

3.4 Covalent bonding and coordinate (dative covalent) bonding

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS coordinate bond • covalent bonds • bond energy
• hybridisation • bond length

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **covalent and coordinate bonding** – **covalent bonds**, **coordinate (dative) bonds**, **σ and π bonds** σ π , **hybridisation**, and bond energy/length.

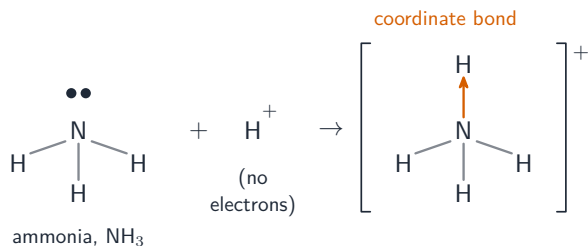
You must be able to:

- define covalent and coordinate bonding and describe an expanded octet
- describe σ and π bonds (single, double, triple) and $sp/sp^2/sp^3$ hybridisation
- define bond energy and bond length and relate them to reactivity

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

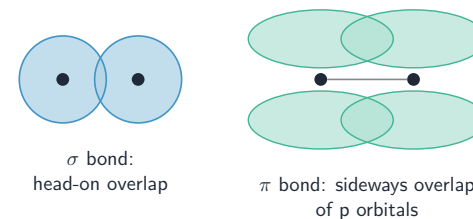
■ Covalent and coordinate bonds

Covalent bonding is the electrostatic attraction between the nuclei of two atoms and a **shared pair** of electrons. Period 3 atoms can **expand the octet** (e.g. SO_2 , PCl_5 , SF_6). A **coordinate (dative)** bond is a covalent bond where **both** electrons come from one atom.



A coordinate bond: N's lone pair forms the fourth N–H bond, both electrons coming from N $\rightarrow NH_4^+$

■ σ and π bonds



σ = head-on overlap; π = sideways p-orbital overlap. Single = 1σ ; double = $1\sigma + 1\pi$; triple = $1\sigma + 2\pi$

Hybridisation mixes orbitals: sp (linear), sp^2 (e.g. C_2H_4 , planar), sp^3 (e.g. CH_4 , tetrahedral). **Bond energy** = energy to break one mole of a bond (gas); a shorter bond is usually stronger (triple > double > single).

2 Practice

2.1 Define a **coordinate (dative covalent) bond**. [1]

2.2 State how many σ and π bonds are in a nitrogen molecule, N_2 (triple bond). [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A double bond consists of: [1]

- ☐ A two σ bonds
☐ B one σ bond and one π bond
☐ C two π bonds
☐ D one σ bond and two π bonds

3.2 Which molecule contains an atom with an expanded octet? [1]

- ☐ A CH_4
☐ B NH_3
☐ C SF_6
☐ D H_2O

3.3 (a) Describe how a coordinate bond forms when ammonia reacts with H^+ to form NH_4^+ . [2]

(b) Explain why a $\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$ triple bond is shorter and stronger than a $\text{C}=\text{C}$ double bond. [2]

3.4 Explain, in terms of σ and π bonds, the bonding in an ethene molecule, C_2H_4 . [2]
