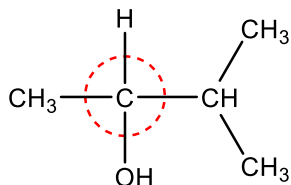


What are stereocenters?

Stereocenters, also known as stereogenic centers or chiral centers, are atoms in a molecule that are bonded to four different groups of atoms or molecules and are therefore not superimposable on their mirror images. Stereocenters are important in chemistry because they give rise to stereoisomers, which are compounds that have the same molecular formula and connectivity but differ in the arrangement of their atoms in space.



Stereocenters are commonly found in organic molecules, particularly those that contain carbon atoms bonded to four different groups. They can also be found in molecules containing other elements, such as nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus.