



## 8.6 The Octet Rule and Lewis Structures

- Octet rule in covalent bonding atoms share pairs of electrons until they reach octet (or duplet) configurations of noble gases
  - valence number of covalent bonds an atom forms (number of shared e<sup>-</sup> pairs)
  - the number of shared e<sup>-</sup> pairs equals the number of electrons an atom needs in order to complete its octet (or duplet) structure

 $: \overset{\circ}{\text{Cl}} \cdot + \cdot \overset{\circ}{\text{Cl}} : \longrightarrow (\overset{\circ}{\text{Cl}} \cdot \overset{\circ}{\text{Cl}} :) \text{ or } : \overset{\circ}{\text{Cl}} - \overset{\circ}{\text{Cl}} :$ 



- shared (bonding) e<sup>-</sup> pairs between the atoms (can be expressed as lines representing bonds)
  - lone e<sup>-</sup> pairs - not involved in bonding (not shared)
- **Example:** Write the Lewis structure of HCl and determine the number of shared and lone e<sup>-</sup> pairs.

 $H + \ddot{C}l \rightarrow (H)\ddot{C}l$  or  $H-\ddot{C}l$ 

3 lone pairs at Cl and 1 bonding (shared) pair



- Arrangement of atoms in polyatomic species (skeleton structure)
  - central atom usually the atom with the lowest *I* (often written first in the formula) PCl<sub>5</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>, ...
  - normally  ${\boldsymbol{H}}$  is not a central atom
  - normally the atoms are arranged symmetrically around the central atom  $CO_2 \rightarrow OCO, OF_2 \rightarrow FOF$
- · Polyatomic ions
  - cations and anions of an ionic compound are treated separately
  - total number of valence  $e^{\text{-}}$  is adjusted for the charge of the ion

- - 2 count the total number of valence electrons,  $n_{tot}$ , of all atoms (correct for the charges of ions)
  - 3 count the number of remaining electrons, **n**<sub>rem</sub> (total number of **e**<sup>-</sup> minus **e**<sup>-</sup> used in the skeleton structure)
  - 4 count the number of needed electrons,  $\mathbf{n}_{need}$  (the eneeded to complete the octet (or duplet) structures of all atoms)
  - 5 if  $n_{need} = n_{rem}$ , add the remaining  $e^-$  as lone pairs to complete the octets for all atoms, or

if  $n_{need} > n_{rem}$  add multiple bonds (1 bond for each deficient pair of  $e^{-}$ ) and complete the structure with lone pairs

## Example: Write the Lewis structure of HCN.

- 1. C is the central atom (lower *I* than N)
  - $\Rightarrow$  H–C–N (4 e<sup>-</sup> in the skeleton structure)
- 2.  $n_{tot} = 1(H) + 4(C) + 5(N) = 10$
- 3.  $n_{rem} = 10 4 = 6$
- 4.  $n_{need} = 0(H) + 4(C) + 6(N) = 10$
- 5. **n**<sub>need</sub> > **n**<sub>rem</sub> deficiency of 4 e<sup>-</sup> (2 e<sup>-</sup> pairs) ⇒ add 2 more bonds between C and N and complete the structure with lone pairs

H–C≡N:

## **Example:** Write the Lewis structure of $SO_4^{2}$ .

- 1. S is the central atom (lower *I* than O)
- 2. 8 e<sup>-</sup> in the skeleton structure
  - $n_{tot} = 6(S) + 4 \times 6(O) + 2(charge) = 32$
- 3.  $n_{rem} = 32 8 = 24$
- 4.  $n_{need} = 0(S) + 4 \times 6(O) = 24$
- 5.  $\mathbf{n}_{need} = \mathbf{n}_{rem} \Rightarrow$  complete the structure with lone pairs







- Neither of the resonance structures is realistic
- The real structure is a blend (resonance hybrid) of the contributing Lewis structures
- The three bonds are identical (intermediate between a single and a double bond)

