### STUDY MATERIAL



## <u>Dumkal</u> College Basantapur, Dumkal

Topic: Coordination Chemistry-II: Valence Bond Theory

Course Code: CHEMHT-11

Semester: V (Hons)

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Name of the Department: Chemistry

## (1) Valence Bond Theory

This theory developed mainly by Pauling. This theory is based on the following assumptions:

- (1) The central metal cation or atom (as the case may be) makes available a number of vacant s, p and or d-orbitals equal to its coordination number to form coordinate covalent bonds with orbitals on the ligands.
- (2) Since the maximum angular overlap of two orbitals forms the strongest bond, therefore, these vacant atomic orbitals of metal are hybridized to form a new set of equivalent bonding orbitals, called hybrid orbitals. These orbitals have same geometry and same energy. These orbitals also have definite directional properties i.e., these orbitals point in the directions of ligands. The geometry and hybridization are related to one another. Once you know the geometry of a complex compound, you automatically know which orbitals of the metal cation or atom uses. The relationship between the geometry of the complex and hybridization is given in Table 4.1.
- (3) The bonding in metal complexes arises when a filled ligand orbital containing a lone pair of electrons overlaps a vacant hybrid orbital on the metal cation or atom to form a coordinate covalent bond (Figure 4.1).

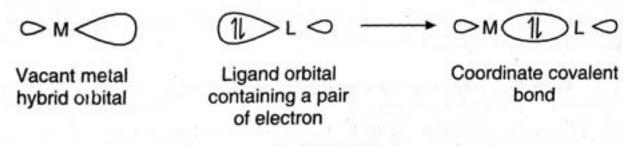


Figure 4.1

(4) The magnetic moment (i.e., the number of unpaired electrons) and the coordination number of the metal cation or atom decide the hybridization and geometry of the complex. Therefore, magnetic moment, coordination number, hybridization and geometry are related to one another. The knowledge of magnetic moment can be of great help in ascertaining the nature of

ligands and type of complex.

(5) Each ligand has atleast one orbital containing a lone pair of electrons. Pauling classified the ligands into two categories: (i) strong electron donating ligands or simply strong ligands like CN-,CO etc. (ii) weak ligands or highly electronegative ligands, like F-,Cl-, oxygen containing ligands etc.

(6) Strong ligands have the tendency to pair up the d-electrons of metal cation or atom to provide the necessary orbitals for hybridization. But the pairing of electrons does not violate the Hund's rule of maximum multiplicity. On the other hand, weak ligands do not have the tendency to pair up the d-electrons i.e., in presence of weak ligands electronic configuration of the d- electrons

is same as in free metal cation or atom.

\*(7) The bond formed between metal and strong ligand such as CN<sup>-</sup>, CO is considered to be covalent. On the other hand, the bond formed between metal and weak or highly electronegative ligand like F<sup>-</sup> is not covalent but it is ionic.

(8) The bond formed between metal and strong ligand like CN<sup>-</sup>, CO etc. is considered to be covalent. This would require in many cases the pairing of d-electrons to provide the necessary

orbital for hybridization.

(9) In octahedral complexes, the central metal cation is either  $d^2sp^3$  or  $sp^3d^2$ -hybridized,. The d-orbitals involved in  $d^2sp^3$ -hybridization belong to the inner shell i.e., (n-1) d-orbitals and these complex are called as inner orbital complexes. In case of  $sp^3d^2$ -hybridization, the d-orbitals belong to outer most shell i.e., n d- orbitals and the complexes are called outer orbital complexes. The octahedral complexes involving  $d^2sp^3$ -hybridization are more stable than those of  $sp^3d^2$ . The d- orbitals involved in hybridization in octahedral complexes are  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  and  $d_{-2}$ .

In tetrahedral complexes, the metal cation or atom is either sp<sup>3</sup> or sd<sup>3</sup>-hybridized. The

d-orbitals involved in  $sd^3$ -hybridization are  $d_{xy}$ ,  $d_{yz}$  and  $d_{zx}$ .

In square planar complexes, the metal cation is  $dsp^2$ -hybridized. The p- and d- orbitals involved in  $dsp^2$ -hybridization are px, py and  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  leaving  $p_z$  and  $d_{z^2}$  orbitals projecting above and below the plane of the complex.

(10) In case of second and third series transition metal complexes, the d-orbitals involved in hybridization are inner orbitals i.e., (n − 1) d- orbitals, because the outer d- orbitals i.e., nd

orbitals become too diffuse to bond well.

(11) The complexes having one or more unpaired electrons are paramagnetic and the complexes having only paired electrons are diamagnetic.

**Table 4.1: Hybrid Orbitals for Common Coordination Geometries** 

| C.N. | Hybridization   | Orbitals Involved  | Bond Angle (s) | Geometry             | Example   |
|------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|---|
| 2    | sp              | s and $p_x \sim$   | 180°           | Linear               | [Ag(NH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> |
| 3    | sp <sup>2</sup> | $s, p_x$ and $p_y$ | 120°           | Triangular<br>planar | [Hgl <sub>3</sub> ]                               |

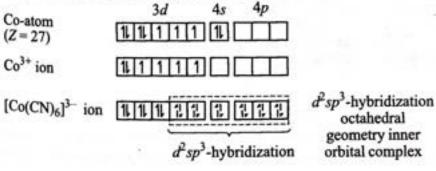
|   | sp <sup>3</sup>      | $s, p_x, p_y \text{ and } p_z$                      | 109°28′   | Tetrahedral              | $[\text{CoCl}_4]^{2-}$ , $[\text{NiCl}_4]^{2-}$  |
|---|----------------------|---|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| _ | sd <sup>3</sup>      | $s, d_{xy}, d_{yz}, d_{zx}$                         | 109°28′   | Tetrahedral              | $MnO_4^-, Cr_2O_7^{2-}, CrO_4^{2-}$  |
| _ | dsp <sup>2</sup>     | $s, p_x, p_y, d_{x^2-y^2}$                          | 90°       | Square planar            | [Ni(CN) <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> (dsp <sup>2</sup> )                                     |
|   | or sp <sup>2</sup> d | $s, p_x, p_y, d_{x^2-y^2}$                          | 90°       | Square planar            | $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$<br>$(sp^2d)$   |
|   | dsp <sup>3</sup> *   | $s, p_x, p_y, p_z dz^2$                             | 90°, 120° | Trigonal b               | Fe(CO) <sub>5</sub>  |
| _ | dsp <sup>3</sup>     | s, $p_x$ , $p_y$ , $p_z$ and $d_{x^2-y^2}$          | 90°, 90°  | Square<br>pyramidal      | [Ni(CN) <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup>   |
|   | $d^2sp^3$            | $4s, 4p_x, 4p_y, 4p_z, 3d_{x^2-y^2}$ and $3d_{z^2}$ | 90°, 90°  | Inner orbital octahedral | [Cr(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3+</sup> ,<br>[Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>4-</sup> |
|   | $sp^3d^2$            | $4s, 4p_x, 4p_y, 4p_z, 4d_{x^2-y^2}$ and $4d_{z^2}$ | 90°, 90°  | Outer orbital octahedral | [Co(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> ,<br>[CoF <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>4-</sup>    |

Now let us discuss the valence bond theory for octahedral, tetrahedral and square planar complexes taking some examples :

#### Octahedral Complexes

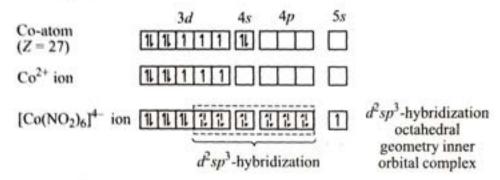
(A) Inner Orbital Complexes: Let us discuss inner orbital complexing taking some examples:

1.  $[Co(CN)_6]^{3-}$  ion: In this complex, oxidation state of cobalt is + 3. The valence shell electronic configuration of  $Co^{3+}$  is  $3d^6$ . Magnetic measurements indicate that  $[Co(CN)_6]^{3-}$  is diamagnetic. All six 3d-electrons are, therefore, paired and occupy three of the five 3d- orbitals. The  $CN^-$  ligands are strong and, therefore, cause pairing of 3d-electrons. The vacant two 3d-orbitals combine with the vacant 4s and 4p orbitals to form six  $d^2sp^3$ -hybrid orbitals. These six hybrid orbitals overlap with six filled orbitals of ligands, one on each of the ligands and thus six coordinate covalent bonds are formed.

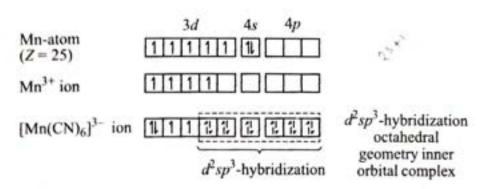


2.  $[Co(NO_2)_6]^{4-}$  ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of cobalt is + 2 and its valence shell electronic configuration is  $3d^7$ . Magnetic moment measurements indicate that this complex ion is paramagnetic corresponding to presence of one unpaired electron. The  $NO_2$  ligands are strong, they, therefore, cause pairing of metal 3d- electrons. Pauling suggested that two vacant 3d- orbitals are made available by promotion of an unpaired electron from a 3d-orbital to 5s-orbital so that  $Co^{2+}$  ion gets  $d^2 sp^3$ -hybridized.

The presence of an unpaired electron in 5s-orbital is supported by the fact that, 5s- orbital has very high energy and the electron present in it is loosely bound and can be removed easily. Experimentally it is also observed that  $[Co(NO_2)_6]^{4-}$  is oxidized by air or  $H_2O_2$  easily to give  $[Co(NO_2)_6]^{3-}$ . This indicates that the complex  $[Co(NO_2)_6]^{4-}$  is unstable in air. Thus, this complex should be prepared in inert atmosphere.

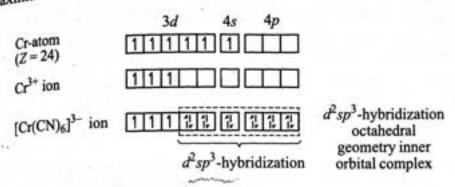


3.  $[Mn (CN)_6]^{3-}$  ion: In this complex ion, oxidation states of Mn is + 3 and its valence shell electronic configuration is  $3d^4$ . Magnetic measurements show that this complex ion is paramagnetic corresponding to two unpaired electrons. All the four electrons occupy just three of the five 3d - orbitals leaving two 3d- orbitals vacant. These two vacant 3d- orbitals combine with the vacant 4s and 4p-orbitals to give six  $d^2sp^3$  - hybrid orbitals. These hybrid orbitals form bonds with ligands by accepting six pair of electrons, one pair from each of the six ligands. Since  $CN^-$  is a strong ligand and has a tendency to pair up the d- electrons on metal but it causes pairing of two electrons only leaving two electrons as unpaired. If all the electrons become paired, then it will violate the Hund's rule of maximum multiplicity.

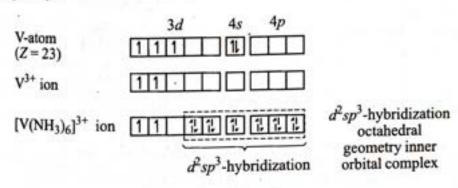


4.  $[Cr(CN)_6]^{3-}$  ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of Cr is + 3 and its valence shell electronic configuration is  $3d^3$ . Magnetic measurements show that this complex ion is paramagnetic corresponding to the presence of three unpaired electrons. All the three 3d - electrons occupy just three

of the five 3d - orbitals leaving two 3d - orbitals as vacant. These two vacant orbitals combine with the vacant 4s and 4p-orbitals to give six  $d^2sp^3$ -hybrid orbitals. These six hybrid orbitals form bonds with ligands by accepting six lone pair of ligands, one pair from each of the six ligands. The three orbitals of the metal cation have three unpaired electrons and are degenerate. Thus, even in the presence of strong the metal cation have three unpaired electrons and are degenerate. Thus, even in the presence of strong ligands pairing of electrons will not occur. If pairing of electrons occur, then it will violate Hund's rule of maximum multiplicity.



 $5.[V(NH_3)_6]^{3+}$  ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of vanadium is +3 and its valence shell electronic configuration is  $3d^2$ . Magnetic measurements indicate that this complex ion is paramagnetic corresponding to two unpaired electrons. All the two 3d - electrons occupy just two of the five 3d - orbitals leaving three 3d - orbitals vacant two of which combine with vacant 4s and 4p- orbitals to give  $\sin d^2sp^3$  - hybrid orbitals. The  $d^2sp^3$  - hybrid orbitals form bonds with the ligands accepting six pairs of electrons, one pair from each of the six ligands. Out of three 3d - unhybridized orbitals, two orbitals have two unpaired electrons one unpaired electron in each and one orbital remains vacant. These three unhybridized 3d - orbitals are degenerate. Thus, even in the presence of strong ligands pairing of electrons will not occur. If pairing of electrons occur, then it will violate Hund's rule of maximum multiplicity.



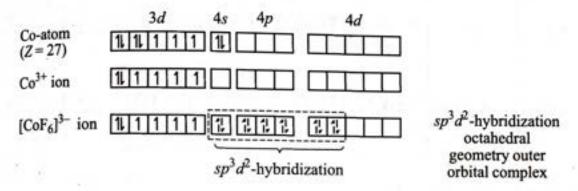
## Various inner orbital octahedral complexes are illustrated in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2

| Complex Ion   | Oxidation<br>State of<br>Metal | Valence<br>Shell<br>Configurat-<br>ion of Metal<br>Cation | Nature of<br>Ligands                                   | Valence Bond Electrons<br>Description  | No.of<br>Unpaired<br>Electrons<br>(n) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| [Ti(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3+</sup>  | + 3                            | 3d <sup>1</sup>   | weak   | 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2  | 1                                     |
| $[V(H_2O)_6]^{3+}$                                  | + 3                            | 3d <sup>2</sup>   | weak   | 111 222222   | 2                                     |
| [Cr (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3+</sup> | + 3                            | 3d <sup>3</sup>   | weak   | d <sup>2</sup> sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization  | 3                                     |
| [Cr (NH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3+</sup> | + 3                            | $3d^3$  | strong   | d <sup>2</sup> sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization  | 3                                     |
| [Cr (CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>4-</sup>               | + 2                            | 3d4   | strong   | d <sup>2</sup> sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization  | 2                                     |
| [Mn (CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>4-</sup>               | + 2                            | 3d <sup>5</sup>   | strong   | d <sup>2</sup> sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization  | 1                                     |
| [Fe (CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup>               | + 3                            | 3d <sup>5</sup>   | strong   | d <sup>2</sup> sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization  | 1                                     |
| [Fe (CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>4-</sup>               | + 2                            | 3d <sup>6</sup>   | strong   | d <sup>2</sup> sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization  | 0                                     |
| [Fe (CN) <sub>5</sub> (NO)] <sup>2</sup>            | + 2                            | 3d <sup>6</sup>   | $CN^- \rightarrow strong$<br>$NO^+ \rightarrow strong$ | d <sup>2</sup> sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization  | 0                                     |
| [PtCl <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>                  | + 4                            | 5d <sup>6</sup>   | weak   | d <sup>2</sup> sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization  1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | 0                                     |

(B) Outer Orbital Octahedral Complexes: In outer orbital complexes the central metal cation is (B) Outcomplexes. In outer orbital complexes the central metal cation is  $sp^3d^2$ -hybridized. In  $sp^3d^2$ -hybridization, d-orbitals of outer shell (i.e., nd-orbitals) are involved. Let us discuss complexes by taking some examples :

(1) [CoF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3</sup> ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of cobalt is + 3 and its valence shell electronic configuration is  $3d^6$ . Magnetic moment measurements show that this complex is paramagnetic corresponding to four unpaired electrons. Also, F is a weak ligand, there will be no pairing of 3d - electrons of the metal cation. Thus, there is no vacant 3d- orbital and none of 3d- orbitals is available to accept electron pairs from the ligands. Consequently the vacant 4s, 4p and two of the five 4d -orbitals combine to give six  $sp^3d^2$ -hybridization. These hybrid orbitals form bonds by accepting six pairs of electrons, one pair from each of the six ligands.



(2) [Fe (H2O)5(NO)]2+ ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of Fe is +1 because NO exists in + I oxidation state in complexes of Fe and its valence shell electronic configuration is 3d 4s1. Magnetic moment measurements of this complex ion indicate that its experimental magnetic moment is 3.89 B.M. which corresponds to three unpaired electrons in the complex ion. The single NO+ strong ligand has little tendency to pair up the electrons it pairs up only two unpaired electrons. Since H2O is a weak ligand, therefore, it has no tendency to pair up the electrons and none of the five 3d- orbitals is vacant. Therefore, the 4s, 4p and two of the five 4d-orbitals (i.e.,  $4d_{x^2-y^2}$  and  $4d_{z^2}$ ) combine to give six sp3d2-hybrid orbitals. These hybrid orbitals form bonds with six ligands by accepting six pairs of electrons, one pair from each of the six ligands.

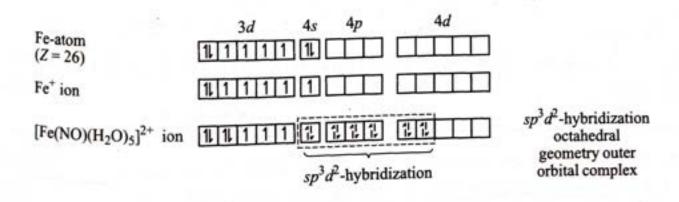


Table 4.3

|   |                                |  | 144                     | ne 4.3  | 40000                                  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|--|
| Complex Ion   | Oxidation<br>State of<br>Metal | Valence<br>Shell E.C.<br>of Metal<br>Ion | Nature<br>of<br>Ligands | Valence Bond Electrons Description                                | No. of<br>Unpaired<br>Electrons<br>(n) |
| [Cr (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>   | +2                             | 3d4                                      | weak                    | 11111 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 d <sup>2</sup> -hybridization               | 4                                      |
| [Cr(NH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>  | +2                             | 3d4                                      | strong                  | 11111 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 sp <sup>3</sup> d <sup>2</sup> -hybridization | 4                                      |
| [Mn (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>   | +2                             | 3d <sup>5</sup>                          | weak                    | sp a -hybridization  1111111222222                                | 5                                      |
| [FeF <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup><br>or<br>[Fe(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3+</sup> | + 3                            | 3d <sup>5</sup>                          | weak                    | 111111222222<br>sp <sup>3</sup> d <sup>2</sup> -hybridization     | 5                                      |
| [CoF <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup>   | + 3                            | 3d <sup>6</sup>                          | weak                    | 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2                            | 4                                      |
| [Co(NH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>  | + 2                            | 3d <sup>7</sup>                          | strong                  | 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1                            | 3                                      |
| [Ni (NH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>   | + 2                            | 3d <sup>8</sup>                          | strong                  | 11 11 11 12 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2                           | 2                                      |

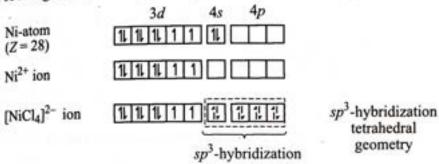
From the for going discussion it is concluded that the octahedral complexes of  $d^1$ ,  $d^2$ ,  $d^3$ - metal cations are always inner orbital complexes whether the ligands are weak or strong. The octahedral complexes of  $d^8$ ,  $d^9$  and  $d^{10}$  metal cations are always outer orbital complexes either the ligands are strong or weak. The complexes of  $d^4$ ,  $d^5$ ,  $d^6$  and  $d^7$  metal cations are outer orbital complex if the ligands are weak.

# Tetrahedral Complexes

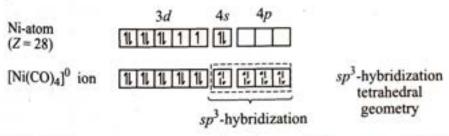
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In tetrahedral complexes the metal cation is either sp<sup>3</sup> or sd<sup>3</sup>-hybridized. Let us consider the some example to illustrate the hybridization and geometry :

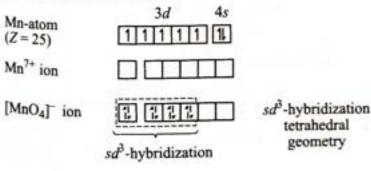
(1) [Ni Cl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of Ni is + 2 and its valence shell electronic configuration is  $3d^8$ . Magnetic moment measurements indicate that it is paramagnetic corresponding to two unpaired electrons. Since Cl is a weak ligand, therefore, no pairing of electrons will occur in 3dorbitals. None of the five 3d- orbitals is vacant. Vacant 4s and 4p-orbitals combine to give four  $sp^3$ hybrid orbitals because [NiCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> is a tetrahedral complex ion. These four hybrid orbitals form bonds with four ligand by sharing four pair of electrons, one pair from each of the four ligands.



(2) Ni (CO)4: In this compound oxidation state of nickel is zero and its valence shell electronic configuration is 3d8 4s2. Magnetic moment measurements indicate that Ni (CO)4 is diamagnetic i.e., it has no unpaired electrons. CO is a strong ligand and has the tendency to pair up the 3d - electrons. During the pairing of electrons, the two electrons of 4s-orbitals shift into one of the five 3d- orbitals. Thus, there is no vacant 3d - orbital. Thus, the vacant orbitals available for hybridization are 4s and 4p to give four sp3-hybrid orbitals.



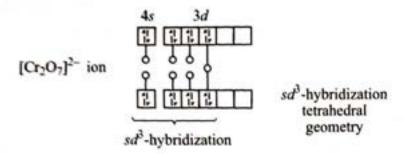
(3) MnO<sub>4</sub> ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of Mn is +7. The valence shell electronic configuration of Mn is  $3d^5 4s^2$ . In Mn  $^{7+}$  ion all the five 3d, 4s-orbitals are vacant. The vacant 4s and three 3d- orbitals combine to give four sd3-hybrid orbitals. Thus, Mn7+ ion is sd3 - hybridized in this complex ion as shown below:



In Mn<sup>7+</sup> ion energy of vacant 4s-orbital becomes lower than that of vacant 3d- orbitals (aufbae<sub>i</sub> principle).

In  $sd^3$  - hybridization vacant  $d_{xy}$ ,  $d_{yz}$  and  $d_{zx}$  orbitals are involved.

(3)  $\operatorname{Cr_2O_7^{2-}}$  ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of Cr is + 6 and its valence shell electronic configuration of Cr is  $3d^5 4s^1$ . Cr <sup>6+</sup> ion has no electron in 3d- orbitals. The 4s - and three 3d -  $\operatorname{vacam}$  orbitals of each Cr <sup>6+</sup> ion combine to give four  $sd^3$  - hybrid orbitals. Thus, each Cr <sup>6+</sup> ion in  $\operatorname{Cr_2O_7^{2-}}$  ion is  $sd^3$  - hybridized. One of the seven oxide ions, shares both the Cr <sup>6+</sup> ions.



It has no unpaired electron, therefore, it is diamagnetic. Some tetrahedral complexes are illustrated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4

| Complex Ion   | Oxidation<br>State | Valence<br>Shell<br>E.C. | Valence Bond Electrons Description                     | No. of Unpaired<br>Electrons (n) |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| $[Mn X_4]^{2-}$<br>(X=Cl <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> ) | + 2                | 3d <sup>5</sup>          | sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization                         | 5                                |
| [FeCl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>                        | + 2                | 3d <sup>6</sup>          | # 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization | 4                                |
| [CoCl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>                        | + 2                | 3d <sup>7</sup>          | sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization                         | 3                                |
| $[Cu X_4]^{2-}$<br>$[X = Cl^-, Br^-, CNS^-)$              | + 2                | 3d9                      | sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization                         | 1                                |

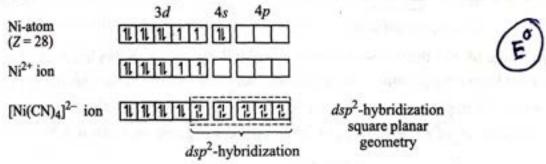
| Theories rules                           | +1 | 3d <sup>10</sup> | sp³-hybridization                                   | 0 |
|--|----|------------------|---|---|
| $[Zn X_4]^{2-}$<br>$[X=Cl^-, Br^-, I^-]$ | +2 | 3d <sup>10</sup> | 11 11 11 11 12 22 22 sp <sup>3</sup> -hybridization | 0 |

### Square Planar Complexes

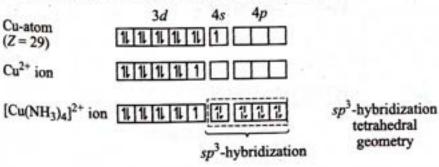
In square planar complexes, the central metal cation is  $dsp^2$ - hybridized. The  $dsp^2$ - hybrid orbitals point towards the four corners of a square.

Let us consider some examples to discuss the hybridization in square planar complexes :

(1)  $[Ni(CN)_4]^{2-}$  ion: In this complex ion, oxidation state of Ni is + 2 and its valence shell electronic configuration is  $3d^8$ . Magnetic moment measurement indicate that this complex ion is diamagnetic *i.e.*, it has no unpaired electrons. Since  $CN^-$  is a strong ligands, therefore, these ligands cause to pair up the two unpaired electrons in one d- orbital resulting in a vacant 3d-orbital. This vacant 3d- orbital gets hybridized with the vacant 4s and two of the 4p-orbitals to give four  $dsp^2$ - hybrid orbitals. These hybrid orbitals form bonds to the ligands by accepting four pair of ligand electrons, one pair from each of the four ligands.



(2)  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$  ion: In this ion, oxidation state of copper is +2 and its valence shell electronic configuration is  $3d^9$ . Magnetic moment measurements indicate that this complex ion is paramagnetic corresponding to presence of one unpaired electron. There is no possibility of pairing of electrons by the ligands even the ligand is strong because there is only one unpaired electron in 3d - orbitals. Since coordination number of  $Cu^{2+}$  ion in  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$  is 4, therefore, according to VBT,  $Cu^{2+}$  ion should be  $sp^3$ - hybridized and the structure is tetrahedral.



But according to ESR and X-rays structure determination, the structure of  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$  is found to be square planar. Thus, to make the  $Cu^{2+}$  ion  $dsp^2$ -hybridized, it is considered that the unpaired electron in the  $3d_{x^2-y^2}$  orbital is to be promoted to  $4p_z$  orbital as shown below:

In the above electronic configuration, the unpaired electron is present in the higher energy  $4p_z$  orbital and is expected to be lost easily i.e.,  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$  ion may be easily oxidized to  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{3+}$ .

 $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+} \xrightarrow{oxidation} [Cu(NH_3)_4]^{3+} + e^{-}$ 

But, experiments have shown that  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{3+}$  ion does not exist *i.e.*, oxidation of  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$  to  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{3+}$  is not possible.

Finally Huggin suggested that in square planar [Cu (NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> ion, Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion is sp<sup>2</sup>d-hybridized as shown below:

$$[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$$
 ion  $[L]$   $[L]$ 

In this configuration one of the three 4p-orbitals,  $4p_z$ -orbital remains unhybridized i.e., does not participate in hybridization because  $p_z$ -orbitals lies above and below the plane of the ion. [Cu (py)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>, [Cu (CN)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> complex ions are square planar and Cu <sup>2+</sup> ion is  $sp^2d$ -hybridized. The valence bond electron description of some square planar complexes is given in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5

| Complex                               | Oxidation<br>State of<br>Metal | Valence<br>Shell E.C. of<br>Metal Cation | Valence Bond Electrons Description       | No. of<br>Unpaired<br>Electrons (n) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| [Ni (Hdmg) <sub>2</sub> ]             | + 2                            | 3d8                                      | 11 11 11 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 1 | 0                                   |
| [Cu (CN) <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> | + 2                            | 3d9                                      | 111111 2 22 2                            | 1                                   |

| [PdCl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>                  | +2  | 4d <sup>8</sup> | dsp <sup>2</sup> -hybridization          | 0 |
|---|-----|-----------------|--|---|
| [PtCl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>                  | + 2 | 5d <sup>8</sup> | dsp <sup>2</sup> -hybridization          | 0 |
| [Pt (NH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> | + 2 | 5d <sup>8</sup> | 11 11 11 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 1 | 0 |

#### Limitations of VBT

- 1. It could not explain the nature of ligands i.e., which ligand is strong and which one is weak.
- 2. It could not explain why the pairing of electrons occurs in the presence of strong ligands.
- From this theory magnetic moment can be calculated by knowing the number of unpaired electrons
  but it could not explain the effect of temperature on magnetic moment. It could also not explain why
  the experimental value of magnetic moment is greater than the calculated in some complexes.
- 4. It could not explain the distortion in some octahedral complexes like  $[Cr(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$  and  $[Cu(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$ .
- 5. It could not explain the colour and electronic spectra of complexes.
- 6. It could not explain reaction rates and mechanism of reactions of complexes.
- 7. It could not explain the structure of  $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$  ion.

# Model Questions:

- 1. On the basis of VBT, account for magnetic Properties of:

  [Ni(NHS)6] i) [Co(NHS)6] 2+ ii) [Fe(CN)6] 4- iv) [Cr(CN)6] 4-
- 2.  $K_4$  [Gr(NCS)6] has a magnetic moment of 5.0 B.M. While  $K_4$  [Gr(CN)6] has a value of only 3.2 B.M. Give the geometry of each complex on the basis of VBT.
- 3. The magnetic moment of [MnBrg] 2- and [Mn (CN)6] 3are 5.9 and 2.9 B.M respectively. Using VBT, assign the geometries of these complex.
- 4) Discuss the structure, bonding (VBT) and magnetic property of [Ni(co)4].

# References:

- 1. Ajay Kumar (2016); coordination chemistry.
- 2. compounds, Bonding, Structure & Nomenclature
- 3. A.G. Sharpe, Inorganic chemistry, Third Edition