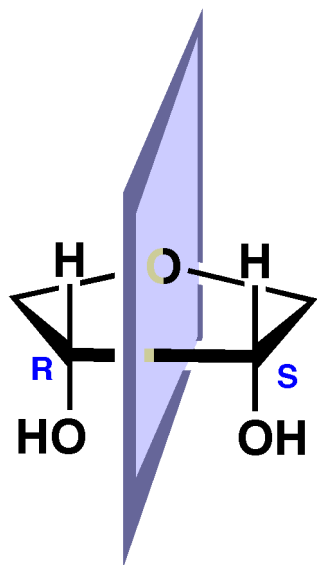
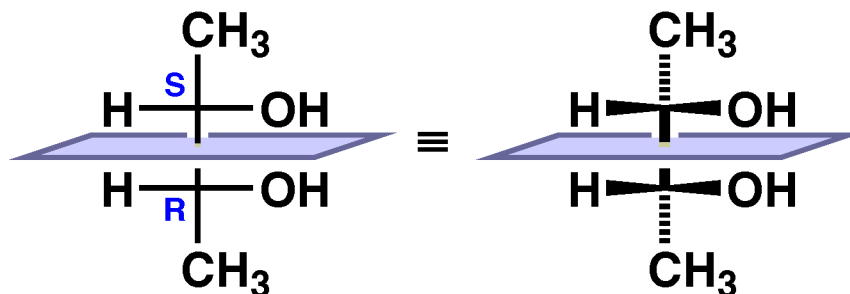


Structures Having More Than One Stereocenter

If a structure contains more than one stereocenter, it may or may not be chiral. **Meso** molecules are achiral structures that have stereocenters. Finding a plane of symmetry in a structure that possesses stereocenters is one way to identify meso molecules. Any conformation of the molecule in which there is a plane of symmetry renders it an achiral structure. Note that if you assign *R,S*-descriptors to the stereocenters of a meso molecule, you will find that stereocenters on opposite sides of the plane have opposite configuration. The examples below illustrate this point.

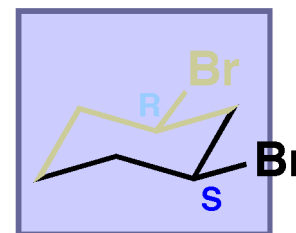


an achiral meso molecule



Fischer Projection

an achiral meso molecule



an achiral meso molecule

