

❖ Conjugation

The phenomenon of conjugation in organic compounds is typically characterized by the presence of alternate single and double bonds which are perpendicular to the molecular plane.

Typically, the orbitals required for the perpendicular π -bonding are supplied by the sp^2 -hybridized carbon atom; nevertheless, it is not the hard-and-fast condition for the conjugation to take place because as long as the adjacent atoms are in a chain and have p -orbitals, the system can be treated as conjugated in nature. For instance, the furan molecule is a 5-membered cyclic system with two alternating double bonds neighboring oxygen in a five-membered ring. The oxygen atom has two lone pairs of electrons, one pair fills a p orbital perpendicular to the molecular plane, and therefore, sustaining the conjugation of that 5-membered cyclic system by overlap with the perpendicular p orbital on every adjacent C atoms. The 2nd lone pair remains in the molecular plane and does not contribute to the phenomenon of conjugation. The two main types of conjugations are given below.

➤ Double Bond in Conjugation with a Double Bond

In these compounds, a double or triple bond is in conjugation with another double or triple bond. Some of the common examples of these types of molecules are given below.

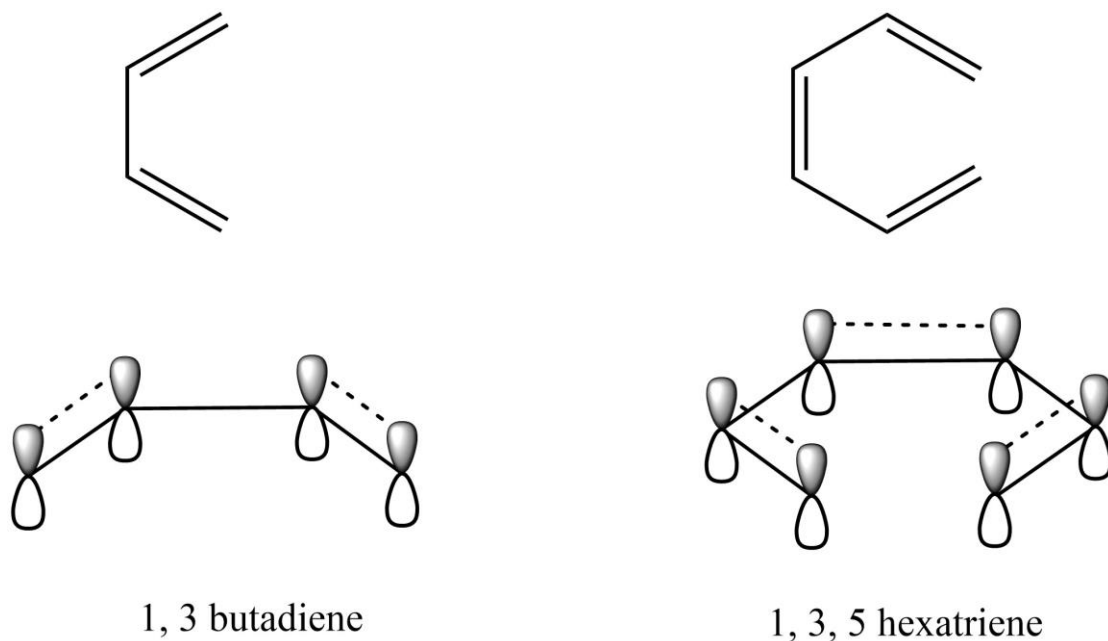
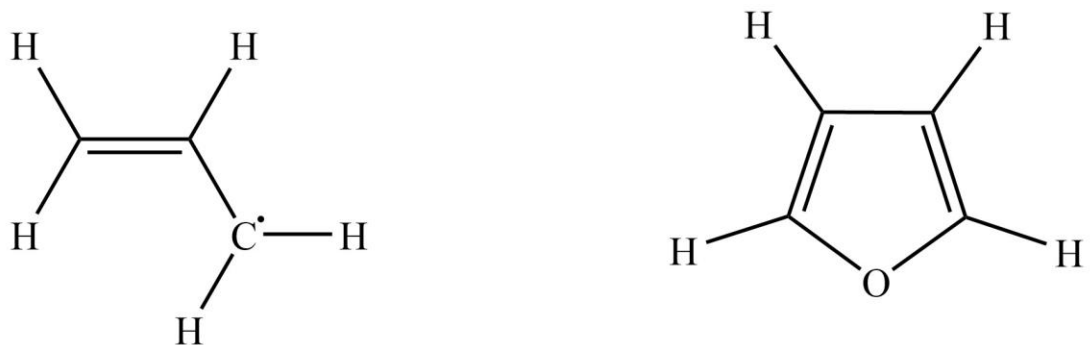


Figure 5. Some of the most common examples of acyclic molecular geometries bond-conjugated systems in them.

It should also be noted that the carbon that possesses the conjugated orbital is almost always got sp^2 hybridization even if contains a lone pair of electron.

➤ **Double Bond in Conjugation with *p*-Orbital on the Neighboring Atom**

In these compounds, a double or triple bond is in conjugation with the atomic *p*-orbital of an adjacent carbon or heteroatom. Some of the common examples of these types of molecules are given below.



Allyl radical

Furan

Figure 6. Common examples of some bond-orbital conjugated molecules.

It should also be noted that the carbon that possesses the conjugated orbital is almost always got sp^2 hybridization even if contains a lone pair of electrons.

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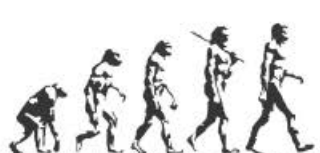
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A TEXTBOOK OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Volume I

MANDEEP DALAL



First Edition

DALAL INSTITUTE

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Mandeep Dalal

(M.Sc, Ph.D, CSIR UGC – NET JRF, IIT-GATE)

Founder & Educator, Dalal Institute

E-Mail: dr.mandeep.dalal@gmail.com

www.mandeepdalal.com

Mandeep Dalal is an Indian research scholar who is primarily working in the field of Science and Philosophy. He received his Ph.D in Chemistry from Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, in 2018. He is also the Founder of "Dalal Institute" (India's best coaching centre for academic and competitive chemistry exams), the organization that is committed to revolutionize the field of school-level and higher education in Chemistry across the globe. He has published more than 40 research papers in various international scientific journals, including mostly from Elsevier (USA), IOP (UK), and Springer (Netherlands).

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