

lone (electron) pair

Two paired electrons localized in the valence shell on a single atom. Lone pairs should be designated with two dots. The term 'nonbonding electron pair' is more appropriate, and is found in many modern text books.

Source:

PAC, 1994, 66, 1077 (*Glossary of terms used in physical organic chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1994)*) on page 1137