PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
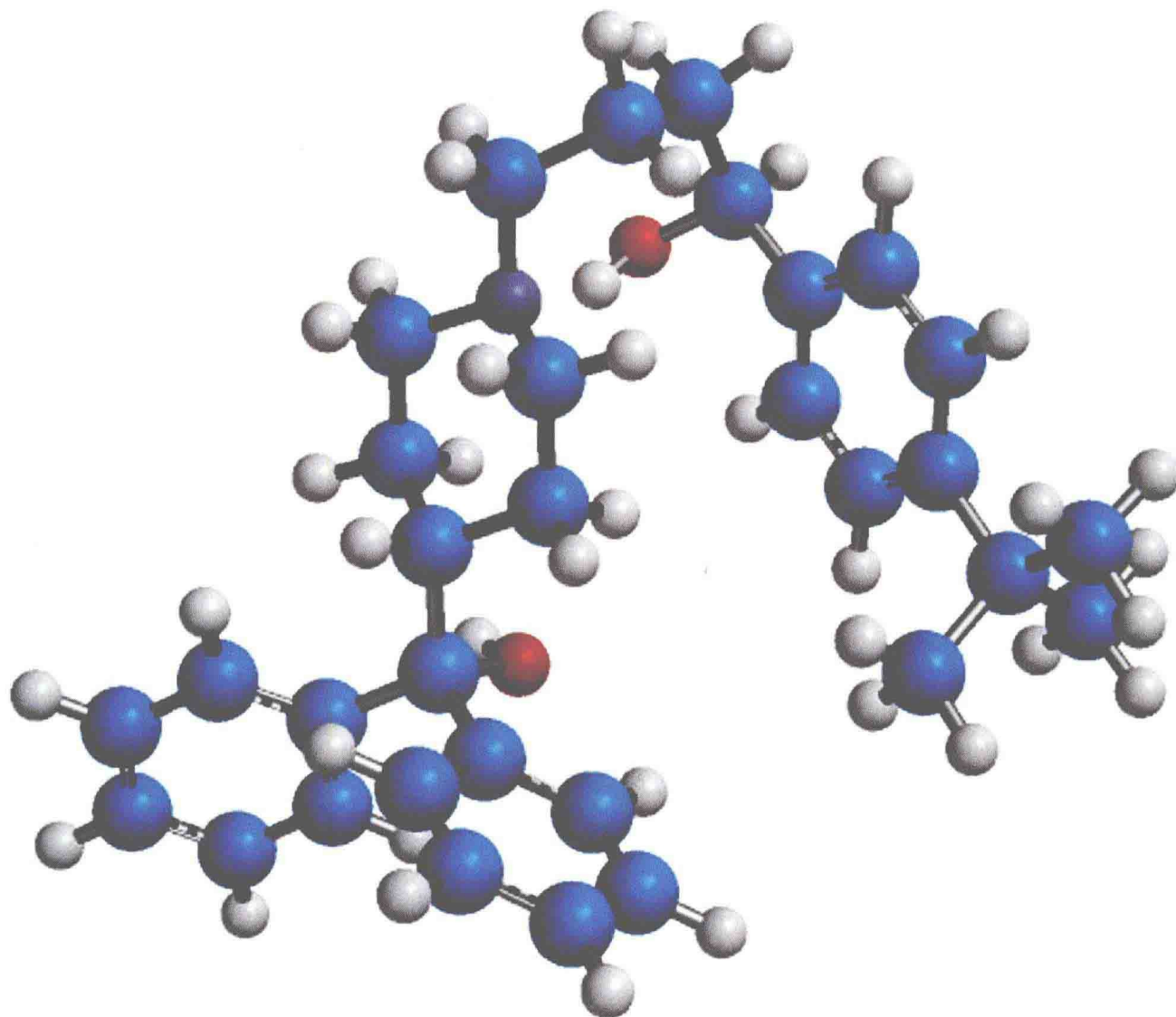
Robert J. Ouellette

J. David Rawn

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ROBERT J. OUELLETTE
Professor Emeritus
Department of Chemistry
The Ohio State University

J. DAVID RAWN
Professor Emeritus
Department of Chemistry
Towson University

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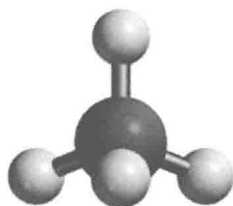
ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

1.1 ORGANIC AND INORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Organic chemistry began to emerge as a science about 200 years ago. By the late eighteenth century, substances were divided into two classes called inorganic and organic compounds. Inorganic compounds were derived from mineral sources, whereas organic compounds were obtained only from plants or animals. Organic compounds were more difficult to work with in the laboratory, and decomposed more easily, than inorganic compounds. The differences between inorganic and organic compounds were attributed to a "vital force" associated with organic compounds. This unusual attribute was thought to exist only in living matter. It was believed that without the vital force, organic compounds could not be synthesized in the laboratory. However, by the mid-nineteenth century, chemists had learned both how to work with organic compounds and how to synthesize them.

Organic compounds always contain carbon and a limited number of other elements, such as hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen. Compounds containing sulfur, phosphorus, and halogens are known but are less prevalent. Most organic compounds contain many more atoms per structural unit than inorganic compounds and have more complex structures. Common examples of organic compounds include the sugar sucrose ($C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$), vitamin B2 ($C_{117}H_{120}N_4O_6$), cholesterol ($C_{27}H_{46}O$), and the fat glycerol tripalmitate ($C_{51}H_{98}O_6$). Some organic molecules are gigantic. DNA, which stores genetic information, has molecular weights that range from 3 million in *Escherichia coli* to 2 billion for mammals.

Based on the physical characteristics of compounds, such as solubility, melting point, and boiling point, chemists have proposed that the atoms of the elements are bonded in compounds in two principal ways—ionic bonds and covalent bonds. Both types of bonds result from a change in the electronic structure of atoms as they associate with each other. Thus, the number and type of bonds formed and the resultant shape of the molecule depend on the electron configuration of the atoms. Therefore, we will review some of the electronic features of atoms and the periodic properties of the elements before describing the structures of organic compounds.

1.2 ATOMIC STRUCTURE

Each atom has a central, small, dense nucleus that contains protons and neutrons; electrons are located outside the nucleus. Protons have a +1 charge; electrons have a –1 charge. The number of protons, which determines the identity of an atom, is given as its **atomic number**. Since atoms have an equal number of protons and electrons and are electrically neutral, the atomic number also indicates the number of electrons in the atom. The number of electrons in the hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen atoms are one, six, seven, and eight, respectively.

The periodic table of the elements is arranged by atomic number. The elements are arrayed in horizontal rows called **periods** and vertical columns called **groups**. In this text, we will emphasize hydrogen in the first period and the elements carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen in the second period. The electronic structure of these atoms is the basis for their chemical reactivity.

Atomic Orbitals

Electrons around the nucleus of an atom are found in **atomic orbitals**. Each orbital can contain a maximum of two electrons. The orbitals, designated by the letters s, p, d, and f, differ in energy, shape, and orientation. We need to consider only the s and p orbitals for elements such as carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen.

Orbitals are grouped in shells of increasing energy designated by the integers n = 1, 2, 3, 4, $\cdots$, n. These integers are called **principal quantum numbers**. With few exceptions, we need consider only the orbitals of the first three shells for the common elements found in organic compounds.

Each shell contains a unique number and type of orbitals. The first shell contains only one orbital—the s orbital. It is designated 1s. The second shell contains two types of orbitals—one s orbital and three p orbitals.

An s orbital is a spherical region of space centered around the nucleus (Figure 1.1). The electrons in a 2s orbital are higher in energy than those in a 1s orbital. The 2s orbital is larger than the 1s orbital, and its electrons on average are farther from the nucleus. The three p orbitals in a shell are shaped like "dumbbells." However, they have different orientations with respect to the nucleus (Figure 1.1). The orbitals are often designated p_x, p_y, and p_z to emphasize that they are mutually perpendicular to one another. Although the orientations of the p orbitals are different, the electrons in each p orbital have equal energies.

Orbitals of the same type within a shell are often considered as a group called a **subshell**. There is only one orbital in an s subshell. An s subshell can contain only two electrons, but a p subshell can contain a total of six electrons within its p_x, p_y, and p_z orbitals. Electrons are located in subshells of successively higher energies so that the total energy of all electrons is as low as possible. The order of increasing energy of subshells is 1s< 2s < 2p < 3s < 3p for elements of low atomic number. If there is more than one orbital in a subshell, one electron occupies each with parallel spins until all are half full. A single electron within an orbital is unpaired; two electrons with opposite spins within an orbital are paired and constitute an electron pair. The number and location of electrons for the first 18 elements are given in Table 1.1. The location of electrons in atomic orbitals is the **electron configuration** of an atom.

Figure 1.1
Shapes of 2s and 2p Orbitals
Electrons are pictured within a volume called an orbital. A "cloud" of negative charge surrounds the nucleus, which is located at the origin of the intersecting axes. (a) The s orbital is pictured as a sphere. (b) The three orbitals of the p subshell are arranged perpendicular to one another. Each orbital may contain two electrons. (c) Molecular model of a $2p_z$ orbital.

s orbital
(a)

2p orbitals
(b)

(c)

$2p_z$ orbital
(molecular model)
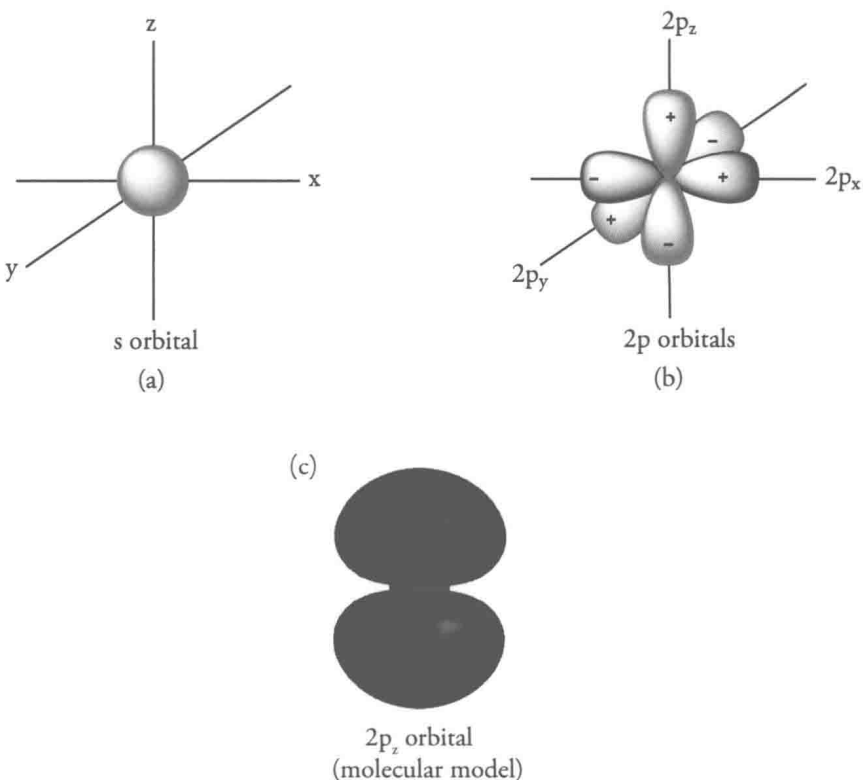
Table 1.1
Electron Configurations of First and Second Period Elements

Element	Atomic Number	1s	2s	$2p_x$	$2p_y$	$2p_z$	Electron Configuration
H	1	1					$1s^1$
He	2	2					$1s^2$
Li	3	2	1				$1s^2 2s^1$
Be	4	2	2				$1s^2 2s^2$
B	5	2	2	1(↑)			$1s^2 2s^2 2p^1$
C	6	2	2	1 (↑)	1 (↑)		$1s^2 2s^2 2p^2$
N	7	2	2	1 (↑)	1 (↑)	1 (↑)	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^3$
O	8	2	2	2(↑↓)	1 (↑)	1 (↑)	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^4$
F	9	2	2	2 (↑↓)	2 (↑↓)	1 (↑)	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^5$
Ne	10	2	2	2 (↑↓)	2 (↑↓)	2 (↑↓)	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6$

Valence Shell Electrons

Electrons in filled, lower energy shells of atoms have no role in determining the structure of molecules, nor do they participate in chemical reactions. Only the higher energy electrons located in the outermost shell, the **valence shell**, participate in chemical reactions. Electrons in the valence shell are valence electrons. For example, the single electron of the hydrogen atom is a **valence electron**. The number of valence electrons for the common atoms contained in organic molecules is given by their group number in the periodic table. Thus carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen atoms have four, five, and six valence electrons, respectively. With this information we can understand how these elements combine to form the structure of organic compounds.

The physical and chemical properties of an element may be estimated from its position in the periodic table. Two principles that help us to explain the properties of organic compounds are atomic radius and electronegativity. The overall shape of an isolated atom is spherical, and the volume of the atom depends on the number of electrons and the energies of the electrons in occupied orbitals. The sizes of some atoms expressed as the **atomic radius**, in picometers, are given in Figure 1.2. The atomic radius for an atom does not vary significantly from one compound to another. Atomic radii increase from top to bottom in a group of the periodic table. Each successive member of a group has one additional energy level containing electrons located at larger distances from the nucleus. Thus, the atomic radius of sulfur is greater than that of oxygen, and the radii of the halogens increase in the order F < Cl < Br.

The atomic radius decreases from left to right across a period. Although electrons are located in the same energy level within the s and p orbitals of the elements, the nuclear charge increases from left to right within a period. As a result, the nucleus draws the electrons inward and the radius decreases. The radii of the common elements in organic compounds are in the order C > N > 0.

Figure 1.2
Atomic radii in picometers,
pm (10^{-12} m)

H						
37						
Li	**Be**	**B**	**C**	**N**	**O**	**F**
152	111	88	77	70	66	64
Na	**Mg**	**Al**	**Si**	**P**	**S**	**Cl**
186	160	143	117	110	104	99
						Br
						114
						I
						133

Electronegativity

Electronegativity is a measure of the attraction of an atom for bonding electrons in molecules compared to that of other atoms. The electronegativity values devised by Linus Pauling, an American chemist, are dimensionless quantities that range from slightly less than one for the alkali metals to a maximum of four for fluorine. Large electronegativity values indicate a stronger attraction for electrons than small electronegativity values.

Electronegativities increase from left to right across the periodic table (Figure 1.3). Elements on the left of the periodic table have low electronegativities and are often called electropositive elements. The order of electronegativities F > O > N > C is an important property that we will use to explain the chemical properties of organic compounds. Electronegativities decrease from top to bottom within a group of elements. The order of decreasing electronegativities F > Cl > Br > I is another sequence that we will use to interpret the chemical and physical properties of organic compounds.

**Figure 1.3
Electronegativity**

H						
2.1						
Li	Be	B	C	N	O	F
1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0
Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl
0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.5	3.0
						Br
						2.8
						I
						2.5

1.3 TYPES OF BONDS

In 1916, the American chemist G.N. Lewis proposed that second period elements tend to react to obtain an electron configuration of eight electrons so that they electronically resemble the inert gases. This hypothesis is summarized in the **Lewis octet rule**: Second period atoms tend to combine and form bonds by transferring or sharing electrons until each atom is surrounded by eight electrons in its highest energy shell. Note that hydrogen requires only two electrons to complete its valence shell.

Ionic Bonds

Ionic bonds form between two or more atoms by the transfer of one or more electrons between atoms. Electron transfer produces negative ions called **anions** and positive ions called **cations**. These ions attract each other.

Let's examine the ionic bond in sodium chloride. A sodium atom, which has 11 protons and 11 electrons, has a single valence electron in its 3s subshell. A chlorine atom, which has 17 protons and 17 electrons, has seven valence electrons in its third shell, represented as $3s^23p^5$. In forming an ionic bond, the sodium atom, which is electropositive, loses its valence electron to chlorine. The resulting sodium ion has the same electron configuration as neon ($1s^22s^22p^6$) and has a +1 charge, because there are 11 protons in the nucleus, but only 10 electrons about the nucleus of the ion.

The chlorine atom, which has a high electronegativity, gains an electron and is converted into a chloride ion that has the same electron configuration as argon ($1s^22s^22p^63s^23p^6$). The chloride ion has a –1 charge because there are 17 protons in the nucleus, but there are 18 electrons about the nucleus of the ion. The formation of sodium chloride from the sodium and chlorine atoms can be shown by Lewis structures. Lewis structures represent only the valence electrons; electron pairs are shown as pairs of dots.

$$\text{Na} \cdot \ + \ :\overset{\displaystyle ..}{\underset{\displaystyle ..}{\text{Cl}}} \cdot \ \longrightarrow \ \text{Na}^+ \ + \ :\overset{\displaystyle ..}{\underset{\displaystyle ..}{\text{Cl}}} :^-$$

Note that by convention, the complete octet is shown for anions formed from electronegative elements. However, the filled outer shell of cations that results from loss of electrons by electropositive elements is not shown.

Metals are electropositive and tend to lose electrons, whereas nonmetals are electronegative and tend to gain electrons. A metal atom loses one or more electrons to form a cation with an octet. The same number of electrons are accepted by the appropriate number of atoms of a nonmetal to form an octet in the anion, producing an ionic compound. In general, ionic compounds result from combinations of metallic elements, located on the left side of the periodic table, with nonmetals, located on the upper right side of the periodic table.

Covalent Bonds

A **covalent bond** consists of the mutual sharing of one or more pairs of electrons between two atoms. These electrons are simultaneously attracted by the two atomic nuclei. A covalent bond forms when the difference between the electronegativities of two atoms is too small for an electron transfer to occur to form ions. Shared electrons located in the space between the two nuclei are called **bonding electrons.** The bonded pair is the "glue" that holds the atoms together in molecular units.

The hydrogen molecule is the simplest substance having a covalent bond. It forms from two hydrogen atoms, each with one electron in a ls orbital. Both hydrogen atoms share the two electrons in the covalent bond, and each acquires a helium-like electron configuration.

$$H\cdot + H\cdot \longrightarrow H—H$$

A similar bond forms in Cl_2. The two chlorine atoms in the chlorine molecule are joined by a shared pair of electrons. Each chlorine atom has seven valence electrons in the third energy level and requires one more electron to form an argon-like electron configuration. Each chlorine atom contributes one electron to the bonding pair shared by the two atoms. The remaining six valence electrons of each chlorine atom are not involved in bonding and are concentrated around their respective atoms. These valence electrons, customarily shown as pairs of electrons, are variously called **nonbonding electrons**, **lone pair electrons**, or **unshared electron pairs**.

$$:\overset{..}{\underset{..}{Cl}}—\overset{..}{\underset{..}{Cl}}: \longleftarrow \text{nonbonding electrons}$$

The covalent bond is drawn as a dash in a **Lewis structure** to distinguish the bonding pair from the lone pair electrons. Lewis structures show the nonbonding electrons as pairs of dots located about the atomic symbols for the atoms. The Lewis structures of four simple organic compounds—methane, methylamine, methanol, and chloromethane—are drawn here to show both bonding and nonbonding electrons. In these compounds carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and chlorine atoms have four, three, two, and one bonds, respectively.
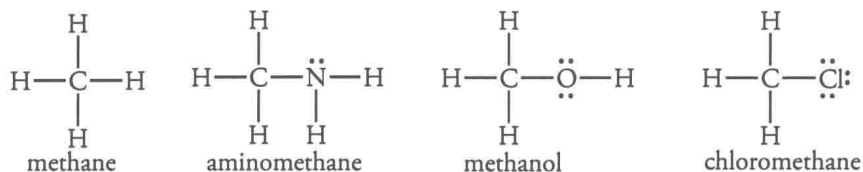
The hydrogen atom and the halogen atoms form only one covalent bond to other atoms in most stable neutral compounds. However, the carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen atoms can simultaneously bond to more than one atom. The number of such bonds is the **valence** of the atom. The valences of carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen are four, three, and two, respectively.

Multiple Covalent Bonds

In some molecules more than one pair of electrons is shared between pairs of atom. If four electrons (two pairs) or six electrons (three pairs) are shared, the bonds are called **double** and **triple bonds**, respectively. A carbon atom can form single, double, or triple bonds with other carbon atoms as well as

with atoms of some other elements. Single, double, and triple covalent bonds link two carbon atoms in ethane, ethylene, and acetylene, respectively. Each carbon atom in these compounds shares one, two, and three electrons, respectively, with the other. The remaining valence electrons of the carbon atoms are contained in the single bonds with hydrogen atoms.
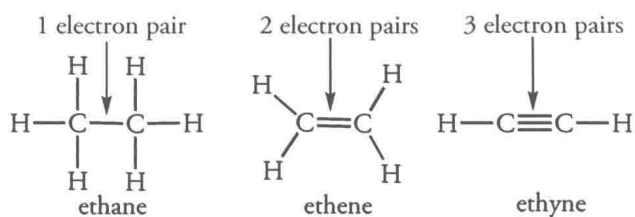
Polar Covalent Bonds

A polar covalent bond exists when atoms with different electronegativities share electrons in a covalent bond. Consider the hydrogen chloride (HCl) molecule. Each atom in HCl requires one more electron to form an inert gas electron configuration. Chlorine has a higher electronegativity than hydrogen, but the chlorine atom's attraction for electrons is not sufficient to remove an electron from hydrogen. Consequently, the bonding electrons in hydrogen chloride are shared unequally in a polar covalent bond. The molecule is represented by the conventional Lewis structure, even though the shared electron pair is associated to a larger extent with chlorine than with hydrogen. The unequal sharing of the bonding pair results in a partial negative charge on the chlorine atom and a partial positive charge on the hydrogen atom. The symbol δ (Greek lowercase delta) denotes these fractional charges.
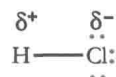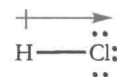
$$\overset{\delta^+}{H} — \overset{\delta^-}{\ddot{\underset{\cdot\cdot}{Cl}}}$$

The hydrogen chloride molecule has a **dipole** (two poles), which consists of a pair of opposite charges separated from each other. The dipole is shown by an arrow with a cross at one end. The cross is near the end of the molecule that is partially positive, and the arrowhead is near the partially negative end of the molecule.

Single or multiple bonds between carbon atoms are nonpolar. Hydrogen and carbon have similar electronegativity values, so the C—H bond is not normally considered a polar covalent bond. Thus ethane, ethylene, and acetylene have nonpolar covalent bonds, and the compounds are nonpolar.

Bonds between carbon and other elements such as oxygen and nitrogen are polar. The polarity of a bond depends on the electronegativities of the bonded atoms. Large differences between the electronegativities of the bonded atoms increase the polarity of bonds. The direction of the polarity of common bonds found in organic molecules is easily predicted. The common nonmetals are more electronegative than carbon. Therefore, when a carbon atom is bonded to common nonmetal atoms, it has a partial positive charge.

Hydrogen is also less electronegative than the common nonmetals. Therefore, when a hydrogen atom is bonded to common nonmetals, the resulting polar bond has a partial positive charge on the hydrogen atom.

Table 1.2
Average Dipole Moments (D)

Structural Unit[1]	Bond Moments (D)
H—C	0.4
H—N	1.3
H—O	1.5
H—F	1.7
H—S	0.7
H—Cl	1.1
H—Br	0.8
H—I	0.4
C—C	0.0
C—N	0.2
C—O	0.7
C—F	1.4
C—Cl	1.5
C—Br	1.4
C—I	1.2
C=O	2.3
C≡N	3.5

1. The more negative element is on the right.