

**Unit- 2 Compounds of p-Block Elements**

P-block elements are indispensable in chemistry due to their chemical versatility, biological importance, and industrial applications. They form the foundation of organic chemistry, materials science, environmental chemistry, and biochemistry.

• **Importance of P-Block Elements in Chemistry**

P block elements are those in which the last electron enters any of the three p-orbitals of their respective shells. Since a p-subshell has three degenerate p-orbitals each of which can accommodate two electrons, therefore in all there are six groups of p-block elements.

P block elements are shiny and usually a good conductor of electricity and heat as they have a tendency to lose an electron. You will find some amazing properties of elements in a P-block element like gallium. It's a metal that can melt in the palm of your hand. Silicon is also one of the most important metalloids of the p-block group as it is an important component of glass.

P-block elements (Groups 13–18 of the periodic table) play a central role in chemistry due to their diverse properties, wide range of compounds, and extensive applications in industry, biology, and everyday life.

The general electronic configuration of p-block elements is  $ns2np1-6$  (except He). Whereas the inner core electronic configuration may differ. Just because of this difference in the inner core, there are changes in both physical and chemical properties of the elements.

The oxidation state of elements in p – block is maximum when it is equal to a total number of valence electrons i.e. the sum of S and P electrons. One of the most interesting facts about the p-block elements is that it contains both non-metals and metalloids.

First is the size and each and every property which depends upon the size.

The second difference applies only to the p-block element, which arises from the effects of d-orbitals in the valence shell of heavier elements.

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• **What is the P block element?**

The p-block is the region of the periodic table that includes columns IIIA to column VIIA and does not include helium. There are 35 p-block elements, all of which are in p orbital with valence electrons. The p-block elements are a group of very diverse elements with a wide range of properties.

• **Why are they called P block elements?**

The elements s-block and p-block are so-called because their valence electrons are either in an orbital s or p. These are often called Standard Components, in order to differentiate them from the sequence of transformation and internal transformation.

• **What are the 17 non-metals?**

Non-metals are on the extreme right side of the periodic table, except for hydrogen, found in the upper left corner. The 17 non-metal elements are: Hydrogen, Helium, Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Fluorine, Neon, Phosphorus, Sulphur, Chlorine, Argon, Selenium, Bromine, Krypton, Iodine, Xenon, and Radon.

• **What are the properties of non-metals?**

Usually, non-metal is brittle when it is solid and typically has low thermal conductivity and electrical conductivity. Chemically, non-metals tend to have relatively high energy from ionization, contact with electrons, and electronegativity. As they react with other elements and chemical compounds, they receive or exchange the electrons.

• **What is the general electronic configuration of P block elements?**

The general electronic external configuration for p block components is  $ns^2np$  ( $^1-6$ ).  $(n-1)d$  ( $^{1-10}$ )  $ns$  ( $^0-2$ ) is the general electronic outer configuration of d block components. The general electronic outer F block element configuration is  $(n-2)f$  ( $^{0-14}$ )  $(n-1)d$  ( $^{0-1}$ )  $ns^2$ .

• **Important formulas and concepts**

1. **Percentage Ionic Character:**

$$\% \text{ Ionic character} = [1 - \exp(-0.25(\chi_A - \chi_B)^2)] \times 100$$

Where  $\chi$  = electronegativity

2. **Bond Order:**

$$\text{Bond Order} = (\text{Number of bonding electrons} - \text{Number of antibonding electrons})/2$$

3. **VSEPR Notation:**

$$AX_nE_m \quad (A = \text{Central atom}, X = \text{Bonded atom}, E = \text{Lone pair})$$

4. **Hückel's Rule for Aromaticity:**

$$4n + 2 \pi\text{-electrons} \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots)$$

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• **General Characteristics of P-Block Elements**

• **Oxidation States**

Show multiple oxidation states due to involvement of s and p electrons  
Inert pair effect prominent in heavier elements (Tl, Pb, Bi)

• **Bonding**

Mostly covalent compounds

Ability to form  $\pi$ -bonds (N, O)

Expanded octet possible from 3rd period onwards

• **Acid–Base Nature**

Oxides change from basic  $\rightarrow$  amphoteric  $\rightarrow$  acidic across a period

Down a group: metallic character increases

• **Bonding in p-block elements: a comprehensive study with examples**

• **Fundamental concepts of p-block bonding**

Characteristic Features of p-Block Elements

Position: Groups 13-18 in periodic table

Valence Configuration:  $ns^2np^{1-6}$

Electronegativity: Increases across period, decreases down group

Atomic Size: Decreases across period, increases down group

• **Key Bonding Characteristics**

Covalent Bonding Dominance

Variable Oxidation States

Inert Pair Effect

Formation of  $\pi$ -bonds

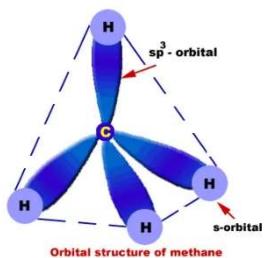
Back Bonding

Multi-centre Bonding

• **Types of bonding in p-block elements**

• **Covalent bonding - normal 2-center-2-electron (2c-2e) bonds**

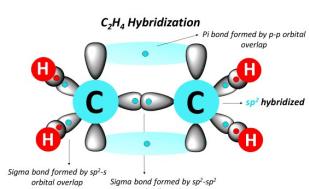
**1. Carbon Compounds (Group 14):**



**Methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ):**

$\text{sp}^3$  hybridization, tetrahedral geometry  
 $\text{C} (2s^22p^2) \rightarrow \text{sp}^3$  (4 equivalent orbitals)  
4  $\times$  C-H bonds ( $\sigma$  bonds)

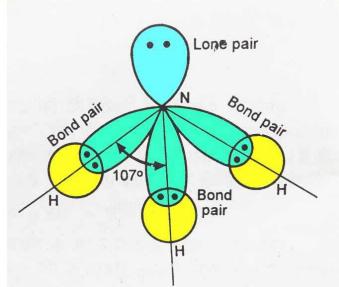
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**Ethylene (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>):** sp<sup>2</sup> hybridization,  $\pi$ -bond formation  
C=C double bond: 1  $\sigma$  + 1  $\pi$  bond  
H-C-H angle: 120°

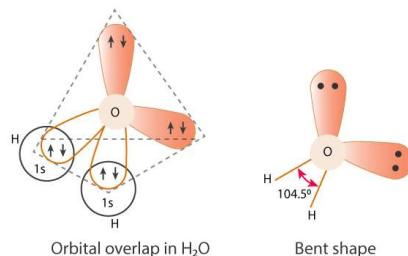
2. Nitrogen Compounds (Group 15):

**Ammonia Orbital Structure**



**Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>):** sp<sup>3</sup> hybridization with lone pair  
N (2s<sup>2</sup>2p<sup>3</sup>)  $\rightarrow$  sp<sup>3</sup> (tetrahedral electron geometry)  
Molecular geometry: Pyramidal (107.3° bond angle)  
Lone pair-bond pair repulsion > bond pair-bond pair repulsion

3. Oxygen Compounds (Group 16):



**Water (H<sub>2</sub>O):** sp<sup>3</sup> hybridization with two lone pairs  
O (2s<sup>2</sup>2p<sup>4</sup>)  $\rightarrow$  sp<sup>3</sup> (tetrahedral electron geometry)  
Molecular geometry: Bent (104.5° bond angle)  
Increased repulsion due to two lone pairs

B. Multiple bond formation

1.  $\pi$ -Bonding in Second Period Elements:

Element	Example	Bond Type	Characteristic
<b>Carbon</b>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	Triple bond (1 $\sigma$ + 2 $\pi$ )	Linear, sp hybridized
<b>Nitrogen</b>	N <sub>2</sub>	Triple bond (1 $\sigma$ + 2 $\pi$ )	Very strong bond (941 kJ/mol)
<b>Oxygen</b>	O <sub>2</sub>	Double bond (1 $\sigma$ + 1 $\pi$ )	Paramagnetic (two unpaired electrons)

• 2. Limitations of  $\pi$ -Bonding in Heavier Elements: