

# From atoms to bulk: Electronic properties

atoms

orbitals

electron configuration

molecular orbitals

hybrid orbitals

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bulk

tight binding model

band structure

density of states

**Physical Chemistry**

Peter Atkins and Julio de Paula

**Modern Physics**

Paul A. Tipler and Ralph A. Llewellyn

<https://chem.libretexts.org/>

Wikipedia

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**Solid State Physics**

Philip Hofmann

EPFL lectures: Physique du Solide I et II (2023-2024)

H. Brune and M. Pivetta

# Analytical solution for hydrogen and hydrogenic atoms (one electron)

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla^2 \psi - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \psi = E\psi$$

$$\frac{1}{\mu} = \frac{1}{m_e} + \frac{1}{m_N}$$

Schrödinger equation for the motion of one electron relative to the nucleus  
Z: atomic number

→ variable separation, radial and angular parts of wavefunctions

$n = 1, 2, 3, 4 \dots$  principal quantum number; average distance of an electron from the nucleus; energy of the electron:  $E_n \propto -z^2/n^2$

$l = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$  orbital (angular momentum) quantum number; magnitude of the angular momentum of the electron:  $|\mathbf{l}| = \sqrt{l(l+1)}\hbar$

$m_l = l, l-1, \dots, -l$  magnetic quantum number;  $(2l+1)$  values; direction of the angular momentum (with respect to an applied magnetic field, usually along  $z$ ):  $l_z = m_l\hbar$

electron configurations, identified by the **shell**:  $n = 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \dots$  and the **subshell**:  $l = 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \dots$   
K L M N ... s p d f ...

# Hydrogenic wavefunctions

→ variable separation, radial and angular parts of wavefunctions

Total wavefunction

$$\overbrace{\psi(r, \theta, \phi)}$$

Radial part

$$\overbrace{R(r)}$$

Angular part

$$\overbrace{Y(\theta, \phi)}$$

Dominant close  
to the nucleus

Bridges the two  
ends of the function

Dominant far from  
the nucleus

$$R(r) = \overbrace{r^l} \times \overbrace{(\text{polynomial in } r)} \times \overbrace{(\text{decaying exponential in } r)}$$

# Hydrogenic radial wavefunctions

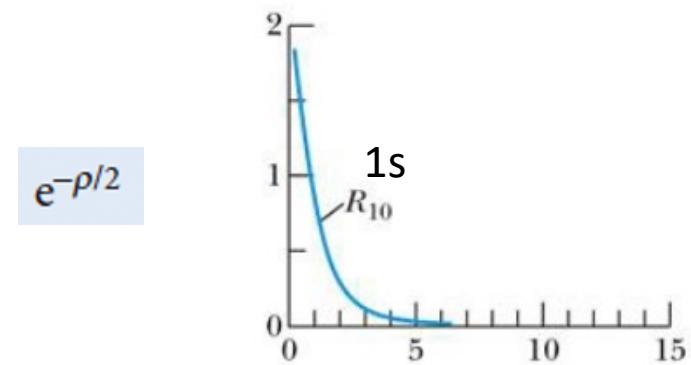
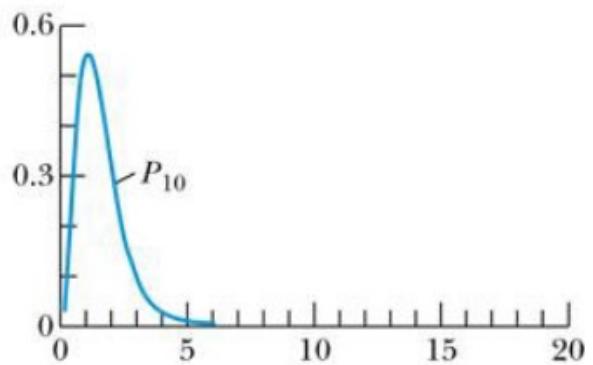
$$R_{n,l}(r) = N_{n,l} \rho^l L_{n+1}^{2l+1}(\rho) e^{-\rho/2}$$

Orbital	$n$	$l$	$R_{n,l}$
1s	1	0	$2 \left( \frac{Z}{a} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2}$
2s	2	0	$\frac{1}{8^{1/2}} \left( \frac{Z}{a} \right)^{3/2} (2 - \rho) e^{-\rho/2}$
2p	2	1	$\frac{1}{24^{1/2}} \left( \frac{Z}{a} \right)^{3/2} \rho e^{-\rho/2}$
3s	3	0	$\frac{1}{243^{1/2}} \left( \frac{Z}{a} \right)^{3/2} (6 - 6\rho + \rho^2) e^{-\rho/2}$
3p	3	1	$\frac{1}{486^{1/2}} \left( \frac{Z}{a} \right)^{3/2} (4 - \rho) \rho e^{-\rho/2}$
3d	3	2	$\frac{1}{2430^{1/2}} \left( \frac{Z}{a} \right)^{3/2} \rho^2 e^{-\rho/2}$

$$\mu \approx m_e \rightarrow a \approx a_0$$

$\rightarrow$

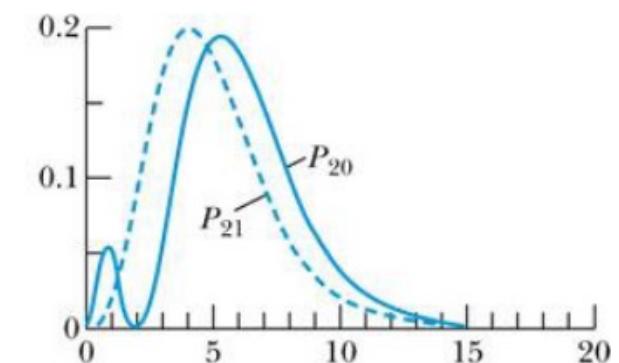
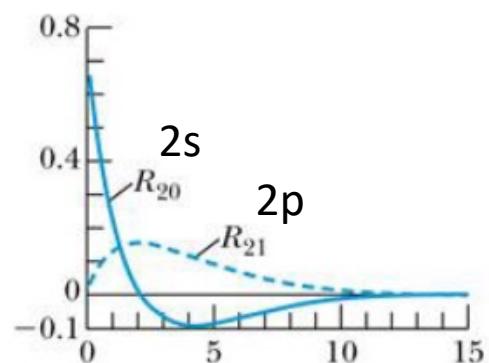
$$\rho = \frac{2Zr}{na_0}$$

Radial wave functions ( $R_{n\ell}$ )Radial probability distribution ( $P_{n\ell}$ )

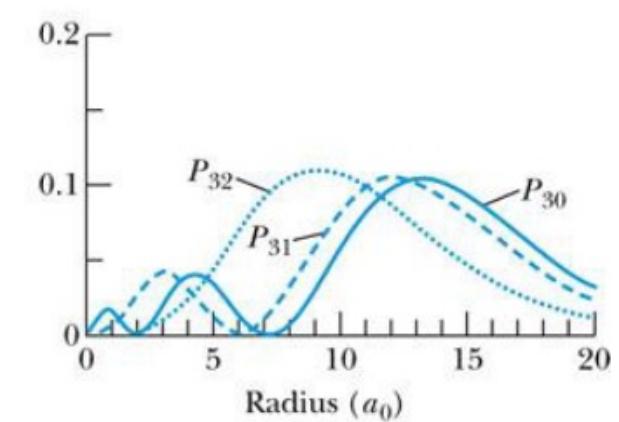
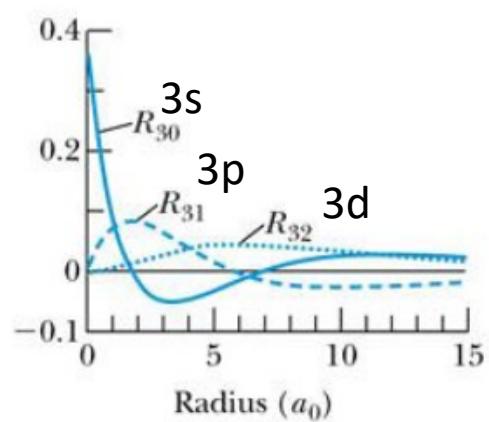
## Radial probability distribution

$$P_{nl}(r) = r^2 R_{nl}^2(r)$$

$$(2 - \rho)e^{-\rho/2}$$



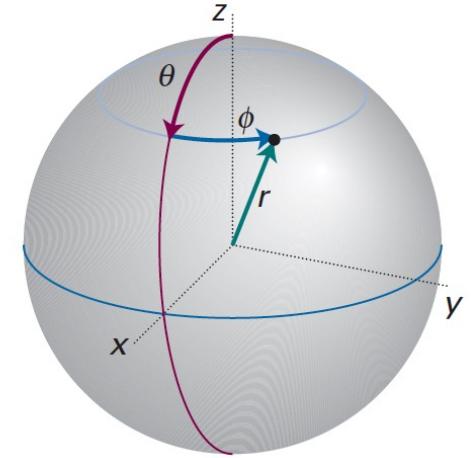
$$(6 - 6\rho + \rho^2)e^{-\rho/2}$$



# Hydrogenic angular wavefunctions: Spherical harmonics

	$l$	$m_l$	$Y_{l,m_l}(\theta, \phi)$
s	0	0	$\left(\frac{1}{4\pi}\right)^{1/2}$
p	1	0	$\left(\frac{3}{4\pi}\right)^{1/2} \cos \theta$
	$\pm 1$		$\mp \left(\frac{3}{8\pi}\right)^{1/2} \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
d	2	0	$\left(\frac{5}{16\pi}\right)^{1/2} (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$
	$\pm 1$		$\mp \left(\frac{15}{8\pi}\right)^{1/2} \cos \theta \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
	$\pm 2$		$\left(\frac{15}{32\pi}\right)^{1/2} \sin^2 \theta e^{\pm 2i\phi}$

f	3	0	$\left(\frac{7}{16\pi}\right)^{1/2} (5 \cos^3 \theta - 3 \cos \theta)$
	$\pm 1$		$\mp \left(\frac{21}{64\pi}\right)^{1/2} (5 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
	$\pm 2$		$\left(\frac{105}{32\pi}\right)^{1/2} \sin^2 \theta \cos \theta e^{\pm 2i\phi}$
	$\pm 3$		$\mp \left(\frac{35}{64\pi}\right)^{1/2} \sin^3 \theta e^{\pm 3i\phi}$



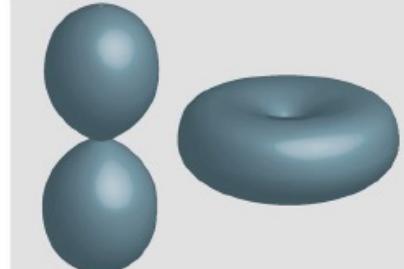
# Angular momentum

electron density angular distribution

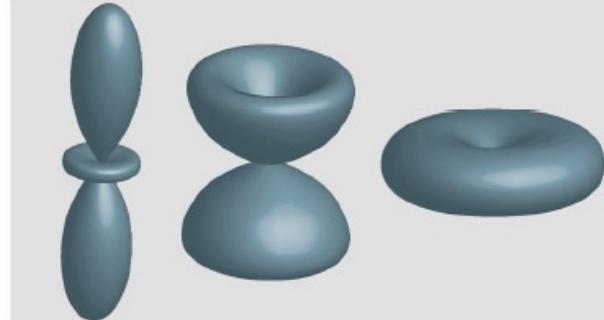
$l = 0$



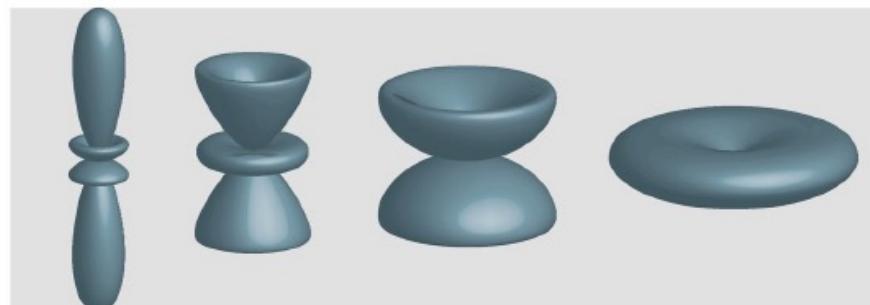
$l = 1$



$l = 2$



$l = 3$



$m_l = 0 \quad \pm 1 \quad \pm 2 \quad \pm 3$

$l$	$m_l$	$Y_{l,m_l}(\theta, \phi)$
s	0	$\left(\frac{1}{4\pi}\right)^{1/2}$
p	1	$\left(\frac{3}{4\pi}\right)^{1/2} \cos \theta$
	$\pm 1$	$\mp \left(\frac{3}{8\pi}\right)^{1/2} \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
d	0	$\left(\frac{5}{16\pi}\right)^{1/2} (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$
	$\pm 1$	$\mp \left(\frac{15}{8\pi}\right)^{1/2} \cos \theta \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
	$\pm 2$	$\left(\frac{15}{32\pi}\right)^{1/2} \sin^2 \theta e^{\pm 2i\phi}$
f	0	$\left(\frac{7}{16\pi}\right)^{1/2} (5 \cos^3 \theta - 3 \cos \theta)$
	$\pm 1$	$\mp \left(\frac{21}{64\pi}\right)^{1/2} (5 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
	$\pm 2$	$\left(\frac{105}{32\pi}\right)^{1/2} \sin^2 \theta \cos \theta e^{\pm 2i\phi}$
	$\pm 3$	$\mp \left(\frac{35}{64\pi}\right)^{1/2} \sin^3 \theta e^{\pm 3i\phi}$

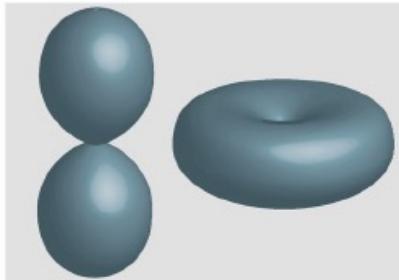
# Angular momentum

electron density angular distribution

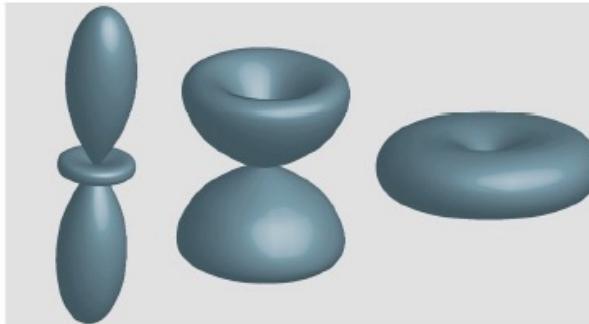
$l = 0$



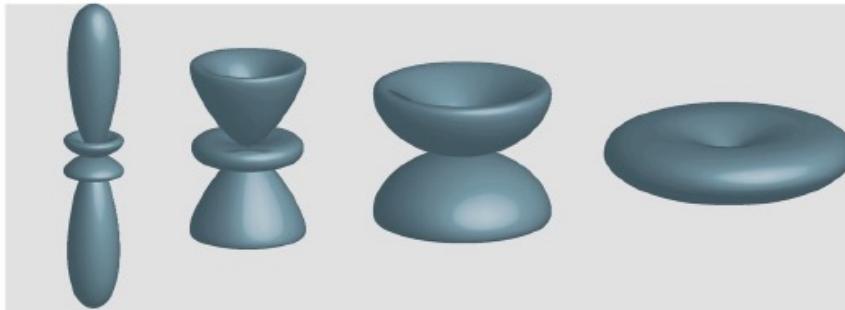
$l = 1$



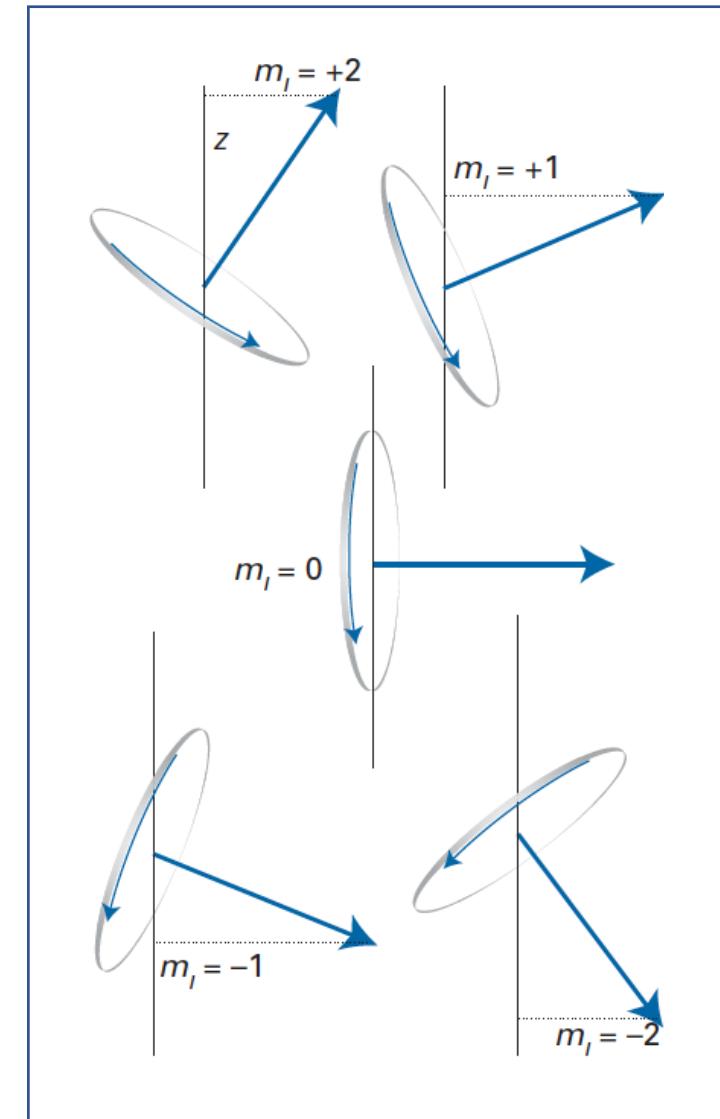
$l = 2$



$l = 3$

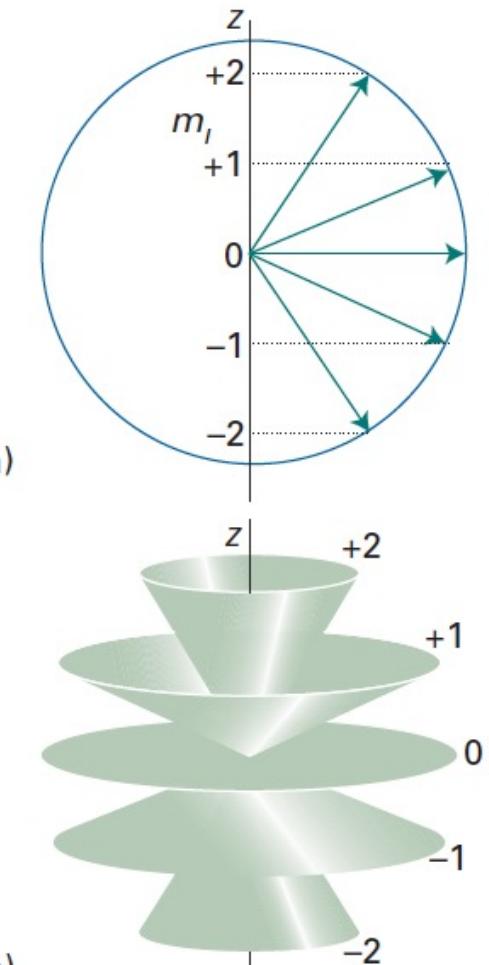


$m_l = 0 \quad \pm 1 \quad \pm 2 \quad \pm 3$



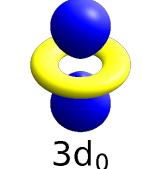
(a)

(b)



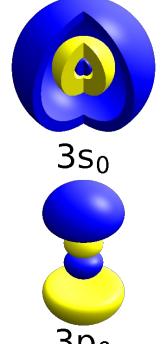
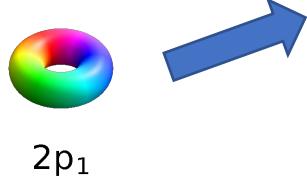
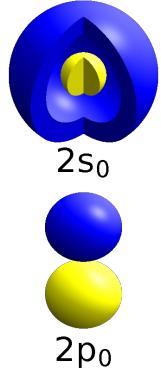
# Atomic orbitals

Complex  
wavefunctions

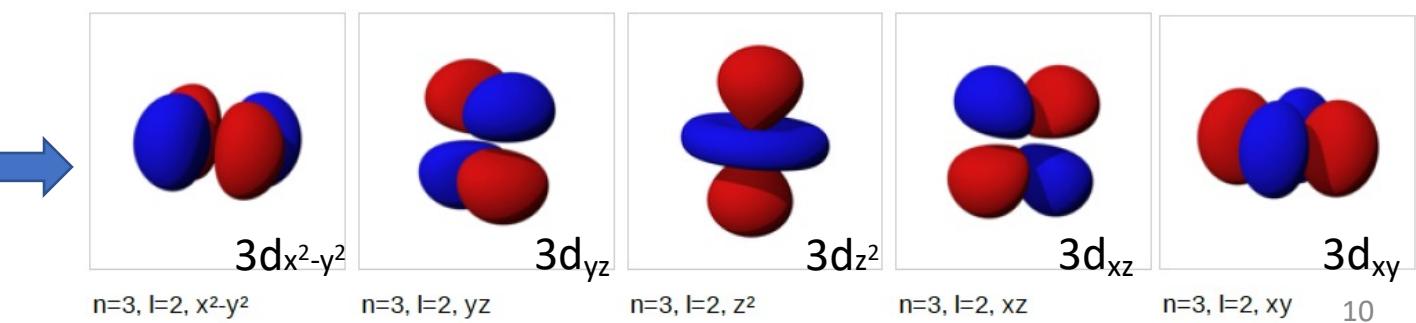
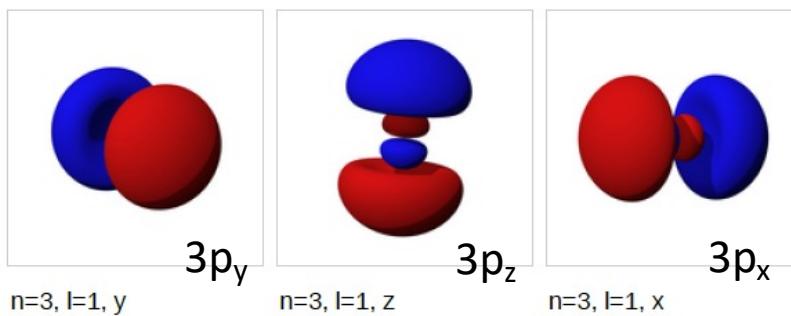
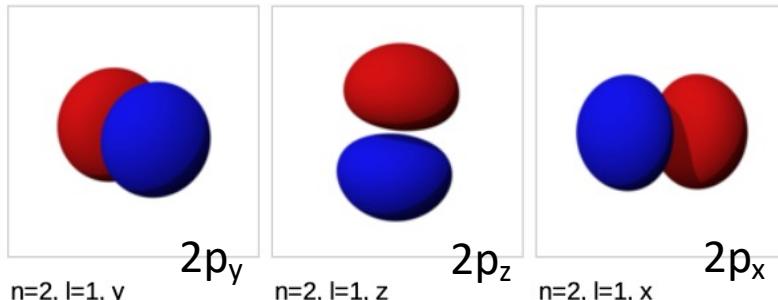


# Atomic orbitals

Complex  
wavefunctions



Real wavefunctions (linear combinations)



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# Orbitals

	<b>s</b> $(\ell = 0)$	<b>p</b> ( $\ell = 1$ )			<b>d</b> ( $\ell = 2$ )					<b>f</b> ( $\ell = 3$ )						
	$m = 0$	$m = 0$	$m = \pm 1$		$m = 0$	$m = \pm 1$		$m = \pm 2$		$m = 0$	$m = \pm 1$		$m = \pm 2$		$m = \pm 3$	
	<b>s</b>	<b>p<sub>z</sub></b>	<b>p<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>p<sub>y</sub></b>	<b>d<sub>z<sup>2</sup></sub></b>	<b>d<sub>xz</sub></b>	<b>d<sub>yz</sub></b>	<b>d<sub>xy</sub></b>	<b>d<sub>x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup></sub></b>	<b>f<sub>z<sup>3</sup></sub></b>	<b>f<sub>xz<sup>2</sup></sub></b>	<b>f<sub>yz<sup>2</sup></sub></b>	<b>f<sub>xyz</sub></b>	<b>f<sub>z(x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup>)</sub></b>	<b>f<sub>x(x<sup>2</sup>-3y<sup>2</sup>)</sub></b>	<b>f<sub>y(3x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup>)</sub></b>
<b>n = 1</b>	.															
<b>n = 2</b>	.															
<b>n = 3</b>	.															
<b>n = 4</b>	.															
<b>n = 5</b>	.								...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

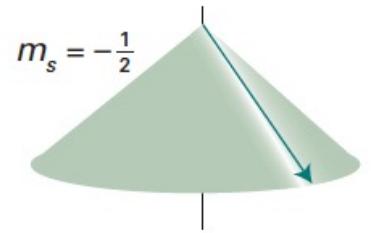
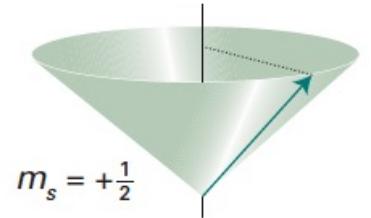
# Electron spin

Intrinsic angular momentum of the electron

$$s = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{spin quantum number, magnitude : } |\mathbf{s}| = \sqrt{s(s+1)}\hbar = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\hbar$$

$$m_s = \pm \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{spin magnetic quantum number, component along } z, \text{ magnitude: } m_s\hbar = \pm \frac{1}{2}\hbar$$

$$m_s = +\frac{1}{2} = \uparrow, \quad m_s = -\frac{1}{2} = \downarrow$$



# Total angular momentum and spin-orbit coupling

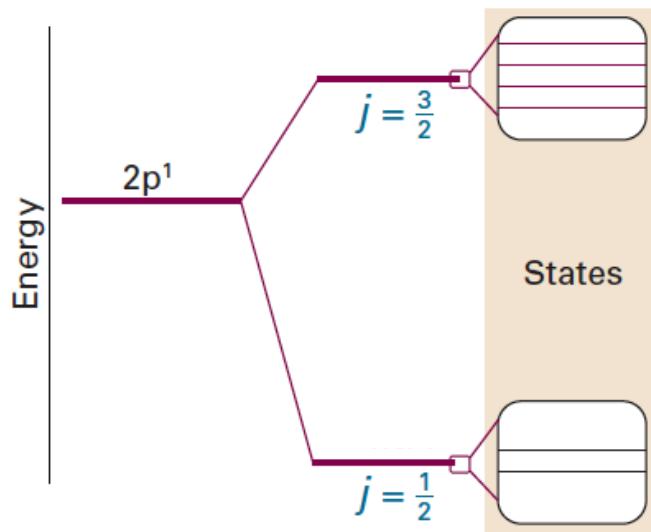
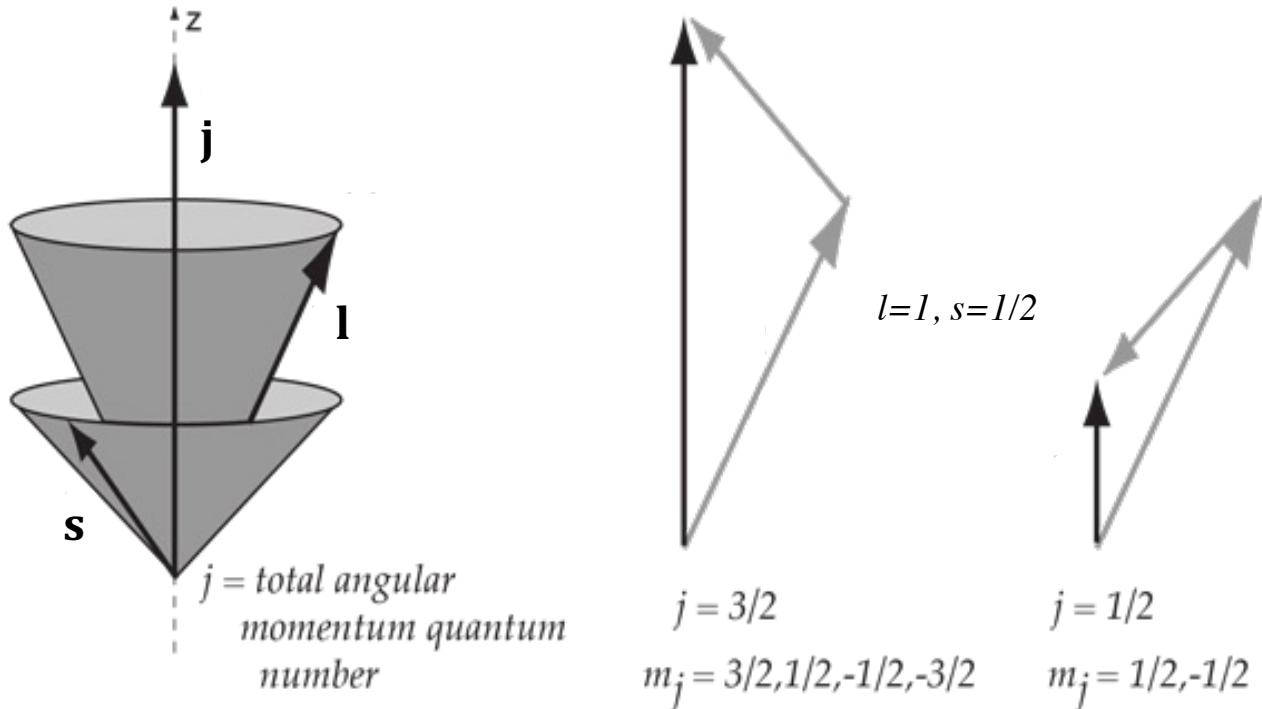
Still only one electron

Total angular momentum:  $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{l} + \mathbf{s}$

$$|\mathbf{j}| = \sqrt{j(j+1)}\hbar, \quad j_z = m_j\hbar$$

$$j = l + s, \dots, |l - s|$$

$$m_j = j, \dots, -j$$



spin-orbit coupling: additional term in the hamiltonian:  $V_{SO} \propto (\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{s})\xi_{SO}$

electron energy depends on the total angular momentum

the interaction partially lifts the degeneracy of orbitals of a given subshell (same  $l$ , different  $j$ )

# Many-electron atoms

all the electrons interact with one another, analytical solution not possible

orbital approximation → electron configuration ( $n, l$ )

Pauli exclusion principle → max two electrons per orbital

Example: Na, 11 electrons:  $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^1$

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Filling of open subshells? For the ground state it follows the **Hund's rules**

Open subshells: how are combined the orbital, spin, and total angular momenta of the electrons?

Two coupling schemes are possible:

- LS-coupling: first find  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{S}$ , then couple them to obtain  $\mathbf{J}$  (light elements with small spin-orbit coupling)

Total orbital angular momentum

$$\mathbf{L} = \sum \mathbf{l}_i$$

quantum number  $L$ , and  $M_L$

Total spin momentum

$$\mathbf{S} = \sum \mathbf{s}_i$$

quantum number  $S$ , and  $M_S$

Total angular momentum

$$\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}$$

quantum number  $J$ , and  $M_J$

- jj-coupling: couple  $\mathbf{l}$  and  $\mathbf{s}$  of individual electrons, and then couple the  $\mathbf{j}$ 's (heavy elements, large spin-orbit coupling)

Individual total angular momentum

$$\mathbf{j}_i = \mathbf{l}_i + \mathbf{s}_i$$

quantum number  $j$ , and  $m_j$

Total angular momentum

$$\mathbf{J} = \sum \mathbf{j}_i$$

quantum number  $J$ , and  $M_J$

# Energy levels in many-electron atoms

- orbitals with the same value of  $n$  but different values of  $l$  are no longer degenerate (consequence of penetration and shielding)
- spin-orbit coupling partially lifts the degeneracy of orbitals of a given subshell (same  $l$ , different  $j$ )

hydrogenic atom:

$$E_n \propto -\frac{Z^2}{n^2}$$

**shell:**  $n = 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \dots$   
K L M N ...

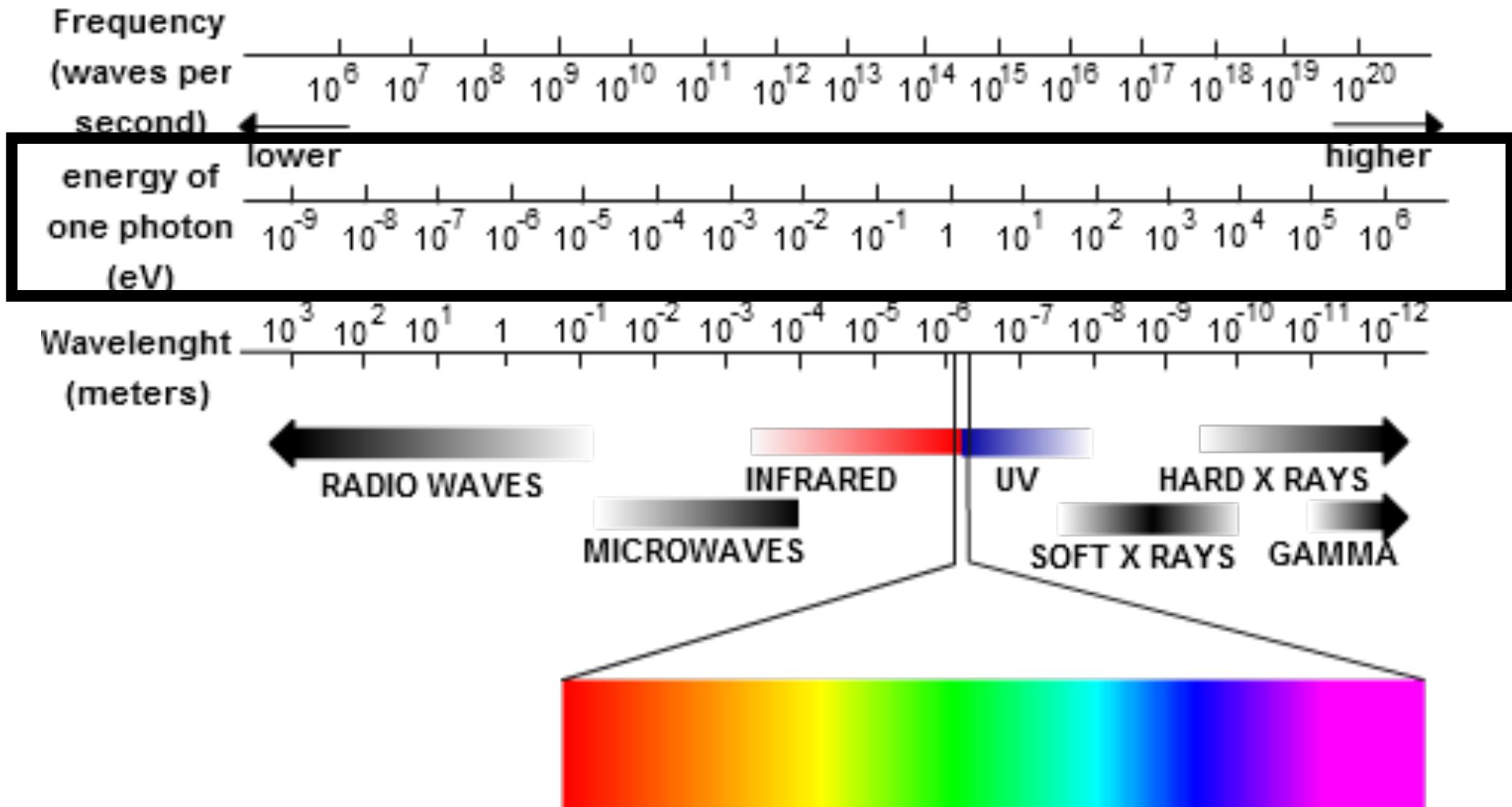
**subshell:**  $l = 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \dots$   
s p d f ...

# Core levels energies

**Table 1-1.** Electron binding energies, in electron volts, for the elements in their natural forms.

Element	K 1s	L <sub>1</sub> 2s	L <sub>2</sub> 2p <sub>1/2</sub>	L <sub>3</sub> 2p <sub>3/2</sub>	M <sub>1</sub> 3s	M <sub>2</sub> 3p <sub>1/2</sub>	M <sub>3</sub> 3p <sub>3/2</sub>	M <sub>4</sub> 3d <sub>3/2</sub>	M <sub>5</sub> 3d <sub>5/2</sub>	N <sub>1</sub> 4s	N <sub>2</sub> 4p <sub>1/2</sub>	N <sub>3</sub> 4p <sub>3/2</sub>	...
1 H	K 13.6												
2 He	K 24.6*		L					M				N	
3 Li		54.7*											
4 Be		111.5*											
5 B		188*											
6 C		284.2*											
7 N		409.9*	37.3*										
8 O		543.1*	41.6*										
9 F		696.7*											
10 Ne		870.2*	48.5*	21.7*	21.6*								
11 Na		1070.8†	63.5†	30.65	30.81								
...													
27 Co	7709	925.1†	793.2†	778.1†	101.0†	58.9†	59.9†						
28 Ni	8333	1008.6†	870.0†	852.7†	110.8†	68.0†	66.2†						
29 Cu	8979	1096.7†	952.3†	932.7	122.5†	77.3†	75.1†						
...													
79 Au	80725	14353	13734	11919	3425	3148	2743	2291	2206	762.1†	642.7†	546.3†	
80 Hg	83102	14839	14209	12284	3562	3279	2847	2385	2295	802.2†	680.2†	576.6†	...
81 Tl	85530	15347	14698	12658	3704	3416	2957	2485	2389	846.2†	720.5†	609.5†	
82 Pb	88005	15861	15200	13035	3851	3554	3066	2586	2484	891.8†	761.9†	643.5† <sup>16</sup>	

# Core levels energies



# Molecular orbitals

Approximate solution to the Schrödinger equation for the electrons in the field of the nuclei of the atoms forming the molecule

Usually constructed by combining atomic atomic orbitals or hybrid orbitals from each atom of the molecule

LCAO (Linear Combination of Atomic Orbitals)

Covalent bonds (electron sharing)

## H<sub>2</sub> molecule

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla_1^2}{2m} - \frac{\hbar^2 \nabla_2^2}{2m} + \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left\{ -\frac{1}{|\mathbf{R}_A - \mathbf{r}_1|} - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{R}_B - \mathbf{r}_2|} + \frac{1}{d} + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|} - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{R}_A - \mathbf{r}_2|} - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{R}_B - \mathbf{r}_1|} \right\}$$

interaction terms  $U$

Atom A with electron 1, atom B with electron 2, at distance  $d$

Because electrons are fermions, the total wavefunction (orbital x spin) must be antisymmetric (change sign) upon particle exchange

Spin wavefunctions are generated by linear combinations of the 4 spin states:  $|m_{s1}, m_{s2}\rangle$  :  $|\uparrow\uparrow\rangle$ ,  $|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$ ,  $|\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$ ,  $|\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$

$|S, M_S\rangle$

$$|0, 0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle] \rightarrow \text{singlet, antisymmetric upon particle exchange}$$

$$|1, +1\rangle = |\uparrow\uparrow\rangle$$

$$|1, 0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle]$$

$$|1, -1\rangle = |\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$$



triplet, symmetric upon particle exchange

## H<sub>2</sub> molecule

the orbital wavefunction associated with the singlet (triplet) must be symmetric (antisymmetric); such orbital wavefunctions are obtained by different linear combinations of the products of the atomic orbitals:

$$\psi_{\text{sym}}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\phi_A(\mathbf{r}_1)\phi_B(\mathbf{r}_2) + \phi_A(\mathbf{r}_2)\phi_B(\mathbf{r}_1)]$$

$$\psi_{\text{asym}}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\phi_A(\mathbf{r}_1)\phi_B(\mathbf{r}_2) - \phi_A(\mathbf{r}_2)\phi_B(\mathbf{r}_1)]$$

Combining orbital and spin wavefunctions in the appropriate way, antisymmetric total wavefunctions are obtained:

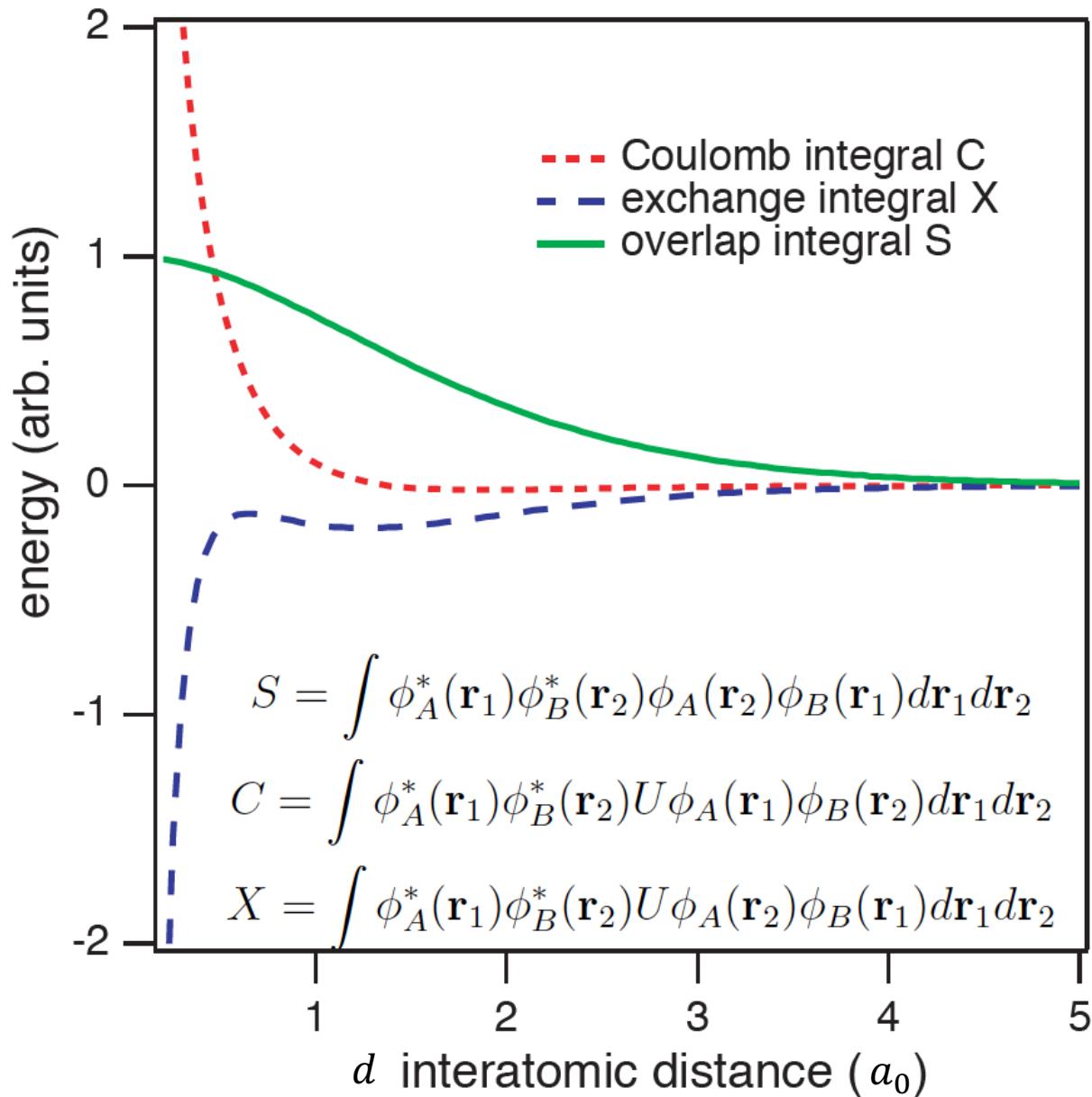
$$\Psi_{\text{singlet}} = \psi_{\text{sym}}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) |0, 0\rangle$$

$$\Psi_{\text{triplet}} = \psi_{\text{asym}}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) |1, M_s\rangle$$

Heitler - London  
Calculate the molecular energy levels for the two orbital wavefunctions:

$$E = \frac{\int \psi^*(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) H \psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) d\mathbf{r}_1 d\mathbf{r}_2}{\int \psi^*(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) \psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) d\mathbf{r}_1 d\mathbf{r}_2}$$

# H<sub>2</sub> molecule



$$E = 2E_{H,1s} + \Delta E_{\text{singlet/triplet}}$$

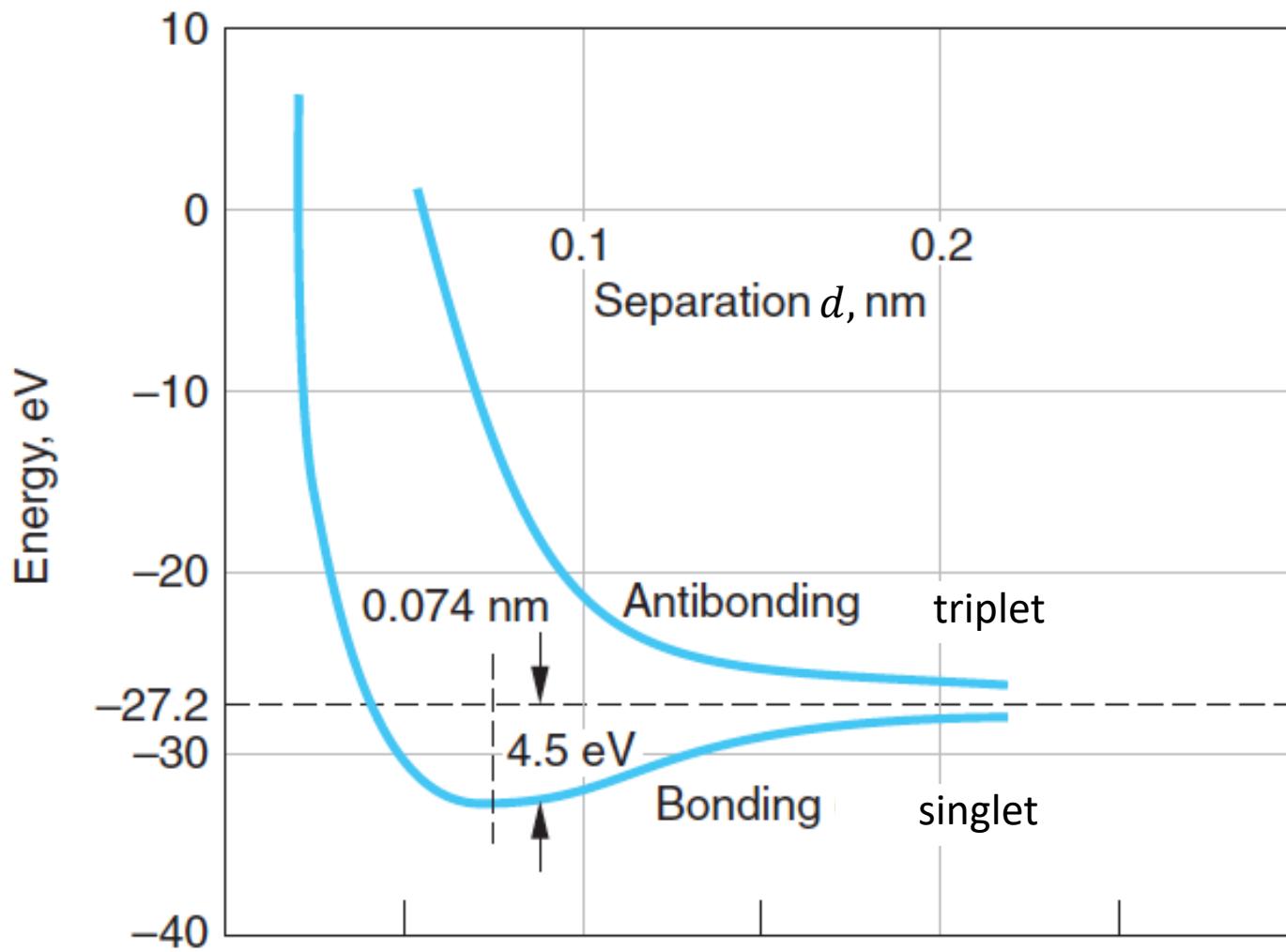
$$\Delta E_{\text{triplet}} = \frac{C(d) - X(d)}{1 - S(d)}$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{singlet}} = \frac{C(d) + X(d)}{1 + S(d)}$$

$$E_{\text{triplet}} > E_{\text{singlet}}$$

The energy of the system depends on the spin of the electrons, despite of the fact that the spin does not enter the calculation directly.

## H<sub>2</sub> molecule



$$E = 2E_{\text{H},1s} + \Delta E_{\text{singlet/triplet}}$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{triplet}} = \frac{C(d) - X(d)}{1 - S(d)}$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{singlet}} = \frac{C(d) + X(d)}{1 + S(d)}$$

$$E_{\text{H},1s} = -13.6 \text{ eV}$$

# Simple representation of covalent bonds

## Molecular orbitals

Use the sign (phase) of the wavefunctions to indicate:

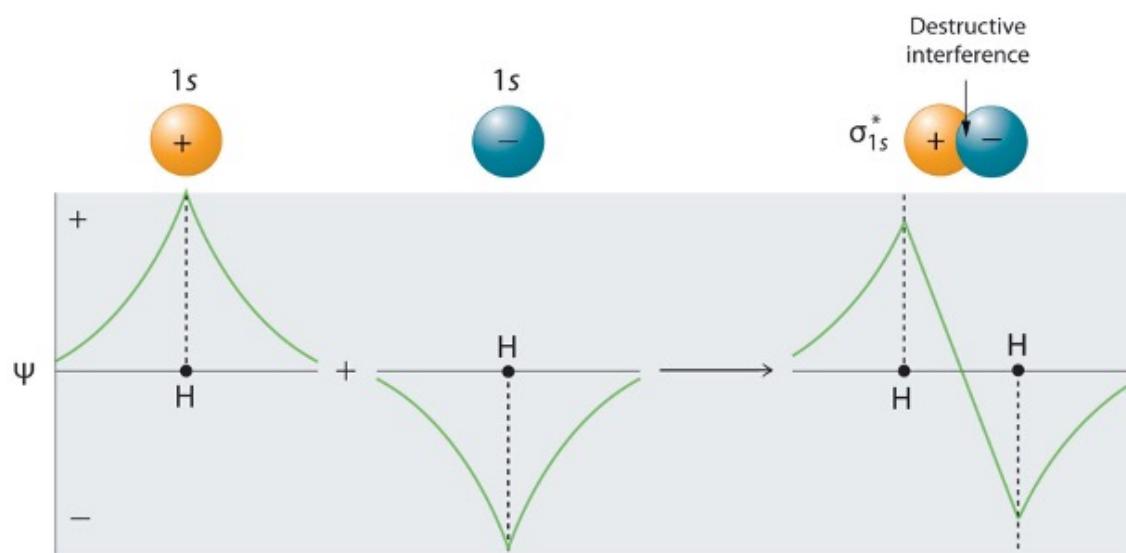
constructive interference -> localization of electrons between the atoms, bonding, lower energy

destructive interference -> depletion of electrons between the atoms, antibonding, higher energy

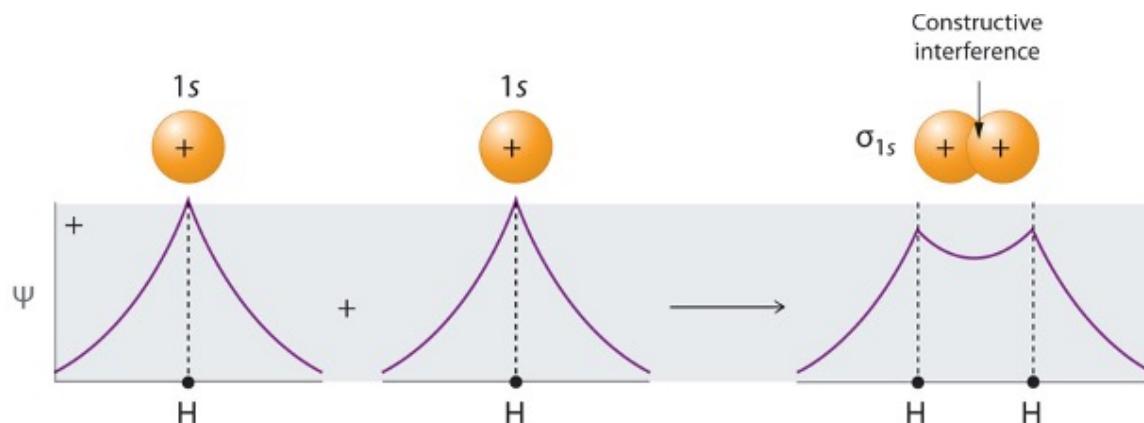
The different signs are typically represented by different shades / colors

# s isotropic orbitals $\rightarrow$ $\sigma$ orbitals

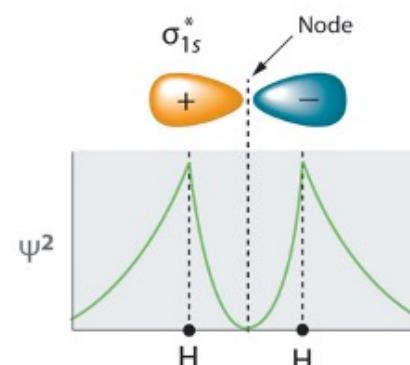
## $H_2$ molecule



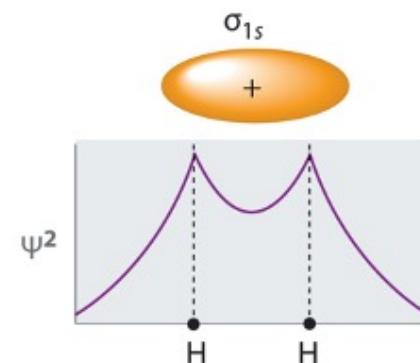
(c) Wave functions combined for  $\sigma_1^*$



(a) Wave functions combined for  $\sigma_{1s}$

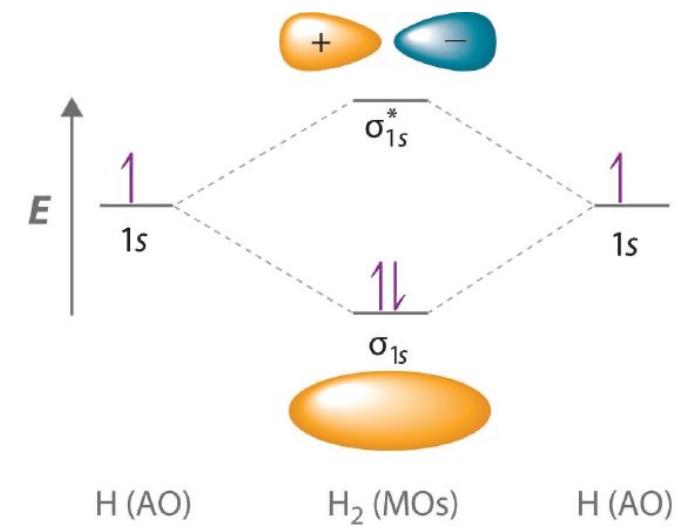


(d) Antibonding probability density



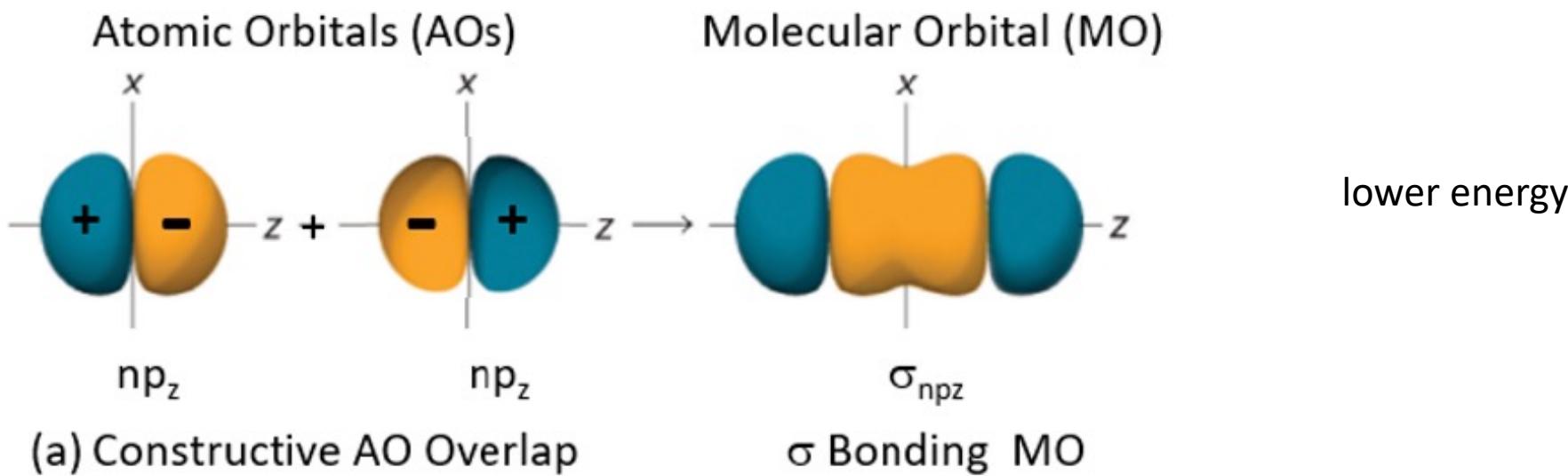
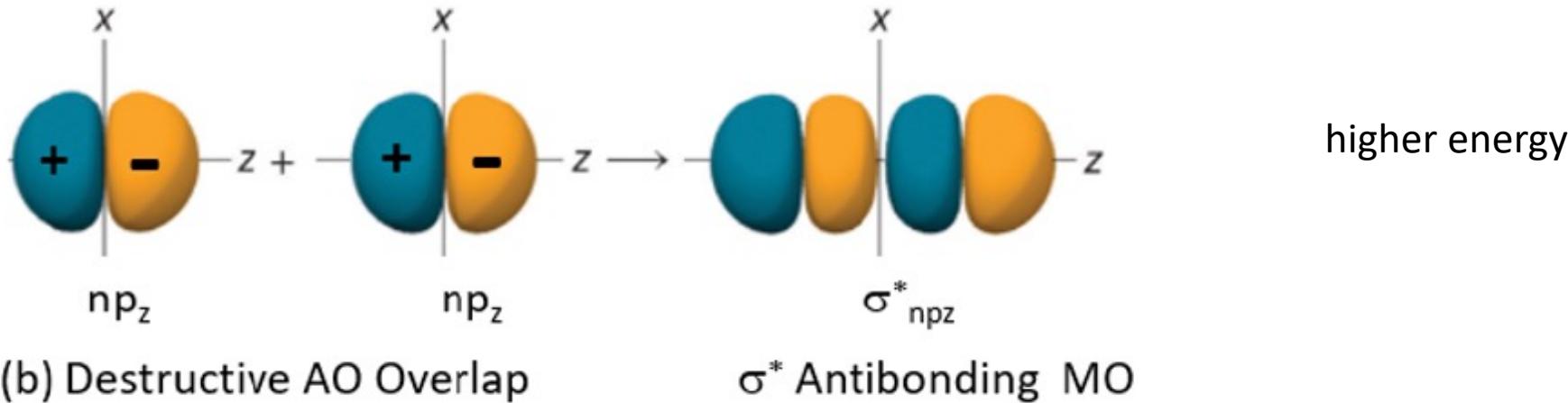
(b) Bonding probability density

## Energy scheme



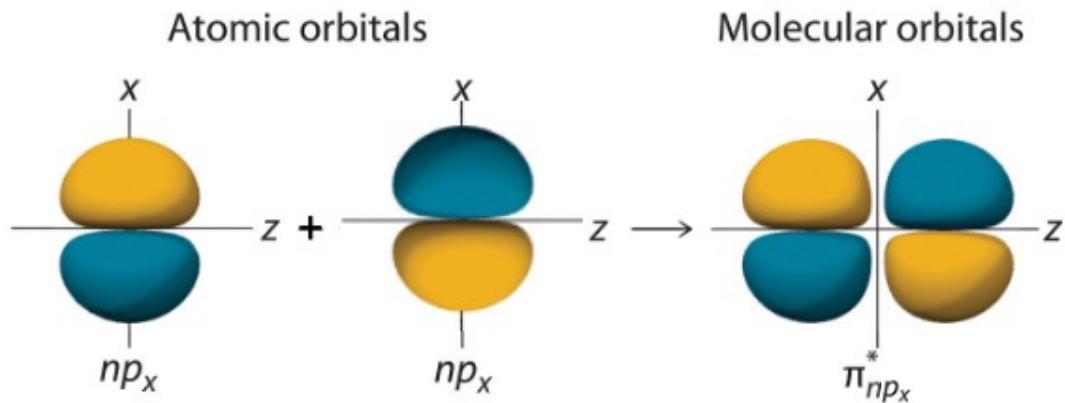
## p orbitals directed along the interatomic axis $\rightarrow$ $\sigma$ orbitals

example:  $p_z$  orbitals, interatomic axis along z

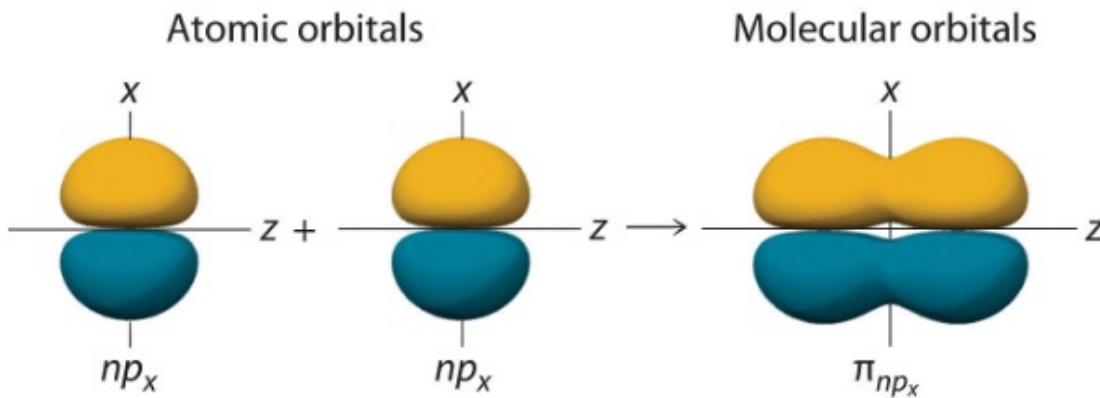


# $p$ orbitals perpendicular to the internuclear axis $\rightarrow \pi$ orbitals

example:  $p_x$  orbitals, interatomic axis along  $z$



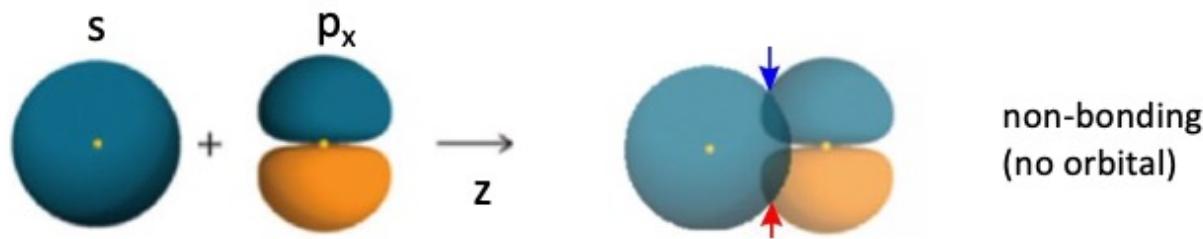
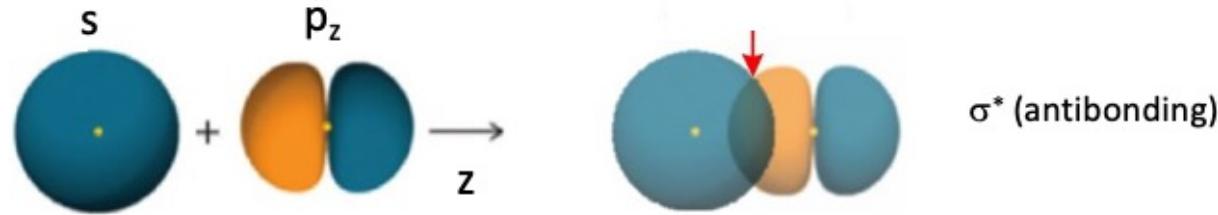
higher energy  
anti-bonding,  $\pi^*$



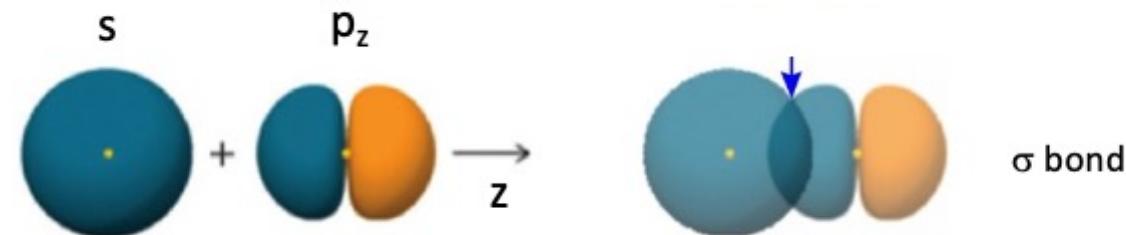
lower energy  
bonding,  $\pi$

# atomic orbitals forming molecular orbitals can have different $l$

example: s and p orbitals

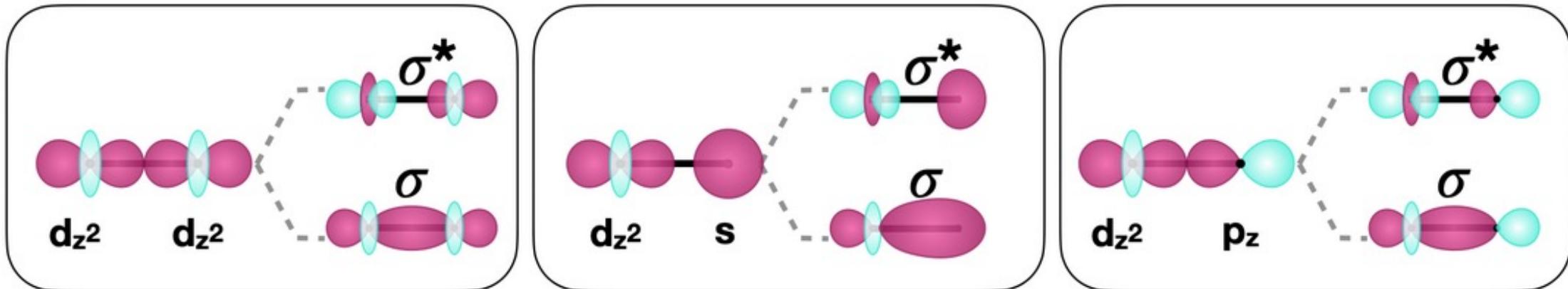


atomic orbitals must have compatible symmetry and orientation to form molecular orbitals

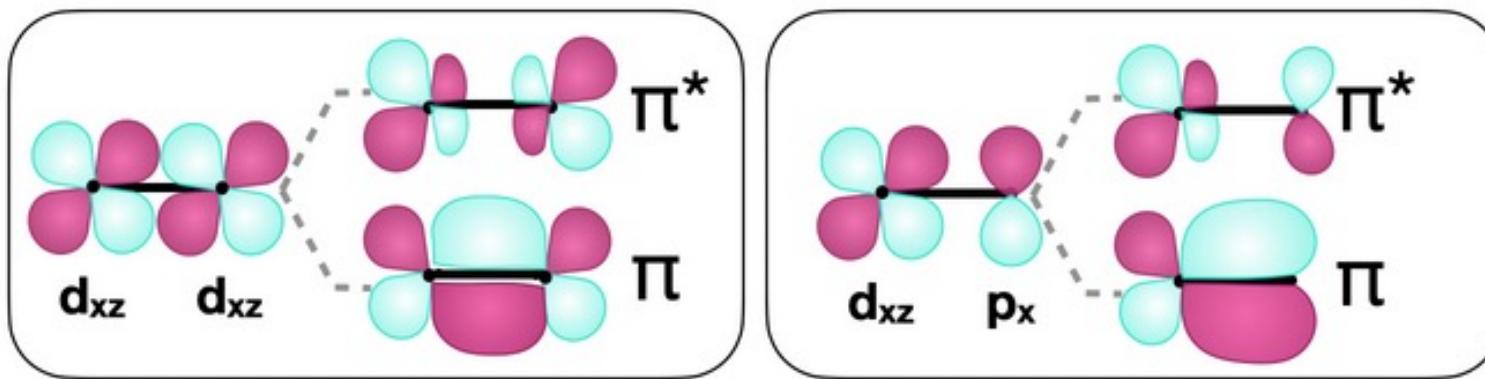


# bonds involving atomic d orbitals

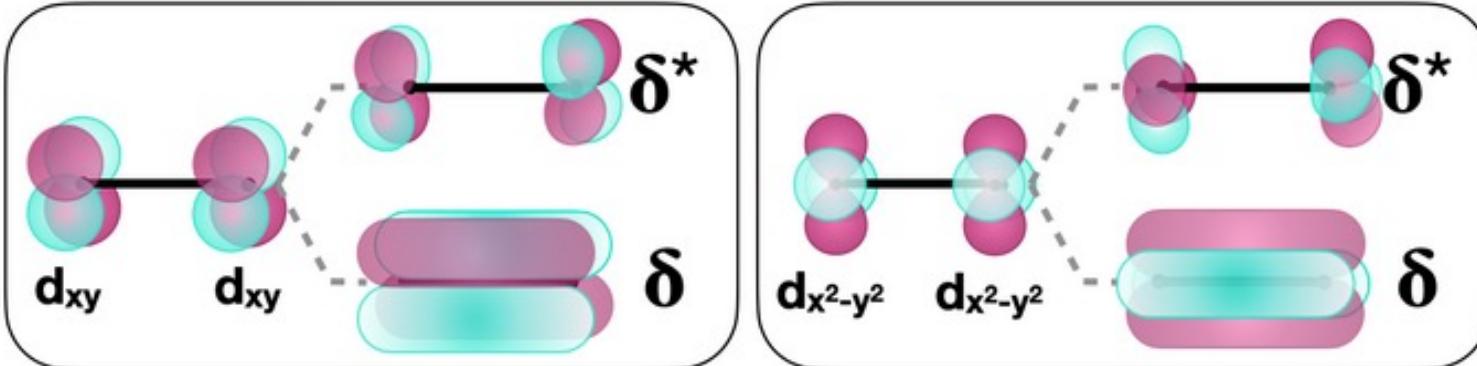
x  
y  
z



x  
y  
z



x  
y  
z



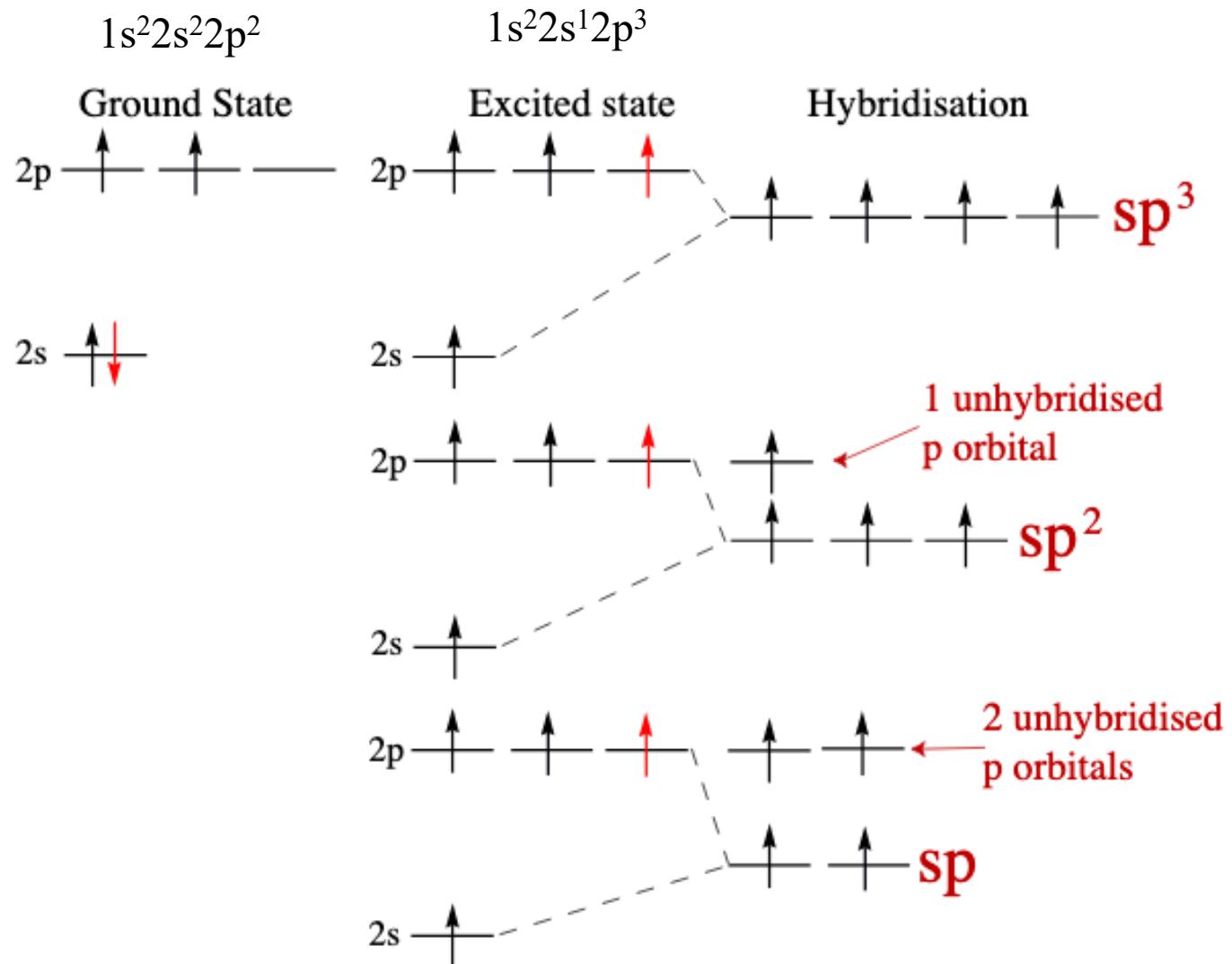
# Hybridization

## hybrid orbitals

perturbation of the description of the atomic orbitals induced by the interaction with the surrounding atoms

linear combinations of atomic orbitals that have similar energy to produce sets of equivalent orbitals that are properly oriented to form bonds and favored in energy

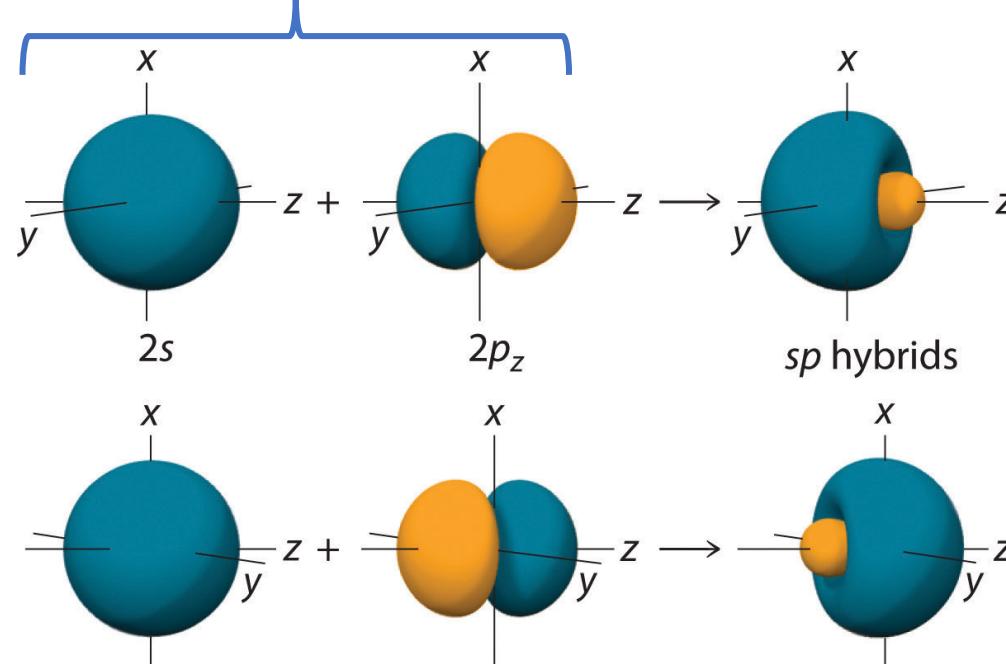
## example: carbon



the s orbital hybridize with one p orbital, to give **two** sp hybrid orbitals ( $sp^1$ )

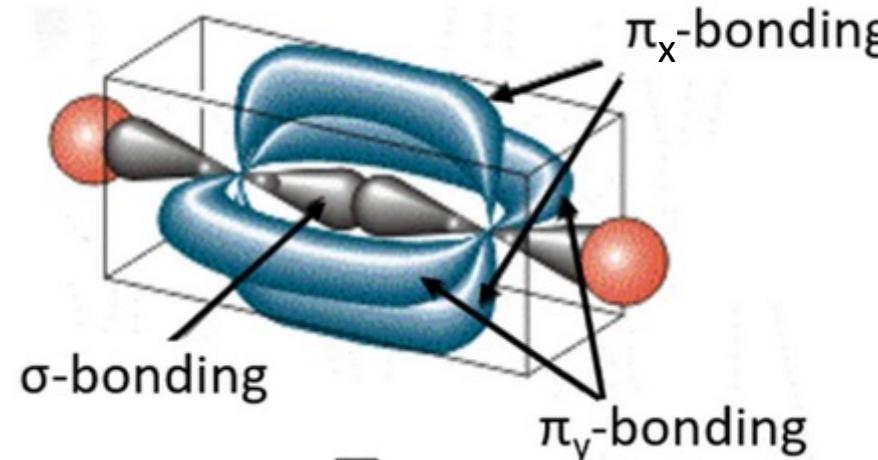
## sp hybridization

of the same atom!



## Schematic representation of hybrids shown together

example: acetylene  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$

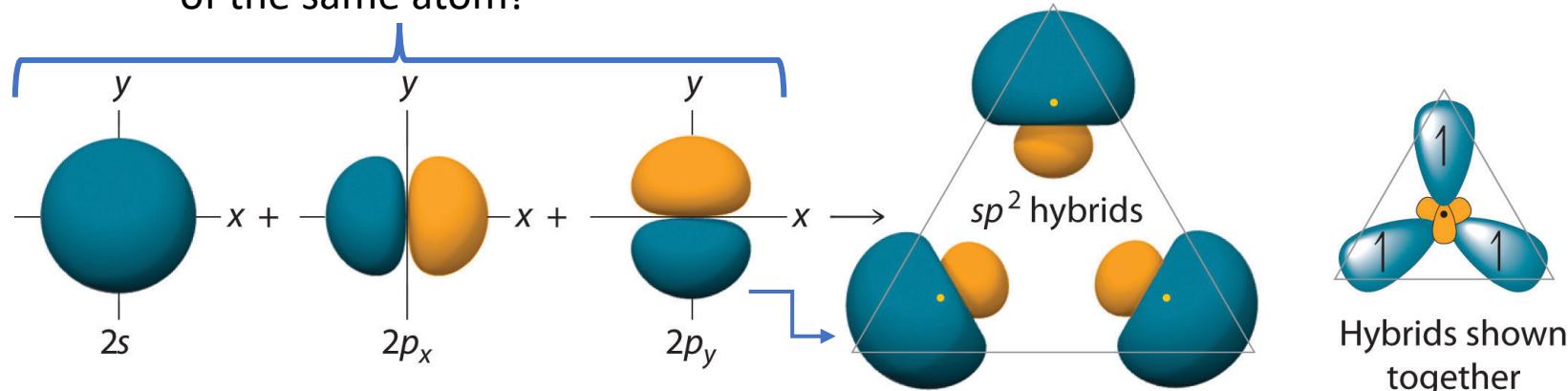


- σ bond between the sp orbitals (s p<sub>z</sub>)
- σ bonds between sp orbitals and H 1s orbitals
- π bonds between the two p<sub>x</sub> orbitals and  
between the two p<sub>y</sub> orbitals

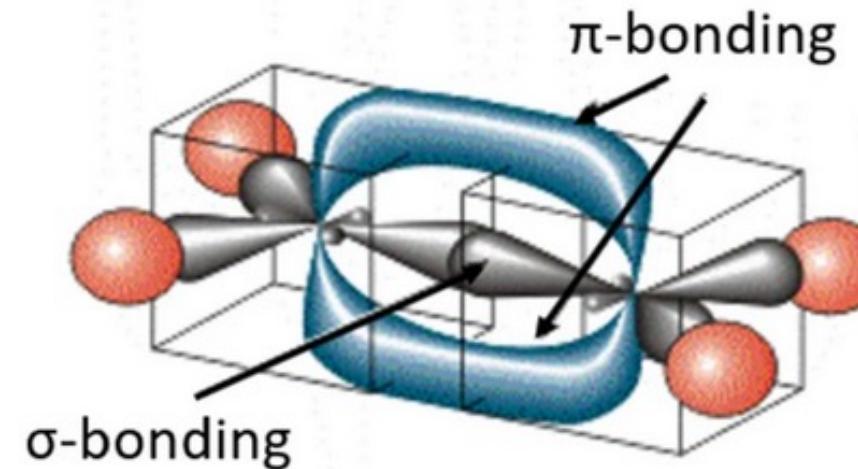
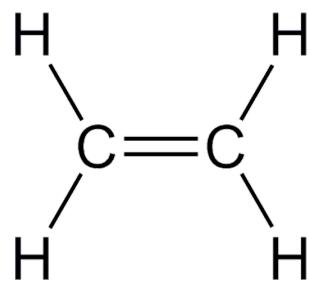
## sp<sup>2</sup> hybridization

the s orbital hybridize with two p orbitals, to give **three** sp<sup>2</sup> hybrid orbitals trigonal planar bonds

of the same atom!



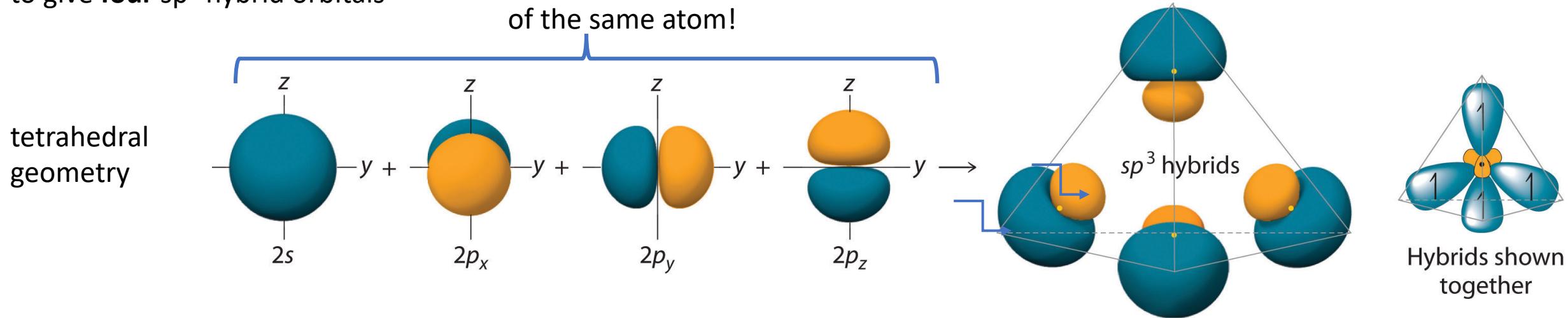
example: ethylene C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>



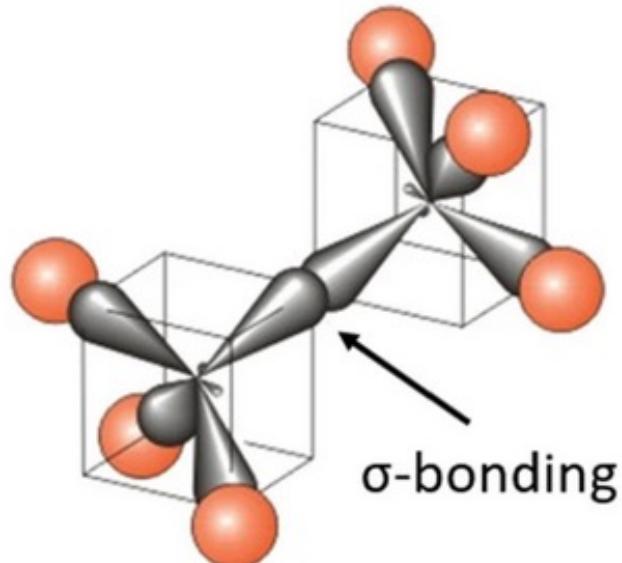
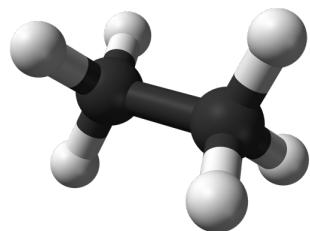
σ bond between the sp<sup>2</sup> orbitals  
σ bonds between sp<sup>2</sup> orbitals and H 1s orbitals  
π bond between the p<sub>z</sub> orbitals

# sp<sup>3</sup> hybridization

the s orbital hybridize with the three p orbitals,  
to give **four** sp<sup>3</sup> hybrid orbitals

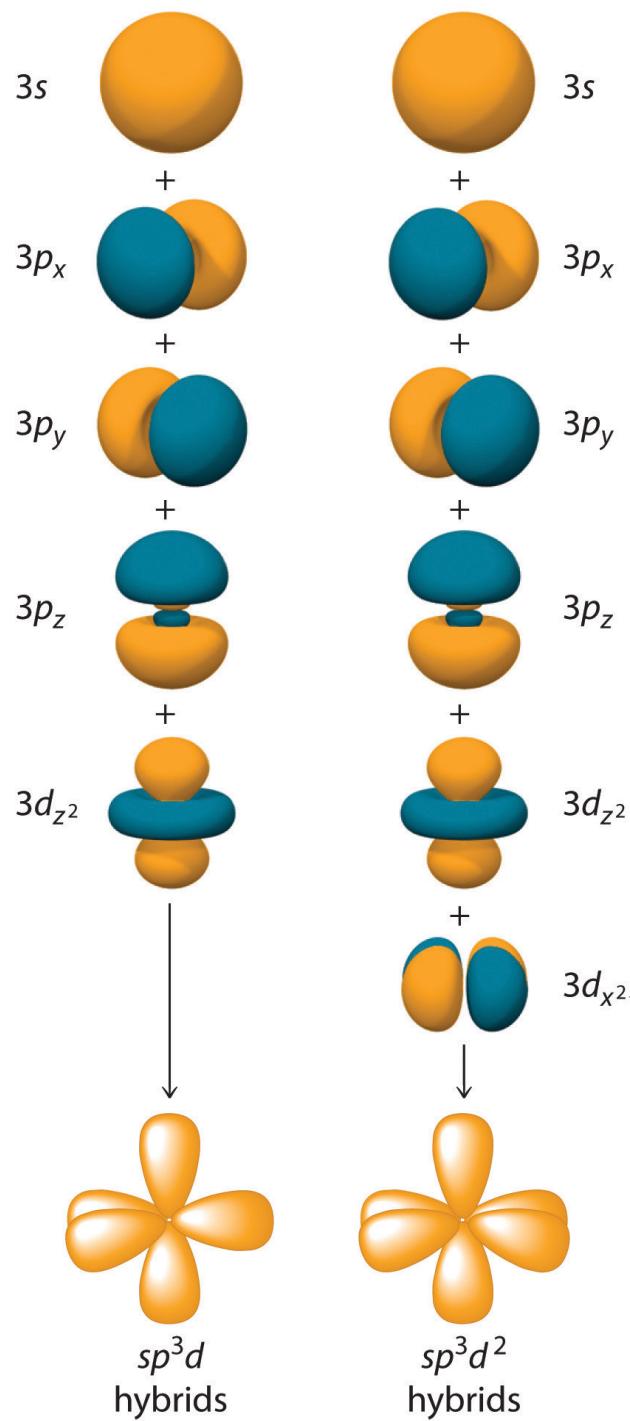


example: ethane C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>



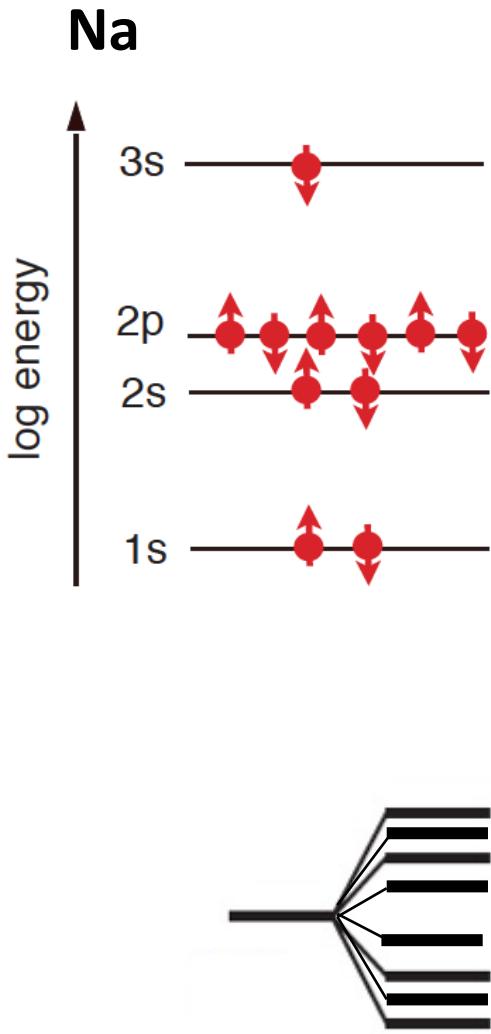
σ bond between the sp<sup>3</sup> orbitals  
σ bonds between sp<sup>3</sup> orbitals and H 1s orbitals

# spd hybridization

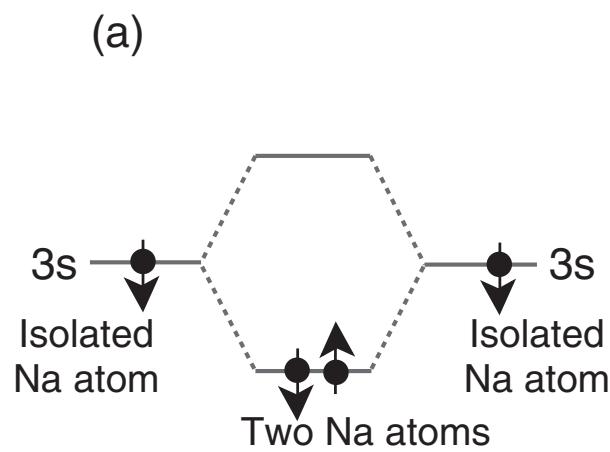


these hybrid orbitals  
exist as well

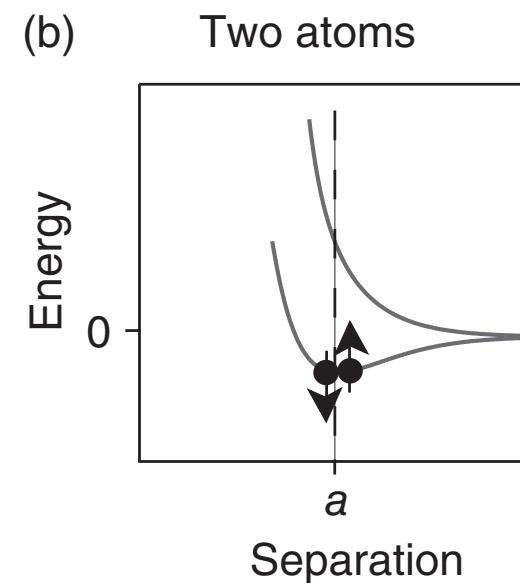
# Toward solids: energy bands



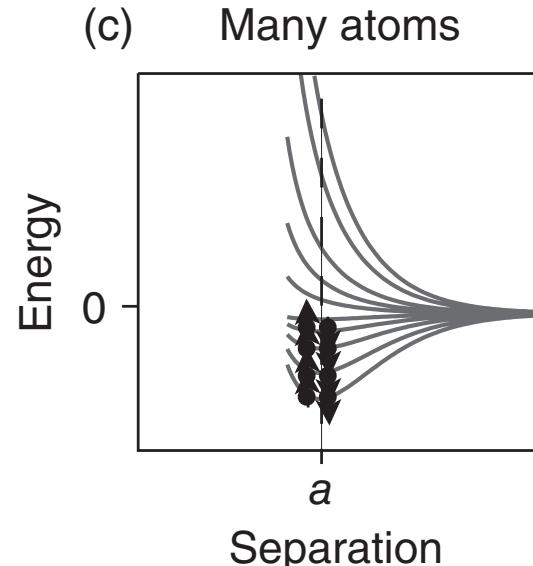
(a)



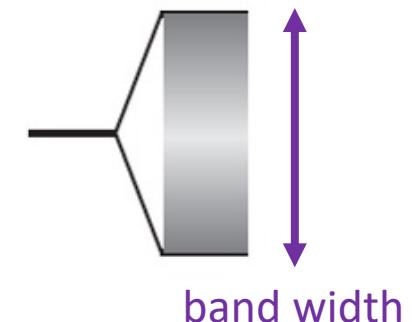
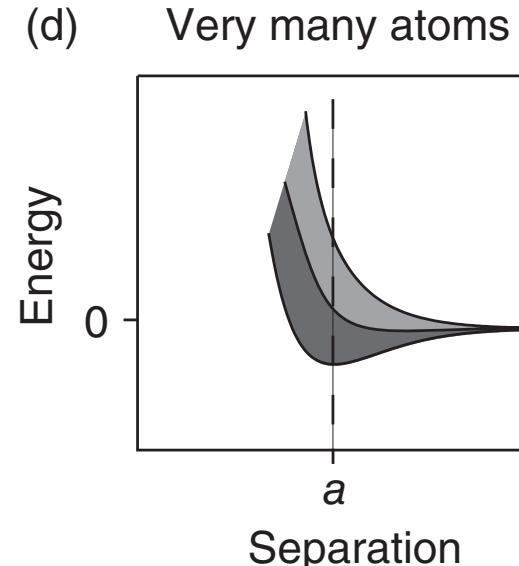
(b)



(c)



(d)

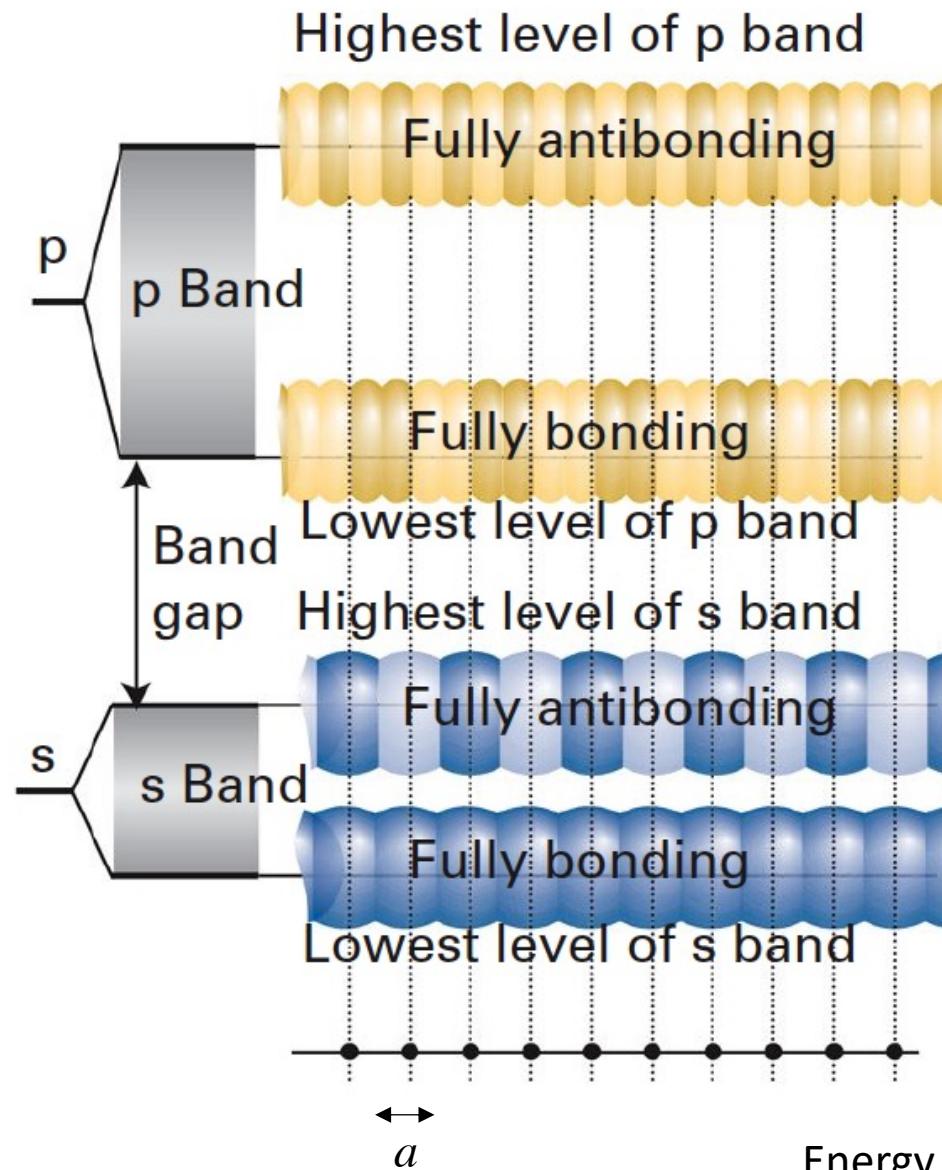


# Toward solids: energy bands

## 1D chain

one s orbital

one p orbital  
aligned along the chain



wavelenght      wavevector

$$\lambda = \infty \rightarrow k = 0$$

$$\lambda = 2a \rightarrow k = \pi/a$$

$$\lambda = 2a \rightarrow k = \pi/a$$

$$\lambda = \infty \rightarrow k = 0$$

Energy is a function of wavevector:  $E(k)$

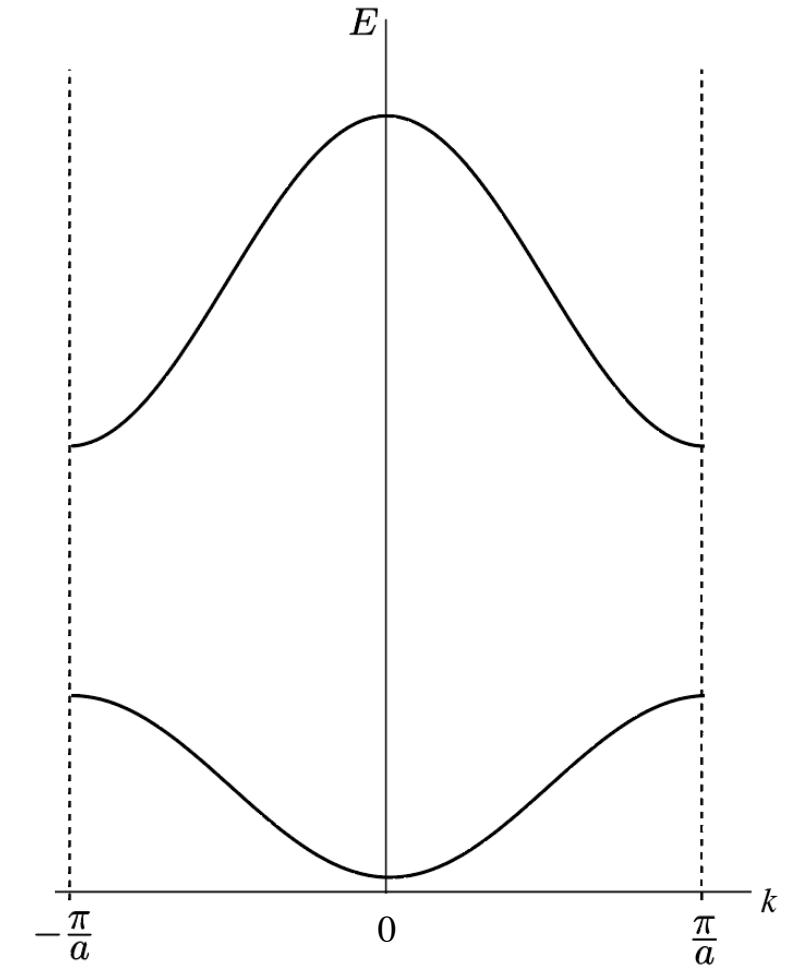
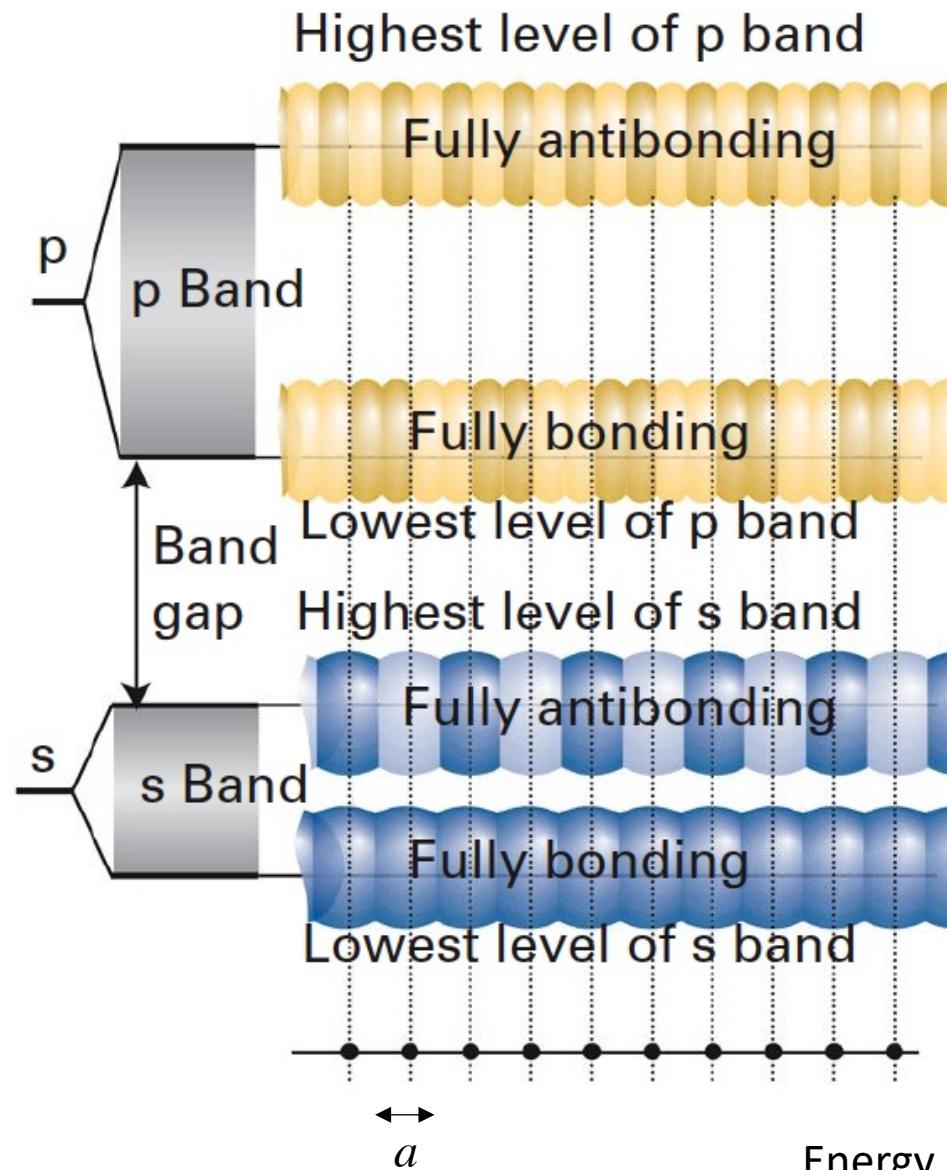
# Toward solids: energy bands

## 1D chain

one s orbital

one p orbital

aligned along the chain



Energy is a function of wavevector:  $E(k)$

# Toward solids: energy bands and density of states

## 1D chain

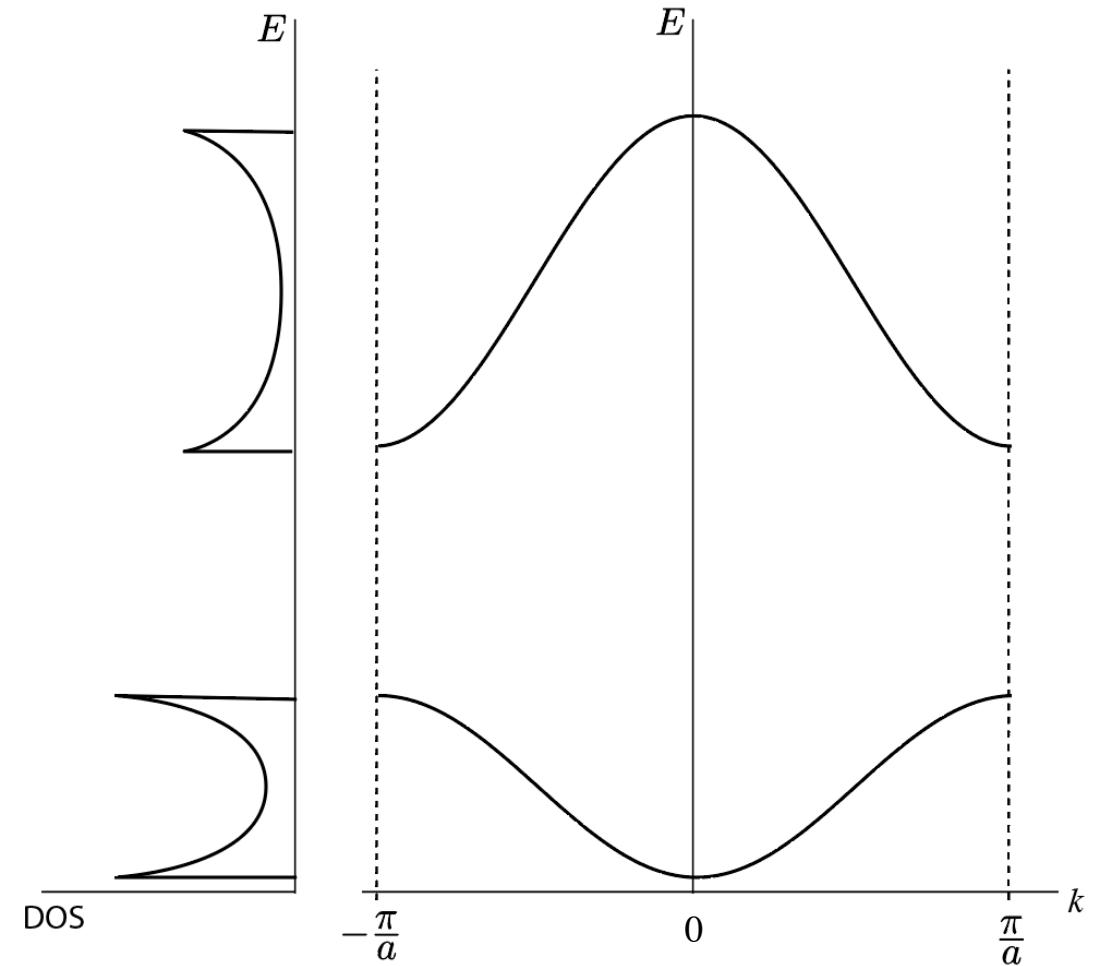
one s orbital

one p orbital

aligned along the chain

Band structure:  $E(k)$

$k$ -integrated  $\rightarrow$  density of states (DOS)  $g(E)$



# Solids: Tight-binding model

To describe the energy of electrons in solid crystals:

Wavefunctions constructed starting from atomic orbitals  $\phi(\mathbf{r})$

+

Bloch theorem:  $\psi_{n,k}(\mathbf{r}) = \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r})u_{n,k}(\mathbf{r})$  with  $u_{n,k}(\mathbf{r})$  possessing the lattice periodicity

→ Schrödinger equation can be solved even if the system is composed of a huge number of atoms ( $\sim 10^{23} / \text{cm}^3$ )

→ energy bands:  $E(\mathbf{k})$

Localized orbitals will not overlap at interatomic distances → atomic-like states

Only orbitals that have sufficient overlap between nearest neighbors will give rise to bands

The bandwidth is proportional to the transfer integral (or hopping matrix element), that reflects the ease with which an electron can transfer from atom to atom.

This integral is related to the overlap between wavefunctions and to the strength of the potential  $\Delta U$  originating from the atoms in the crystal in positions  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Transfer integral:  $\gamma(\mathbf{R}) = \int \phi^*(\mathbf{r}) \Delta U \phi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}) d\mathbf{r}$

Other relevant integrals:

Overlap integral:

Crystal field integral:

$$\alpha(\mathbf{R}) = \int \phi^*(\mathbf{r}) \phi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}) d\mathbf{r}$$

$$\beta = \int \phi^*(\mathbf{r}) \Delta U \phi(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$

# Solids: Tight-binding model

$$E(\mathbf{k}) = E_{at} + \frac{\beta + \sum_{\mathbf{R} \neq 0} \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{R})\gamma(\mathbf{R})}{1 + \sum_{\mathbf{R} \neq 0} \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{R})\alpha(\mathbf{R})}$$

simplifications / approximations:

- only nearest neighbors (NN) in the sums
- $\beta$  small offset, can be neglected
- $\alpha$  small and/or does not change strongly the band

→

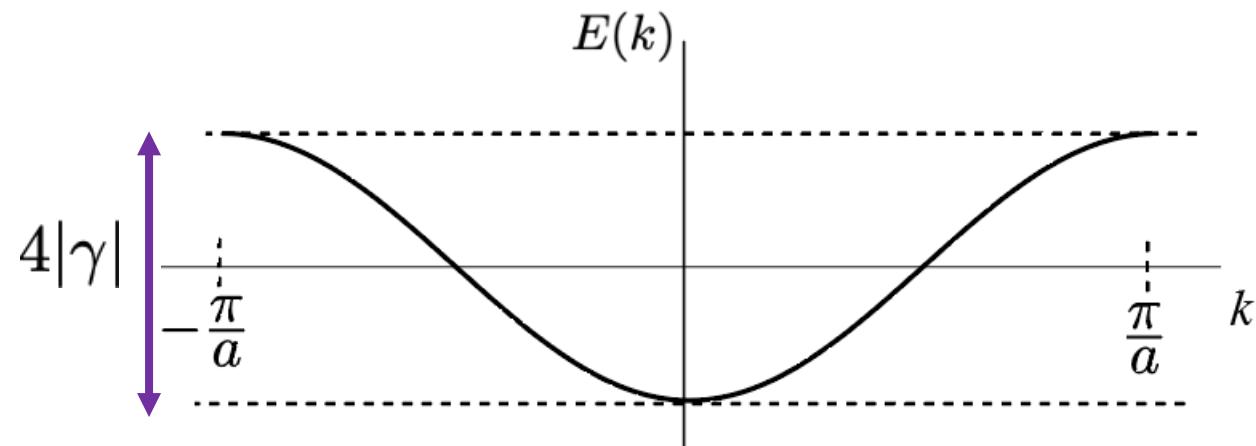
$$E(\mathbf{k}) = E_{at} + \sum_{\mathbf{R}_{NN}} \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{R}_{NN})\gamma(\mathbf{R}_{NN})$$

**1D chain**      distance  $a$   
one s orbital



$$\begin{aligned} E(k) &= E_{at,s} + [\exp(ika) + \exp(-ika)]\gamma(a) \\ &= E_{at,s} + 2\gamma \cos(ka) \end{aligned}$$

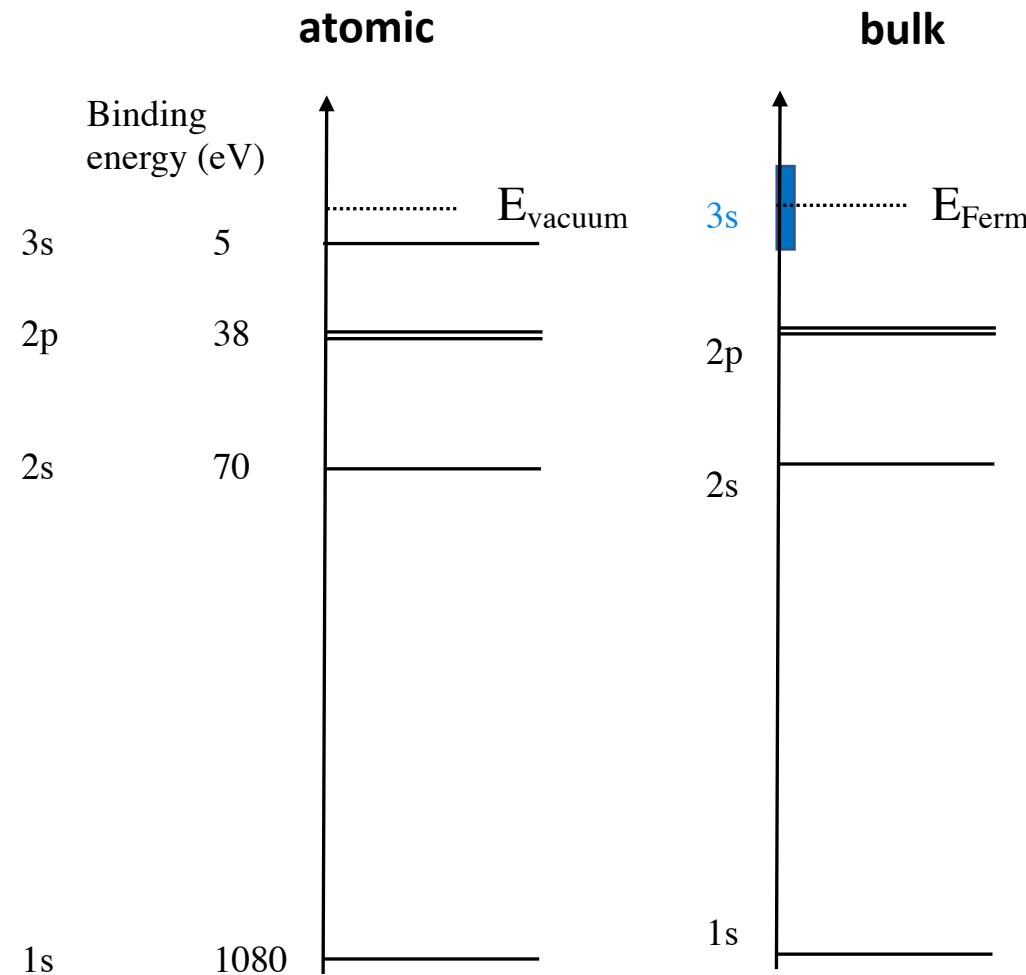
$$\gamma < 0$$



# Na electronic structure

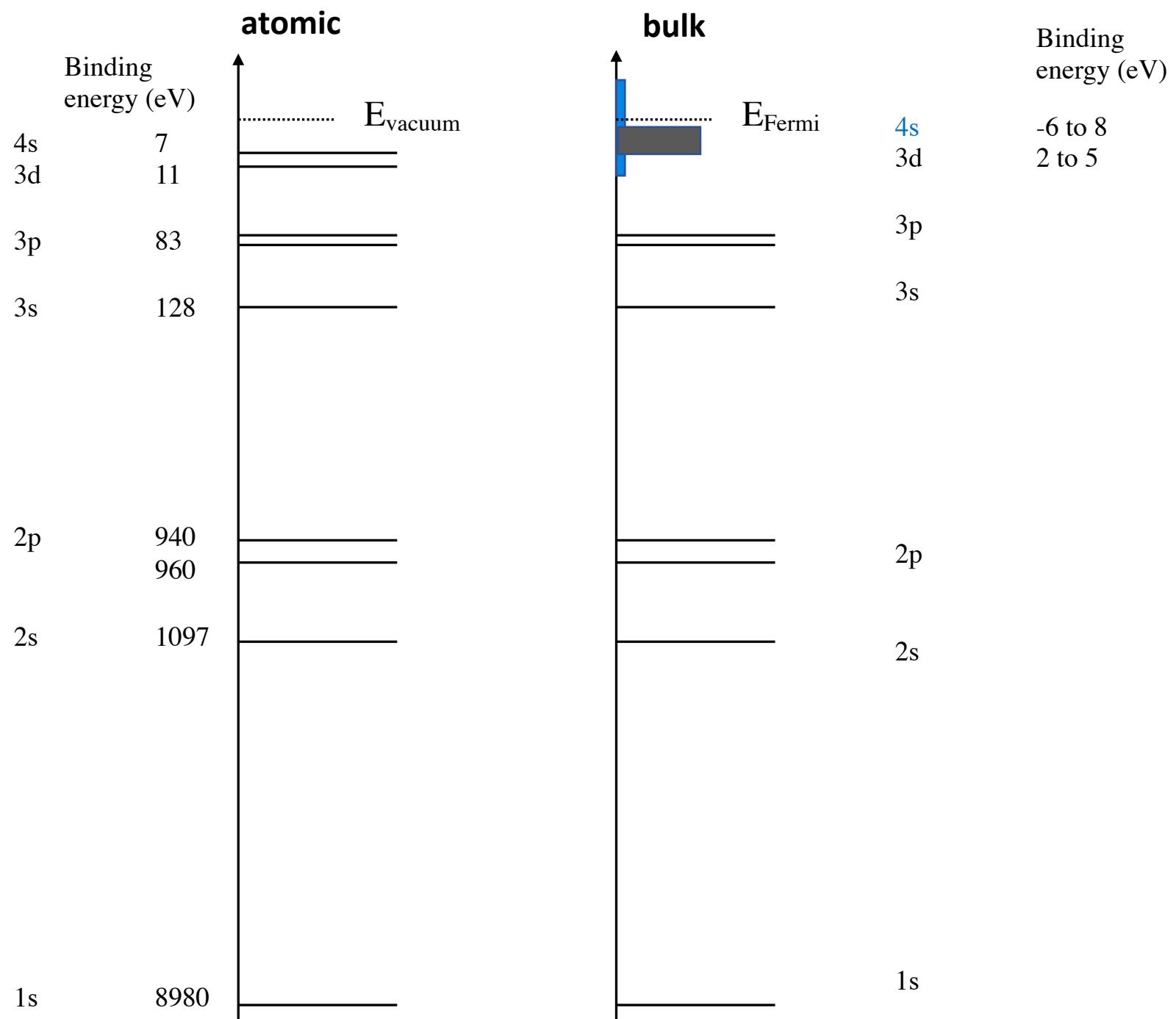
atomic Na:  
 $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^1$   
[Ne]  $3s^1$

energy not to scale



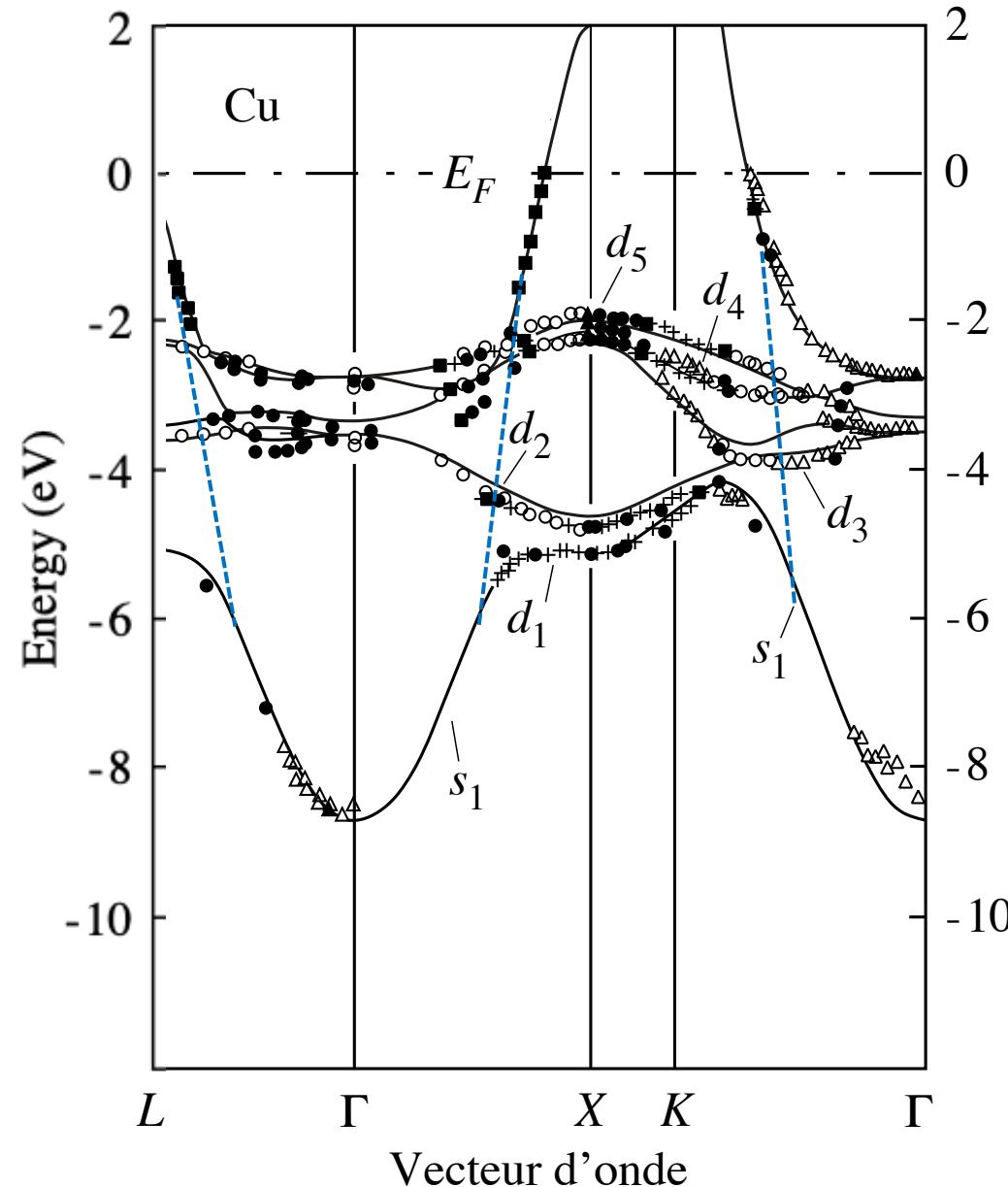
# Cu electronic structure

atomic Cu:  
[Ar] 3d<sup>10</sup> 4s<sup>1</sup>



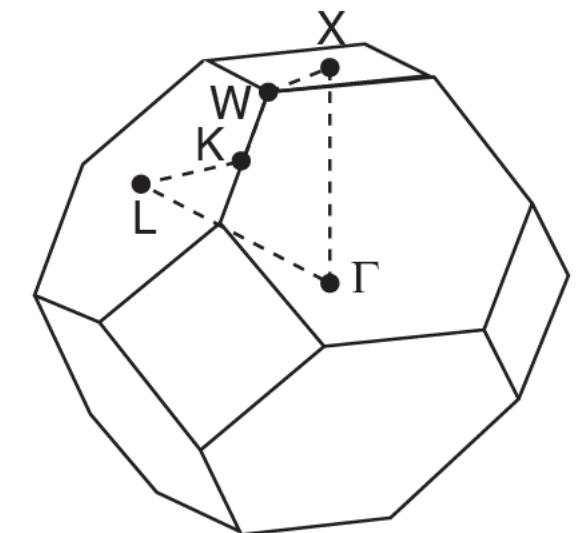
energy not to scale

# Cu band structure

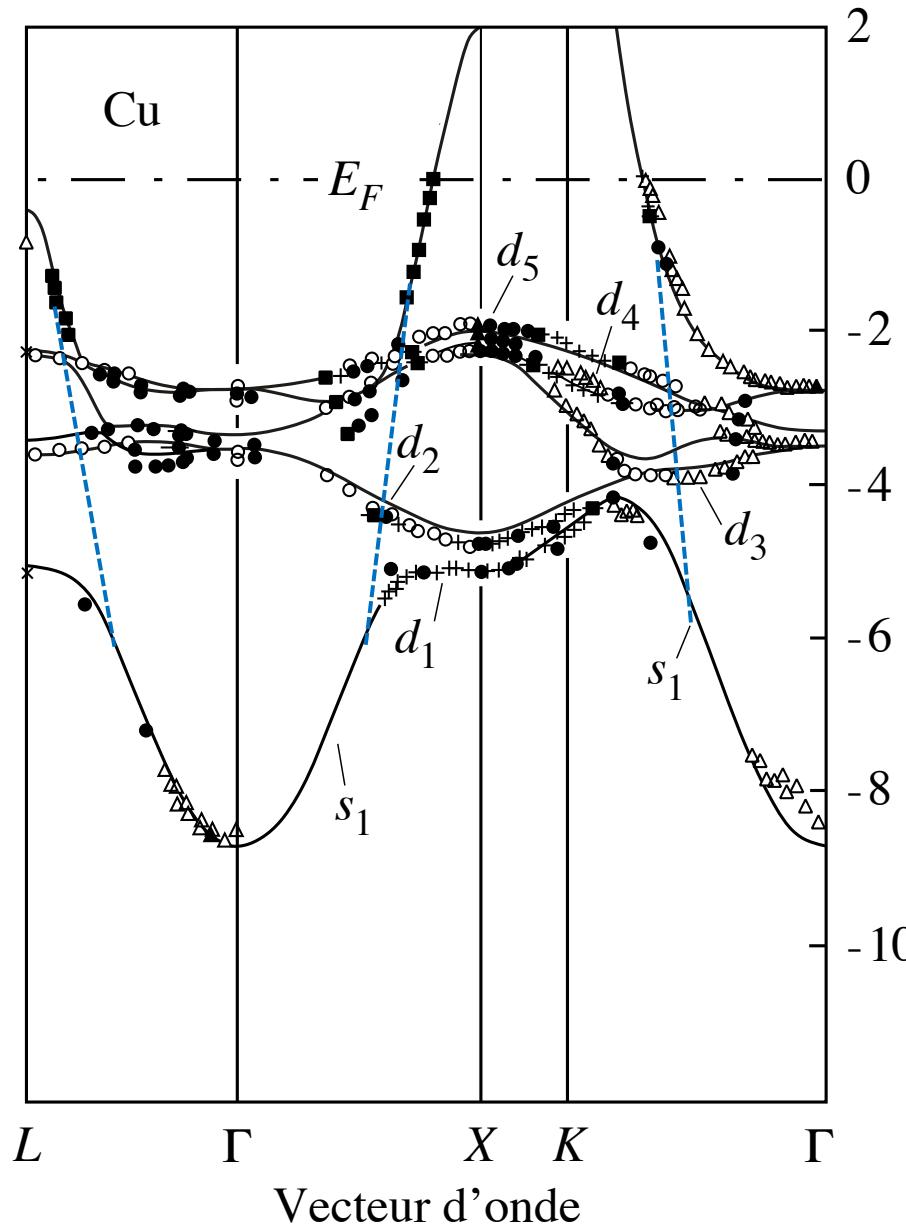
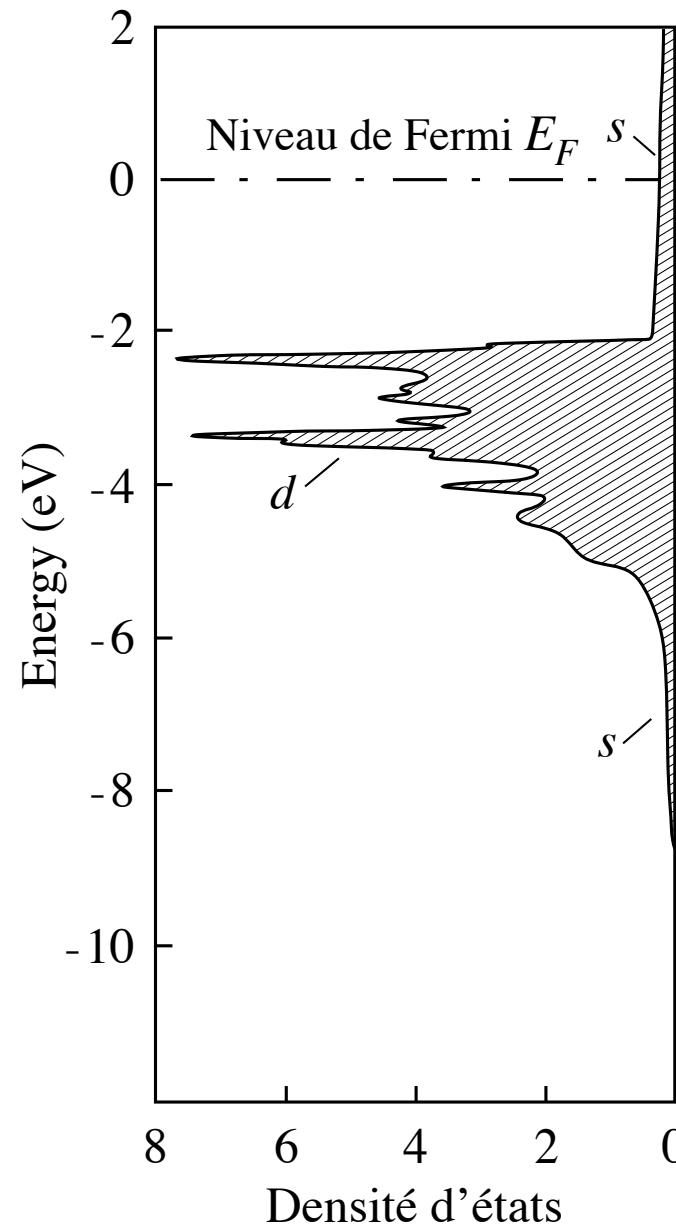


Cu: fcc crystal

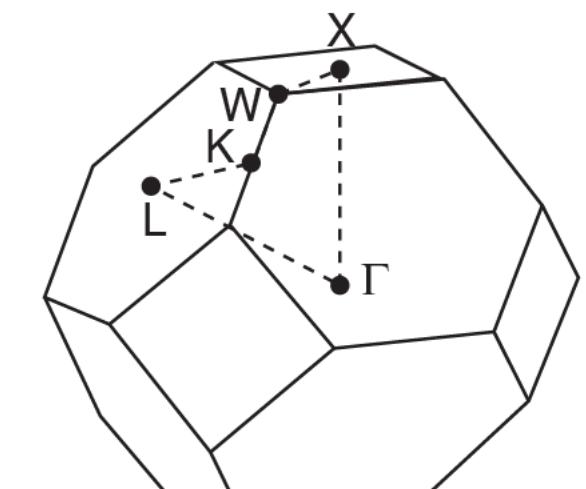
first Brillouin zone:



# Cu band structure and density of states (DOS)



Cu: fcc crystal  
first Brillouin zone:

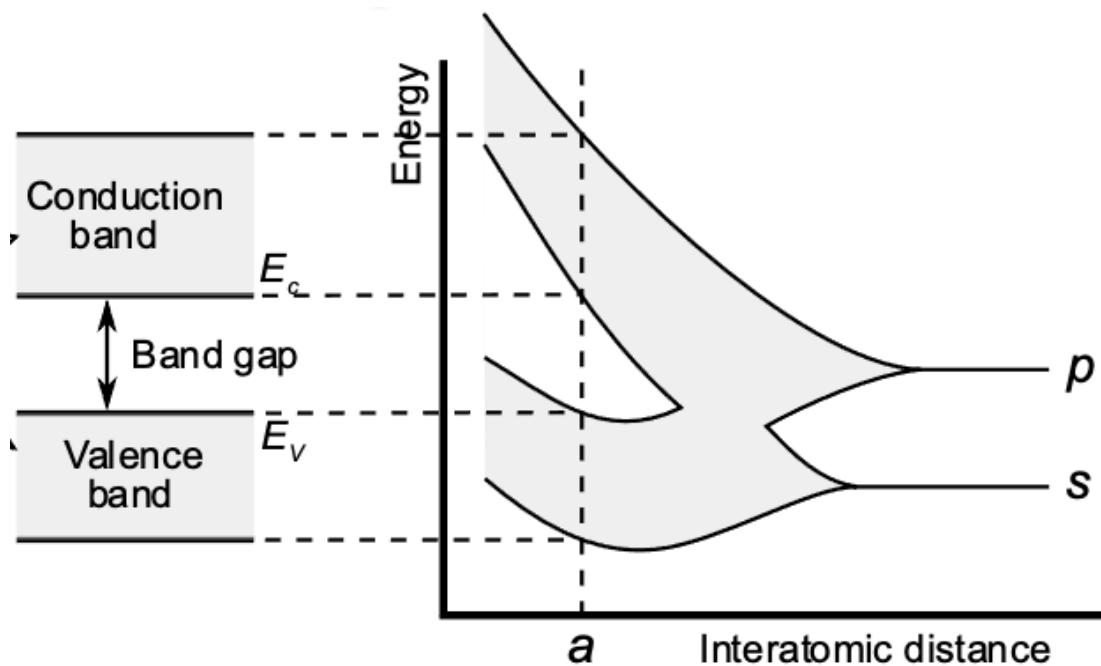
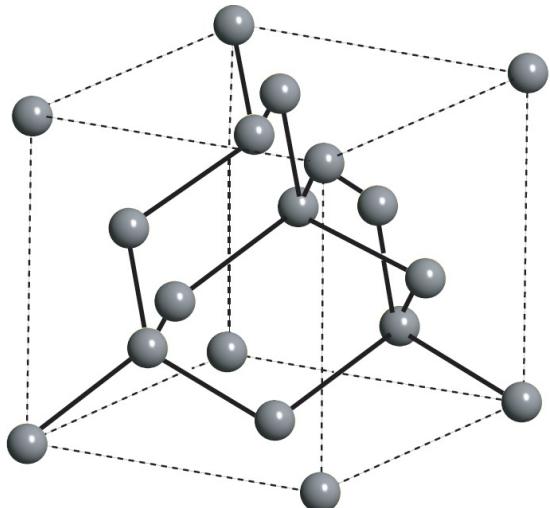


# Diamond

atomic C:  $1s^2 2s^2 2p^2$

formation of **four**  $sp^3$  hybrid orbitals

the directional character of the p orbitals is found in the  $sp^3$  orbitals  $\rightarrow$  solid with covalent bonds



insulator

$E_{gap} = 5.5 \text{ eV}$