

## Chapter 9

### Bonding II:

# Molecular Geometry and Bonding Theories

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## Molecular Orbital Theory

- **Molecular orbital theory** : Atomic orbitals (AO) combine to form new molecular orbitals (MO) which are spread out over the entire molecule.
- **Molecular** orbitals (MO) describe the properties of the entire **molecule**, and not the properties of individual atoms.
- Molecular orbitals (wave functions) result from adding and/or subtracting atomic orbitals (wave functions).

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## Molecular Orbital Theory

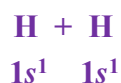
- Molecular orbitals:
  - have specific shapes and energies.
  - can have a maximum of two electrons with opposite spins.
  - are equal to the number of atomic orbitals they have been composed from “the number of orbitals is conserved”.
- Our study about MO theory is restricted to diatomic molecules.

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## Molecular Orbitals from s Atomic Orbitals

Hydrogen molecule

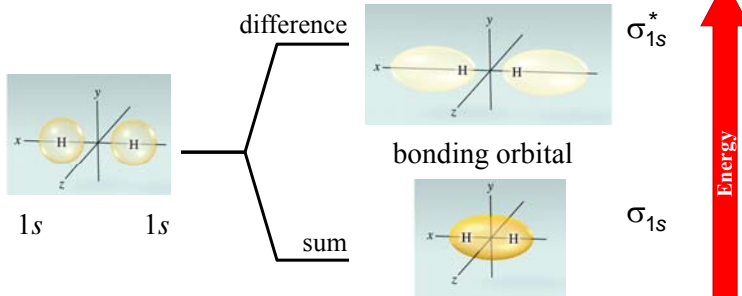


→

H-H



antibonding orbital



H atomic orbitals



H<sub>2</sub> molecular orbitals

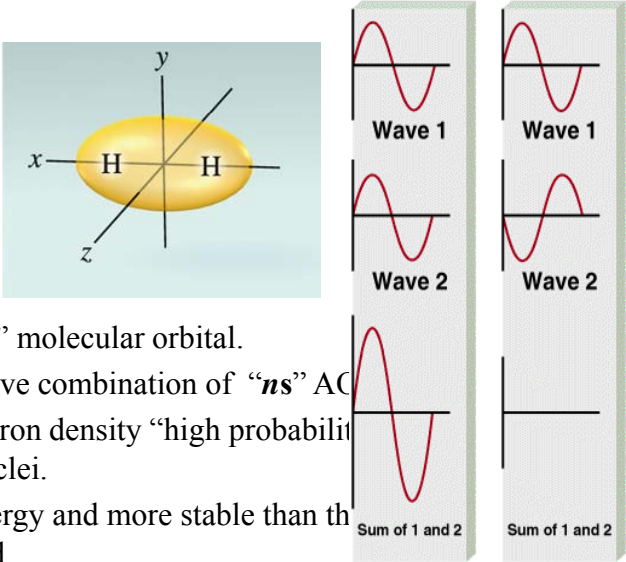
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## $\sigma_{1s}$ Molecular Orbital

Hydrogen molecule



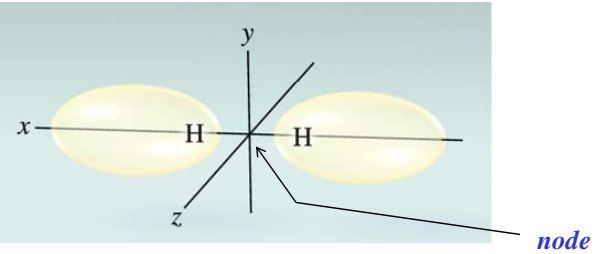
- “**Bonding**” molecular orbital.
- Constructive combination of “**ns**” AOs.
- High electron density “high probability” between the two nuclei.
- Lower energy and more stable than the AOs that were added.

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## $\sigma^*_{1s}$ Molecular Orbital

Hydrogen molecule



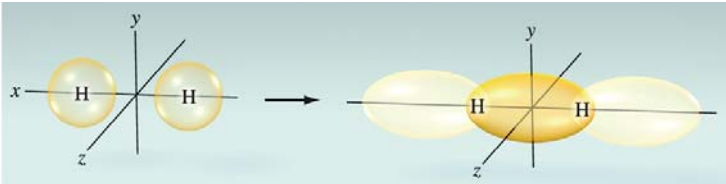
- “**Antibonding**” molecular orbital.
- Destructive combination of “**ns**” AOs.
- Very low electron density “low probability” between the two nuclei. The electron density pulls the two nuclei in opposite directions.
- Higher energy and less stable than the AOs that were subtracted.

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## $\sigma_{1s}$ and $\sigma_{1s}^*$ Molecular Orbitals

Hydrogen molecule

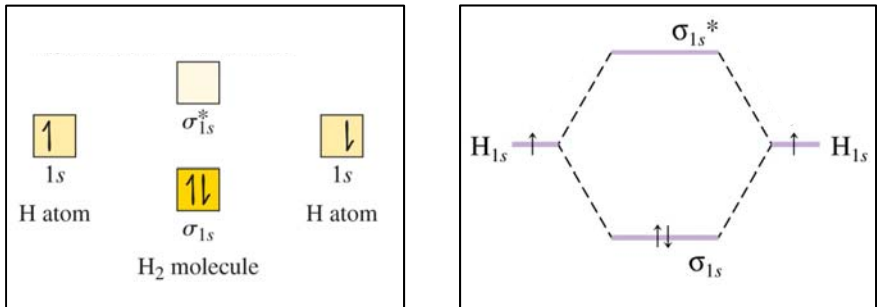


- Showing all the MOs in a molecule can result in a complicated picture.
- Energy diagrams / energy levels are often used to represent MOs in the molecule.

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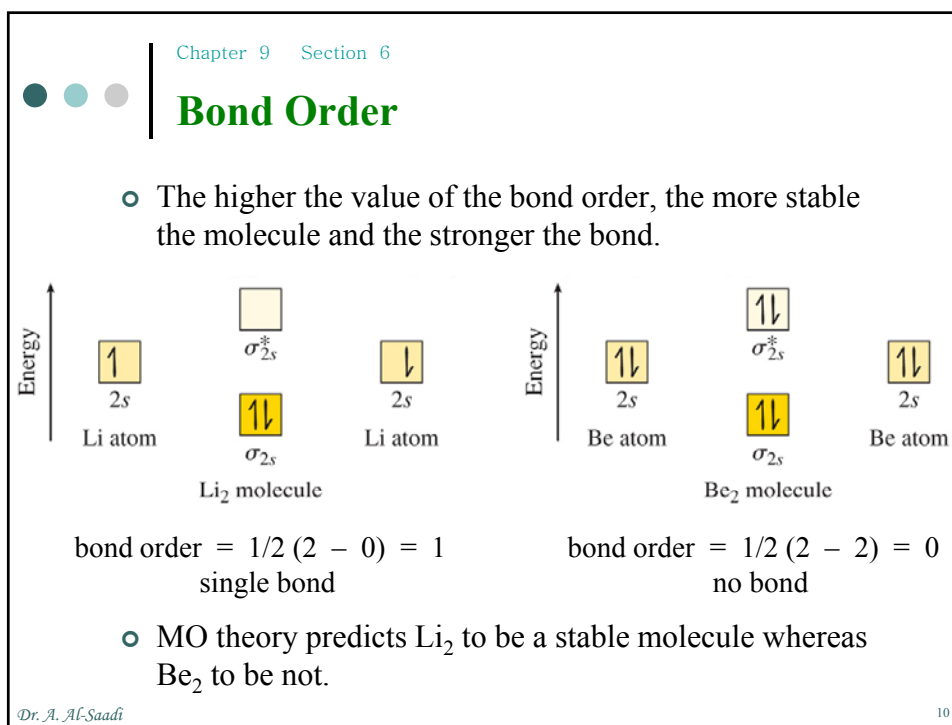
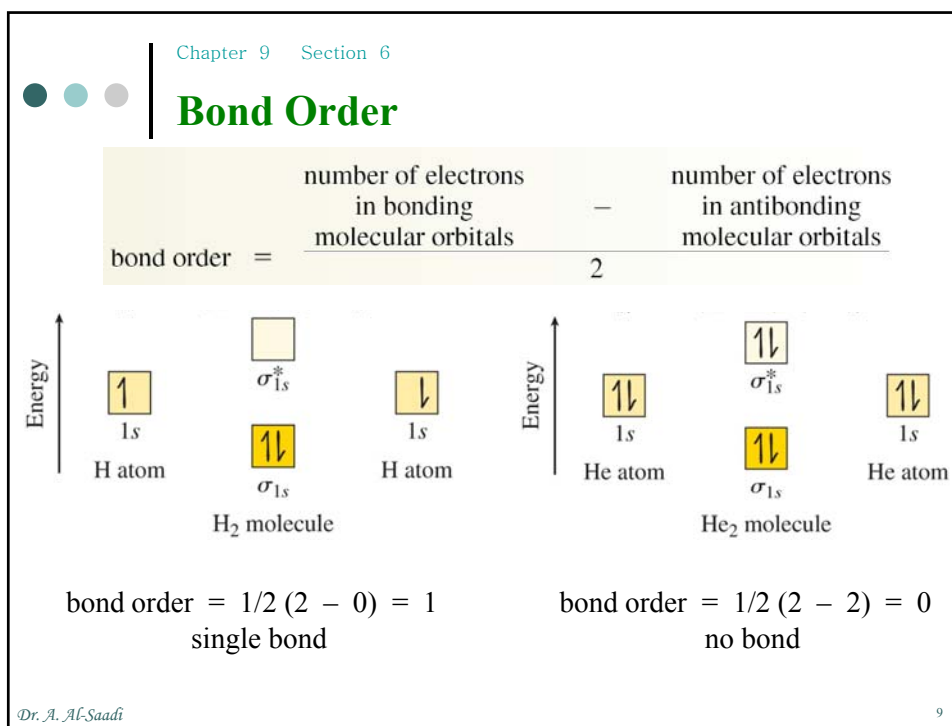
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## MOs in the Hydrogen Molecule



- Energy diagrams / energy levels are often used to represent MOs in the molecule.

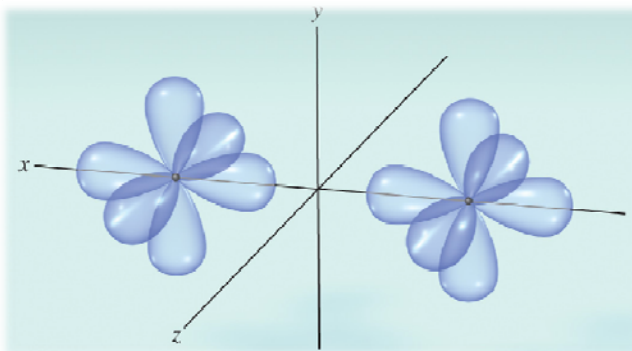
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## Molecular Orbitals from $p$ Atomic Orbitals

- Some molecules, such as  $B_2$ , combine their  $p$  AOs to generate new MOs. (B:  $1s^2 2s^2 2p^1$ ).
- Recall the shape of the  $2p$  orbitals.



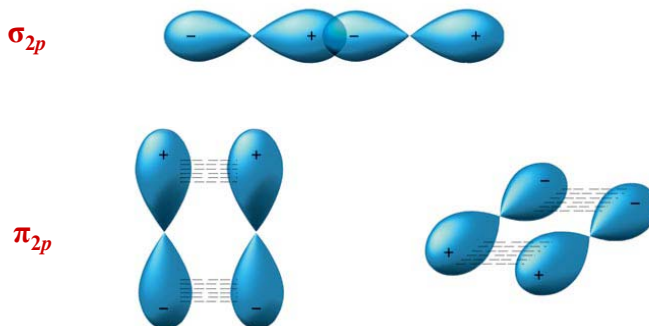
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## Molecular Orbitals from $p$ Atomic Orbitals

- Two pairs of parallel  $p$  orbitals can overlap *sideways*, and the third pair can overlap *head-on*.



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## Head-On Overlap for $p$ MOs

Energy

$2p_x$  +  $2p_x$  → Antibonding  $\sigma^*_{2p}$

$2p_x$  -  $2p_x$  → Bonding  $\sigma_{2p}$

node

- The two  $p$  orbitals that overlap head-on produce two  $\sigma$  MOs:
  - one **bonding**,  $\sigma_{2p}$  (constructive combination), and
  - one **antibonding**,  $\sigma^*_{2p}$ , (destructive combination).

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## Head-On Overlap for $p$ MOs

- Both **bonding**  $\sigma_{2p}$  and **antibonding**  $\sigma^*_{2p}$  MOs can be shown together in one diagram. They would look kind of complicated.

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### Sideway Overlap for $p$ MOs

Energy

$2p_y - 2p_y$

Antibonding  $\pi_{2p}^*$   $\pi_{2p}^*$

$2p_y + 2p_y$

Bonding  $\pi_{2p}$   $\pi_{2p}$

node

- Two  $p$  orbitals that lie parallel overlap to produce two  $\pi$  MOs:
  - one **bonding**,  $\pi_{2p}$  (constructive combination), and
  - one **antibonding**,  $\pi_{2p}^*$  (destructive combination).

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### Sideway Overlap for $p$ MOs

Bonding

Antibonding

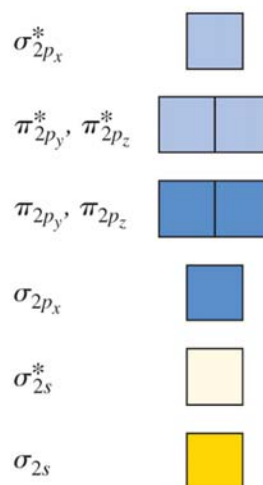
- The **Bonding**  $\pi_{2p}$  and **antibonding**,  $\pi_{2p}^*$  MOs can be shown together in one diagram. They would look kind of complicated.
- Remember that you have **two Bonding**  $\pi_{2p}$  MOs (along the  $y$  and  $z$ -axes) and **two antibonding**,  $\pi_{2p}^*$  MOs (also along the  $y$  and  $z$ -axes), giving **four**  $\pi$  MOs in total.

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## Molecular Orbital Diagram

- MOs generated from the combination of  $p$  AOs are always **higher** in energy than MOs generated from the combination of  $s$  AOs.
- Antibonding MOs are **higher** in energy than bonding MOs.

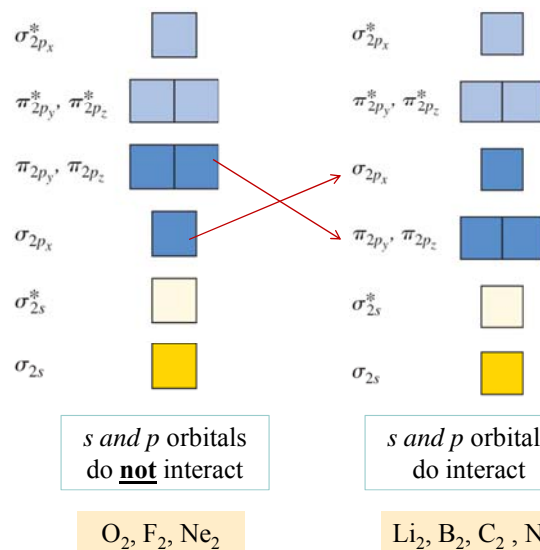


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## Molecular Orbital Diagram

- The order of MO energies assumes no interaction taking place between  $p$  and  $s$  orbitals.
- In atoms of smaller nuclear charges (Li, B, C and N) the  $s$  orbitals are held less tightly by the nucleus and some  $s$ - $p$  interaction takes place.

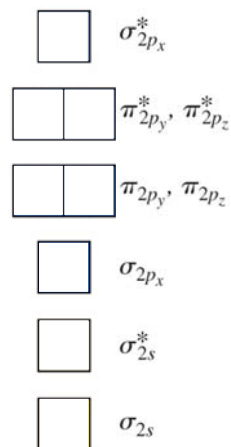


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## Molecular Orbital Diagram of O<sub>2</sub>

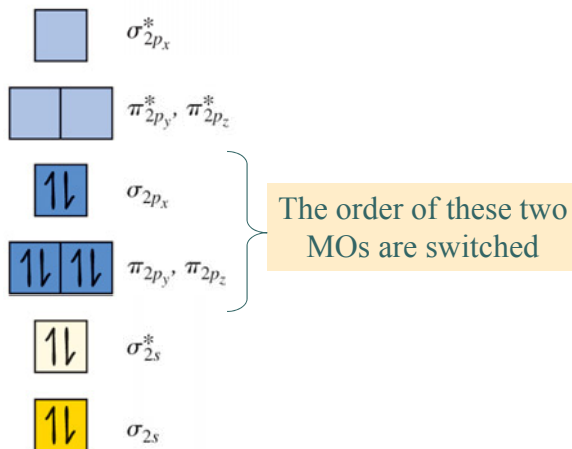
- When filling the MO levels, you have to:
  - Count the number of valence electrons,
  - Start with the lower energy orbitals first,
  - Follow Hund's rule, and
  - Put not more than two electrons in one MO.



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## Molecular Orbital Diagram of N<sub>2</sub>



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## Paramagnetism and Diamagnetism

- **Paramagnetism** causes the substance to be attracted to a magnetic field.  
**Diamagnetism** causes the substance to be repelled from a magnetic field.
- **Paramagnetism** is associated with **unpaired** electrons.  
**Diamagnetism** is associated with **paired** electrons.



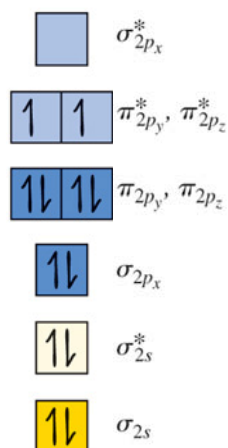
Liquid oxygen,  $O_2(l)$ , is attracted to the poles of a magnet because  $O_2$  is paramagnetic.

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## Molecular Orbital Diagram

- Molecular orbital theory helps you predict several important properties of the substance.
  - Bond order (bond length and bond strength).
  - Bond enthalpy (bond energy)
  - Magnetic properties.



MO diagram of  $O_2$

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## Molecular Orbital Diagrams

	Li <sub>2</sub>	B <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>	Ne <sub>2</sub>	
$\sigma_{2p_x}^*$								$\sigma_{2p_x}^*$
$\pi_{2p_y}^*, \pi_{2p_z}^*$								$\pi_{2p_y}^*, \pi_{2p_z}^*$
$\sigma_{2p_x}$								$\pi_{2p_y}, \pi_{2p_z}$
$\pi_{2p_y}, \pi_{2p_z}$								$\sigma_{2p_x}$
$\sigma_{2s}^*$								$\sigma_{2s}^*$
$\sigma_{2s}$								$\sigma_{2s}$
Bond order	1	1	2	3	2	1	0	
Bond length (pm)	267	159	131	110	121	142	-	
Bond enthalpy (kJ/mol)	104.6	288.7	627.6	941.4	498.7	156.9	-	
Magnetic properties	Diamagnetic	Paramagnetic	Diamagnetic	Diamagnetic	Paramagnetic	Diamagnetic	-	

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## Exercises

- Predict the bond order and magnetism of Ne<sub>2</sub>.

Ne<sub>2</sub>

↑ E

$\sigma_{2p}^*$

$\pi_{2p}^*$

$\pi_{2p}$

$\sigma_{2p}$

$\sigma_{2s}^*$

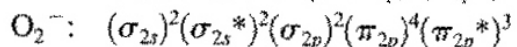
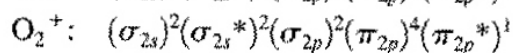
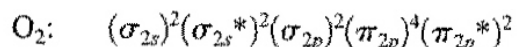
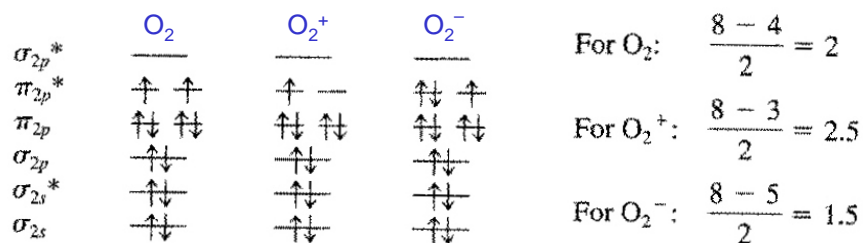
$\sigma_{2s}$

- Bond order  
 $= (8 - 8) / 2 = 0$   
 According to the MO theory, Ne<sub>2</sub> doesn't exist.

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## Exercises

- Give the electron configurations and bond orders for  $O_2$ ,  $O_2^+$ , and  $O_2^-$ .

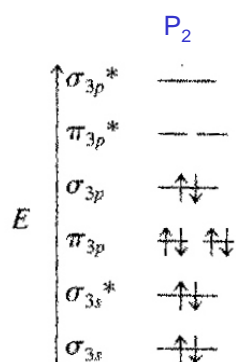


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## Exercises

- Predict the bond order and magnetism of  $P_2$ .



- Bond order  
 $= (8 - 2) / 2 = 3$

According to the MO theory,  $P_2$  exists and it is diamagnetic.

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## Bonding in Heteronuclear Diatomic Molecules

- MO model can be expanded to diatomic molecules with two different nuclei whose electronic natures are not so different.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) is expected from MO theory to be diamagnetic and to have a bond order of:  
 $(8 - 2) / 2 = 3$

The MO energy-level diagram of the CO molecule

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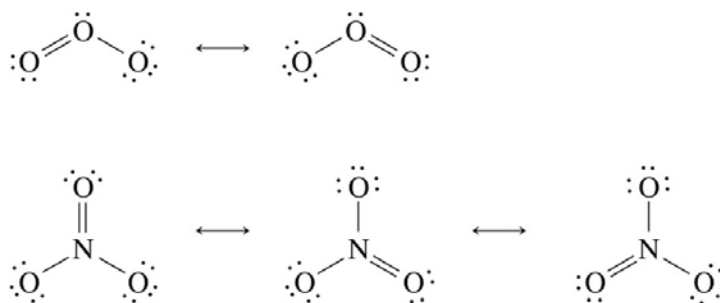
## Descriptions of Molecules with Delocalized Bonding

- Localized electron model assumes that the bonding electron pair is being shared between two atoms (*localized*).
- In several cases, such as  $O_3$  and  $NO_3^-$ , the  $\pi$ -electron bonding pairs are *delocalized* and are **not** present at a specific location in the molecule.

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## Descriptions of Molecules with Delocalized Bonding

- In molecules with resonance structures,
  - $\sigma$  bonds can be viewed to be localized, and
  - $\pi$  bonds can be considered to be delocalized.



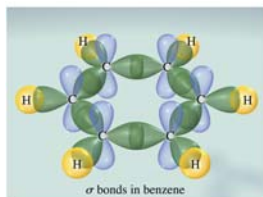
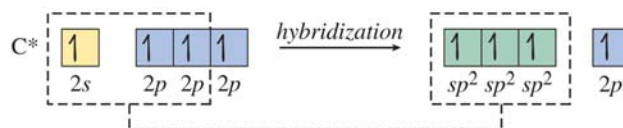
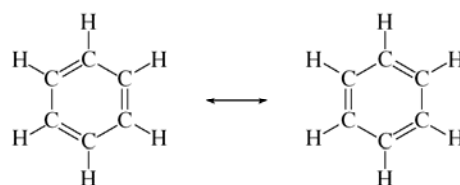
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## Example: Benzene ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ )

Each C atom has 3 electron domains

Hybridization:  $sp^2$



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