A quaternary (4º) carbon is a saturated carbon in an organic species bonded to four carbon atoms, eg:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CH}_3 & \quad \text{C} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{OH} \\
\text{CH}_3 & \quad \text{CH}_3 \\
\text{CH}_3 & \quad \text{CH}_3 \\
\text{CH}_3 & \quad \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3
\end{align*}
\]

see also primary carbon, secondary carbon, tertiary carbon

Contributors

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