial

In cyclohexane rings, substitution at an axial position causes steric hindrance due to diaxial interactions, thus, when possible, a substituent would prefer to be @ an equatorial position.



All bonds in a chair form of cyclohexane are staggered (gauche) #3

