

In chemistry, the empirical formula of a chemical compound is the simplest positive integer ratio of atoms present in a compound. A simple example of this concept is that the empirical formula of hydrogen peroxide, or H_2O_2 , would simply be HO . The same with your compound, the simplest empiric formula of $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$ is $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$, because in this case it is the smallest possible whole numbers near atoms.