



# CHEM 1101B- Chemistry for Engineers

Professor: Alisha Szozda (she/her)

Email: [alishaszozda@gmail.com](mailto:alishaszozda@gmail.com)

HS (Health Sciences) 1301

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

## Lecture 6: Lewis Structures

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

*and/or*

Answer the first question on Wooclap!

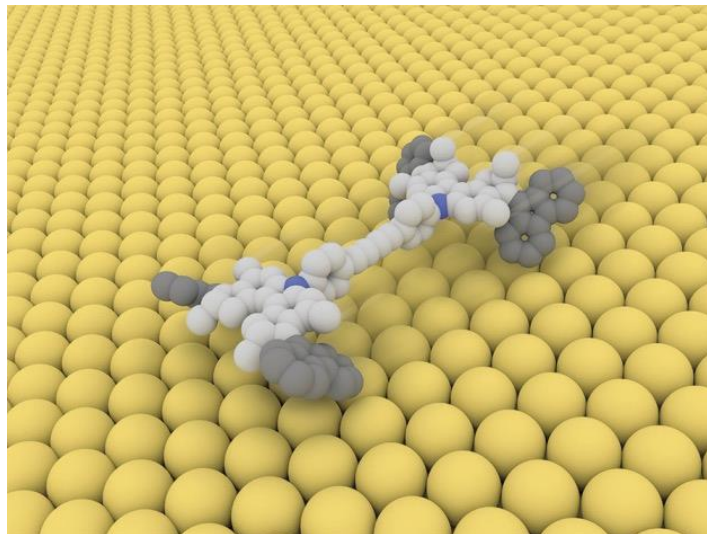
# Learning outcome for Topic 6: The Molecule – Lewis Structures

LO: Predict bonding arrangements and bond orders based on Lewis rules

The arrangement of electrons and chemical bonds in molecules gives us information about:

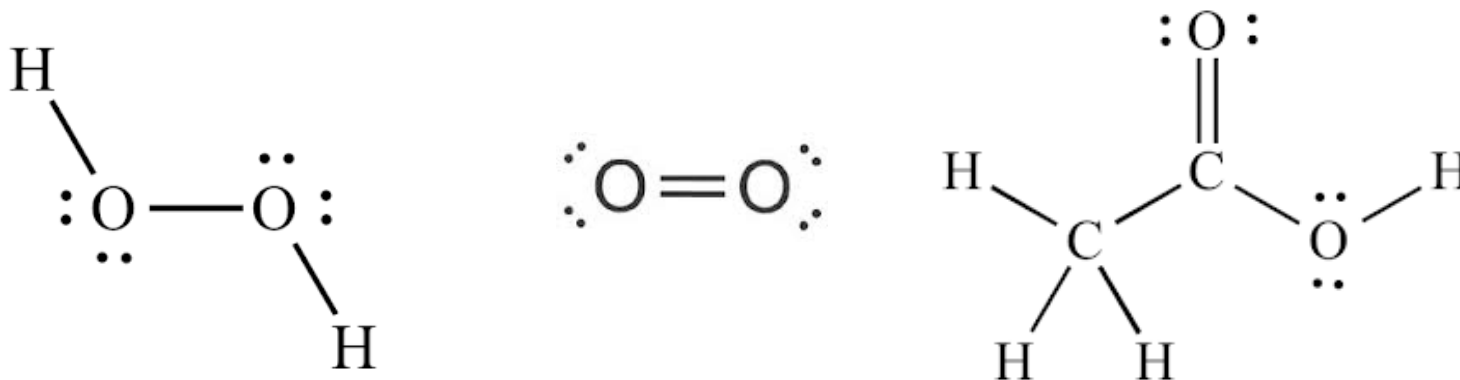
- Shape
- Physical properties
- Reactivity
- How to design molecular machines

Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2016 (Sauvage, Stoddart & Feringa) 'for the design and synthesis of molecular machines' e.g., the nanocar

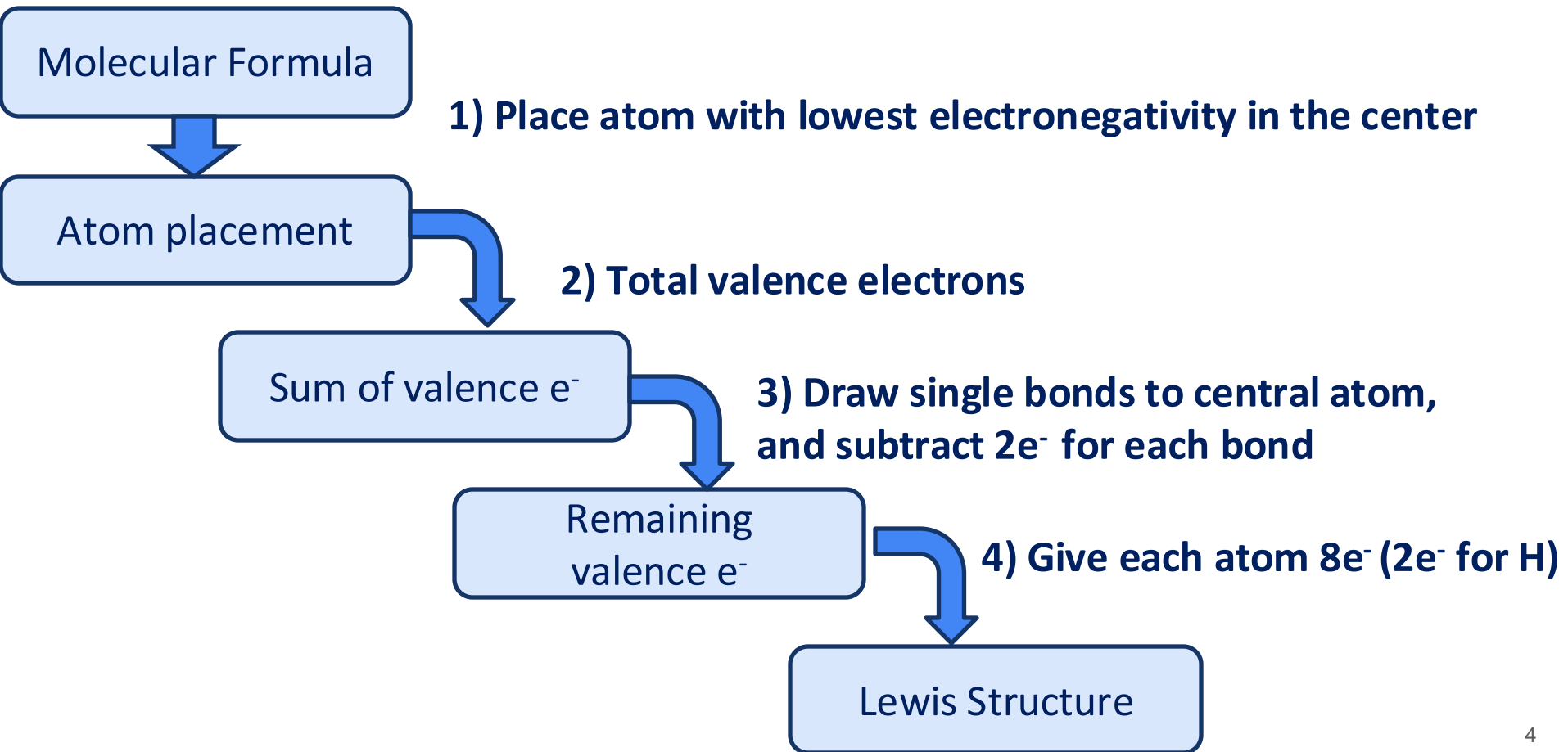


# Lewis Electron-Dot Symbols

- Convenient representations of valence electrons
- Consists of the chemical symbol for the element plus a dot for each valence electron
- 2 electrons per side, 4 sides
- If all the sides are full, 8 electrons are in the the valence shell (stable octet)



# Drawing Lewis Diagrams for Compounds



# Example

Draw the Lewis structure for  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$

wooclap



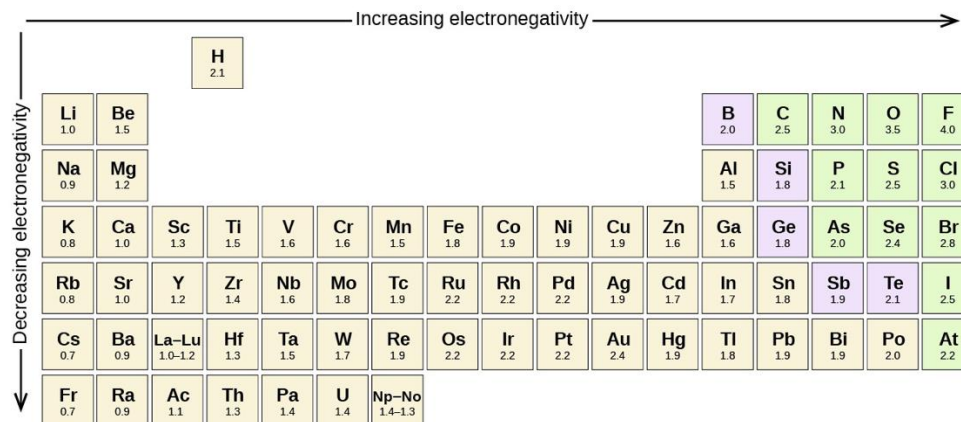
Molecular  
Formula

Atom  
placement

Sum of  
valence  $e^-$

Remaining  
valence  $e^-$

Lewis  
Structure



How many total  
valence electrons  
are there?

- a) 42
- b) 13
- c) 22
- d) 20

# When the central atom isn't clear, calculate formal charges!

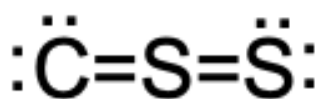
## Formal charge:

- The charge an atom would have if all electrons were shared equally
- Must sum to the actual charge on the molecule

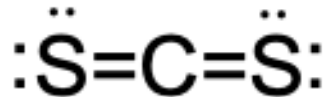
$$\text{F.C.} = \# \text{ of valence } e^- - (\# \text{ of unshared valence } e^- + 1/2 \# \text{ of shared valence } e^-)$$

$$\text{Simpler: FC} = \# \text{ valence } e^- - \# \text{ of actual } e^-$$

Example: Which is the correct Lewis structure for CS<sub>2</sub> (both EN = 2.5)?



OR



        C        S        S        

        S        C        S        

Valence electrons

Actual electrons

Formal Charge

# Lewis Structures for ions

- We can also draw Lewis structure of anions and cations
  - **Cations:** subtract 1 valence  $e^-$  for each + charge
  - **Anions:** add 1 valence  $e^-$  for each - charge
- To determine which atom(s) hold the charge(s), we can calculate the formal charge (F.C.) of each atom in the Lewis structure

## Example: Draw the Lewis diagram for $\text{BF}_4^-$ anion

**Step 1:** B more EN than F

**Step 2:**

- B:  $1 \times 3e^- = 3$
- F:  $4 \times 7e^- = 28$
- $-1: + 1e^- = 1$

Total valence electrons = 32

**Step 3:** Remaining electrons

- $32 - (4\text{bonds} \times 2e^-) = 24$

**Step 4:** complete octets with remaining electrons



**F.C. of each F atom:**

**F.C. of the B atom:**

# Example: Cation

Draw the Lewis diagram for  $\text{ICl}_4^+$

wooclap



Molecular  
Formula

Atom  
placement

Sum of  
valence  $e^-$

Remaining  
valence  $e^-$

Lewis  
Structure

Note: subtract 1 valence  
 $e^-$  for each + charge

**What is the formal  
charge of Iodine?**

- a) +1
- b) 0
- c) -1
- d) +2



# Multiple Bonds (optimizing the octet)

- If there are not enough electrons to attain octets, a multiple bond (double or triple bond) is present
- **Oxygen, Carbon and Nitrogen** often form multiple bond
- Change lone pair on surrounding atom into another bonding pair to central atom

e.g.  $\text{N}_2$

# Example: Multiple Bonds



Draw the Lewis structure for  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ , bicarbonate anion

Molecular  
Formula

Atom  
placement

Sum of  
valence  $e^-$

Remaining  
valence  $e^-$

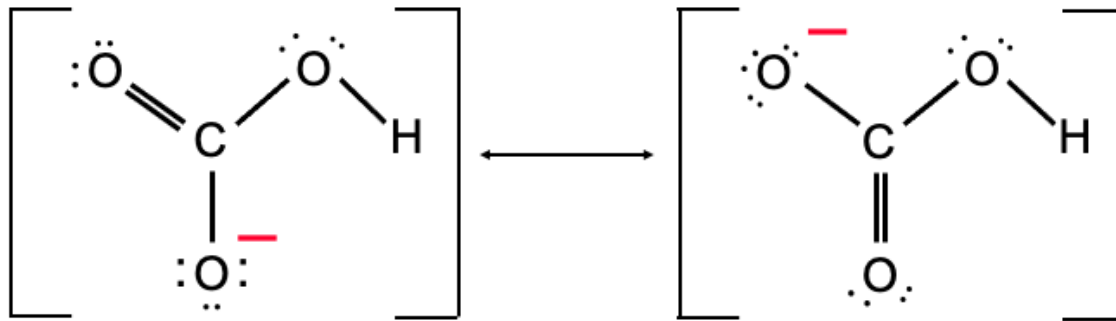
Lewis  
Structure

**How many total  
valence electrons  
are there?**

- a) 20
- b) 23
- c) 22
- d) 24

# Resonance Structures

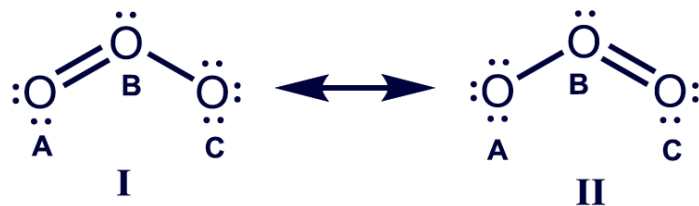
- $\text{HCO}_3^-$  can be drawn in 2 ways:



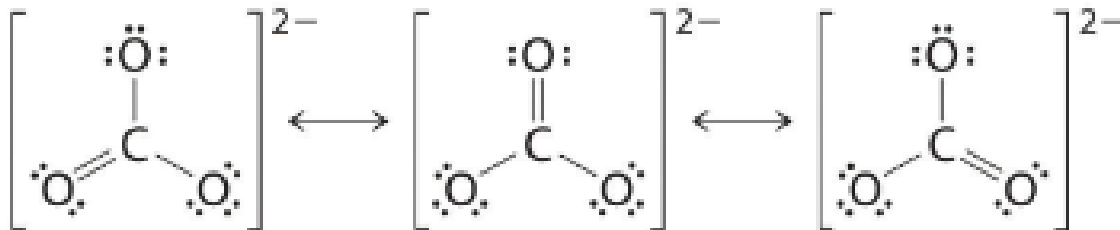
- There are two different reasonable Lewis Structures for the same molecule
- The formal charge is "shared" between both oxygen atoms through resonance & must sum to the actual charge on the species for all resonance forms.
- Neither structure depicts  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  accurately, because in reality the two C-O bonds are identical in length and energy
- **Bond order:** bond order of the identified bond in a resonance structure  
# of resonance structures

# Other examples of resonance structures

$\text{O}_3$  can be drawn in 2 ways:



$\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  can be drawn in 3 ways:



# Choosing the more important resonance form

- Smaller formal charges (positive or negative) are preferable to larger ones.
- The same nonzero formal charges on adjacent atoms are not preferred
- A more negative formal charge should reside on a more electronegative atom.

e.g.  $\text{NCO}^-$

# Some exceptions to the Octet Rule

The octet rule applies for most compounds with period 2 central atoms

Exceptions exist for:

## 1. Electron deficient atoms (e.g. Be, B, Al)

- Depends on electronegativity of atoms they are bonded to

## 2. Odd electron atoms

- Free radicals e.g.  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}$

## 3. Atoms with expanded valence shells

- Nonmetals from Period (row) 3 or higher (have d orbitals available)
- e.g.  $\text{SO}_2$

# Example – atoms with expanded valence shells

wooclap



Draw the lewis diagram for SF<sub>6</sub>

Molecular  
Formula

Atom placement

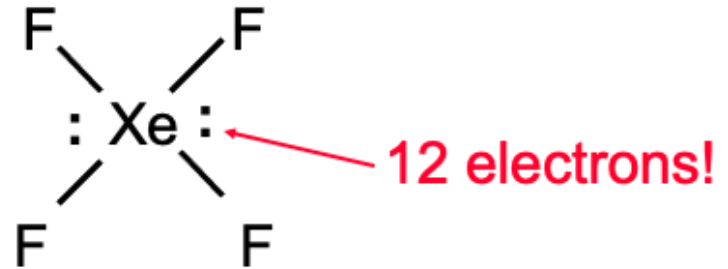
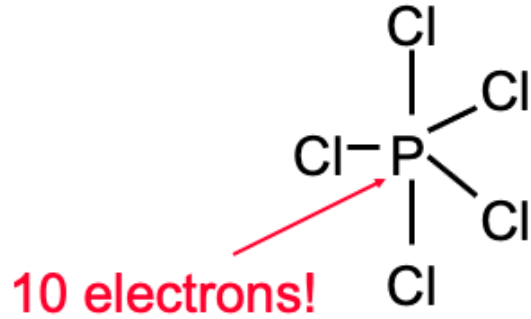
Sum of valence e<sup>-</sup>

Remaining  
valence e<sup>-</sup>

Lewis Structure

How many electrons  
does sulfur have in its  
valence shell?

# Other examples – atoms with expanded valence shells





# Hints on Lewis Dot Structures

1. Octet rule is the most useful guideline.
2. Carbon forms 4 bonds.
3. Hydrogen typically forms one bond to other atoms.
4. If multiple bonds are present, they usually involve C, N, O or S.
5. Nonmetals can form single, double, and triple bonds, but not quadruple bonds.
6. Always account for single bonds and lone pairs before forming multiple bonds.
7. Look for resonance structures.

