

Carbon is an essential element of organic compounds, it has four electrons in its outer most shell.

According to the ground state electronic configuration of carbon, it is divalent. Tetravalency of carbon can be explained by promoting one of the  $2s^2$  - electrons to the unoccupied  $2p_{x,y}$  atomic orbital.

The four valencies of carbon atom are similar and they are symmetrically arranged around the carbon atom. According to **Le Bell and Van't Hoff** the four valencies of carbon do not lie in one plane. They are directed towards the corners of a regular tetrahedron with carbon atom at the centre and the angle between any two valencies is  $109^\circ 28'$ .

## Hybridisation in Organic Compounds

(1) The process of mixing atomic orbitals to form a set of new equivalent orbitals is termed as **hybridisation**. There are *three types* of hybridisation,

- $sp^3$  **hybridisation** (involved in saturated organic compounds containing only single covalent bonds),
- $sp^2$  **hybridisation** (involved in organic compounds having carbon atoms linked by double bonds) and
- $sp$  **hybridisation** (involved in organic compounds having carbon atoms linked by a triple bonds).

Table : 23.1

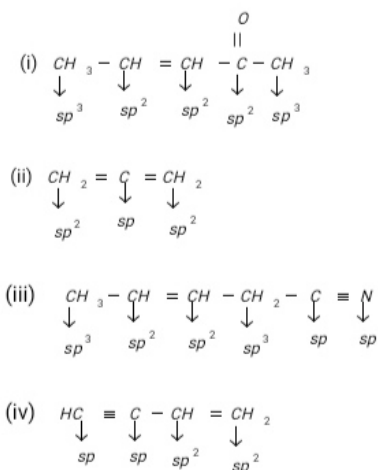
Type of hybridisation	$sp^3$	$sp^2$	$sp$
Number of orbitals used	1s and 3p	1s and 2p	1s and 1p
Number of unused p-orbitals	Nil	One	Two
Bond	Four $\sigma$	Three $\sigma$ One $\pi$	Two $\sigma$ Two $\pi$
Bond angle	$109.5^\circ$	$120^\circ$	$180^\circ$
Geometry	Tetrahedral	Trigonal planar	Linear
% s-character	25 or 1/4	33.33 or 1/3	50 or 1/2

(2) **Determination of hybridisation at different carbon atoms** : It can be done by two methods,

(i) **First method** : In this method hybridisation can be know by the number of  $\pi$ - bonds present on that particular atom.

Number of $\pi$ - bond/s	0	1	2
Type of hybridisation	$sp^3$	$sp^2$	$sp$

Examples :

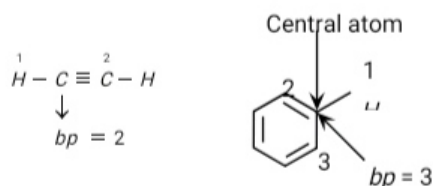
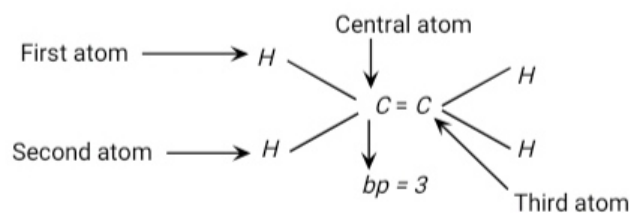


□ In diamond carbon is  $sp^3$  hybridised and in graphite carbon is  $sp^2$  hybridised.

(ii) **Second method**: (Electron pair method)

$ep = bp + lp$ ; where  $ep$  = electron pair present in hybrid orbitals,  $bp$  = bond pair present in hybrid orbitals

Number of  $bp$  = Number of atoms attached to the central atom of the species



Number of  $lp$ 's can be determined as follows,

(a) If carbon has  $\pi$  - bonds or positive charge or odd electron, then  $lp$  on carbon will be zero.

(b) If carbon has negative charge, then  $lp$  will be equal to one.

Number of electron pairs ( $ep$ ) tells us the type of hybridisation as follows,

$ep$	2	3	4	5	6
Type of hybridisation	$sp$	$sp^2$	$sp^3$	$sp^3 d$	$sp^3 d^2$

Example :

