Chemistry 2301

In-Class Exercise Solutions Newman Projections

1. Rotating the group in the back,

Staggered conformations with only one gauche interaction are the most stable. Eclipsed conformations with one totally eclipsed methyl-methyl interaction are the least stable.

2. Again rotating the group in the back,

most stable

-OH is slightly less repelling than $-CH_3$, and $-OH/-CH_3$ eclipsing interactions are not as bad as $-CH_3/-CH_3$ interactions, because (i) the σ -bond to H can swing away from the opposing $-CH_3$, and (ii) the O lone pairs that would then swing towards the $-CH_3$ are held more closely to the O nucleus than a bonding pair would be, and thus don't repel across the divide as much. So there are no ties in this case.