

Isomerism

Chemistry

The types of isomer, and what distinguishes each.

The classification.

Type	Differs in
Chain isomerism	Carbon skeleton branching
Position isomerism	Where the functional group sits
Functional group isomerism	Which group is present
E/Z (cis-trans)	Arrangement around a C=C
Optical	Mirror images at a chiral centre

A chiral centre is a carbon with four different groups. Optical isomers rotate plane-polarised light in opposite directions.