ROTD 2/16/06

1) Molecules are not static. They are in constant motion. There is free rotation about single bonds, so there are many different three-dimensional arrangements that have the same bonding patterns.

2) Strain happens when molecular parameters like bond angle and distances are not ideal. Strain causes the system's energy to increase.

3) Butane is the smallest molecule that has both torsional strain and steric strain, so we can use what we know about butane to analyze bigger molecules.