

Molecular Orbitals

When two atoms share electrons to form a molecule, their atomic orbitals combine to produce molecular orbitals.

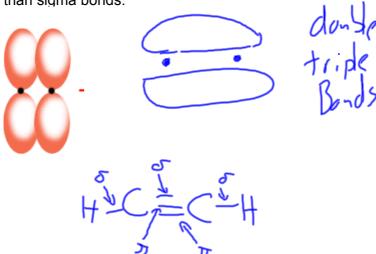
When the orbital is filled with two electrons, it is called a **bonding orbital**.

Sigma bond

Bond that forms when two atomic orbitals overlap head-on. -strong bond

Pi bond

Bond that forms when two atomic orbitals overlap side-by-side. -orbitals overlap less than in sigma bonds, thus the bonds are weaker than sigma bonds.



VSEPR Theory

Valence-Shell Electron-Pair Repulsion Theory

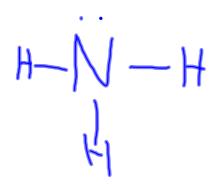
Repulsion between electron pairs causes molecular shapes to adjust so that the valence-electron pairs are as far apart as possible.

tetrahedral angle (109.5°)

4 shared pans

Ex. NH₃

Lone pairs (unshared pairs) also affect the shapes of molecules.



pyrinidal

3 shared pair

1 un shued pair

Ex. CO₂

. ○:C::O.

When predicting molecular shapes, double and triple bonds are treated as single bonds.

Ex. CH₂O

H:C:O.

trigonal planar (120°)