

Text Related to Segment 11.02 ©2002 Claude E. Wintner

A broad and chemically useful pair of definitions for acids and bases — one that establishes these ideas at a somewhat less phenomenological level and relates them to the concepts of the chemical bond, and thereby of chemical reactivity — is due to G. N. Lewis:

A base, or *nucleophile*, is any chemical species having at least one unshared pair of electrons.

An acid, or *electrophile*, is any chemical species capable of forming a bond with a base by means of the unshared pair of electrons of the base.

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