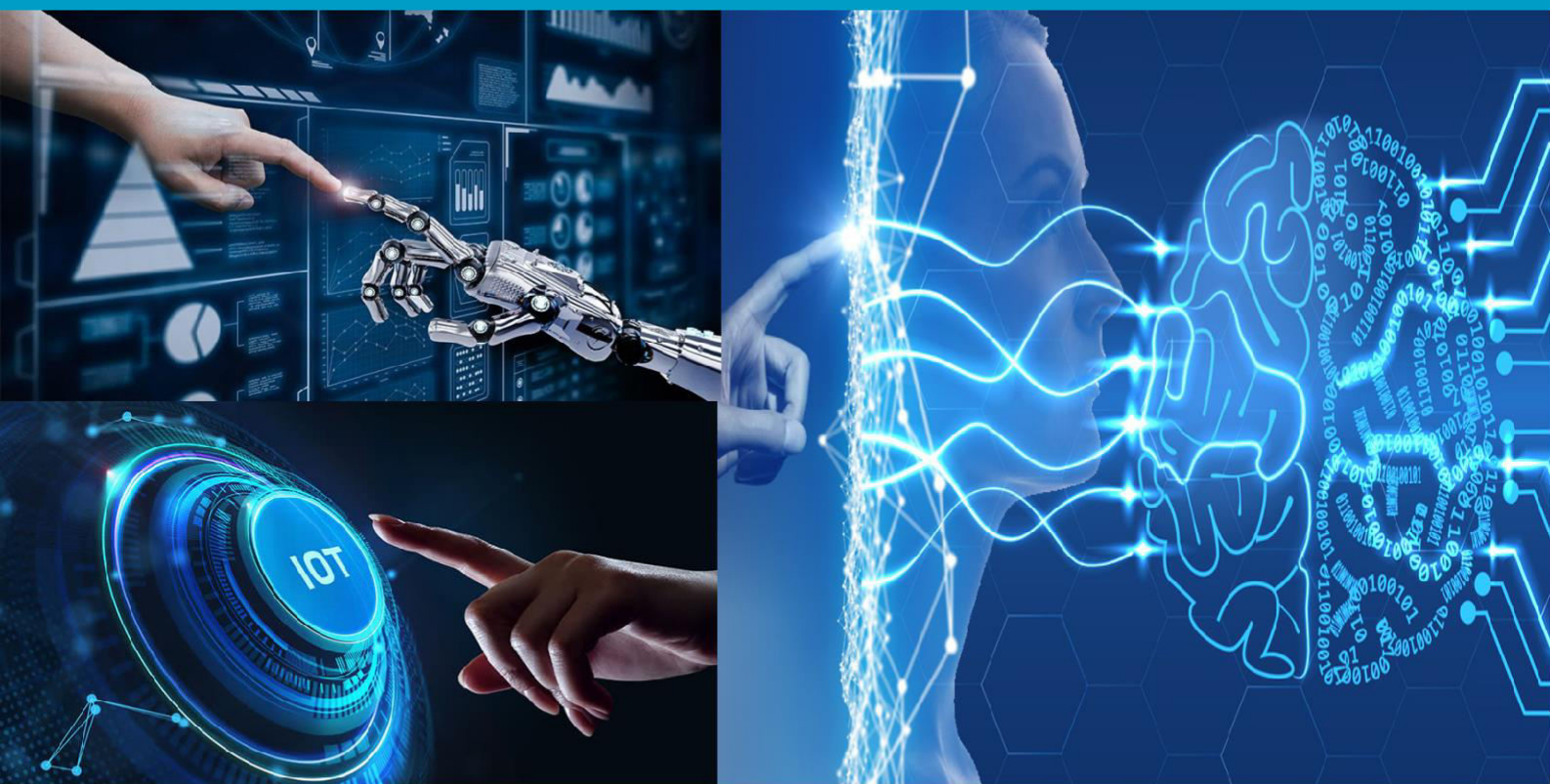




INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

Volume 8, Issue 9, September 2021



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

Impact Factor: 7.580



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Functional Groups are the Cause of Chemical Reactions

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ABSTRACT: In [organic chemistry](#), a **functional group** is a [substituent](#) or [moiety](#) in a [molecule](#) that causes the molecule's characteristic [chemical reactions](#). The same functional group will undergo the same or similar chemical reactions regardless of the rest of the molecule's composition. This enables systematic prediction of chemical reactions and behavior of [chemical compounds](#) and the design of [chemical synthesis](#). The [reactivity](#) of a functional group can be modified by other functional groups nearby. Functional group interconversion can be used in [retrosynthetic analysis](#) to plan [organic synthesis](#).

KEYWORDS: functional group, organic, chemical reactions, reactivity, analysis, compounds, molecule

I. INTRODUCTION

A functional group is a group of atoms in a molecule with distinctive [chemical properties](#), regardless of the other [atoms](#) in the molecule. The atoms in a functional group are linked to each other and to the rest of the molecule by [covalent bonds](#). For repeating units of [polymers](#), functional groups attach to their [nonpolar](#) core of [carbon](#) atoms and thus add chemical character to carbon chains. Functional groups can also be [charged](#), e.g. in [carboxylate](#) salts ($-\text{COO}^-$), which turns the molecule into a [polyatomic ion](#) or a [complex ion](#). Functional groups binding to a central atom in a coordination complex are called [ligands](#). Complexation and [solvation](#) are also caused by specific interactions of functional groups. In the common rule of thumb "like dissolves like", it is the shared or mutually well-interacting functional groups which give rise to [solubility](#). For example, [sugar](#) dissolves in water because both share the [hydroxyl](#) functional group ($-\text{OH}$) and hydroxyls interact strongly with each other. Plus, when functional groups are more [electronegative](#) than atoms they attach to, the functional groups will become polar, and the otherwise nonpolar molecules containing these functional groups become polar and so become soluble in some [aqueous](#) environment.

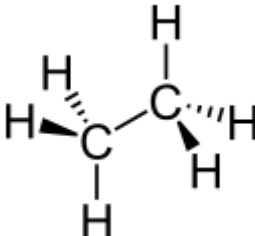
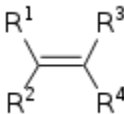
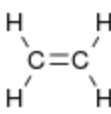
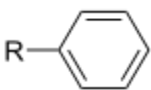
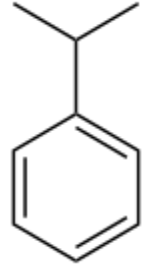
Combining the names of functional groups with the names of the parent [alkanes](#) generates what is termed a [systematic nomenclature](#) for naming [organic compounds](#). In traditional nomenclature, the first carbon atom after the carbon that attaches to the functional group is called the [alpha carbon](#); the second, beta carbon, the third, gamma carbon, etc. If there is another functional group at a carbon, it may be named with the Greek letter, e.g., the gamma-amine in [gamma-aminobutyric acid](#) is on the third carbon of the carbon chain attached to the carboxylic acid group. [IUPAC conventions](#) call for numeric labeling of the position, e.g. 4-aminobutanoic acid. In traditional names various qualifiers are used to label [isomers](#), for example, isopropanol (IUPAC name: propan-2-ol) is an isomer of n-propanol (propan-1-ol). The term [moiety](#) has some overlap with the term "functional group". However, a moiety is an entire "half" of a molecule, which can be not only a single functional group, but also a larger unit consisting of multiple functional groups. For example, an "aryl moiety" may be any group containing an [aromatic ring](#), regardless of how many functional groups the said aryl has.

II. DISCUSSION

The following is a list of common functional groups.^[3] In the formulas, the symbols R and R' usually denote an attached hydrogen, or a [hydrocarbon side chain](#) of any length, but may sometimes refer to any group of atoms.

Hydrocarbons

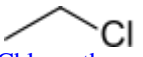
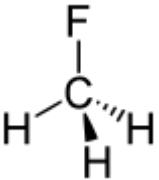
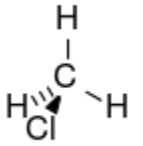
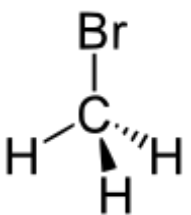
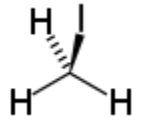
Hydrocarbons are a class of molecule that is defined by functional groups called [hydrocarbyls](#) that contain only carbon and hydrogen, but vary in the number and order of double bonds. Each one differs in type (and scope) of reactivity.

<u>Chemical class</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Formula</u>	<u>Structural Formula</u>	<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Example</u>
Alkane	Alkyl	$R(CH_2)_nH$		alkyl-	-ane	 Ethane
Alkene	Alkenyl	$R_2C=CR_2$		alkenyl-	-ene	 Ethylene (Ethene)
Alkyne	Alkynyl	$RC\equiv CR'$		alkynyl-	-yne	Acetylene (Ethyne)
Benzene derivative	Phenyl	RC_6H_5 RPh		phenyl-	-benzene	 Cumene (Isopropylbenzene)

There are also a large number of branched or ring alkanes that have specific names, e.g., [tert-butyl](#), [bornyl](#), [cyclohexyl](#), etc. Hydrocarbons may form charged structures: positively charged [carbocations](#) or negative [carbanions](#). Carbocations are often named -um. Examples are [tropylium](#) and [triphenylmethyl](#) cations and the [cyclopentadienyl](#) anion.

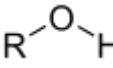
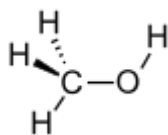
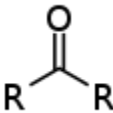
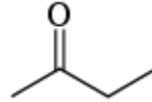
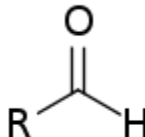
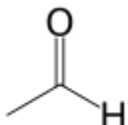
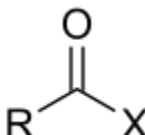
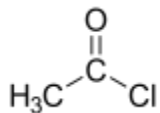
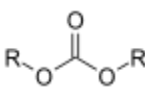
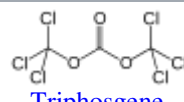
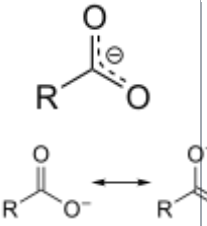
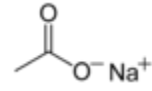
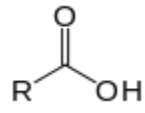
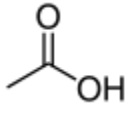
Groups containing halogen

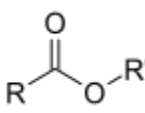
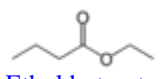
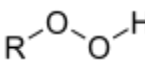
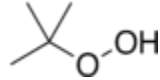
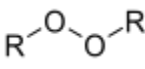
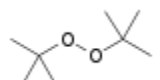
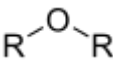
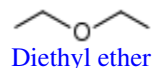
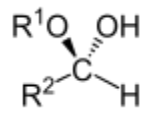
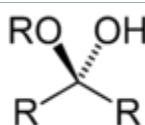
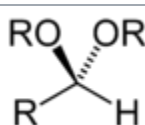
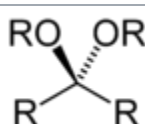
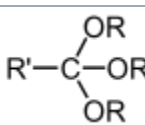
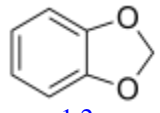
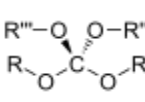
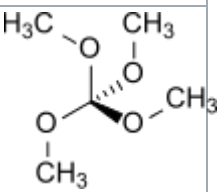
[Haloalkanes](#) are a class of molecule that is defined by a carbon-halogen bond. This bond can be relatively weak (in the case of an iodoalkane) or quite stable (as in the case of a fluoroalkane). In general, with the exception of [fluorinated](#) compounds, haloalkanes readily undergo [nucleophilic substitution](#) reactions or [elimination reactions](#). The substitution on the carbon, the acidity of an adjacent proton, the solvent conditions, etc. all can influence the outcome of the reactivity.

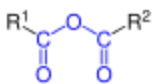
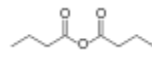
<u>Chemical class</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Formula</u>	<u>Structural Formula</u>	<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Example</u>
haloalkane	halo	RX		halo-	alkyl halide	 Chloroethane (Ethyl chloride)
fluoroalkane	fluoro	RF		fluoro-	alkyl fluoride	 Fluoromethane (Methyl fluoride)
chloroalkane	chloro	RCI		chloro-	alkyl chloride	 Chloromethane (Methyl chloride)
bromoalkane	bromo	RBr		bromo-	alkyl bromide	 Bromomethane (Methyl bromide)
iodoalkane	iodo	RI		iodo-	alkyl iodide	 Iodomethane (Methyl iodide)

Groups containing oxygen

Compounds that contain C-O bonds each possess differing reactivity based upon the location and [hybridization](#) of the C-O bond, owing to the electron-withdrawing effect of sp²-hybridized oxygen (carbonyl groups) and the donating effects of sp³-hybridized oxygen (alcohol groups).

<u>Chemical class</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Formula</u>	<u>Structural Formula</u>	<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Example</u>
Alcohol	Hydroxyl	ROH		hydroxy-	-ol	 Methanol
Carbonyl function	Carbonyl	CO				
Ketone	Ketone	RCOR'		-oyl- (-COR') or oxo- (=O)	-one	 Butanone (Methyl ethyl ketone)
Aldehyde	Aldehyde	RCHO		formyl- (-COH) or oxo- (=O)	-al	 Acetaldehyde (Ethanal)
Acyl halide	Haloformyl	RCOX		carbonofluorid oyl- carbonochlorid oyl- carbonobromid oyl- carboniodido yl-	-oyl fluoride -oyl chloride -oyl bromide -oyl iodide	 Acetyl chloride (Ethanoyl chloride)
Carbonate	Carbonate ester	ROCOOR'		(alkoxycarbon yl)oxy-	alkyl carbonate	 Triphosgene (bis(trichloromet hyl) carbonate)
Carboxylate	Carboxylate	RCOO ⁻		carboxy-	-oate	 Sodium acetate (Sodium ethanoate)
Carboxylic acid	Carboxyl	RCOOH		carboxy-	-oic acid	

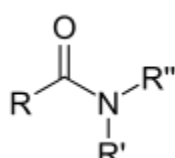
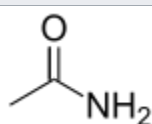
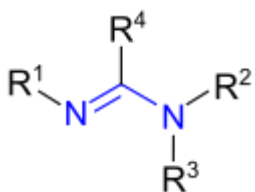
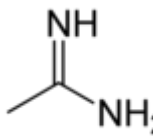
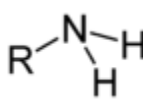
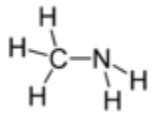
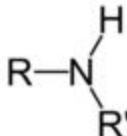
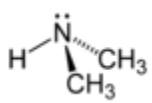
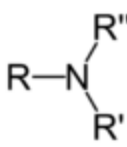
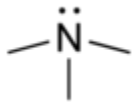
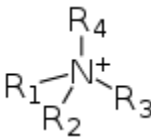
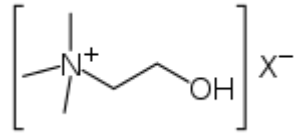
						Acetic acid (Ethanoic acid)
Ester	Carboalkoxy	RCOOR'		alkanoyloxy- or alkoxycarbonyl	alkyl alkanoate	 Ethyl butyrate (Ethyl butanoate)
Hydroperoxide	Hydroperoxy	ROOH		hydroperoxy-	alkyl hydroperoxide	 tert-Butyl hydroperoxide
Peroxide	Peroxy	ROOR'		peroxy-	alkyl peroxide	 Di-tert-butyl peroxide
Ether	Ether	ROR'		alkoxy-	alkyl ether	 Diethyl ether (Ethoxyethane)
Hemiacetal	Hemiacetal	R ₂ CH(OR ₁)(OH)		alkoxy -ol	-al alkyl hemiacetal	
Hemiketal	Hemiketal	RC(OR'')(OH)R'		alkoxy -ol	-one alkyl hemiketal	
Acetal	Acetal	RCH(OR')(OR'')		dialkoxo-	-al dialkyl acetal	
Ketal (or Acetal)	Ketal (or Acetal)	RC(OR'')(OR''')R'		dialkoxo-	-one dialkyl ketal	
Orthoester	Orthoester	RC(OR')(OR'')(OR''')		trialkoxo-		
Heterocycle (if cyclic)	Methylenedioxy	(-OCH ₂ O-)		methylenedioxy-	-dioxole	 1,2-Methylenedioxybenzene (1,3-Benzodioxole)
Orthocarbonate ester	Orthocarbonate ester	C(OR)(OR')(OR'')(OR''')		tetralkoxo-	tetraalkyl orthocarbonate	

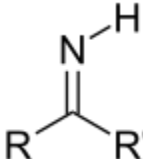
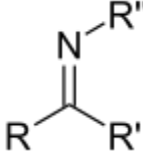
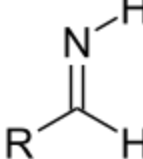
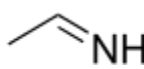
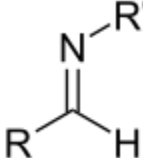
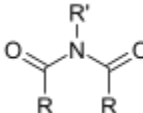
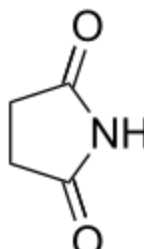
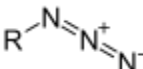
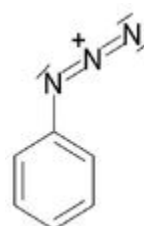
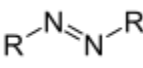
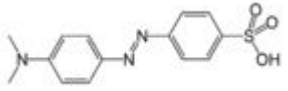
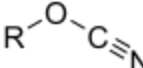
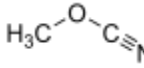
						Tetramethoxymethane
Organic acid anhydride	Carboxylic anhydride	$R_1(CO)O(CO)R_2$			anhydride	 Butyric anhydride

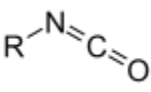
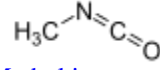
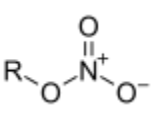
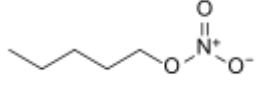
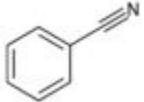
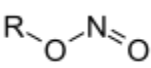
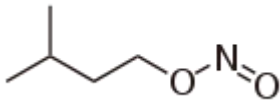
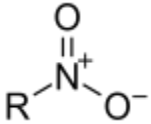
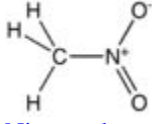
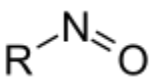
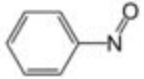
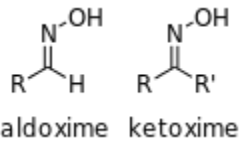
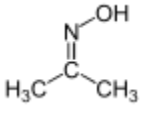
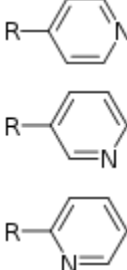
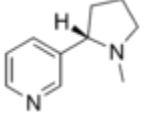
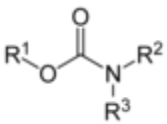
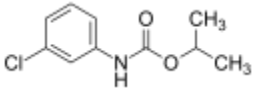
III.RESULTS

Groups containing nitrogen

Compounds that contain nitrogen in this category may contain C-O bonds, such as in the case of [amides](#).

Chemical class	Group	Formula	Structural Formula	Prefix	Example
Amide	Carboxamide	$RCONR'R''$		carboxamido- or carbamoyl-	 Acetamide (Ethanamide)
Amidine	Amidine	$RC(NR)NR_2$		amidino-	 acetamidine (acetimidamide)
Amines	Primary amine	RNH_2		amino-	 Methylamine (Methanamine)
	Secondary amine	$R'R''NH$		amino-	 Dimethylamine
	Tertiary amine	R_3N		amino-	 Trimethylamine
	4° ammonium ion	R_4N^+		ammonio-	 Choline

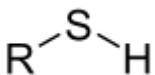
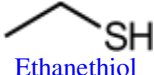
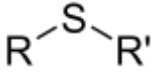
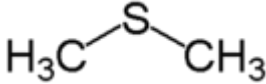
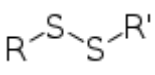
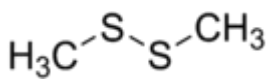
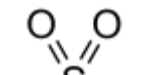
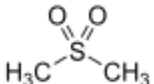
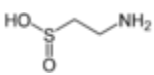
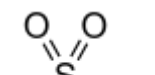
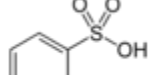
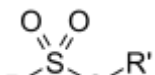
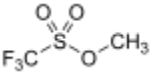
<u>Imine</u>	<u>Primary ketimine</u>	$RC(=NH)R'$		imino-	
	<u>Secondary ketimine</u>			imino-	
	<u>Primary aldimine</u>	$RC(=NH)H$		imino-	 <u>Ethanamine</u>
	<u>Secondary aldimine</u>	$RC(=NR')H$		imino-	
<u>Imide</u>	<u>Imide</u>	$(RCO)_2NR'$		imido-	 <u>Succinimide</u> (Pyrrolidine-2,5-dione)
<u>Azide</u>	<u>Azide</u>	RN_3		azido-	 <u>Phenyl azide</u> (Azidobenzene)
<u>Azo compound</u>	<u>Azo (Diimide)</u>	RN_2R'		azo-	 <u>Methyl orange</u> (p-dimethylamino-azobenzenesulfonic acid)
<u>Cyanates</u>	<u>Cyanate</u>	$ROC N$		cyanato-	 <u>Methyl cyanate</u>

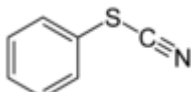
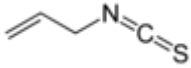
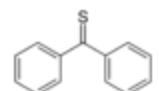
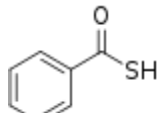
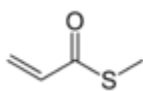
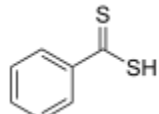
	Isocyanate	RNCO		isocyanato-	 Methyl isocyanate
Nitrate	Nitrate	RONO ₂		nitrooxy-, nitroxy-	 Amyl nitrate (1-nitrooxypentane)
Nitrile	Nitrile	RCN		cyano-	 Benzonitrile (Phenyl cyanide)
	Isonitrile	RNC		isocyano-	Methyl isocyanide
Nitrite	Nitrosooxy	RONO		nitrosooxy-	 Isoamyl nitrite (3-methyl-1-nitrosooxybutane)
Nitro compound	Nitro	RNO ₂		nitro-	 Nitromethane
Nitroso compound	Nitroso	RNO		nitroso- (Nitrosyl-)	 Nitrosobenzene
Oxime	Oxime	RCH=NOH	 aldoxime ketoxime		 Acetone oxime (2-Propanone oxime)
Pyridine derivative	Pyridyl	RC ₃ H ₄ N		4-pyridyl (pyridin-4-yl) 3-pyridyl (pyridin-3-yl) 2-pyridyl (pyridin-2-yl)	 Nicotine
Carbamate ester	Carbamate	RO(C=O)NR ₂		(- carbamoyl)oxy-	 Chlorpropham (Isopropyl (3-

					chlorophenyl)carbamate)
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Groups containing sulfur

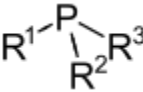
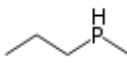
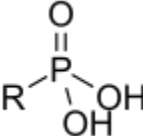
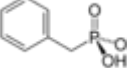
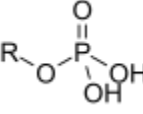
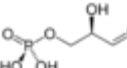
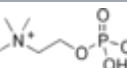
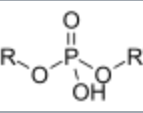
Compounds that contain sulfur exhibit unique chemistry due to sulfur's ability to form more bonds than oxygen, its lighter analogue on the periodic table. Substitutive nomenclature (marked as prefix in table) is preferred over functional class nomenclature (marked as suffix in table) for sulfides, disulfides, sulfoxides and sulfones.

<u>Chemical class</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Formula</u>	<u>Structural Formula</u>	<u>Example</u>
Thiol	Sulfhydryl	RSH		 Ethanethiol
Sulfide (Thioether)	Sulfide	RSR'		 (Methylsulfanyl)methane (prefix) or Dimethyl sulfide (suffix)
Disulfide	Disulfide	RSSR'		 (Methyldisulfanyl)methane (prefix) or Dimethyl disulfide (suffix)
Sulfoxide	Sulfinyl	RSOR'		 (Methanesulfinyl)methane (prefix) or Dimethyl sulfoxide (suffix)
Sulfone	Sulfonyl	RSO ₂ R'		 (Methanesulfonyl)methane (prefix) or Dimethyl sulfone (suffix)
Sulfinic acid	Sulfino	RSO ₂ H		 2-Aminoethanesulfinic acid
Sulfonic acid	Sulfo	RSO ₃ H		 Benzenesulfonic acid
Sulfonate ester	Sulfo	RSO ₃ R'		 Methyl trifluoromethanesulfonate or Methoxysulfonyl trifluoromethane (prefix)

Thiocyanate	Thiocyanate	RSCN	$R-S-C\equiv N$	 Phenyl thiocyanate
	Isothiocyanate	RNCS	$R-N=C=S$	 Allyl isothiocyanate
Thioketone	Carbonothioyl	RCSR'	$R-C(=S)-R'$	 Diphenylmethanethione (Thiobenzophenone)
Thial	Carbonothioyl	RCSH	$R-C(=S)-H$	
Thiocarboxylic acid	Carbothioic S-acid	RC=OSH	$R-C(=O)-SH$	 Thiobenzoic acid (benzothioic S-acid)
	Carbothioic O-acid	RC=SOH	$R-C(=S)-OH$	
Thioester	Thiolester	RC=OSR'	$R-C(=O)-S-R'$	 S-methyl thioacrylate (S-methyl prop-2-enethioate)
	Thionoester	RC=SOR'	$R-C(=S)-O-R'$	
Dithiocarboxylic acid	Carbodithioic acid	RCS ₂ H	$R-C(=S)-SH$	 Dithiobenzoic acid (Benzenecarbodithioic acid)
Dithiocarboxylic acid ester	Carbodithio	RC=SSR'	$R-C(=S)-S-R'$	

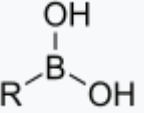
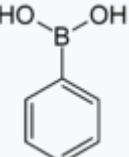
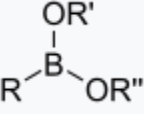
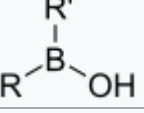
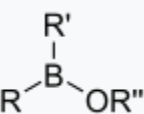
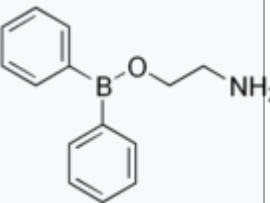
Groups containing phosphorus

Compounds that contain phosphorus exhibit unique chemistry due to the ability of phosphorus to form more bonds than nitrogen, its lighter analogue on the periodic table.

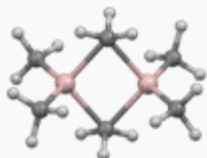
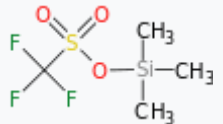
Chemical class	Group	Formula	Structural Formula	Example
Phosphine (Phosphane)	Phosphino	R_3P		 Methylpropylphosphane
Phosphonic acid	Phosphono			 Benzylphosphonic acid
Phosphate	Phosphate			 Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate (suffix)
				 O-Phosphonocholine (prefix) (Phosphocholine)
Phosphodiester	Phosphate	$HOPO(OR)_2$		DNA O-[(2-Guanidinoethoxy)hydroxyphosphoryl]-L-serine (prefix) (Lombricine)

Groups containing boron

Compounds containing boron exhibit unique chemistry due to their having partially filled octets and therefore acting as [Lewis acids](#).

Chemical class	Group	Formula	Structural Formula	Prefix	Suffix	Example
Boronic acid	Borono	$RB(OH)_2$		Borono-	substituent boronic acid	 Phenylboronic acid
Boronic ester	Boronate	$RB(OR)_2$		O- [bis(alkoxy)alkylboronyl]-	substituent boronic acid di(substituent) ester	
Borinic acid	Borino	R_2BOH		Hydroxyborino-	di(substituent) borinic acid	
Borinic ester	Borinate	R_2BOR		O- [alkoxydialkylboronyl]-	di(substituent) borinic acid substituent ester	 Diphenylborinic acid 2-aminoethyl ester (2- Aminoethoxydiphenyl borate)

Groups containing metals

Chemical Class	Structural Formula	Prefix	Suffix	Example
Alkyl lithium	RLi	(tri/di)alkyl-	-lithium	$\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{Li}$ methyllithium
Alkyl magnesium halide	RMgX (X=Cl, Br, I) ^[note 1]		-magnesium halide	$\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{MgCl}$ methylmagnesium chloride
Alkyl aluminium	Al_2R_6		-aluminium	 trimethylaluminium
Silyl ether	R_3SiOR		-silyl ether	 trimethylsilyl triflate

[Fluorine](#) is too electronegative to be bonded to magnesium; it becomes an [ionic salt](#) instead.

Names of radicals or moieties

These names are used to refer to the moieties themselves or to radical species, and also to form the names of halides and substituents in larger molecules.

When the parent hydrocarbon is unsaturated, the suffix ("-yl", "-ylidene", or "-ylidyne") replaces "-ane" (e.g. "ethane" becomes "ethyl"); otherwise, the suffix replaces only the final "-e" (e.g. "[ethyne](#)" becomes "[ethynyl](#)").^[4]

When used to refer to moieties, multiple single bonds differ from a single multiple bond. For example, a [methylene bridge](#) (methanediyl) has two single bonds, whereas a [methylene group](#) (methylidene) has one double bond. Suffixes can be combined, as in methylidyne (triple bond) vs. methylidene (single bond and double bond) vs. methanetriyl (three double bonds).

There are some retained names, such as [methylene](#) for methanediyl, 1,x-[phenylene](#) for phenyl-1,x-diyl (where x is 2, 3, or 4),^[5] [carbyne](#) for methylidyne, and [trityl](#) for triphenylmethyl.

Chemical class	Group	Formula	Structural Formula	Prefix	Suffix	Example
Single bond		$\text{R}\cdot$		Ylo- ^[6]	-yl	Methyl group Methyl radical
Double bond		$\text{R}:$		?	-ylidene	Methylidene
Triple bond		$\text{R}:$		?	-ylidyne	Methylidyne
Carboxylic acyl radical	Acyl	$\text{R}-\text{C}(=\text{O})\cdot$		?	-oyl	Acetyl

CONCLUSIONS

A **group-contribution method** in [chemistry](#) is a technique to estimate and predict thermodynamic and other properties from molecular structures. In today's chemical processes hundreds of thousands of components are used. The [Chemical Abstracts Service](#) registry lists 56 million substances,^[1] but many of these are only of scientific interest.

Process designers need to know some basic chemical properties of the components and their [mixtures](#). Experimental measurement is often too expensive.

[Predictive methods](#) can replace measurements if they provide sufficiently good estimations. The estimated properties cannot be as precise as well-made measurements, but for many purposes the quality of estimated properties is sufficient. Predictive methods can also be used to check the results of experimental work.³



A group-contribution method uses the principle that some simple aspects of the structures of chemical components are always the same in many different molecules. The smallest common constituents are the atoms and the bonds. The vast majority of organic components, for example, are built of [carbon](#), [hydrogen](#), [oxygen](#), [nitrogen](#), [halogens](#), and maybe [sulfur](#) or [phosphorus](#). Together with a single, a double, and a triple bond there are only ten atom types (not including [astatine](#)) and three bond types to build thousands of components. The next slightly more complex building blocks of components are [functional groups](#), which are themselves built from few atoms and bonds.⁴

References

1. [Compendium of Chemical Terminology](#) (IUPAC "Gold Book") [functional group](#)
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3. [Brown, Theodore](#) (2002). Chemistry: the central science. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. p. 1001. [ISBN 0130669970](#).
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6. ["Revised Nomenclature for Radicals, Ions, Radical Ions and Related Species \(IUPAC Recommendations 1993: RC-81.3. Multiple radical centers\)"](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 2017-06-11. Retrieved 2014-12-02.



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