## VSEPR

Valence Shell Electron Pair Repulsion theory allows you to predict molecular shape.
Lewis Dot theory extended to 3 dimensions.





## Valence Shell Electron Pair Repulsion

## Microscopic properties

- Composition, Connectivity \& Shape
- Molecular Shape
- eg: sense of taste; active sites
- VSEPR Theory: Electronic Geometry
- Kinds of Electron Groups
- Electron Domains
- Electron Pair Repulsion
- Basic shapes (geometry)
- linear
- two electron groups, eg: BeCl2, CO2
- trigonal planar
- three electron groups, eg: BF3, H2CO
- tetrahedral
- four electron groups, eg: CH4
- trigonal bipyramidal
- five electron groups, eg: PCl5
- octahedral
- six electron groups, eg: SF6
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- Four electron groups with lone pairs
- trigonal pyramidal
- one lone pair; smaller bond angle than

- bent
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example: H2O
- Five electron groups with lone pairs
- seesaw
- one lone pair; goes in trigonal plane
- example: SF4+
- T-shaped
- two lone pairs, both in trigonal plane
- example: BrF3
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## Sweetness is a function of molecular shape.



- The taste of a food depends on the interaction between the food molecules and taste cells on your tongue.
- The main factors that affect this interaction are the shape of the molecule and charge distribution within the molecule.
- The food molecule must fit snugly into the active site of specialized proteins on the surface of taste cells.
- When this happens, changes in the protein structure cause a nerve signal to transmit.
- Sugar molecules fit into the active site of taste cell receptors called TIr3 receptor proteins.
- When the sugar molecule (the key) enters the active site (the lock), the different subunits of the T1r3 protein split apart.
- This split causes ion channels in the cell membrane to open, resulting in nerve signal transmission.
- Artificial sweeteners also fit into the Tlr3 receptor, sometimes binding to it even stronger than sugar, making them "sweeter" than sugar.



## Molecular Shape

- Properties of molecular substances depend on the structure of the molecule.
- The structure includes many factors:
- The atoms that make up the molecule (composition).
- The skeletal arrangement of the atoms and the kind of bonding between the atoms (connectivity).
- lonic, polar covalent, or covalent
- The 3D form of the molecule (shape).
- Bonding theory should allow you to predict the shapes of molecules.
- Molecules are three-dimensional objects.
- We often describe the shape of a molecule with terms that relate to geometric figures.
- These geometric figures have characteristic "corners" that indicate the positions of the surrounding atoms around a central atom in the center of the geometric figure.
- The geometric figures also have characteristic angles that we call bond angles.
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## $\mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{2}$



## Defining Molecular Shape

- Covalent bonds lock electrons into positions between atoms.
- Multiple covalent bonds can connect to a central atom in different geometries.
- Geometries are defined by:
- bond angles: the angle between two bonds
- bond distances: the distance between two bonded atoms
- Molecules can have the same composition, same connectivity - but different shapes.
- A central atom with two valence atoms can be:
- Bent
- Linear
- A central atom with three valence atoms can be:
- Planar
- Pyramidal
- T-Shaped
- Overall molecular shape is the sum of shape around each atom.
- The shape of a molecule plays an important role in its reactivity.
- We need a tool to predict valence atom shapes.


## 3 Valence Atom Shapes




2 Valence Atom Shapes


## A model for predicting shape.

## Composition

(What's in it.)
$\mathrm{CCl}_{4}$

1 Carbon
4 Chlorine

Chemical Symbols
Molecular Formula

## Connectivity

(What's connected to what.)


Lewis Dot Structure

## Shape

(Bond Angles \& Distances)

(a)

(c)

VSEPR

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## Electron Domains

- To identify the shape around atoms in a molecule, we need to understand the shape formed by the electron pairs around that atom.
- By noting the number of bonding and nonbonding electron pairs we can predict bond angles and distances.

- We refer to the electron pairs as electron domains.
- In a double or triple bond, all electrons shared between those two atoms are on the same side of the central atom; therefore, they count as one electron domain.
- This allows us to predict the shape of a molecule, by considering electron repulsion...


There are three electron groups on N :

- One lone pair
- One single bond
- One double bond


Bonding pairs


## Electron Repulsion



- Electron pairs, whether they be bonding or nonbonding, repel each other.
- By assuming the electron pairs are placed as far as possible from each other, we can predict the shape of the molecule.
- There are five basic arrangements of electron groups around a central atom.
- That's based on a maximum of six bonding electron groups around an atom.
(There may be more than six on very large atoms, it is very rare. - We won't worry about those)
- Each of these five basic arrangements results in five different basic electron geometries.
- In order for the molecular shape and bond angles to be a "perfect" geometric figure, all the electron groups must be bonds and all the bonds must be equivalent.
- We'll tweak the model later to account for differences.
- For molecules that exhibit resonance, it doesn't matter which resonance form you use as the underlying electron geometry will be the same.
- All atoms that have 2-6 Electron Domains will have their electron pairs arranged in one of these five basic geometries.


## 2 Electron Domains - Linear

- The best arrangement of two electron domains around a central atom is linear.
- A pushes C away until the ABC bond angle is $180^{\circ}$
- Pushing any farther than $180^{\circ}$ brings C closer to A - on the other side.


Linear geometry

$: \ddot{O}=\mathrm{C}=\ddot{\mathrm{O}}:$


Linear geometry


## 3 Electron Domains - Trigonal Planar

- Three electron domains around a central atom form a trigonal planar arrangement.
- The bond angle between each atom is $120^{\circ}$
- The three domains remain in the same plane for the same reason they remain linear when there are two domains.






## 4 Electron Domains - Tetrahedral

- Four electron domains form a tetrahedral arrangement around the central atom.
- A tetrahedron, a pyramid with a triangular base, defines the position of each domain.
- All domains are equidistant from each other.
- The bond angle between any two domains is $109.5^{\circ}$
- To draw a tetrahedral atom, draw three atoms in the plane and then use a dotted line to show one behind and a triangle to show one in front.




## 5 Electron Domains - Trigonal Bipyramidal

- Five electron domains form a trigonal bipyramidal arrangement around the central atom.
- This optimal arrangement has two types of positions:
- Equatorial
- Axial
- Equatorial positions are $120^{\circ}$ apart.
- Axial positions are above and below the equatorial plane.
- Axial positions are $90^{\circ}$ from the equatorial plane.



## 6 Electron Domains - Octahedral

- Six electron domains form an octahedral arrangement around the central atom.
- The points of an octahedron geometric shape defines the positions of domains in an octahedral arrangement.
(Played D\&D? Think 8 sided dice!)
- All six positions are equivalent.
- Each position is equidistant from 4 other positions and forms a $90^{\circ}$ angle with each.
- It is also opposite the last position and has $180^{\circ}$ angle with it.



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|  | Electronic Geometry | Bond Angles |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 1 e pair | Linear | $180^{\circ}$ |
| 2 e pair | Linear | $180^{\circ}$ |
| 3 e pair | Trigonal Planar | $120^{\circ}$ |
| 4 e pair | Tetrahedral |  |
| 5 e pair |  |  |

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## Electronic vs Molecular Geometry

- Electronic geometry is the shape defined by the electron domains.
- Molecular geometry is the shape defined by atoms which may be attached to those domains.
- Don't confuse the two!
- There are only five electronic geometries.
- The question "what is the electronic geometry of an atom?" will only have one of these five answers:
* Linear (two domains)
* Trigonal Planar (three domains)
* Tetrahedral (four domains)
* Trigonal Bipyramidal (five domains)
* Octahedral (six domains
- If there are 4 electron domains, the electronic structure is tetrahedral.
- With a tetrahedral electronic geometry we could have one atom, two atoms, three atoms, or four atoms stuck onto the central atom.
- A tetrahedral electronic geometry could produce 4 different molecular geometries.



## Tetrahedral Electronic Geometry

- There are only five electronic geometries, but each can result in many molecular geometries.
- Only one electronic geometry occurs when there are 4 electron domains.
- But there are multiple molecular geometries that can be built on a tetrahedral electronic geometry.



## Electronic Geometry: Tetrahedral

Molecular Geometry:
Tetrahedral



## Bond Angle Compression

- Two electrons, a lone pair, in an electronic domain spread out.
- When those same electrons are in a covalent bond, the nuclei of the two atoms pull them into a smaller area.
- Lone pairs occupy more space than covalent bonds.
- Lone pairs press on adjacent covalent bonds and compress the bond angles between covalent bonds.
- You are responsible for knowing the ideal bond angle of a tetrahedral geometry is $109.5^{\circ}$
- You are responsible for knowing when bond angle compression produces an angle less than $109.5^{\circ}$ Write " < 109.5" when asked to label compressed bond angles.
- You are not responsible for knowing the exact angle of a compressed bond.








## Trigonal Bipyramidal Electronic Geometry



## Octahedral Electronic Geometry



| Electron <br> Groups | Bonding <br> Groups | Lone <br> Pairs | Electron <br> Geometry | Molecular <br> Geometry | Approximate <br> Bond Angles | Linear |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


|  | Electronic Geometry | Molecular Geometry | Bond Angles |
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| 2 e pair | Linear | Linear | $180^{\circ}$ |
|  |  | Linear |  |
| 3 e pair | Trigonal Planar | Trigonal Planar | $120^{\circ}$ |
|  |  | Bent |  |
|  |  | Linear |  |
| 4 e pair | Tetrahedral | Tetrahedral | $109.5^{\circ}$ |
|  |  | Trigonal Pyramidal |  |
|  |  | Bent |  |
|  |  | Linear |  |
| 5 e pair | Trigonal Bipyramidal | Trigonal Bipyramidal | $90^{\circ}$ and $120^{\circ}$ |
|  |  | See-saw |  |
|  |  | T-Shaped |  |
|  |  | Linear |  |
|  |  | Linear |  |
| 6 e pair | Octahedral | Octahedral | $90^{\circ}$ |
|  |  | Square Pyramidal |  |
|  |  | Square Planar |  |
|  |  | T-Shaped |  |
|  |  | Linear |  |
|  |  | Linear |  |

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## VSEPR Process

- What is the molecular geometry of carbon in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ? , To find the molecular geometry of an atom:
- Draw the Lewis structure.
- Find the number of domains
- Which gives you the electronic geometry.
- Divide the domains into bonding and non-bonding groups.



## VSEPR Process

- What is the molecular geometry of iodine in $\mathrm{ICl}_{5}$ ?



## Larger Molecules

- VSEPR is a tool for understanding the geometry around each atom.
- For larger molecules, sketch out the structure using the Lewis model, and then apply VSEPR separately to each central atom.





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## Questions?

