In organic chemistry, the word “ligand” is a convenience word, used to mean “atom or group of atom”.

eg. 1:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{CH}_3 \\
\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2 \\
\text{C} \\
\text{Br} \\
\text{H}
\end{array}
\]

In 1, the four ligands on the chiral center are an ethyl group, a methyl group, a bromine atom, and a hydrogen atom.

eg. 2:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{O} \\
\text{CH}_3 \\
\text{C} \\
\text{Cl}
\end{array}
\]

In 2, the ligands on the carbonyl carbon are a methyl group and a chlorine atom.

Contributors

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