Chemical properties of an organic molecule is determined not by the whole molecule but by a specific region in it, called the functional group of the molecule.

eg. 1:
Compounds 1 and 2 have similar chemical properties, i.e., they react with the same reagents under similar conditions to give similar products. The reason is the COOH group is common to both 1 and 2. That is, the COOH group, called the carboxylic acid group, is the functional group in 1 and 2.

\[ \text{CH}_3\text{-C} = \text{O} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3\text{-C} = \text{O} \]

\[ 1 \quad 2 \]

eg. 2:
Compounds 3 and 4 have similar chemical properties because CHO group is common to both 3 and 4. That is, the CHO group, called the aldehyde group, is the functional group in 3 and 4.

\[ \text{CH}_3\text{-C} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3\text{-C} \]

\[ 3 \quad 4 \]

Organic Compounds are classified based on the functional group present. Compounds 1 and 2, which contain a carboxylic acid group as the functional group, are called carboxylic acids. Compounds 3 and 4, which contain an aldehyde group as the functional group are called aldehydes.

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