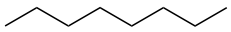
Nomenclature and physical properties of alkanes

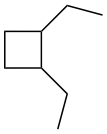
Example:

cyclooctane
C_8H_{16}
DOU = 1

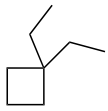


n-octane
C_8H_{18}
DOU = 0

Cyclooctane and 1,2-diethylcyclobutane and 1,1-diethylcyclobutane are structural (constitutional) isomers – they all have the same molecular formula



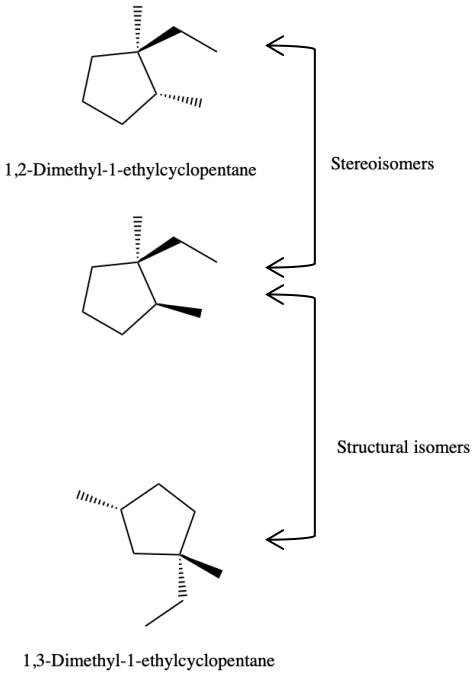
1,2-diethylcyclobutane
C_8H_{16}
DOU = 1



1,1-diethylcyclobutane
C_8H_{16}
DOU = 1

n-octane is not a structural isomer of the others, it has a different molecular formula

Example:

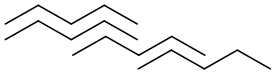


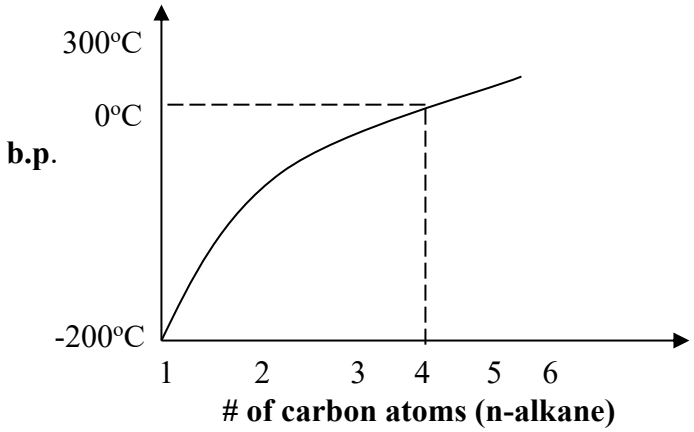
Physical Properties of Alkanes:

Boiling Point

Intermolecular forces are dominated by London forces

- Alkanes are non-polar because H and C have similar electronegativity leading them to interact with themselves through London Forces which causes a trend in boiling point:



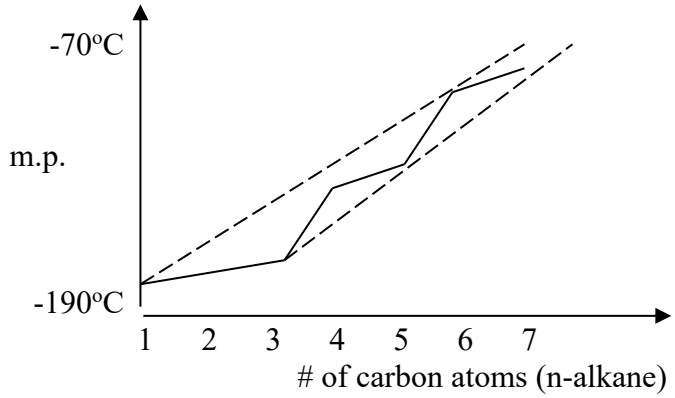


London Forces (temporary dipoles) hold molecules together

The boiling point increases as the size of the alkane increases because the longer carbon chains have greater surface area to experience London Forces. As the boiling point increases, the graph reaches a plateau where alkane starts to decompose (#C > 20)

Melting point

- Melting points are related to the crystal structure packing efficiency
- The predicted line (dotted line) is not what we observe, but a zig zag line (continuous) resulting from crystal structure packing.
- Even numbered alkanes pack better in a crystal lattice
- Alkanes are flammable and will combust into CO_2 and H_2O

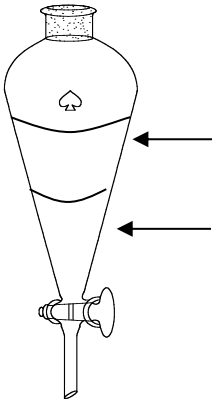


Solubility

- Alkanes are soluble in other organic solvents (like dissolves like)
- Not miscible (soluble) with water → floats due to lower density
- Low density (ρ = rho = g/cm^3)

- ρ water ~ 1 g/cm^3 or 1 g/mL
- ρ alkanes ~ 0.7 g/cm^3

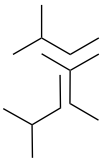
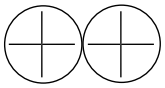
Separatory Funnel *(density separation)*



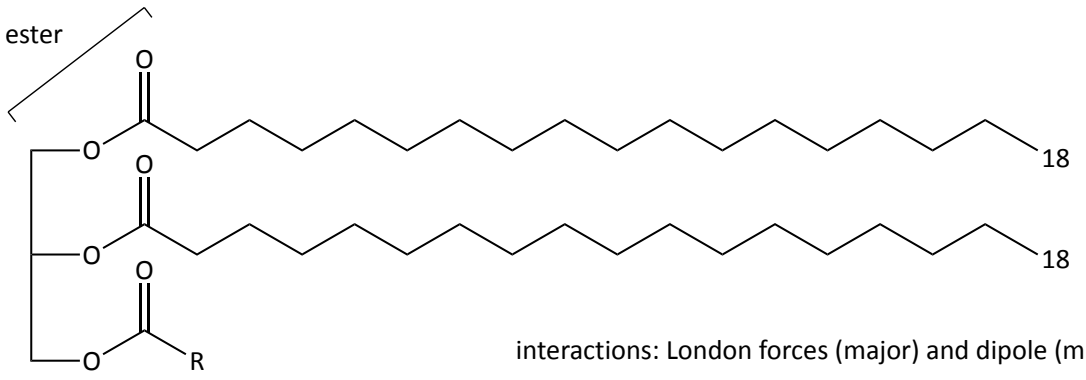
Alkanes are less dense than water (0.65-0.75 g/mL)

Water (1.0 g/mL)

Example: Pentane

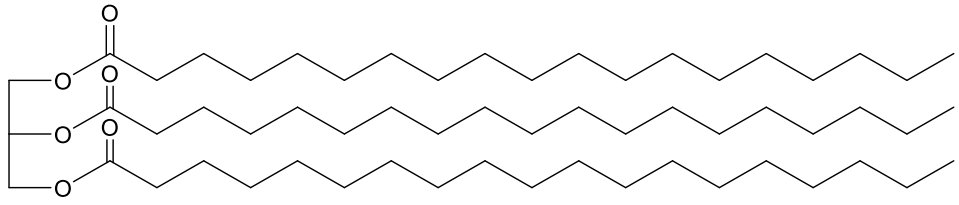
	m.p.	b.p.		
n-pentane	-129	36		n-pentane has high bp due to multiple contacts of straight chains (London Forces)
isopentane **2-methylbutane**	-160	28		isopentane is less well packed, less interacting surface area
neopentane **2,2-dimethylpropane**	-13	9		m.p. of neopentane determined by good crystal packing of spherical shape. Ball-like shape means surface contact area small and boiling point lower

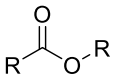
E.g.



interactions: London forces (major) and dipole (min)

Triglyceride (Saturated fat) – esters of glycerol



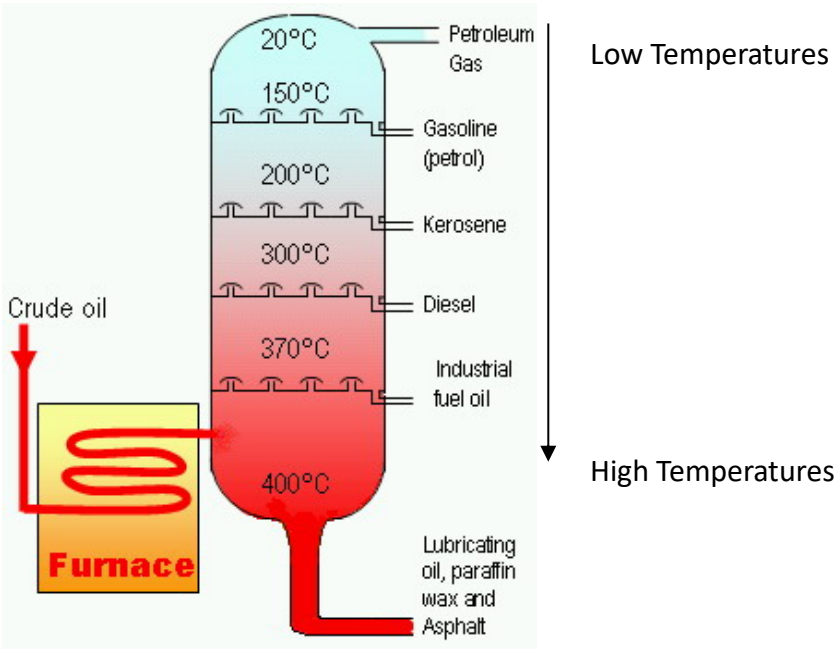
Ester Group = 

Molecules are held predominantly by London Forces. Some dipole-dipole interactions can occur due to the ester groups present.

Source of Alkanes

- Petroleum

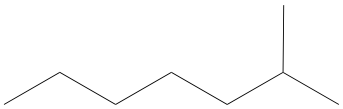
Distillation of Petroleum:



- Petroleum is a mixture of alkanes and other hydrocarbons (>>2000 compounds)

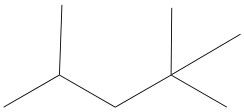
Fuel (gasoline)

A fuel composed of 100% "isooctane" (incorrect name) will have an octane rating of 100. 2,2,4-trimethylpentane "isooctane" is the best burning. Heptane is the worst burning (explosive burning). A fuel that burns like a mixture of 90:10 "isooctane" to heptane has a 90 octane rating.



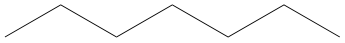
isooctane

2-methylheptane



incorrectly also called "isooctane"

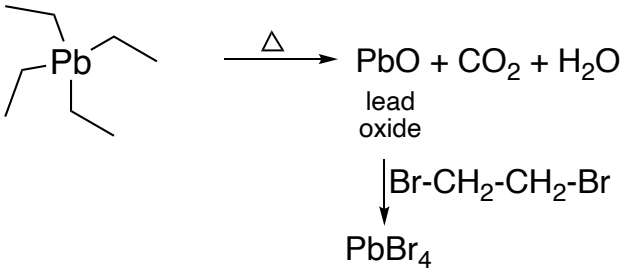
2,2,4-trimethylpentane



heptane

At the pump you typically see an octane rating between 88 and 94.

Tetraethyl Lead
-highly toxic



Volatile and highly toxic