



CHEM 1101B- Chemistry for Engineers

Professor: Alisha Szozda (she/her)

Email: alishaszozda@gmail.com

HS (Health Sciences) 1301

Mondays & Wednesdays 8:35am - 9:55am

Lecture 7: VSEPR

Please feel free to
introduce yourself to your
neighbors– name,
pronouns, a hobby, etc.

and/or

Answer the first question
on Wooclap!

Learning outcome for Topic 7: The Molecule – VSEPR

LOs: (1) Use the VSEPR model to predict the shapes of molecules with steric #'s 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(2) Predict bond and net dipoles

Last lecture...

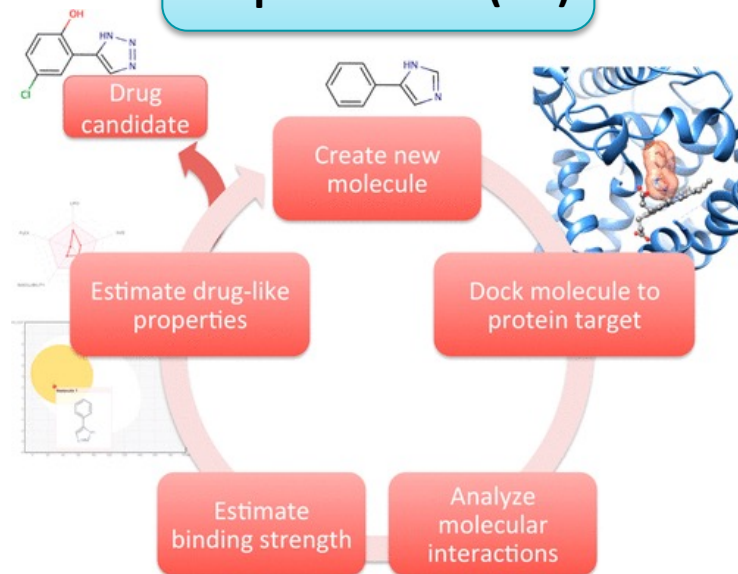
Lewis structures
(2D)

Why is it important to understand
3D molecular structure?

- Shape affects how it interacts with other molecules
- Predict biological activity – to design drugs and decipher the function of the molecule

Today's lecture...

Predicting the
shape – VSEPR (3D)



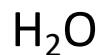
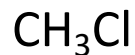
VSEPR Theory – 3D Shapes of Molecules

VSEPR = Valence Shell Electron-Pair Repulsion

- Provides a way to predict the shape of molecules in 3D
- Each group of valence electrons around a central atom is located as far as possible from the others, to minimize repulsions.
- An **electron pair** or **group** = electrons that occupy a localized region in a molecule
- A **ligand** or **outer atom** = an atom (or group of atoms bonded to an inner atom)
- **Steric number** or **number of electron pairs**
 - = the sum of the number of ligands plus number of lone pairs
 - = total # of electron groups associated with atom

Drawing lewis structures to determine the steric number

To determine the steric number of a molecule, it is necessary to draw the Lewis structure. For example:



wooclap

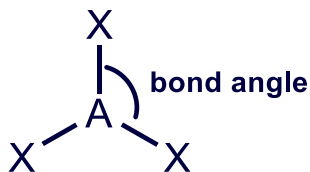
**What is the steric
number for ClF_3 ?**



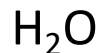
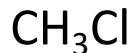
The Molecular Shape

Once the steric number is known, we can determine the molecular shape.

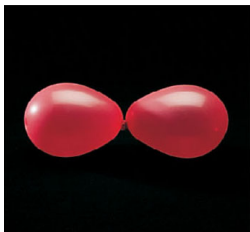
- Find the arrangement that maximizes the separation of electron groups from each other to minimize electron pair repulsions
- Defined by bond angles:



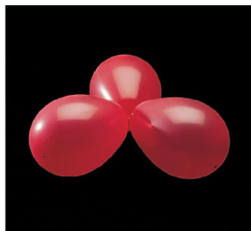
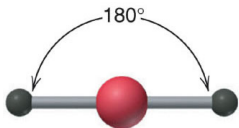
For example:



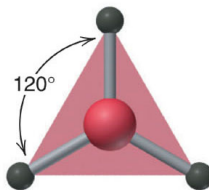
5 Basic Electron Pair Geometries



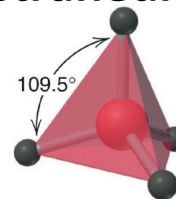
linear



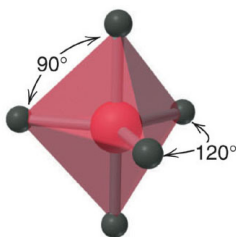
trigonal planar



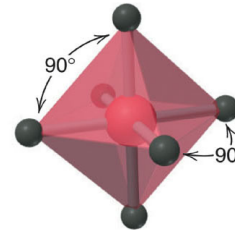
tetrahedral



**trigonal
bipyramidal**



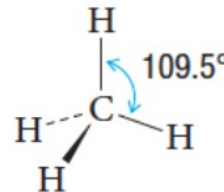
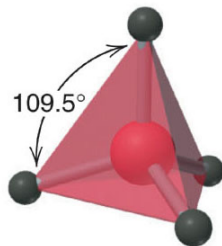
octahedral



Variations of the main geometries

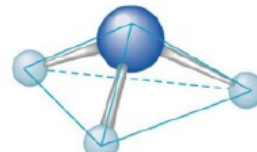
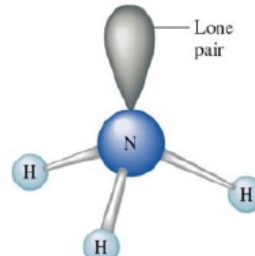
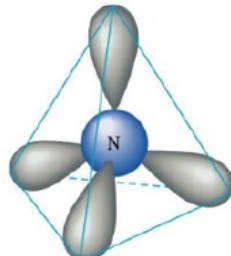
Methane has a tetrahedral molecule shape (steric # = 4)

How does this compare to other molecules with same steric #?



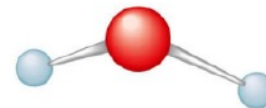
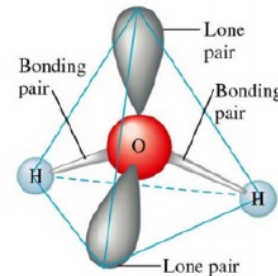
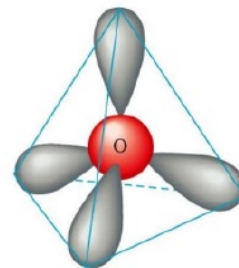
Example 1: Ammonia

- Unlike methane, one of ammonia's electron pairs is a lone pair



Example 2: Water

- Unlike methane, two of water's electron pairs are lone pairs



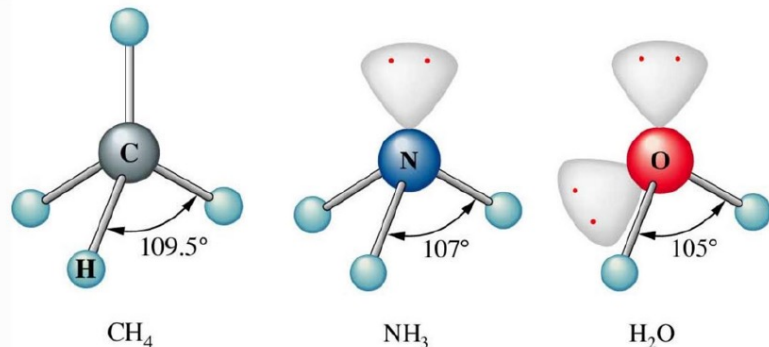
This affects the overall VSEPR shape

Bond angles are not always ideal

Electron pair geometries can differ from ideality, giving rise to differences in bond angles from those predicted from the ideal shapes.

- Electron groups with higher electron density will repel other groups more
- This pushes them further away from other groups
- This causes lower electron density groups to be closer to each other

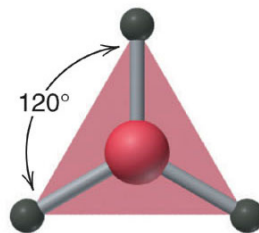
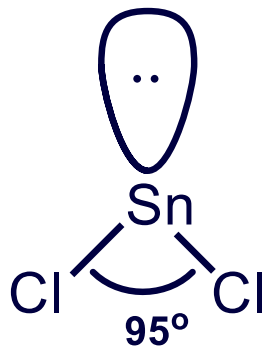
In terms of decreasing repulsion: (LP = lone pair, BP = bonding pair)



Other examples of non-ideal bond angles

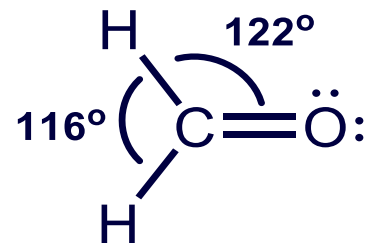
For example:

Non-bonding lone pairs



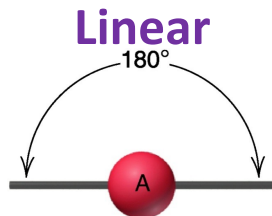
Trigonal Planar
geometry

Double bonds

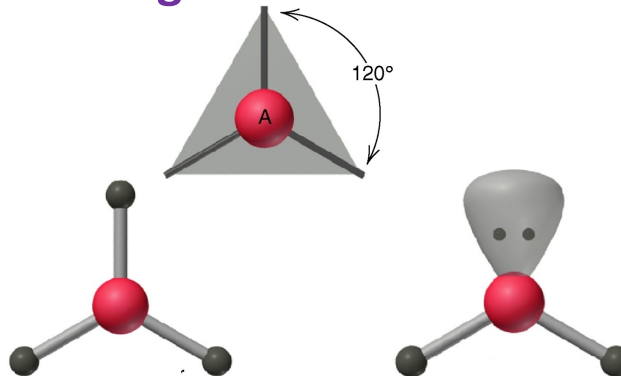


Shapes of Molecules: Steric Number = 2 or 3

Electron pair geometry



Trigonal Planar



Molecular Shape



Linear

Trigonal Planar

Bent

Number of ligands

2

3

2

Bond Angle

180°

120°

$<120^\circ$

Examples

HCN
BeF₂

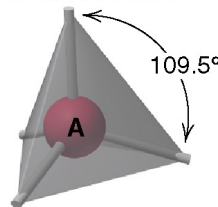
SO₃
CO₃²⁻

O₃
SO₂

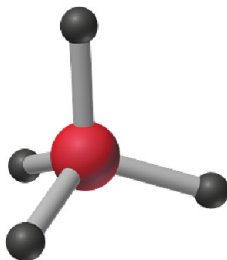
Shapes of Molecules: Steric Number = 4

Electron pair geometry

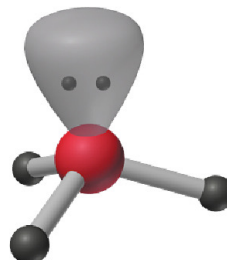
Tetrahedral



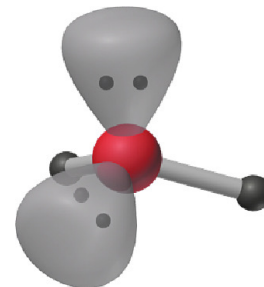
Molecular Shape



Tetrahedral



Trigonal Pyramidal



Bent (V-shaped)

Number of ligands

4

3

2

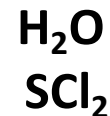
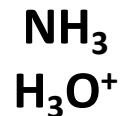
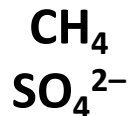
Bond Angle

109.5°

$<109.5^\circ$

$<109.5^\circ$

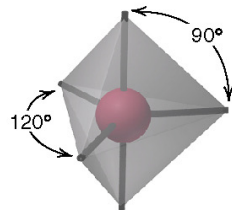
Examples



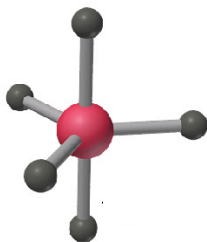
Shapes of Molecules: Steric Number = 5

Electron pair geometry

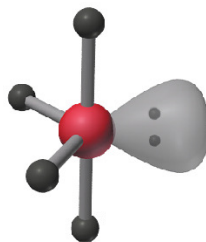
Trigonal Bipyramidal



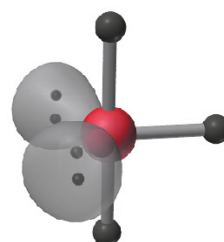
Molecular Shape



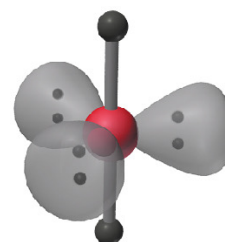
Trigonal Bipyramidal



Seesaw



T-shaped



Linear

Number of ligands

4

3

2

2

Bond Angle

120°
 90°

$<120^\circ$
 $<90^\circ$

$<90^\circ$

180°

Examples

PF_5
 SOF_4

SF_4
 IO_2F_2^-

ClF_3
 BrF_3

I_3^-
 XeF_2

Shapes of Molecules: Steric Number = 6

Electron pair geometry

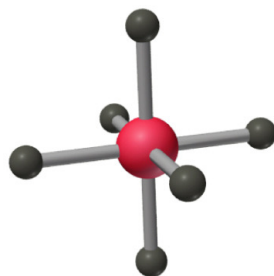
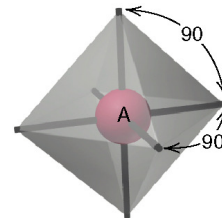
Molecular Shape

Number of ligands

Bond Angle

Examples

Octahedral



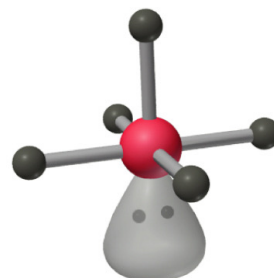
Octahedral

6

90°

SF_6

IOF_5



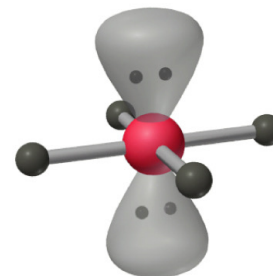
Square pyramidal

5

$<90^\circ$

BrF_5

XeOF_4





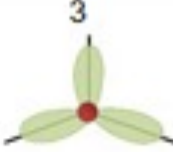
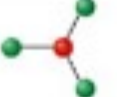
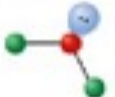

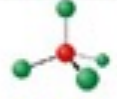
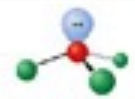
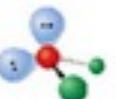









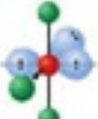

Square planar

4

90°

XeF_4

ICl_4^-

Number of Electron Dense Areas	Electron-Pair Geometry	Molecular Geometry				
		No Lone Pairs	1 lone Pair	2 lone Pairs	3 lone Pairs	4 lone Pairs
2 	Linear	 Linear				
3 	Trigonal planar	 Trigonal planar	 Bent			
4 	Tetrahedral	 Tetrahedral	 Trigonal pyramidal	 Bent		
5 	Trigonal bipyramidal	 Trigonal bipyramidal	 Sawhorse	 T-shaped	 Linear	
6 	Octahedral	 Octahedral	 Square pyramidal	 Square planar	 T-shaped	 Linear

☒ Real ☐ Model

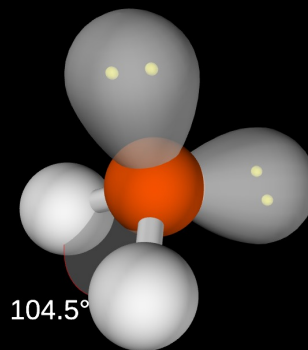
Molecule

H₂O



Options

- ☒ Show Lone Pairs
- ☒ Show Bond Angles



Name



Electron Geometry

Tetrahedral



Molecule Geometry

Bent



Molecule Shapes



Model



Real Molecules



PHET

VSEPR Terminology

wooclap



Electron pair geometry

Molecular Shape

Electron group

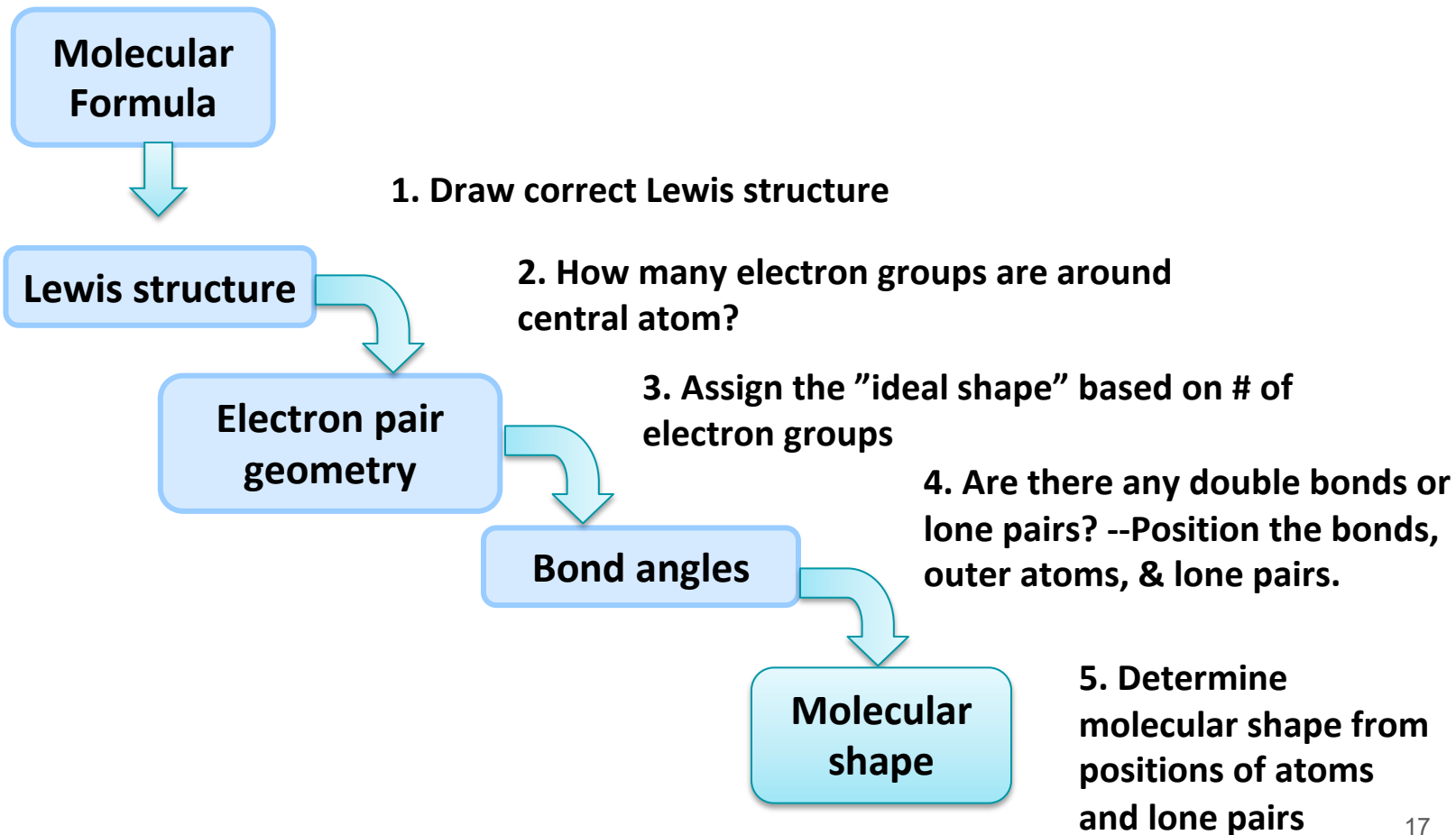
Steric Number

Ligand

The electron group geometry of a compound is always governed by:

- a) the number of electron groups.
- b) the number of ligands.
- c) the molecular shape.
- d) the steric number.

Steps for applying the VSEPR Theory



Practice: Drawing molecular shapes



Draw the molecular shapes for:



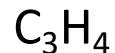
What is the bond angle in SF_2 ?

- a) 180°
- b) 120°
- c) 109.5°
- d) $<120^\circ$
- e) $<109.5^\circ$

More Molecular Shape Examples



Draw the molecular shape for:



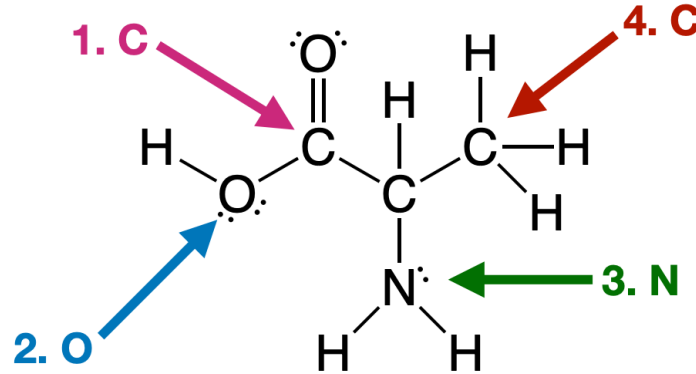
What is the molecular geometry of SF_4 ?

- A) tetrahedral
- B) trigonal bipyramidal
- C) see-saw
- D) T-shape
- E) linear

Putting it all together: Geometry for polyatomic molecules



Alanine, an amino acid:



What is the molecular geometry of **4.C** indicated with a **red arrow**?

- A) Trigonal planar
- B) Bent
- C) Square planar
- D) Trigonal pyramidal
- E) Tetrahedral

Molecular Polarity

To predict whether a specific molecule is polar or non-polar you must consider two characteristics:

- 1) Type of bonds in the molecule (polar or non-polar)
- 2) Geometric shape of the molecule (VSEPR)

Bonds are polar if:

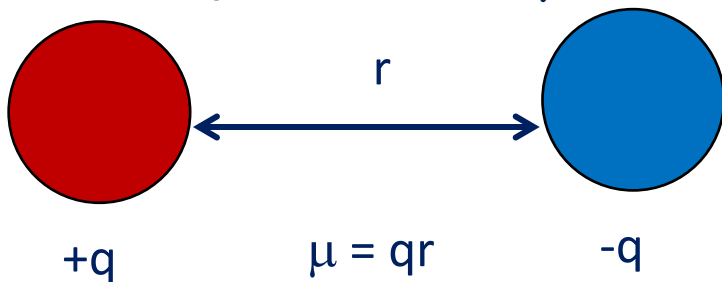
- Bonded atoms have different electronegativities
- More electronegative atoms have greater tendency to attract electrons (larger $\Delta\chi$)

Molecules are polar if:

- they contain one or more polar bonds
- the individual **bond dipoles** do not cancel (depends on the molecular shape), creating a **net dipole**

How polar is my molecule?

Dipole Moment, μ



Molecular shape + $\Delta\chi$



Polarity
(measured as the dipole moment, μ)

e.g. Cl_2



$\Delta\chi = 0$
 $\mu = 0 \text{ D}$
Non-polar

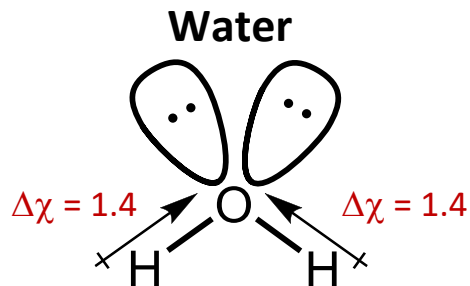
e.g. HCl



$\Delta\chi = 1.9$
 $\mu = 1.07 \text{ D}$
polar

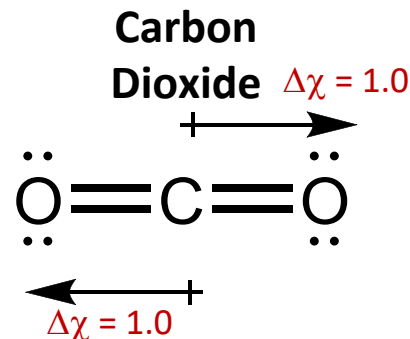
- the larger the dipole moment (μ), the more polar the molecule
- units of polarity are debye (D)
 $1 \text{ Debye} = 3.34 \times 10^{-30} \text{ C m}$

Polar versus nonpolar molecules



- Water has a **bent** molecular structure and **polar bonds** between O --- H
- As a result, the dipoles add together to give the water molecule a net dipole

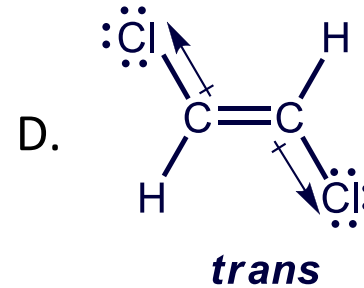
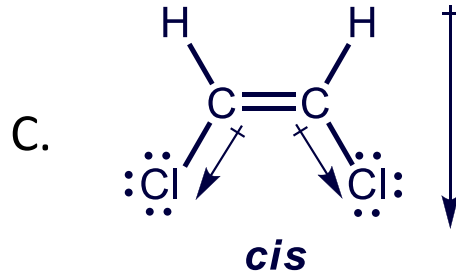
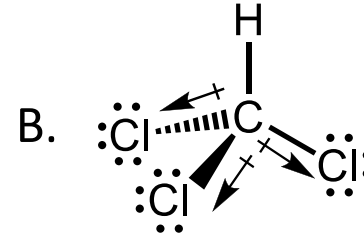
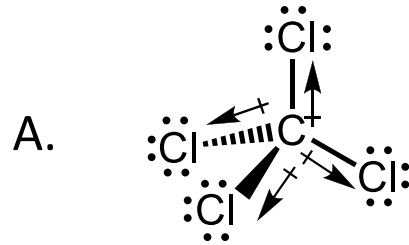
Molecules that have **net dipoles** are **polar**



- Carbon dioxide has a **linear** molecular structure and **polar bonds** between C --- O
- Since the polarities of these bond are equal and opposite, they cancel each other out

Molecules that have **no net dipoles** are **non-polar**

Which molecules are polar?

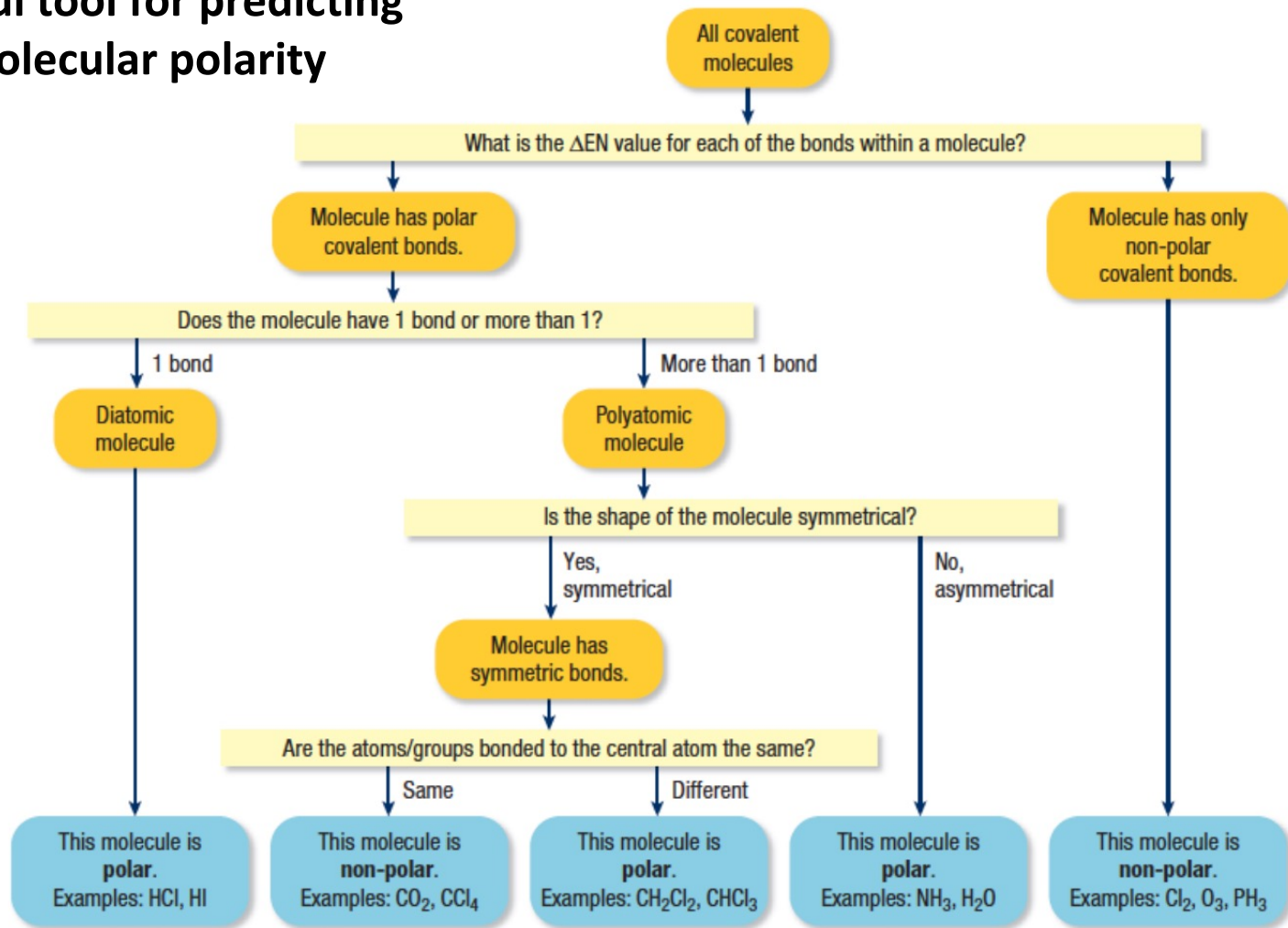


More examples: Which molecules are polar?



Remember: Lone pairs DO NOT contribute to dipole moments by themselves.
NON-ZERO formal charges DO (in the direction of a negative and away from a positive F.C.)

Helpful tool for predicting molecular polarity



Using VSEPR Theory to detect explosives

Behind the Scenes at MIT; <http://chemvideos.mit.edu>

Detecting Explosives to Save Lives in War Zone



Stefanie explains how her research on designing sensors for explosives depends on the principles of VSEPR (valence shell electron pair repulsion) theory. Stefanie's sensor design amplifies small-scale changes in bond angles following interaction with a target molecule, and she hopes that her work will lead to better detectors for landmines and improvised explosive devices.

<https://youtu.be/L-2wcCFX77s?si=0vVQroJMDSY2Kc9k>

<https://chemvideos.mit.edu/real-world-applications/#colorbox>