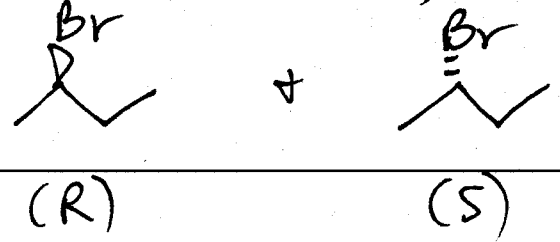
"Easy" ways to identify chiral molecules:

* presence of just one chirality center - if there is only one, then the molecule is definitely chiral.

* presence of an internal mirror plane (plane of symmetry) - even if chirality centers are present, if the molecule has an internal mirror plane, it will be superimposable on its mirror image + therefore achiral.

Nomenclature (IUPAC)

consider: 

(R) (S)

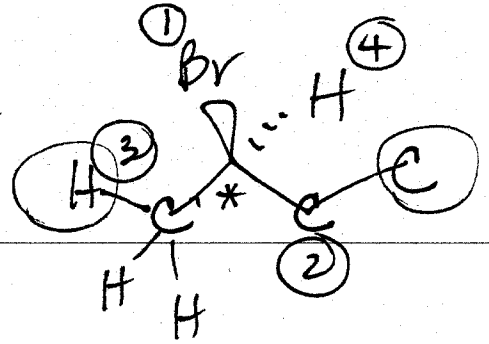
* 2-bromobutane
* ~~enantiomers~~
* how can we name them so as to tell them apart?

Use Cahn-Ingold-Prelog rules of prioritization.

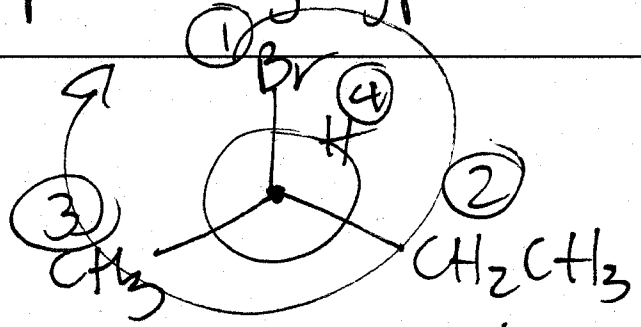
1. Each of the 4 gps. attached to the chirality center is assigned a priority. 1 → 4 (high → low)

   a. Go by atomic #. Higher atomic # = higher priority.

   b. If you can't choose based on those atoms, go one atom out.



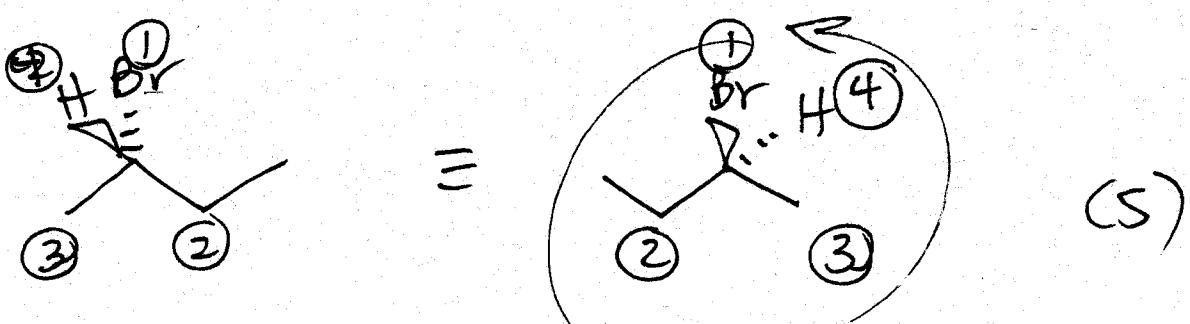
2. Align the molecule so that the lowest priority gp. is pointing away.



3. Draw a circle 1→2→3

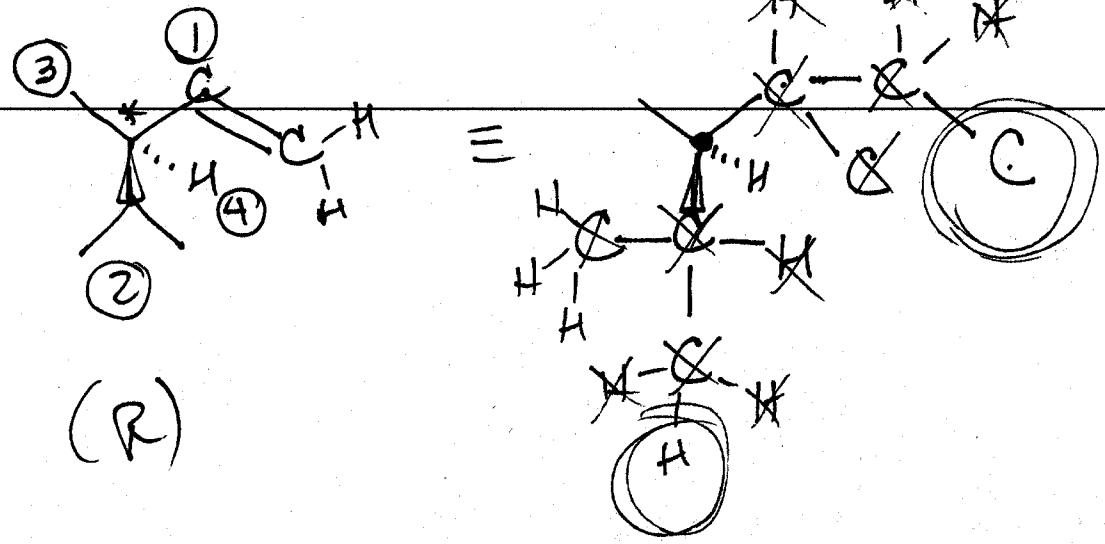
a. Clockwise – (R) rectus (right)

b. Counterclockwise – (S) sinister (left)

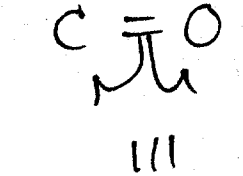


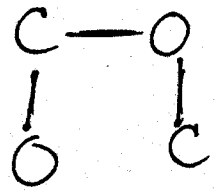
(S)

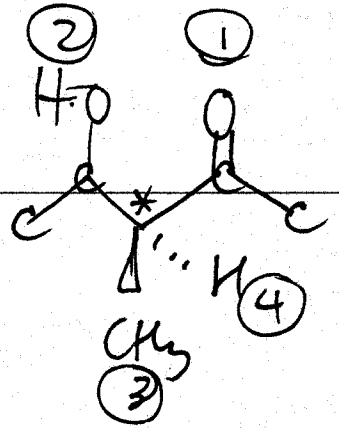
what if there are multiple bonds?



(R)







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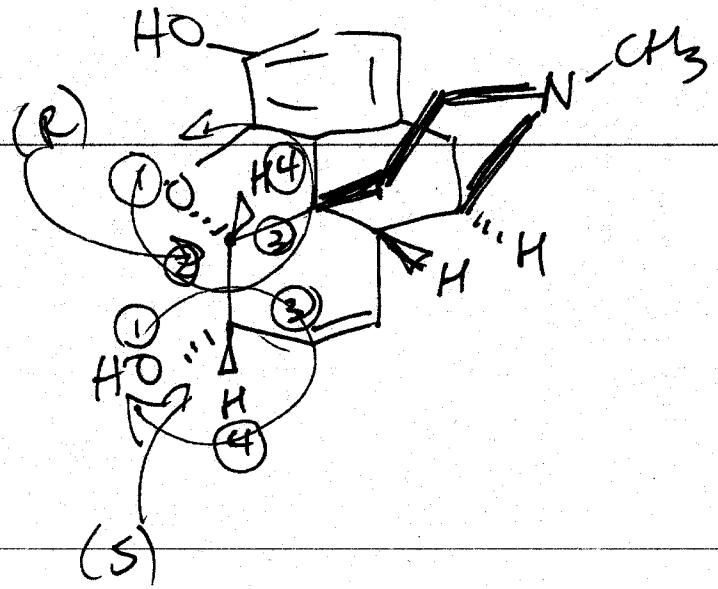
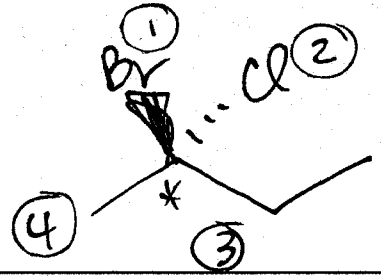


(S)

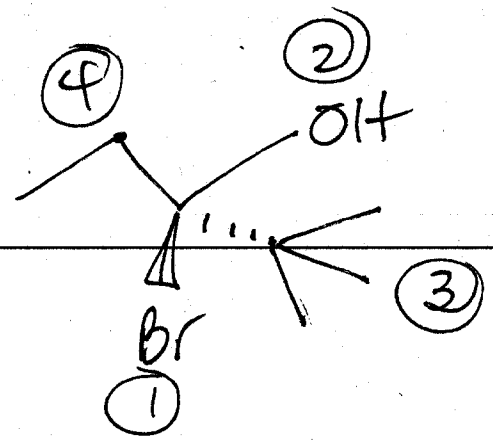
morphine

A



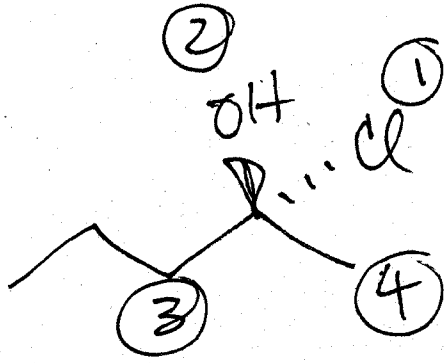
(R)

B



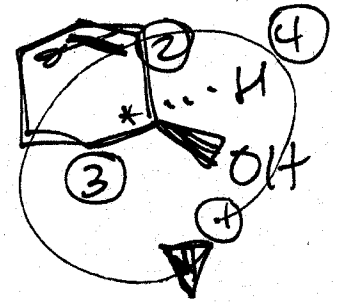
(R)

C



(R)

D



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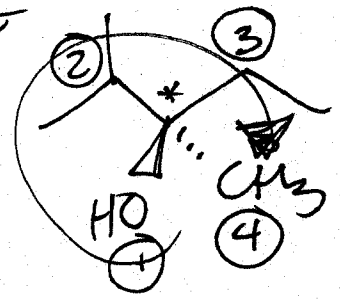
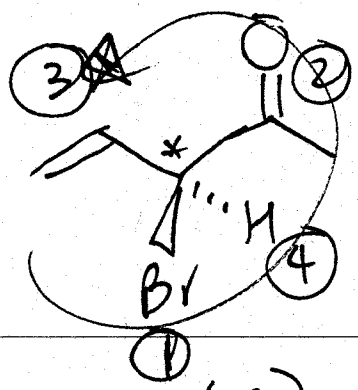
E



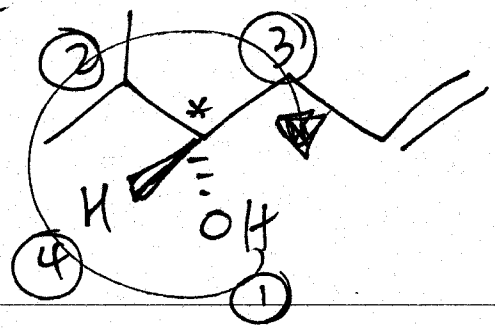
(R)

F



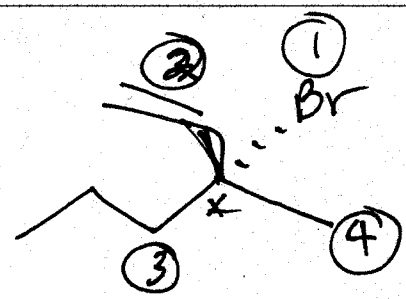
(S)

G



(S)

H



(R)