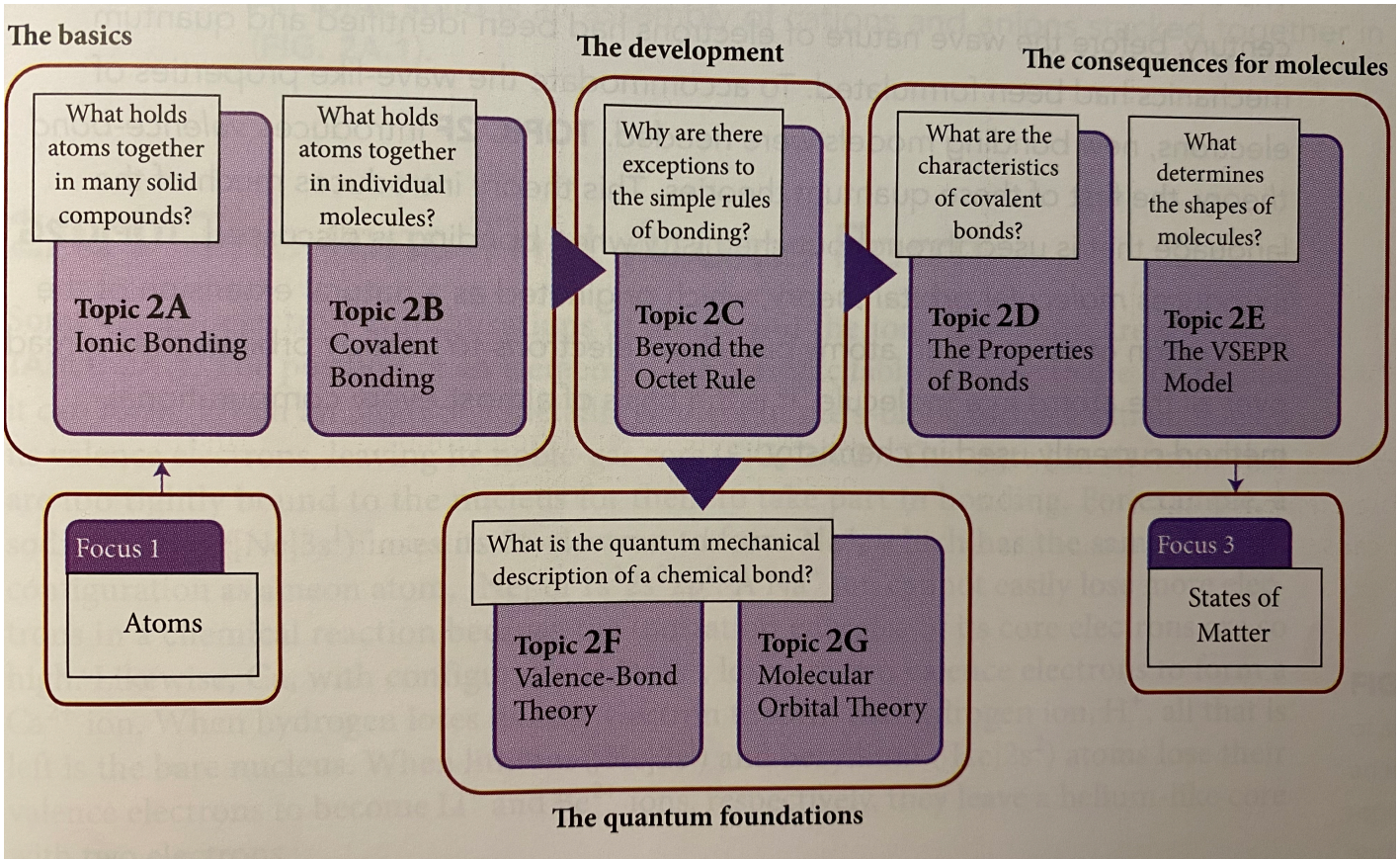
CH-110 Advanced General Chemistry I

Prof. A. Steinauer

angela.steinauer@epfl.ch

Overview Chapter 2 (Focus 2: Bonds Between Atoms)



The VSEPR Model

Topic 2E

2E The VSEPR model

Lead-in

Lewis structures vs. the VSEPR model

Lewis structure	The VSEPR model
Shows **distribution** of valence electrons in bonding pairs (bonds) and lone pairs or unpaired electrons.	The valence electrons about a central atom control the **shape** of a molecule
Shows how atoms are **connected**.	

Topic 2E.1 The basic VSEPR model
Topic 2E.2 Molecules with lone pairs on the central atom
Topic 2E.3 Polar molecules

WHY DO YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS MATERIAL?

- Molecular shape is essential to understand reactivity

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ALREADY?

- Lewis structures (Topic 2B)
- Polar molecules and polar bonds (Topic 2D)

The Basic VSEPR Model

Topic 2E.1

What is the 3D shape of a molecule?

2E.1 The basic VSEPR model

Valence-shell electron-pair repulsion (VSEPR) model

- Focused on understanding of **molecular shape.**
- VSEPR model extends Lewis's theory of bonding by adding rules that account for **bond angles** and **molecular shapes** in terms of **regions of high electron concentration**.

Rule 1: Regions of high electron concentration (bonds and lone pairs on the central atom) repel one another. To minimize their repulsions, these regions move **as far apart as possible from each other** while maintaining the same distance from the central atom.

Rule 2: A multiple bond is treated as a single region of high electron concentration.

Valence-shell electron-pair repulsion (VSEPR) model

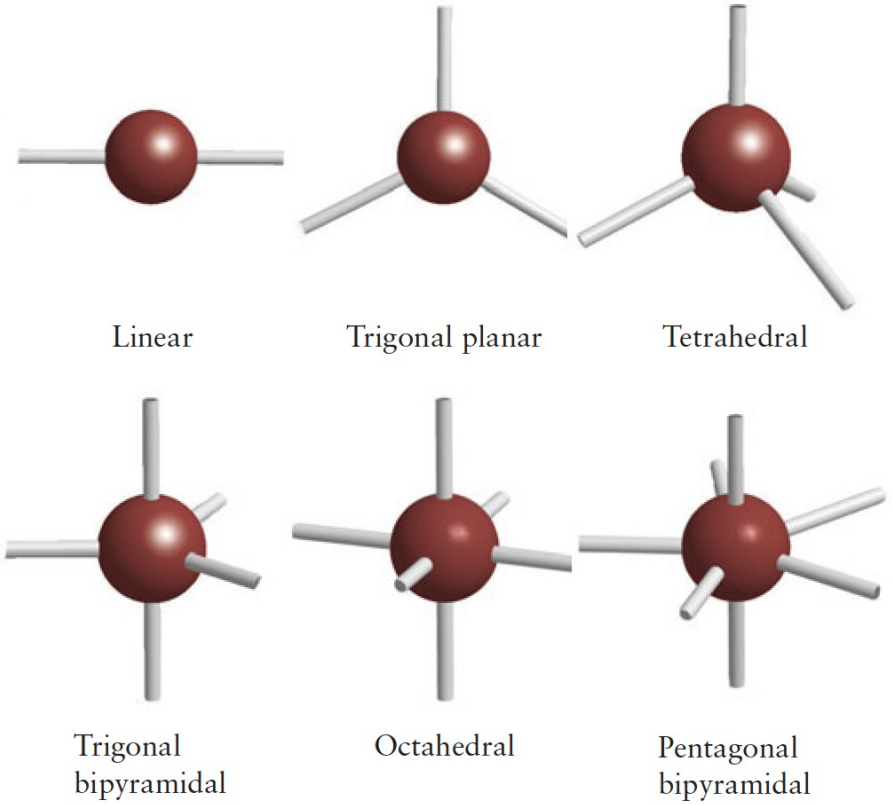
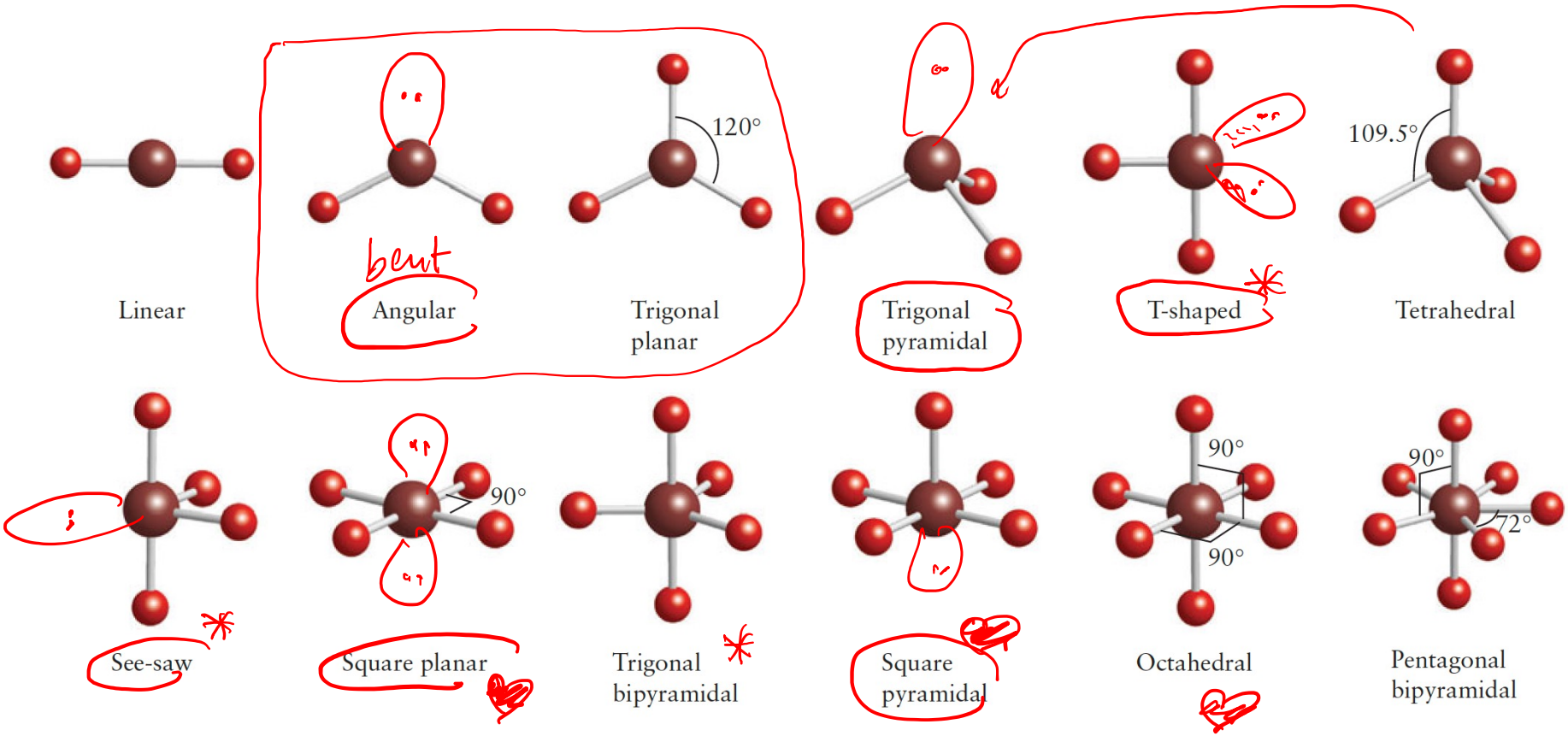


Figure 2E.2

- The positions that two to seven regions of high electron concentration (atoms and lone pairs) take around a central atom.
- **Regions**: straight lines sticking out from the **central atom (red)**.
- Use this diagram to identify the **electron arrangement of a molecule** and then use Fig. 2E.1 to identify the shape of the molecule from the locations of its atoms.

2E.1 The basic VSEPR model

Valence-shell electron-pair repulsion (VSEPR) model



Note: lone pairs are **not** shown in these figures, only atoms.

Figure 2E.1

2E.1 The basic VSEPR model

The method

1. Write the Lewis structure(s). If there are resonance structures, pick *any* one.
2. Count the number of electron pairs (bonding and nonbonding) around the central atom(s). Treat a multiple bond as a *single* unit of high electron density.
3. Identify the *electron arrangement*. Place electron pairs as far apart as possible.
4. Locate the *atoms* and classify the *shape* of the molecule.
5. Optimize *bond angles* for molecules with *lone pairs* on the central atom(s) with the concept in mind that repulsions are in this order:

Lone pair-lone pair > lone pair-bonding pair > bonding pair-bonding pair

2E.2 Molecules with lone pairs on the central atom

The generic VSEPR formula AX_nE_m

A = central atom

X_n = *n* attached atoms

(E_m = *m* lone pairs: see Friday)

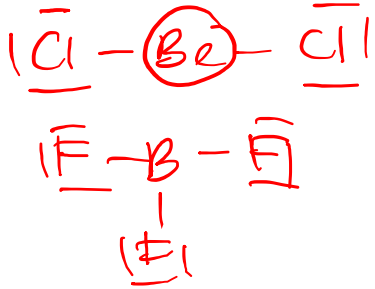
Molecules with the same VSEPR formula have the same electron arrangement and the same shape.

E.g. BF_3 and NO_3^- are examples of AX_3 species.

2E.1 The basic VSEPR model

Some examples: predict the shape of these molecules.

- Beryllium chloride, $BeCl_2$
- Boron trifluoride, BF_3
- Methane, CH_4
- Phosphorous pentachloride, PCl_5
- Sulfur hexafluoride, SF_6
- Carbon dioxide, CO_2
- Carbonate ion, CO_3^{2-}
- Nitrate ion, NO_3^-
- Ethene, C_2H_4



VSEPR