Valence Bond Theory and Hybridization

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What happens when we form a molecule like CH_4 ?



At the moment, C looks like it only has 2 electrons in the 2p orbital to bond with.

Yet, the 4 H atoms in CH_4 bring 4 extra electrons (1s¹).

How then can we make sense of these 4 bonds that do form?

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Remember to fill in the hybrid orbitals like we normally do, fill 'up' across, then 'down'.

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Like a tetrahedral! Valence bond helps us to understand these molecular geometries.



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What do the 4 H atoms bring to the table?

Each brings one electron:



Find the SN of the central atom → Determine hybridization [# of hybrid orbitals = # of mixed orbitals]

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SN = 4 \rightarrow sp<sup>3</sup> hybridization
4 sp<sup>3</sup> = 1 s + 3 p
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(can only form σ bonds)



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Determine the hybridization for each of the following central atoms.



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Determine the number of σ and π bonds in each structure.



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