A Newman projection is a diagram used to depict a specific conformation of a molecule.

eg. 1: Staggered conformation of ethane

To draw the staggered conformation of ethane as a Newman projection look at the molecule from the point shown above. The front carbon atom and the three carbon-hydrogen bonds originating from it are seen.

The rear carbon atom is not seen, but the three carbon-hydrogen bonds originating from it are.

This is the Newman projection of staggered conformation of ethane.

eg. 2: eclipsed conformation of ethane
see also saw-horse formula

Contributors

• Gamini Gunawardena from the OChemPal site (Utah Valley University)