Shape of $SnCl_2$

A Level

Which of the following structures represents the gaseous $SnCl_2$ molecule? The orbital lobe represents a lone (unshared) pair of electrons.

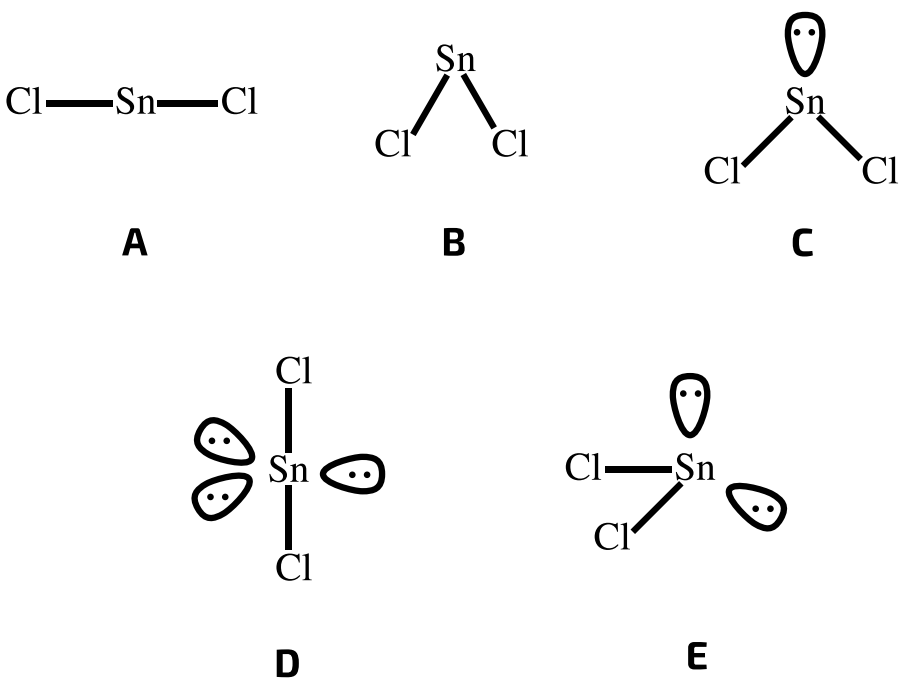

Figure 1: Possible shapes of $SnCl_2$

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

Adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, November 1991, Paper 1, Question 5

Shapes and Angles

A Level

Part A BCl_3 and PCl_3

Why is the molecule of BCl_3 planar, whereas the molecule of PH_3 is pyramidal?

- The boron atom has no d-orbitals available for bonding.
- The boron atom in BCl_3 has six electrons in its valency shell, whereas the phosphorus atom in PH_3 has eight.
- The repulsion between chlorine atoms is greater than that between hydrogen atoms,
- The covalent radius of phosphorus is greater than that of boron.
- The covalent radius of chlorine is greater than that of hydrogen.

Part B NH_3

In the ammonia molecule, what is the approximate value of the $H-N-H$ bond angle?

- 180°
- 120°
- 107°
- 90°
- 60°

Part A adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, June 1991, Paper 3, Question 4;
Part B adapted with permission from OCSEB, A-Level Chemistry, June 1994, Paper 1, Question 1

Bond Angles

A Level

Part A Methane, ammonia and water

The bond lengths and bond angles in the molecules of methane, ammonia and water may be represented as follows:

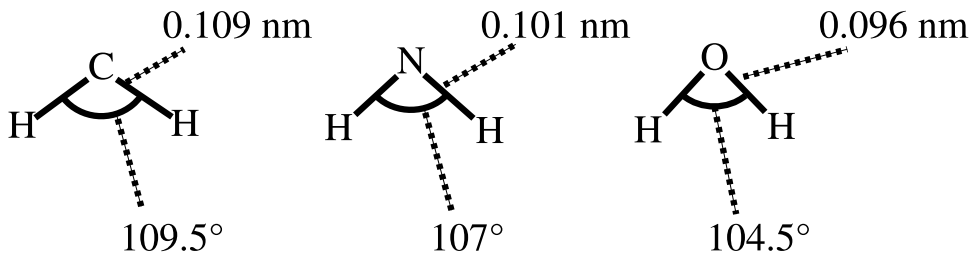

Figure 1: Shapes of molecules of methane, ammonia and water.

What causes this trend in the bond angles shown, according to valence shell electron pair repulsion theory?

1 increasing repulsion between hydrogen atoms as the bond length decreases
2 the number of non-bonding electron pairs in the molecule
3 a nonbonding electron pair having a greater repulsive force than a bonding electron pair

- **1, 2** and **3** are correct
- **1** and **2** only are correct
- **2** and **3** only are correct
- **1** only is correct
- **3** only is correct

Part B SO_3^{2-}

The SO_3^{2-} ion may be represented as (geometry not necessarily representative):

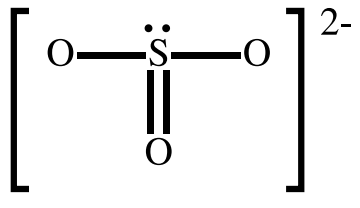

Figure 2: SO_3^{2-} ion

What is the $O-S-O$ bond angle?

- $90°$ exactly
- about $107°$
- about $109.5°$
- $120°$ exactly

Part A adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, June 1992, Paper 4, Question 31;
Part B adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, November 1993, Paper 4, Question 2

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STEM SMART Chemistry Week 7

Dative Bond and Similar Shapes

A Level

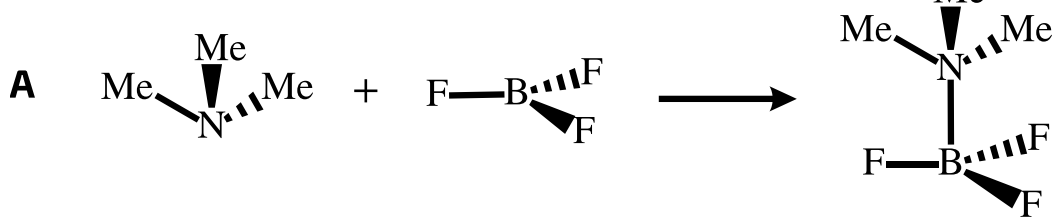
Part A $\mathrm{Me_3N}$ and $\mathrm{BF_3}$

Trimethylamine, $\mathrm{Me_3N}$, reacts with boron trifluoride, $\mathrm{BF_3}$, to form a compound of formula $\mathrm{Me_3NBF_3}$.

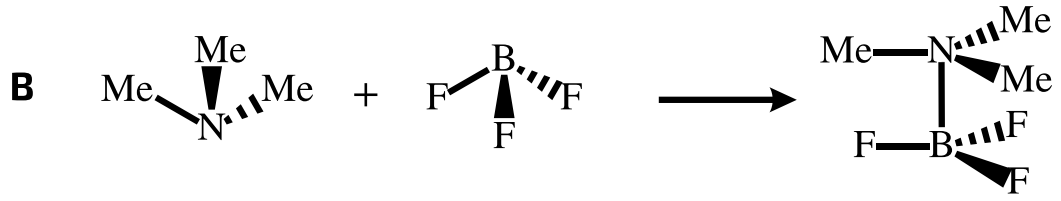
$[\mathrm{Me} = \mathrm{CH_3}]$

How may this reaction be drawn in terms of the shapes of the reactants and products?

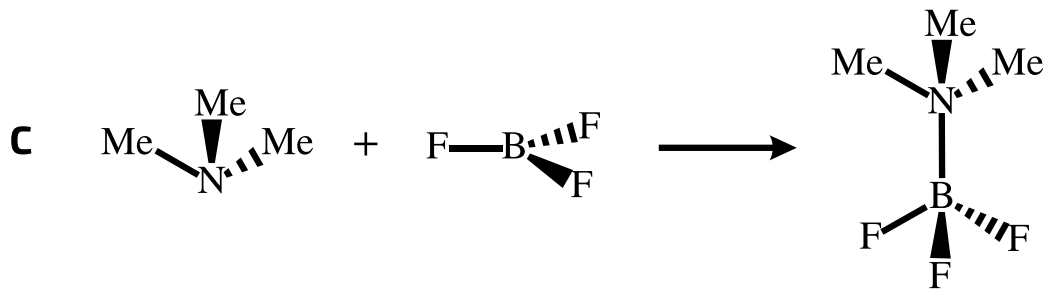
A



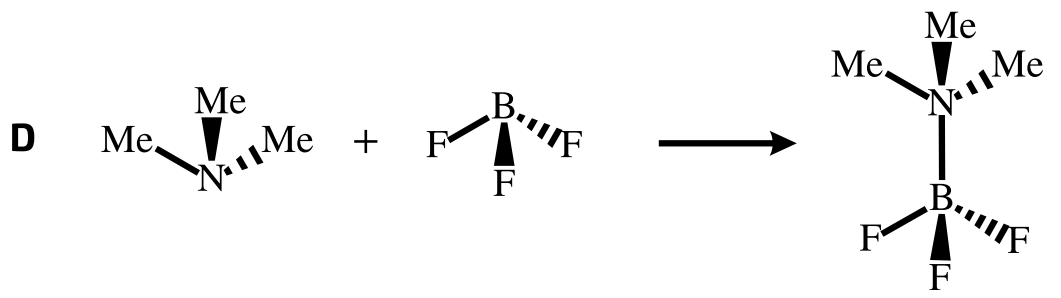
B



C



D



- **A**
- **B**
- **C**
- **D**

Part B Similar shapes

In which of the following pairs do the molecules have similar shapes?

- $AlCl_3$ and PCl_3
- $AlCl_3$ and BCl_3
- BF_3 and NH_3
- CO_2 and SO_2
- $BeCl_2$ and H_2O

Part A adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, June 1995, Paper 4, Question 3;
Part B adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, June 1993, Paper 4, Question 6

Gameboard:
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Shapes of Fluorides

A Level

For each of the following, enter a one to two word answer, using appropriate shape of molecule terminology, e.g. "linear".

Part A BF_3

Describe the shape of BF_3.

Part B CF_4

Describe the shape of CF_4.

Part C NF_3

Describe the shape of NF_3.

Part D SF_6

Describe the shape of SF_6.

Part A adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, November 1995 , Paper 1, Question 1

Shapes of Halide Compounds

A Level

For each of the following, deduce the shape of the molecules and enter a one to two word answer, using appropriate shape of molecule terminology, e.g. "linear".

Part A BBr_3

Deduce the shape of of BBr_3.

Part B PF_3

Deduce the shape of of PF_3.

Part C SF_4

Deduce the shape of SF_4.

Part D IF_5

Deduce the shape of IF_5.

Part E $AlCl_3$ and Cl^-

Predict the shape of the species formed from the reaction of $AlCl_3$ with Cl^-.

Adapted with permission from OCSEB, STEP Chemistry, Jun 1998, Question 4

Gameboard:

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Shapes of Xenon Compounds

A Level

C C C

For each of the following, deduce the shape of the molecules and enter a one to two word answer, using appropriate shape of molecule terminology, e.g. "linear".

Part A XeF_2

Describe the shape of XeF_2.

Part B $XeOF_2$

Describe the shape of $XeOF_2$.

Part C XeO_4

Describe the shape of XeO_4.

Part D XeF_4

Describe the shape of XeF_4.

Part E $\mathrm{XeOF_4}$

Describe the shape of $\mathrm{XeOF_4}$.

Part A adapted with permission from OCR, STEP Chemistry, June 1999, Question 5

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Shape of Ozone

A Level

C C C

Part A O_3

Predict the shape of the ozone molecule O_3.

Part B

How many lone pairs of electrons are in O_3?

Part A adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, November 1995, Paper 1, Question 5;
Part B created for isaacphysics.org by Robert Less

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Shapes of Molecules and Ions

A Level

Part A F_2O

By considering the number of lone and bonding pairs of electrons, predict the shape of F_2O.

Part B H_3O^+

By considering the number of lone and bonding pairs of electrons, predict the shape of H_3O^+.

Part C ClF_4^-

By considering the number of lone and bonding pairs of electrons, predict the shape of ClF_4^-.

Part D SbF_5^{n-}

Antimony, Sb, is in group 15 of the Periodic Table. It forms a series of salts which contain the SbF_5^{n-} anion, the structure of which is a square-based pyramid:

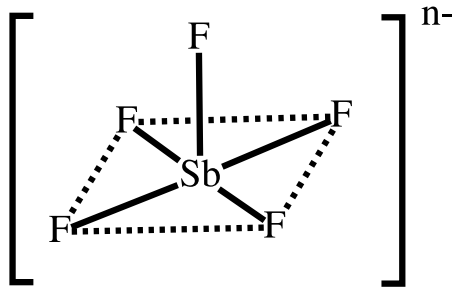

Figure 1: Structure of the SbF_5^{n-} anion

Deduce the total number of electrons around the antimony atom.

Deduce the value of n.

Adapted with permission from UCLES, A-Level Chemistry, June 1991, Paper 3, Question 2