

9.1: Molecular Geometry

Learning Objectives

- To extend our models of molecular bonding to determining the shape of molecules.

The Lewis electron-pair approach can be used to predict the number and types of bonds between the atoms in a substance, and it indicates which atoms have lone pairs of electrons. This approach gives no information about the actual arrangement of atoms in space, however.

Moreover, the exceptions to the Lewis octet model are intellectually troublesome as they are *ad hoc* band aids applied to cases where the simple model does not work. We extend our discussion of structure and bonding to determining the shapes of molecules and orbitals that involve more than two atoms.

Contributors

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