

Chemistry *for Accelerated Students*

A Mastery-Oriented Curriculum

Second Edition

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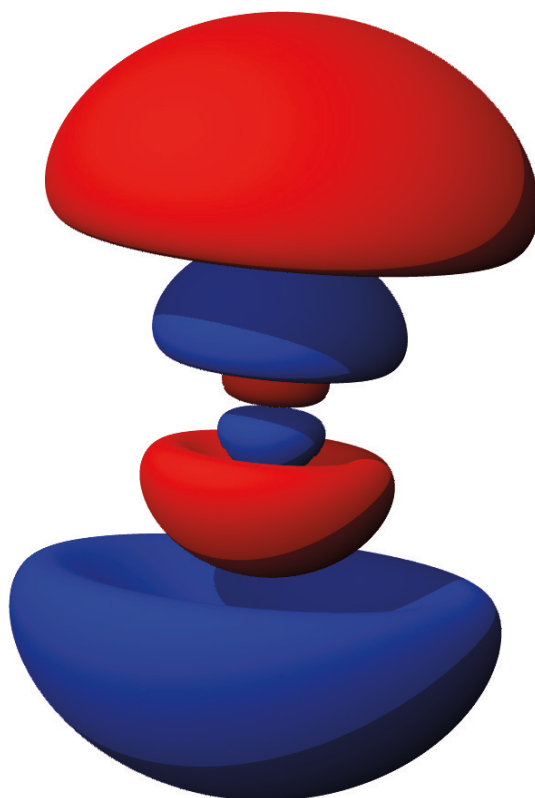
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Introduction

What is Chemistry All About?



This computer model depicts three of the *orbitals* available in atoms for holding electrons. Shown are one of the three *p* orbitals in each of three different subshells. The inner pair of orbitals can hold two of the highest energy electrons for elements 5 through 10 in the Periodic Table of the Elements. The middle pair is available to hold two of the highest energy electrons for elements 13 through 18 in the periodic table, and the outer pair can hold two of the highest energy electrons belonging to elements 31 through 36 in the periodic table.

In this Introduction, we touch briefly on electron orbitals. We treat the subject in more depth in Chapter 1.

Objectives for the Introduction

After studying this chapter and completing the exercises, you should be able to do each of the following tasks, using supporting terms and principles as necessary.

1. Briefly explain how electrons, electrical forces, minimizing energy, whole number ratios, and modeling can each be thought of as central to understanding what chemistry is all about.
2. State and explain examples illustrating a system moving to a lower energy state and a system experiencing an increase in entropy.
3. Briefly explain hydrogen bonding and why it plays such a large role in mixtures containing water.
4. Explain the relationship between energy and atomic orbitals.

1.1 A Few Major Themes

Chemistry is the study of the elements, how they combine to form mixtures and compounds, the properties of these substances, and the processes involved. One of the astonishing things about the physical world is that as complex as the details are, we can understand a lot about how it works in terms of just a few basic principles from physics. This striking situation is a direct result of the fact that nature is governed by an orderly, mathematical set of physical laws—the laws set in place by God according to his wisdom when he created the universe.

The existence of nature and of the laws of physics are two obvious clues to God's role in creating the universe: the universe is here because God made it, and it is governed in an orderly, mathematical way because it was God's pleasure to make it so. A third clue is that *we can understand it*.

Studying chemistry involves learning a great deal of terminology, and exploring quite a few different types of processes. The amount of information involved can be daunting! But one way to help organize all this information is to be alert to a few fundamental principles that turn up time and again. In this introductory chapter, we take a brief look at a few of these principles. As you read through the chapters ahead, you will see again and again that we can understand a lot about topics such as molecular structure, solubility, and chemical reactions in terms of a few basic concepts.

1.1.1 Chemistry Is All About Electrons

You recall that atoms consist of a tiny nucleus containing particles called protons and neutrons, and that the nucleus is surrounded by cloud-like regions containing the atoms' electrons. As it turns out, a lot of chemistry can be understood in terms of the atoms' electrons—where they are, how many there are, whether an atom has ionized by gaining or losing electrons, whether an atom is sharing electrons with another atom, and so on.

The cloud-like regions containing an atom's electrons are called *orbitals*, and electrons reside in different orbitals according to how much energy they have. The arrangement of the orbitals is the same for all atoms, although the specific energies associated with each orbital vary from atom to atom, depending on the size of the nucleus and how many electrons an atom has. The orbitals in atoms are grouped into different energy groupings called *shells*. There are seven main shells containing the orbitals with the electrons of all the elements discovered so far. There are additional shells above these that high-energy electrons can move into when they absorb more energy.

In each shell, there is a specific number of orbitals, and each orbital and set of orbitals holds a specific number of electrons. One of the essential facts about atomic behavior is that atoms seek

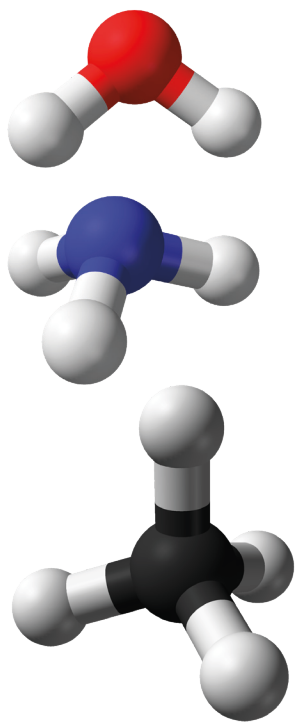


Figure I.1. Representations of the H_2O water molecule (top), the NH_3 ammonia molecule (middle), and the CH_4 methane molecule (bottom).

to gain, lose, or share electrons until they have just the right number of electrons so that they have only full shells, without any extra electrons and without electrons missing from any orbitals in the full shells. If only the first shell is full, an atom has two electrons. If the first two shells are full, 10 electrons. If the first three are full, 28 electrons, and so on. Significantly, these numbers relate to the numbers of elements in the rows of the Periodic Table of the Elements. With this one fact, we can understand a great deal about how atoms of one element bond with atoms of other elements to form compounds.

The position of the electrons within an atom also has a lot to do with how an atom behaves. One aspect of atoms that affects the position of electrons is the shapes of the different orbitals. Some orbitals are spherically shaped, some are shaped in pairs of protruding lobes often described as “dumbbells,” and some are shaped as rings. There are other more complex shapes as well. Since all electrons repel each other due to their negative electrical charge, electrons located in the lobes of dumbbell-shaped orbitals push away from each other, resulting in molecules with very particular shapes. Examples are the water, ammonia, and methane molecules illustrated in Figure I.1.

Electron position is also affected by the fact that within molecules some atoms attract electrons more strongly than others, an effect denoted by a value called the *electronegativity* of the atom. We discuss this in more detail later, but I will mention an important example here to illustrate this point. The electronegativity values for oxygen and hydrogen are 3.44 and 2.20, respectively. This means the oxygen atoms in water molecules attract electrons more strongly than the hydrogen atoms do. As a result, the four bonding electrons in the molecule crowd over toward the oxygen atom, making the oxygen region of the water molecule more electrically negative and the hydrogen

regions more electrically positive. These differences make the water molecule electrically imbalanced—or *polar*, as we say—negative on one side and positive at the ends on the other side, as illustrated in Figure I.2. In this diagram, the arrows point from the positive regions of the molecule toward the negative region of the molecule.

The shapes and polarizations affect atomic behavior because of electrical attractions and repulsions, the basic theme we discuss in the next section.

I.1.2 Chemistry Is All About Electrical Forces

You know that there are two types of electrical charge: protons are positively charged, and electrons are negatively charged by exactly the same amount. Like charges repel each other (such as two positive charges) and opposite charges attract (positive and negative).

The reason these electrical attractions and repulsions are so important for chemistry is that atoms and molecules are as prickly as porcupines with charges that repel or attract other charges. Some of these attractions and repulsions are stable and long-lasting, like the attraction between positive sodium ions and negative chlorine ions that holds together the atoms in the crystal lattice of sodium chloride (table salt). All ionic compounds are held together in rigid

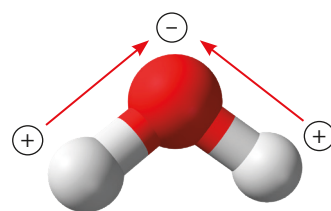


Figure I.2. The higher electronegativity of oxygen atoms compared to hydrogen atoms results in the polar water molecule.

crystal structures by the strong forces of electrical attraction and repulsion between the ions in the crystal lattice.

Other electrical interactions are sort of semi-stable, you might say, given the fact that molecules are moving around all the time. The world-class example of this is *hydrogen bonding*, which we examine in detail later. The most common example of hydrogen bonding takes us back to the polar water molecule described in the previous section. Since water molecules are polar, the positive regions of one water molecule are attracted toward the negative regions of other water molecules, as illustrated in Figure I.3.

The importance of the hydrogen bonding phenomenon cannot be overstated. Water is everywhere, and thus so is hydrogen bonding. Hydrogen bonding explains why so many things dissolve in water, it explains why water travels upwards against the force of gravity when soaking into the fibers of a towel, and it explains why water gets less dense right before it freezes (which in turn explains why ice floats). Figure I.4 is a model of how the water molecules are arranged in ice. The dashed lines in the figure indicate the hydrogen bonds between water molecules. The result of these bonds is the three-dimensional, hexagonal structure of ice.

There are several other ways electrical forces between atoms and molecules are made manifest. In general, these different attractions and repulsions are called *intermolecular forces*. There is an electron cloud around every atom (except in the case of a hydrogen atom that has lost its only electron due to ionization). There is also an electron cloud around and between the atoms of every molecule. As the electrons swarm around in these clouds, there are moments when some regions in the molecule are more negatively charged because of electrons crowding together. There are other moments when regions are more positively charged because electrons have temporarily moved away and the positive charge on the protons in atomic nuclei are dominant in the area. These electron movements and crowding go on all

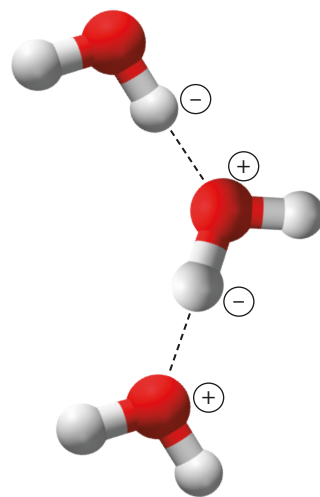


Figure I.3. Hydrogen bonding in water molecules. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds between water molecules.

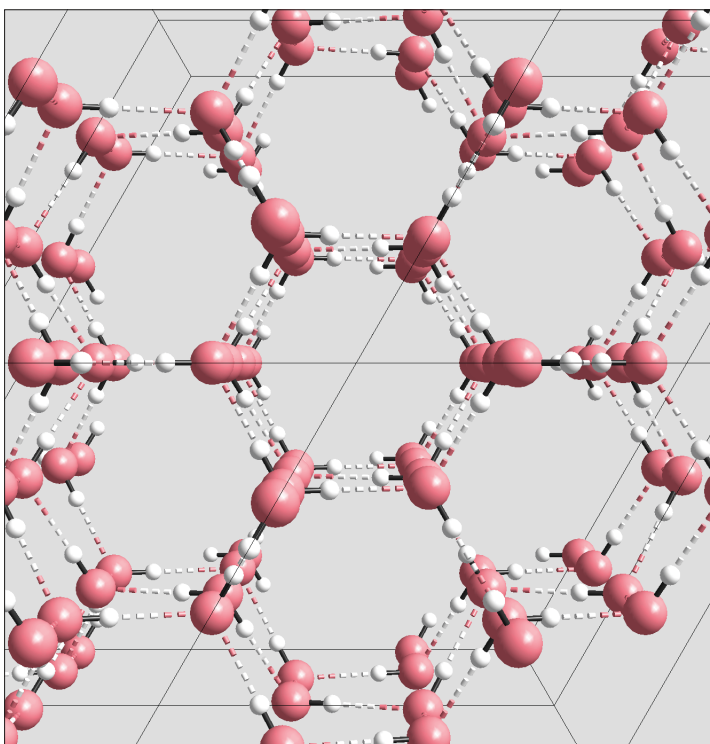
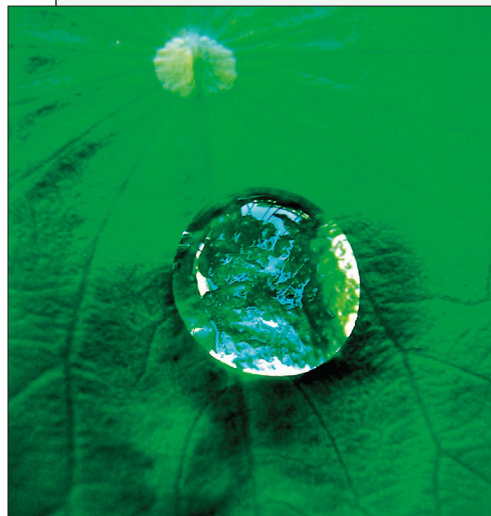


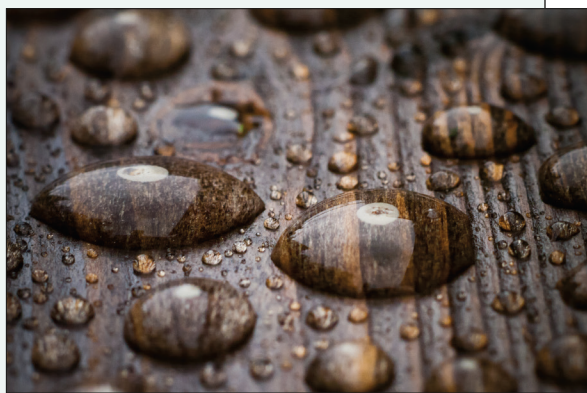
Figure I.4. The crystal structure in ordinary water ice. In this model, oxygen atoms are red and hydrogen atoms are white. Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines. Thick black lines indicate the bonding of hydrogen to oxygen inside individual water molecules.

Hmm... Interesting.**Why water forms beads**

As described in this chapter, the polarity of water molecules makes them cling to one another. When nonpolar molecules are in contact with water, the water molecules are attracted to each other but not to the nonpolar molecules. The molecules in waxy leaves and oil-based wood finishing products are nonpolar. When water molecules rest on a surface of nonpolar molecules, they cling to each other but not to the surface, and the result is the formation of water drops. Small drops are nearly spherical be-



cause this shape minimizes the energy between the molecules. Larger drops flatten out due to their greater weight.



Nonpolar molecules do not dissolve in water. The attractions between the polar water molecules squeeze out the nonpolar molecules, causing the two substances to separate. This is why oil and vinegar separate—oil molecules are nonpolar and vinegar is mostly water.

the time and at extremely high speeds, giving rise to ever-changing patterns of intermolecular forces.

1.1.3 Chemistry Is All About Minimizing Energy

One of the primary drivers causing atoms to do what they do is the natural tendency of all things to minimize the energy associated with the state they are in. Minimizing energy is a concept that explains a great deal of chemical behavior. Here we look at several examples of objects in different energy states. Then we apply the concept of minimizing energy to phenomena we see occurring in chemistry.

To begin, in a previous science course you may have studied different forms of potential energy. For example, gravitational potential energy is the energy an object has after being lifted up in a gravitational field. Figure 1.5 shows a ball up on the side of the hill. The ball is trapped in a small valley or depression. The ball is located up above the ground, so it

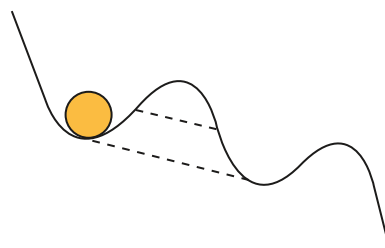


Figure 1.5. The ball is trapped in the lowest-energy region in its vicinity. However, if a tunnel to a lower-energy region opens up, the ball goes there.

has gravitational potential energy. The ball always acts to reduce its potential energy if given a chance. If a tunnel opens up to a lower energy state, the ball goes there, releasing potential energy into some other form of energy (such as kinetic energy) as it goes. Another way for the ball to release potential energy and move to a lower state is for someone to hit it or kick it so that it has enough kinetic energy to get over the small hill where it is trapped. The point is that given the chance, the ball releases potential energy and moves to a lower energy state.

Another example of this idea is shown in Figure I.6. A cone held on its point has potential energy that is released if the cone is released and allowed to fall. In this case, the cone doesn't even need any kind of push or kick; it spontaneously moves to the lower energy state (laying down on its side) if released.

As a third example, consider the act of stretching a rubber band. To stretch out a rubber band, you have to supply energy. That is, you have to do mechanical work on the rubber band. If you release the stretched rubber band, it spontaneously contracts back to its lower energy (unstretched) state.

Let's now apply the idea of minimizing energy to a familiar chemical reaction: the combustion of hydrogen to produce water. The reactants are molecules of hydrogen and oxygen. Each of these gases exists as diatomic molecules, meaning that each hydrogen molecule is a pair of hydrogen atoms bonded together, and each oxygen molecule is a pair of oxygen atoms bonded together, as illustrated in Figure I.7. At room temperature, these gas molecules zoom around inside their container, colliding with one another several billion times per second, but otherwise nothing else happens.

In terms of the energy of these molecules, they are in a situation similar to the ball in Figure I.5: there are lower energy states the molecules can go to, releasing energy in the process, but they can't get there without a boost of energy to get the process started. Now, if a spark or flame is introduced to this gas mixture, the heat from the spark or flame excites the nearby molecules, causing them to move much faster and slam into each other with enough energy to break the bonds holding the molecules together. The result—which only lasts for a tiny fraction of a second—is a soup of unbonded gas atoms.

At this point, we have a situation similar to the stretched rubber band the instant after being released, before it has had a chance to shrink. Electrical attractions between the protons and electrons in the isolated atoms of oxygen and hydrogen draw the atoms toward each other at an extremely high rate. Consider the collapse of the rubber band after it is released. It collapses to its unstretched state—a lower energy state—releasing energy in the process. The energy released might result in a snap (kinetic energy) that stings your hand and a sound wave (kinetic energy in moving air molecules) producing a snapping sound. Just as the relaxed rubber band is at a lower energy state and releases energy to get there, the hydrogen and oxygen atoms collapse together to the lowest energy state they can find, which is to form water molecules (H_2O). As they do so, they release a lot of energy in the

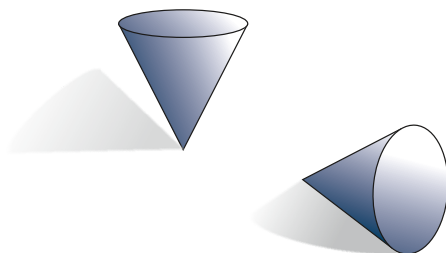


Figure I.6. The cone on the left is in a higher energy state. When released, it falls to the lower energy state shown on the right.

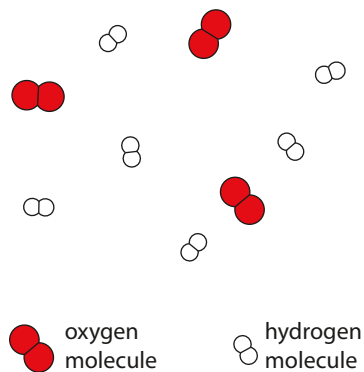


Figure I.7. Diatomic oxygen and hydrogen gas molecules.



Figure I.8. Energy released as heat and light as hydrogen and oxygen atoms combine to form water molecules.

form of light and heat and all this happens in an instant. This is the explosion of hydrogen, captured in the photograph of Figure I.8.

This release of heat indicates the reaction is *exothermic*—the reaction releases energy. When considering the way energy relates to various chemical processes, I have found it very helpful to remember the rubber band and to compare it in my mind to the way positive and negative ions are attracted to each other. If separated positive and negative ions are released and allowed to fly together, energy is released—the light and heat of the exothermic reaction—as the ions move to a lower energy state. To separate them, one has to pull them apart by putting in energy (doing work on them) and thus

moving them to a higher energy state—just like stretching the rubber band. This is an *endothermic* process, where energy is being absorbed by the ions. The most well-known example of an endothermic chemical reaction is the photosynthesis reaction that occurs in plants, depicted in Figure I.9.

And I can't help pointing out in passing the exquisite elegance of the photosynthesis reaction, a process both simple and incredibly complex that happens automatically and continuously all over the world. Consider the care with which God placed oxygen-breathing creatures like ourselves on a planet covered with oxygen-producing vegetation. Of course, every school kid learns about photosynthesis, but do we also learn that the delicate balance displayed everywhere in the environment around us in creation is a tremendous gift? I encourage you, as a young student made in God's image, to give thanks and worship to our loving Creator for this most wonderful gift!

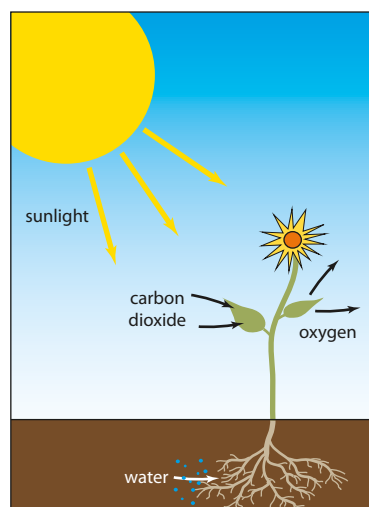
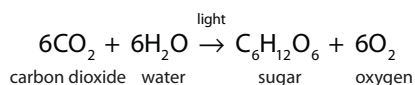


Figure I.9. The photosynthesis reaction is endothermic, as light from the sun is used by plants to convert water and carbon dioxide into sugar and oxygen.

There are two more important concepts about the role of energy in chemistry to note here. The first involves a quantity called *entropy*. Entropy is a term that originated in the field of thermodynamics. Entropy is a measure of the *disorder* present in a system, and the second law of thermodynamics states that left to themselves, physical processes go in a direction that increases the entropy (disorder) in the system. As an example, consider a glass of water you may be holding in your hand versus a broken glass on the floor with water splashed everywhere. While the glass is intact with the water contained in it, the system of glass and water is in an orderly state. When you release the glass, disorder increases—the glass breaks and the water goes everywhere on the floor. If you leave the mess like this, the disorder continues to increase: the water evaporates and the water molecules are not even together any more at all. Instead, they are randomly distributed around in the atmosphere. And with time, the chunks of glass get trampled and broken more and more until the remnants of the glass are completely gone. You will never see this process occur in reverse!

For some chemical processes, the minimizing of energy and the increase of entropy both pull in the same direction.

In other cases, they try to pull the system in opposite directions. This sets up a sort of tug of war, and the process goes in the most favorable direction. We discuss this in more detail later.

Finally, some detail is in order regarding the boundaries surrounding energy minimization. Try this little thought experiment: imagine a hydrogen ion, which is simply a proton with its positive charge. Nearby is a negatively charged electron, as illustrated in Figure I.10. Since these particles have opposite charges, they are strongly attracted to each other, and since the proton's mass is 1,836 times greater than the electron's mass, the electron dashes toward the proton while the proton essentially stays put, waiting for the electron to arrive. You might expect that the electron would crash right into the proton, bringing the potential energy between them right down to zero. But this is not what happens.

In 1905, Albert Einstein theorized that energy is *quantized*—it comes in discrete chunks or packets. Since 1905, a host of scientists have explored the quantization of energy, confirming Einstein's proposal over and over and giving birth to the now well-developed theory of quantum mechanics. What quantum mechanics suggests for our proton-electron scenario is that an electron in an orbital of an atom cannot possess just any old amount of energy; it can only possess particular values of energy. In the context of dropping into one of the orbitals surrounding the proton, the electron can only possess an amount of energy corresponding to the one of the energies of the proton's orbitals. The bottom line is that instead of crashing into the proton and sticking to it like cat hair sticking to your pants, the electron instead pops into the lowest energy orbital available around the proton and stays there, captive, buzzing around furiously like a bee in a bottle. (But though this analogy may be suggestive, it is strictly metaphorical. Electrons are not at all like bees. For one thing, they don't have wings. And they don't make honey, either.)



Figure I.10. Oppositely charged particles strongly attracted to each other.

1.1.4 Chemistry Is All About Whole Number Ratios of Atoms

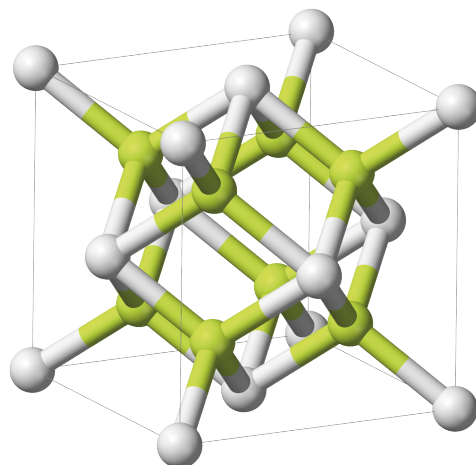
It is strange to think that even as recently as the beginning of the 20th century there was no consensus among scientists as to whether atoms even existed. In 1803, English scientist John Dalton put forward the first detailed, scientific atomic theory. Dalton proposed that all material substances are composed of atoms, and that the way different compounds are formed is by atoms combining together. Since various substances are composed of discrete, individual particles and not just a continuum of matter, there is always a whole number of each type of atom in the substance.

Although many scientists throughout the 19th century refused to accept the existence of atoms, we now agree that Dalton was correct. Compounds do form with whole-number ratios of the atoms involved. (Back then, those who accepted the existence of atoms were called “atomists.” Today, everyone is an atomist, so we don't need a name for this view any more.) As an example, sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4 , has two hydrogen atoms, one sulfur atom, and four oxygen atoms in every molecule, so the ratio of oxygen atoms to hydrogen atoms in the molecule is 2 to 1. The ratio of oxygen atoms to sulfur atoms is 4 to 1. Of course, there are strange exceptions to every rule, including this one. Nevertheless, it is correct to say that just about every compound, regardless of how the atoms are structured, consists of atoms of different elements joined together in predictable whole-number ratios. Figure I.11 contains a photo of the mineral fluorite along with a computer model of the crystal structure of fluorite, or calcium fluoride, which has the formula CaF_2 . In this crystal structure, the ratio of fluorine atoms to calcium atoms is 2 to 1. The caption in the figure explains this, using the computer model of the crystal structure as an aid.

The fact that atoms combine in whole-number ratios is a powerful computational tool. When we get into the math behind chemical reactions (*stoichiometry*, as it is called), we will ap-

Introduction

Figure I.11. The ratio of fluorine atoms (yellow) to calcium atoms (white) in fluorite is 2 to 1. To see this, note that there are 8 fluorine atoms completely within this crystalline cell. Each of the 8 calcium atoms at the corners is shared by 8 cells—the one shown and 7 other surrounding cells. Eight calcium atoms each shared 8 ways contributes a net of 1 calcium atom to the cell.



Then there are 6 calcium atoms on the faces of the cell, each shared by the cell shown and the adjacent cell. Six atoms each shared 2 ways contributes a net of 3 atoms to the cell. In total then, this cell claims 8 fluorine atoms and 4 calcium atoms, a ratio of 2 to 1.

peal often to the whole-number ratios of atoms involved in order to compute how much of one compound reacts with a given quantity of another compound.

1.1.5 Chemistry Is All About Modeling

Chemical reactions are happening around us all the time. Just pour a can of soft drink into a glass and watch the carbonic acid (H_2CO_3) in the can convert into the carbon dioxide bubbles and water (CO_2 and H_2O). Light up the gas grill and watch methane (CH_4) reacting with the oxygen (O_2) in the air to produce carbon dioxide (CO_2) and water (H_2O). Heat up a pan of cake batter in an oven and the rather complicated molecules in the batter reacts and change into different complicated molecules in a cake.

In these examples, even though we see bulk materials going into a chemical reaction (the *reactants*) and resulting from the chemical reaction (the *products*), we are not able to see the actual atoms and molecules as they zoom around, combining with and separating from each other. Understanding the behavior of things we cannot see is tricky business.

As mentioned in the previous section, even in recent scientific history the existence of atoms was debated for a hundred years. The issue was finally resolved with experiments in the early 20th century that gave more and more support to the theory that material substances were composed of atoms. We certainly know a lot more today about atoms and their internal structure than we did just a few decades ago. We can even put this knowledge to use in designing amazing new engineering materials, specialty drugs, and even chemical delivery systems to get the drugs into our bodies. But there remains much we do not understand about atoms.

It is helpful to think of science as the process of building “mental models” of the natural world. These mental models are called *theories*. The information we use to build our mental models—scientific facts—comes from experiments, observations, and inferences from these.

Since chemistry deals so much with atoms and molecules, which we can't see, we are almost completely dependent on inferences to develop atomic models describing how the atomic world works. Knowing that the gunpowder in a firecracker explodes when ignited doesn't require a

model. It is obvious to all of us that gunpowder is explosive. But *why* is it explosive? What are the rules governing how the atoms in those compounds behave? Understanding why gunpowder explodes does require a model. And the models we work with in chemistry come at us from two different directions.

First, there is the information we gather from experiments. Chemical experimentation has been going on for hundreds of years. In the early days of the scientific revolution, scientists were amazed to discover quantitative laws such as Dalton's whole number ratios and the inverse relationship between the pressure and volume of a gas, a relationship known as Boyle's Law. Second, there is the theoretical modeling that occurs when scientists attempt to apply physical principles from quantum mechanics, thermodynamics, and statistical mechanics to the solution of chemical problems. The shapes and sizes of the atomic orbitals, which we address in Chapter 1, are an example of this type of theoretical modeling.

The theoretical models developed by scientists are the basis for our entire understanding of how the natural world functions. Successful theories are those that account for the facts we know and lead to new hypotheses (predictions) that can be put to the test. It is helpful to think about the relationship between facts, theories, hypotheses, and experiments as illustrated in Figure I.12. This diagram illustrates what I call the *Cycle of Scientific Enterprise*. It is important for every student to develop a correct understanding of the kind of knowledge scientific study provides for us. The *goal* of science is to uncover the truth about how nature works, but scientific theories are always works in progress. Even our best theories are provisional and subject to change. For

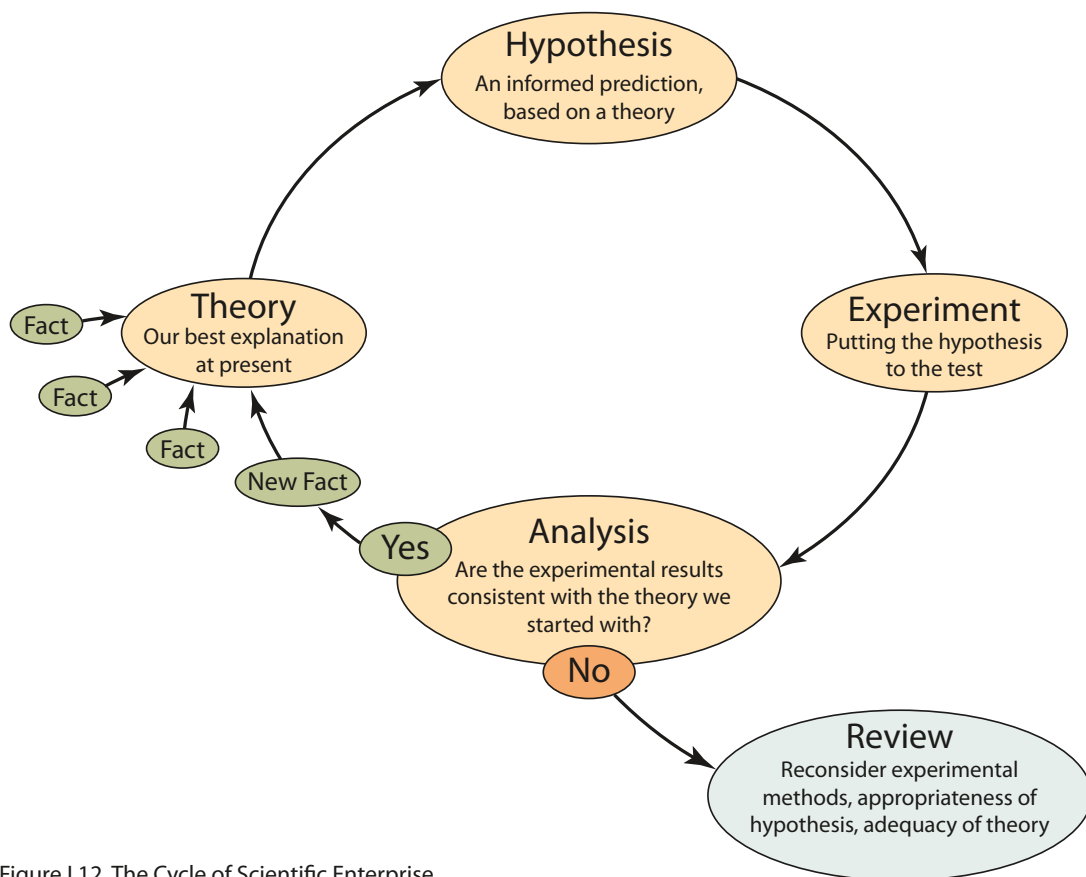


Figure I.12. The Cycle of Scientific Enterprise.

this reason, science is not in the business of making truth claims about scientific knowledge. Science is in the business of modeling how nature works with theories based on research.

As our theories develop over time, our hope is that they get closer and closer to the truth—the amazing and profound truth about mysteries such as what protons and electrons are, why they have the properties they have, and how the two most successful theories of the 20th century—quantum mechanics and general relativity—can be reconciled with each other. But the truth about nature is always out in front of us somewhere, always outside our grasp. To know the truth about nature we would have to understand nature as God understands it. We are nowhere close to that.

Here are some definitions to keep in mind as you consider the models we discuss in future chapters.

Fact A proposition based on a large amount of scientific data that is correct so far as we know. Facts are discovered by experiment, observation, and inferences from experiments and observations. Facts can and do change as new scientific knowledge—new data—is acquired. Since facts are always subject to change, we generally avoid terms like *true* or *proven*. Instead, we say a fact is correct so far as we know.

Theory A mental model that accounts for the data (facts) in a certain field of research, and attempts to relate them together, interpret them, and explain them. Scientific theories are successful if they repeatedly allow scientists to form new hypotheses that can be put to experimental test. *Successful theories are the glory and goal of science.* Nevertheless, theories, like facts, are provisional and subject to change. Indeed, theories are almost constantly evolving as research continues. And as with facts, when referring to theories we avoid terms like *true* or *proven*. Instead, we speak in terms of how successful theories have been in generating hypotheses that are confirmed by experiments. A widely accepted scientific theory should be understood as our best explanation at present—our best *model* of how nature works.¹

Hypothesis An informed prediction about what will happen in certain circumstances. Every hypothesis is based on a particular theory. It is hypotheses that are tested in scientific experiments.

Experiment A test designed to confirm or disconfirm a particular hypothesis. If a hypothesis is confirmed through experiment, and if other scientists are able to validate the confirmation by replicating the experiment, then the new facts gained from the experimental results become additional support for the theory the hypothesis came from.

Chemistry is a subject loaded with facts and heavily based on theories—*models*—that we know are incomplete descriptions of nature. That is why the research continues, as our models (hopefully) get nearer and nearer to the truth.

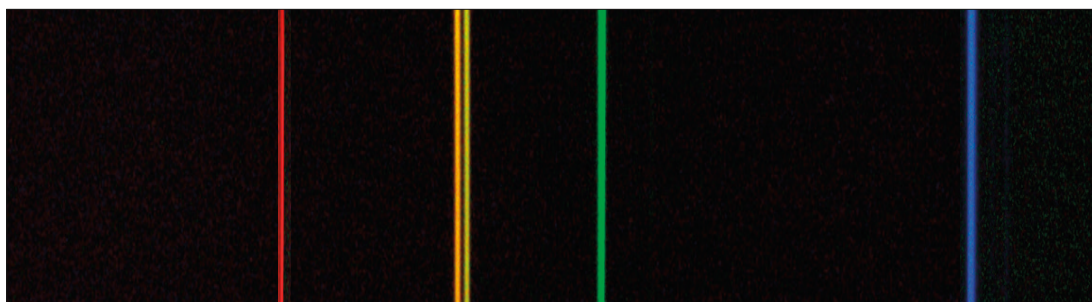
1.2 Conclusion

The goal of this introductory chapter is simply to alert you to some of the key concepts undergirding our understanding of chemical processes. Over and over in the coming chapters, you will find that thinking about the content in terms of one or more of these central ideas will help you develop a better grasp of the material.

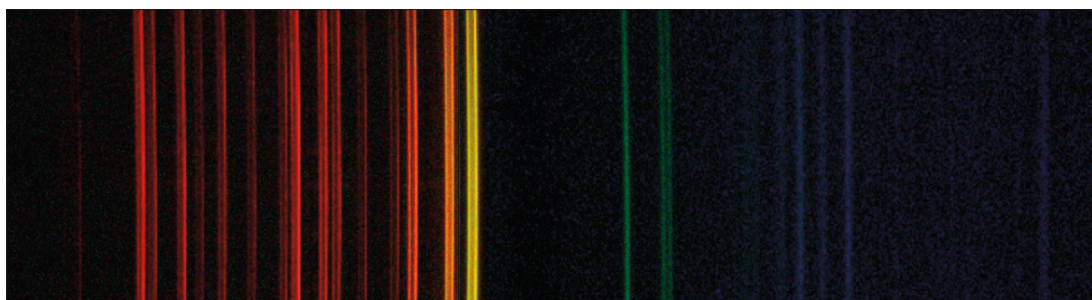
¹ Note that the term *law* is simply an obsolete term for what we call a theory. For historical reasons, the term is still in use.

Chapter 1

Atomic Structure



Hg



Ne

When excited by heat or electricity, the atoms of each element emit a specific, unique set of wavelengths of light—the atomic spectrum for that element. The visible spectra emitted by mercury and neon are shown above. Atomic spectra were known and studied in the 19th century, but there was no theory at that time that could explain the source of the colors different elements emit. Then in 1913, Niels Bohr published his new model of the atom, locating the electrons in atoms in specific energy levels. Bohr theorized that when excited, electrons jump to higher energy levels, and that to drop back down to a lower energy level an electron emits a packet of electromagnetic energy—what we now call a photon. In 1901, Max Planck had published the equation relating specific amounts of energy to specific wavelengths (colors) of light. Bohr's successful explanation for atomic spectra opened the door for detailed study of the internal structure of atoms.

The two spectra shown above were imaged in the Laser Optics Lab at Regents School of Austin in Austin, Texas.

Objectives for Chapter 1

After studying this chapter and completing the exercises, you should be able to do each of the following tasks, using supporting terms and principles as necessary.

SECTION 1.1

1. Describe the electromagnetic spectrum and state approximate wavelengths for the ends of the visible spectrum.
2. Define *quantum* and explain what it means for energy to be quantized.
3. Given the Planck relation and Planck's constant, determine the energy of a photon of a given wavelength and vice versa.

SECTION 1.2

4. Describe the Bohr model of the atom and relate how the model explained the phenomenon of atomic spectra.

SECTION 1.3

5. Distinguish qualitatively between the orbital energies in the hydrogen atom and those of other atoms.
6. Describe the two main ways that atoms can possess energy.
7. State and describe the four quantum numbers required to describe the quantum state of an electron.
8. For the first three principle quantum numbers, describe the orbitals available for electrons.
9. State the Aufbau principle, the Madelung rule, and Hund's rule, and relate them to the way electrons are located in atoms.
10. State the Pauli exclusion principle and explain its relationship to the placement of electrons in atoms.

SECTION 1.4

11. Given the periodic table, write electron configurations (full and condensed) and draw orbital diagrams for all elements in the first five periods (including the nine *d*-block elements with anomalous configurations).

SECTION 1.5

12. Given the periodic table, determine the number of protons, electrons, and neutrons in the atoms of a given nuclide.
13. Given isotope mass and abundance data, calculate the atomic mass of an element.
14. Define the unified atomic mass unit, *u*, and state two definitions for the mole.
15. Calculate the molar mass of a compound or molecule, and calculate the mass in grams of a given mole quantity of a compound or molecule, or vice versa.
16. Calculate the number of atoms or molecules in a given quantity of substance.
17. Given mass data for an unknown compound, determine the percent composition and empirical formula of the compound.
18. Use the percent composition along with the molar mass or molecular mass of an unknown compound to determine the molecular formula for the compound.
19. Correctly use the rules for significant digits in computations, including the addition rule.

1.1 Atomic Spectra

1.1.1 The Electromagnetic Spectrum

Understanding our present theory of atomic structure and the story of how it unfolded requires a basic understanding of the electromagnetic spectrum. We thus begin this chapter with a brief review of this topic.

The spectrum of visible light is shown in Figure 1.1. The visible spectrum runs through the colors of the rainbow—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet—and includes wavelengths from about 750 nm (red) down to about 400 nm (violet).

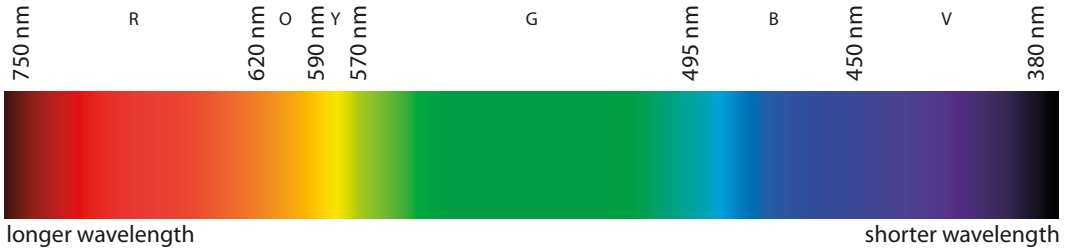


Figure 1.1. Colors and approximate wavelength ranges in the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Visible light is just a small portion of a vast spectrum of electromagnetic radiation that occurs in nature. Figure 1.2 shows the most important regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, from radiation with wavelengths in the range of 1 km, the region of AM Radio waves, down to the high-energy Gamma Rays, with wavelengths in the range of 1 picometer (pm). (The metric prefix *pico*–, which may be new to you, means 10^{-12} . One picometer is one thousandth of a nanometer.) As you see from the figure, the solar emission spectrum runs from wavelengths of about 1 mm down to wavelengths of about $0.1 \mu\text{m}$. The solar spectrum includes the infrared, visible, and ultraviolet regions, and is strongest in the middle of the visible spectrum.

The contemporary theory of light (a shorter term for electromagnetic radiation in general)

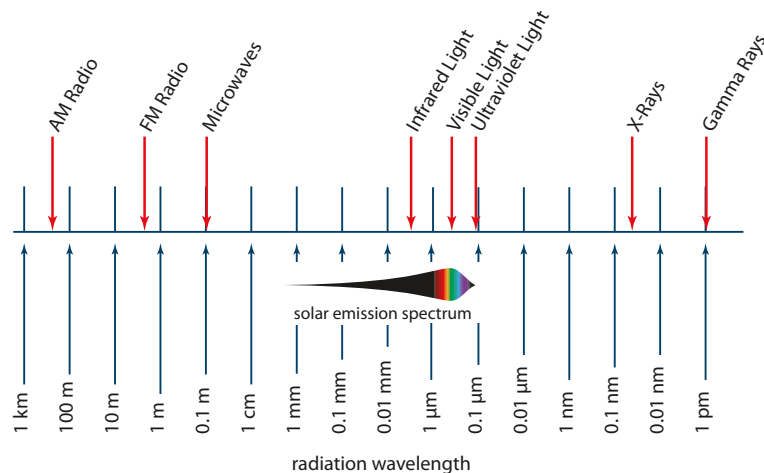


Figure 1.2. The electromagnetic spectrum.

holds that light exhibits both wave-like properties and particle-like properties. Since light behaves like waves, we can refer to the wavelengths of particular colors. But light also behaves like particles. We call these particles *photons*, and each photon represents a single packet of energy. The packet of energy in a photon is also called a *quantum* of energy. (The plural is *quanta*.)

When thinking of light as waves, we characterize those waves by the wavelength. When considering light as discrete packets of energy, we tend to think of the amount of energy in each packet (each photon). It turns out there is a simple equation relating these together.

It was in 1901 that German physicist Max Planck (Figure 1.3) conceived of treating energy as if it were quantized. He was working on a different problem at the time (the so-called blackbody radiation problem), and he did not imagine that energy really *is* quantized. However, he introduced what he thought was a mathematical trick—the quantization of energy—and in the process, quantum theory was born. Planck won the Nobel Prize in Physics for this work in 1918. (It's ironic, isn't it, to win the Nobel Prize for a major discovery that the scientist thinks is just a mathematical trick?) Four years later in 1905, German physicist Albert Einstein (Figure 1.4) proposed that energy really is quantized and used this idea to solve another problem (explaining the photoelectric effect). For this, Einstein won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921.

The equation Planck introduced is called the *Planck relation*. This important equation is:

$$E = hf \quad (1.1)$$

In this equation, E is the energy in the photon in joules (J). The next term in the equation, h , is a constant known as the *Planck constant*. The approximate value of h is

$$h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s} \quad (1.2)$$

The last term in the Planck relation, f , is the frequency of the wave. As you may recall from physics, the frequency and wavelength of a wave are related by the equation

$$v = \lambda f \quad (1.3)$$

In this equation, v is the velocity of the wave, which is the speed of light in this case (2.9979×10^8 m/s). The wavelength is represented by the Greek letter λ (lambda, the Greek lower-case letter l). If we solve Equation (1.3) for the frequency and insert it into the Planck relation, we have

$$E = \frac{hv}{\lambda} \quad (1.4)$$

With this equation, we can compute the energy in a single photon of light at any wavelength, or vice versa. To illustrate such a calculation, we have our first example problem. As you see below, example problems in this text are set off by two red triangles. In presenting this example, I am assuming you are:

- familiar with the SI System of units and unit prefixes
- proficient at performing unit conversions
- proficient at applying the basic rules for the use of significant digits in measurements and computations (except for the addition rule, covered later in the chapter).

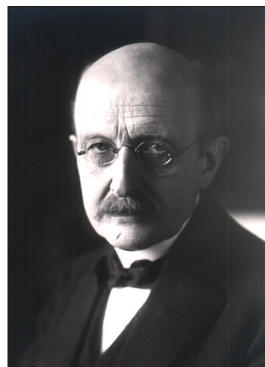


Figure 1.3. German physicist Max Planck (1858–1947).

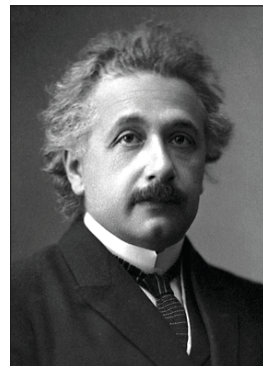


Figure 1.4. German physicist Albert Einstein (1879–1955).

If you are lacking skills in any of these areas, please refer to Appendix A for a tutorial.

▼ Example 1.1

The bright blue line in the mercury vapor spectrum (see the upper image on the opening page of this chapter) has a wavelength of 435.8 nm. Determine the energy contained in a single photon of this blue light.

We begin by writing down the given information and the unknown we seek to find.

$$\lambda = 435.8 \text{ nm}$$

$$E = ?$$

Next, we convert the given wavelength into the MKS¹ length unit, meters.

$$\lambda = 435.8 \text{ nm} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ m}}{10^9 \text{ nm}} = 4.358 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$$

From this value, along with the Planck constant and the speed of light, we calculate the energy of a photon with this wavelength.

$$E = \frac{h\nu}{\lambda} = \frac{(6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}) \left(2.9979 \times 10^8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \right)}{4.358 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}} = 4.558 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

This is an extremely small amount of energy, less than a billionth of a billionth of a joule. The given wavelength and the value for the Planck constant each have four significant digits. Thus, the result is stated with a precision of four significant digits.



1.1.2 Energy in Atoms

As mentioned in the caption on the opening page of this chapter, the atoms of every element emit a specific set of colors when excited. In the context of atomic theory, the term *excitation* refers to the absorption of energy by atoms, either from electromagnetic radiation (light) or from collisions with other particles.

Let's spend a moment considering the ways an individual atom can possess energy. There are two basic mechanisms by which atoms can possess energy. First, all atoms possess *kinetic energy*, the energy associated with motion. Kinetic energy in atoms is illustrated in Figure 1.5. In solids, the atoms are fixed in place and are not free to move around, so the kinetic energy is manifest in the atoms' vibrations. In liquids and gases (fluids), atoms are free to move around, so the energy possessed by atoms in fluids is in their translational kinetic energy. Also, when atoms in fluids are bound together in molecules, the molecules can tumble and rotate, so some of their kinetic energy is in the energy of rotation. Atoms in molecules also vibrate, just as balls attached to one another by springs can wiggle back and forth. In all these cases, the kinetic energy in atoms and

¹ MKS stands for meter-kilogram-second. The MKS system is a subset of the metric or SI System of units. Using MKS units for computations is always wise practice because the units of measure in the computation will all be consistent with each other, and the result of the computation always comes out in MKS units. For more on this, see Appendix A.

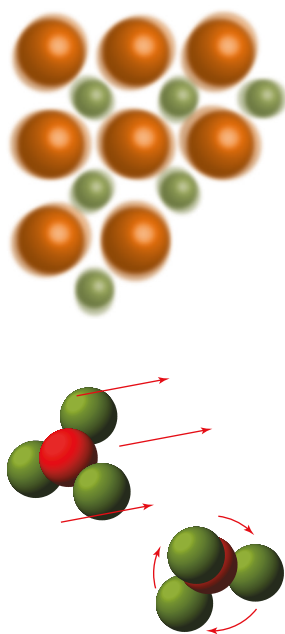


Figure 1.5. The atoms in the solid crystal at the top are blurred to illustrate their vibrations. The gas molecules at the bottom are translating and tumbling.

molecules correlates directly to their temperature. The hotter they are, the more vigorously they vibrate and the faster they move.

The second basic way an atom can possess energy is in the energies of the atom's electrons. As mentioned in the Introduction and Chapter 1 (and discussed in detail later in this chapter), the electrons in atoms are located in various orbitals, and different orbitals are associated with different amounts of electron energy. Atoms can absorb quanta of energy from the photons of electromagnetic radiation and from collisions with other particles, such as ions and free electrons. When an atom absorbs energy in this way, the quantum of energy absorbed by the atom is manifest in one or more of the atom's electrons moving into higher-energy orbitals. This is atomic excitation.

When an atom's electrons are all in their lowest-energy orbitals, the atom is said to be in the *ground state*. Excitation occurs when an atom absorbs a quantum of energy causing an electron to move to a higher-energy orbital. When this happens, the atom is said to be in an *excited state*. Atoms tend not to remain in excited states. Instead, after becoming excited an atom typically heads straight back to the ground state, generally by emitting the energy it absorbed in the form of one or more new photons.²

A newly emitted photon may not have the same amount of energy as the original quantum of energy the atom absorbed. To explain this, we need to introduce a commonly used graphical representation of the different energies electrons can possess. For now, let's call these *energy levels*. We will relate these more carefully to the energies of electrons in atoms in the next few sections.

Figure 1.6 is a diagram representing four different energy levels actually available to an electron in a hydrogen atom, labeled in the figure $n = 1$, $n = 2$, and so on. I explain this diagram carefully below, but first we need to pause here to revisit one of the points made in the Introduction. In Section I.3, I note that when an electron is

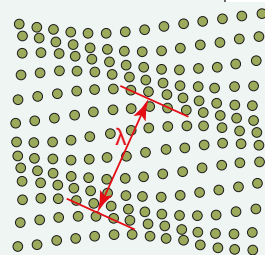
² In some substances, electrons in atoms can remain in excited states for an extended period of time. As the atoms in such a substance return to the ground state over time the substance gradually radiates the energy away. This is the way *phosphorescence* (glowing in the dark) works.

Hmm... Interesting.

Neon signs and phonons



When excited atoms in gases return to the ground state they do so by emitting photons. Neon signs are tubes of gas excited by high-voltage electricity. Their glowing colors are caused by the atoms returning to the ground state. When excited atoms in solids (and some liquids) return to the ground state, they can do so by emitting photons as gases do, but they can also emit *phonons*, packets of vibrational energy. Phonons can travel as waves through the crystal lattice in a solid, displacing the atoms from their equilibrium positions. In the image on the right, the wavelength of the emitted energy is shown in red (and the displacement of the atoms is greatly exaggerated).



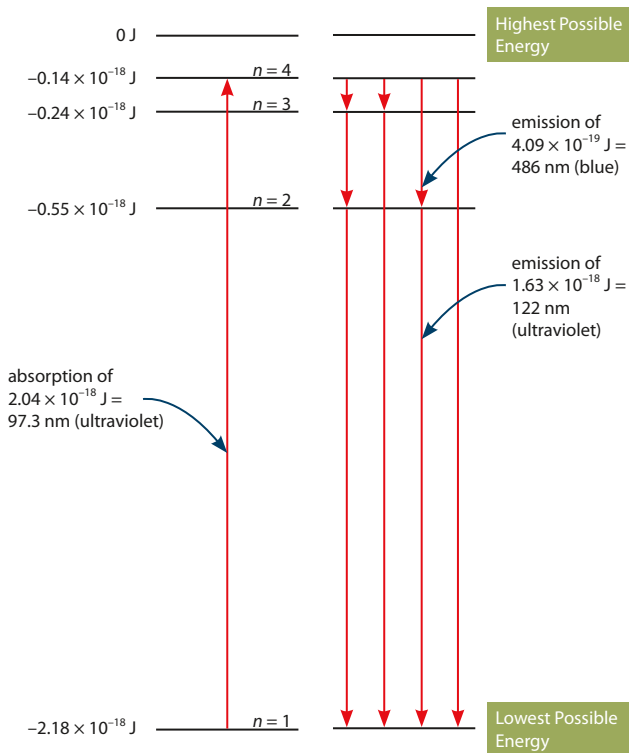


Figure 1.6. An energy-level diagram illustrating how quanta of energy are absorbed and released by electrons in hydrogen atoms.

sense that the electron's energy is set to zero when it is far away from the nucleus because at that point the electron really has nothing to do with that nucleus. But to be consistent with what we know about potential energy, the electron's energy must decrease as it enters the area near the nucleus, so its energy takes on increasingly negative values relative to the zero-energy reference.

Going back now to Figure 1.6, let's assume that an electron in a hydrogen atom is in the ground state, which means it has the lowest possible energy. Since hydrogen atoms only have one electron, this places the electron at the bottom of the figure at the first energy level, $n = 1$. An energy of $-2.18 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J}$ is the energy an electron has when it is in this first energy level. Assume now that this electron absorbs a quantum of energy equal to $2.04 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J}$ from an incoming photon, indicated by the arrow pointing upward on the left side of the figure. From the Planck relation, you can verify that this corresponds to a wavelength of 97.3 nm, placing this photon in the ultraviolet region of the electromagnetic spectrum. The electron is now in the fourth energy level. If you subtract the energy of $n = 1$ from that of $n = 4$, the difference is the amount of energy the electron absorbed, $2.04 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J}$.

Remember, energy in atoms is quantized. Electrons can only have certain specific values of energy, and the permissible values of energy an electron in a hydrogen atom can have (for the first four energy levels) are the energies listed down the left side of Figure 1.6. Very quickly the atom emits this energy in the form of new photons and the electron drops back down to the ground state. But as you can see from the right side of the figure, the electron in the hydrogen atom has four different ways of doing this.

held at a certain distance away from the positive nucleus, it has a high potential energy. As the electron is allowed to move closer to the nucleus, its potential energy decreases just as the gravitational potential energy of an object above the ground decreases with decreasing height. Since the electron's potential energy decreases as the electron moves closer to the nucleus, the electron releases energy as it gets closer and closer to the nucleus.

In discussions of the energies of electrons in atoms, it is customary to assign a reference value of 0 joules to the energy an electron has when it is completely free from the nucleus—in other words, when it is very far away. Then, since the electron's potential energy decreases as it gets closer to the nucleus, the energy an electron has is expressed as a negative value. This happens because instead of setting the potential energy to be zero at the nucleus, we set the zero energy reference to be when the electron is far away from the nucleus. So don't let the negative energy values bother you. It makes

First, the electron can release the smallest permissible amount of energy each time it emits a photon. This causes it to drop down one energy level at a time, emitting three separate photons on its way back to the ground state, as shown by the sequence of three downward pointing arrows leading from $n = 4$ to $n = 1$. Second, the electron can first drop from $n = 4$ to $n = 3$ and then drop to $n = 1$. Third, the electron can first drop from $n = 4$ to $n = 2$ and then drop to $n = 1$. For this possibility, the emitted amounts of energy are shown in the figure. The energy emitted when dropping from $n = 4$ to $n = 2$ is 4.09×10^{-19} J. Using the Planck relation, you can calculate the wavelength of a photon with this energy. Doing so gives a wavelength of 486 nm, which is in the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. A check of Figure 1.1 indicates that this wavelength corresponds to blue light. The drop from $n = 2$ to $n = 4$ is a much larger energy drop, 1.63×10^{-18} J. This energy corresponds to a wavelength of 122 nm, which is in the ultraviolet region and is not visible.

Finally, the electron can drop back to $n = 1$ by emitting 2.04×10^{-18} J, the same amount of energy it absorbed in the first place. This energy produces a new ultraviolet photon with the same wavelength as the photon originally absorbed by the atom.

Note from Equation (1.4) that energy and wavelength are inversely proportional. Longer wavelengths represent lower energies; shorter wavelengths represent higher energies. This relationship is illustrated in Figure 1.7.

The spectrum of wavelengths emitted by each element is unique, which means that light spectra can be used to identify the element's presence in a gas or solution. The science of such identifications is called *spectroscopy*.

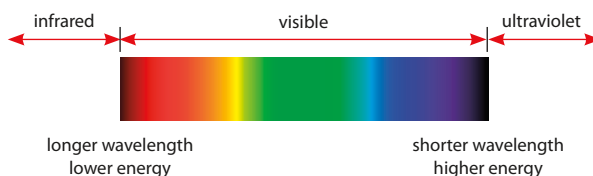


Figure 1.7. Wavelengths and energies in and near the visible spectrum.

1.1.3 The Hydrogen Atom

The hydrogen atom is the simplest atom, with only one electron, and thus it has been studied extensively. The wavelengths for the possible electron energy transitions in the first six energy levels of the hydrogen atom are shown in Figure 1.8. All the arrows in this diagram are shown pointing in both directions because the wavelengths shown can represent either the absorption or emission of energy. These are the energies hydrogen atoms can absorb and emit.

In 1885, Swiss mathematician and physicist Johann Balmer discovered the formula that predicts the lines in the visible hydrogen spectrum. This series of lines is now called the Balmer series. In 1888, Swedish physicist Johannes Rydberg worked out the more general formula for all the hydrogen wavelengths. The ultraviolet and infrared lines in the hydrogen spectrum were not known initially (because they are invisible). But in 1906, American physicist Theodore Lyman observed the ultraviolet series that bears his name, and in 1908, German physicist Friedrich Paschen observed the infrared series of lines in the hydrogen spectrum.

The Rydberg formula that predicts all these wavelengths has an interesting mathematical structure, and is worth showing here. Here it is:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = R \left(\frac{1}{n_1^2} - \frac{1}{n_2^2} \right) \quad (1.5)$$

The R in this equation is the so-called Rydberg constant ($1.097 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^{-1}$), and n_1 and n_2 represent the numbers for the two energy levels in question. Whenever I see mathematical patterns like this in nature, I am always reminded that the mathematical structure found everywhere in

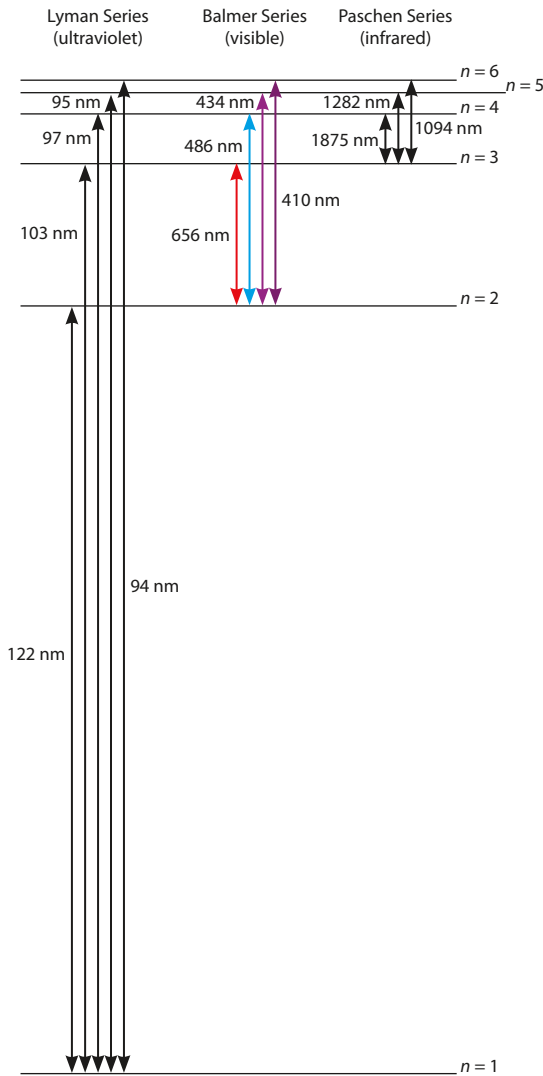


Figure 1.8. Wavelengths for electron transitions in the first six energy levels of the hydrogen atom.

shown in Figure 1.9. If you compare these numbers to the Periodic Table of the Elements shown on the inside back cover of this text, you see that the number of electrons in each energy level corresponds to the number of elements in each period (row) of the table: two in the first, eight in the second, eight in the third, and 18 in the fourth, etc.

As powerful as it is, the Bohr model was known to have weaknesses from the start. For one thing, there is no explanation for why electrons are able to stay in their orbits. Electrons moving in circles radiate energy, so one would think electrons in orbits would gradually lose energy, slow down, and spiral in to the nucleus. Another issue is that for atoms other than

nature could not have arisen apart from the hand of an intelligent Creator. The mathematics embedded in creation is strong evidence that the physical universe we are studying in our science courses is a great and beautiful gift, and as Nicolaus Copernicus said, was “built for us by the Best and most Orderly Workman of all.”

1.2 The Bohr Model of the Atom

As mentioned on the opening page of this chapter, Danish physicist Niels Bohr introduced his new model of the atom in 1913. This new atomic model was of tremendous importance in the development of atomic theory. Rydberg’s formula predicting the lines in the hydrogen spectrum had been known since 1888, but until Bohr’s model there was no theoretical basis for the observed spectrum.

In Bohr’s atomic model, the electrons orbit the nucleus like planets orbiting the sun. In the model, the electrons have fixed energies, the same energies as those shown in Figures 1.6 and 1.8. These different energy levels correspond to different orbits around the nucleus.

Bohr correctly described the cause of the specific lines in the emission spectra of atoms—electrons absorbing energy and moving to higher energy levels and then releasing photons at specific energies as they move back to lower energy levels.

Another significant feature of the Bohr model is the number of electrons that he permitted at each energy level. These numbers are

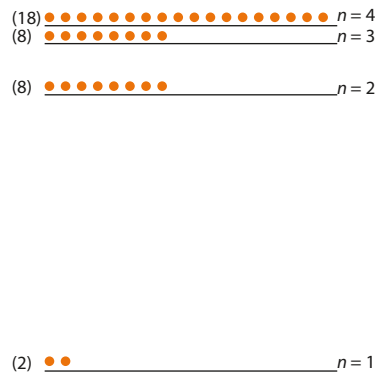


Figure 1.9. Number of permissible electrons in the first four energy levels of the Bohr model of the atom.

hydrogen, the energies between the energy levels do not match up precisely with the observed wavelengths in the emission spectra of elements.

1.3 The Quantum Model of the Atom

1.3.1 Schrödinger and Pauli

In 1926, Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger (Figure 1.10) published what is now called the *Schrödinger equation*. This was a landmark achievement and one of the hallmarks of 20th-century physics. For this work, Schrödinger received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1933.

Solutions to the Schrödinger equation are now understood to provide us with the details of the internal structure of energy levels in atoms. With the arrival of the Schrödinger equation, the *quantum model* of the atom began to unfold. The history of quantum physics is still being written. There are many mysteries associated with the behavior of electrons as described by the quantum model. But quantum theory has a colossally impressive string of achievements, and its success in predicting atomic behavior is undeniable. We know the quantum model will continue to evolve, and may some day even be replaced. But the details we consider in this section are now generally accepted as correct. Remember, chemistry is all about modeling—developing theories. Theories are explanations, and the quantum model is widely accepted as our best explanation of how atoms are structured.

In addition to Schrödinger's equation, there is one other theoretical milestone that we need to have in hand to understand the details to follow. In 1925, while Schrödinger was working on his equation, another Austrian physicist, Wolfgang Pauli (Figure 1.11) formulated what is now known as the *Pauli exclusion principle*. In short, *the Pauli exclusion principle holds that no two electrons in the same atom can occupy the same quantum state*. We will unpack this further as we go along. For this important contribution to quantum theory, Pauli won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1945.

1.3.2 Shells, Subshells, and Orbitals

The quantum state of an electron in an atom—its unique address, we might say, within the atomic quantum realm—is specified by four different *quantum numbers*. According to the Pauli exclusion principle, every electron in an atom has a unique quantum state. This is one of the laws of nature governing the way atoms are structured. This situation in atoms is analogous to postal addresses. Every postal customer in the U.S. has a unique address. For a house, this unique address requires four pieces of information—the street number, street name, city, and state. For an apartment complex, an apartment number is also required. (The zip code doesn't have any additional location information in it; it just helps speed things up.)

The physics behind these quantum numbers is quite complicated, and as an introductory chemistry student you would not normally be required to get much into that. However, introductory chemistry classes do generally now require students to learn the arrangement of shells, subshells, and orbitals in atoms for “energy levels” $n = 1$ through $n = 4$ because knowing this structure allows us to specify where the electrons are in an atom. And as you recall from the In-



Figure 1.10. Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger (1887–1961).



Figure 1.11. Austrian physicist Wolfgang Pauli (1900–1958).

roduction, chemistry is all about electrons! So here we go. There is a lot of detail in this section, and it is all important.

The phrase *energy levels* is in quotes just above for an important reason. We are transitioning now from the energy levels in Bohr's atomic model to those of the far more accurate quantum model. In Bohr's model, and in the hydrogen atom as we still understand it, there is only one energy level for each value of n . The quantum model is quite different, as we will see.

Recall from Figure 1.9 that the numbers of electrons permitted in the first four levels of Bohr's model are 2, 8, 8, and 18. These numbers correspond to the number of elements in the first four periods of the periodic table. Bohr was on the right track, but did not initially perceive the correct pattern. We now refer to n as the *principle quantum number*, and in every atom except hydrogen there are multiple energy levels associated with each value of n . As explained in detail below, the number of electrons allowed for each value of n is actually $2n^2$. This gives us 2, 8, 18, and 32 electrons in the various energy levels associated with $n = 1$ through $n = 4$.

The clusters of energy levels associated with each value of n are commonly called *shells*. As I state just above, the quantum state of an electron in an atom, including its energy, is specified by four quantum numbers; the principle quantum number—the shell number—is the first of them. So beginning with the principle quantum number you are already familiar with, here is a list of the names and other details for the four quantum numbers:

1. Principle Quantum Number, n

Values for n are the integers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ... These are the main clusters of energy levels in the atom, also called shells. So far as we know, there is no highest value for n .

2. Azimuthal Quantum Number, l

Within each shell except the first one ($n = 1$), there are *subshells*. The number of subshells in a shell is equal to the principle quantum number. For example, for $n = 3$ there are three subshells. Values for l are integers ranging from 0 to $(n - 1)$. Typically, these subshells are referred to by the letters s , p , d , f , and g rather than by the values of l . These common letter designations are shown Table 1.1. The azimuthal quantum numbers describe specific types of subshell configurations. So for example, within any shell the s subshell is always structured the same way. Likewise, the p subshell has the same general structure in every shell except $n = 1$ (since $n = 1$ doesn't have a p subshell). Again, the number of subshells in a given shell is equal to the principle quantum number. So, in the first shell there is one subshell, denoted as $1s$. In the $n = 2$ shell, there are two subshells, denoted as $2s$ and $2p$, and so on. (Note: The azimuthal quantum number is also sometimes called the *angular momentum quantum number*.)

l value	Common Letter Designation
0	s
1	p
2	d
3	f
4	g

Table 1.1. Letters used to designate values of the azimuthal quantum number, l .

3. Magnetic Quantum Number, m_l

Within each subshell (numbered l), the possible values for m_l are the integers ranging from $-l$ to l . So, in a subshell with $l = 2$, the values for m_l are -2 , -1 , 0 , 1 , and 2 . The magnetic quantum number is associated with specific shapes and orientations of orbitals within a subshell. A important point to note is that *any orbital in an atom can hold at most two electrons*.

4. Spin Projection Quantum Number, m_s

As you recall, the Pauli exclusion principle requires every electron in an atom to be in a unique quantum state. That is, each electron has a unique set of quantum numbers. And since each orbital can hold two electrons, we need one more piece of information to distinguish from one another the quantum states of the two electrons. This char-

acteristic is called *spin*. Unfortunately, it's a very misleading term because electrons aren't really spinning. In fact, it's pretty hard to say exactly *what* they are doing. But anyway, accepting spin as a real property analogous in some way to spinning, any two electrons in the same orbital have opposite spins. The two possible values for electron spin are $m_s = +1/2$ and $m_s = -1/2$, and we call these "spin up" and "spin down." At this point in your career you really don't need to worry about what these strange names and numbers mean. The fact is, if there are two electrons in the same orbital (and there can be at most two) one has spin up and one has spin down. This final quantum specification allows each electron in every atom to inhabit a unique quantum state.

All this information pertaining to the first three quantum numbers is summarized in Table 1.2. Hopefully your understanding of all these shells, subshells and orbitals will be enhanced by looking at images of computer models of the orbitals. Let's be a bit clearer about what these orbitals are: they represent the solutions to the Schrödinger equation for electrons in atoms with different energies. Table 1.3 depicts the orbitals in the various subshells associated with the first three shells, $n=1$ through $n=3$. Note first that in each shell there is an *s* orbital. These are spherical in shape. The models shown depict the sphere cut in half so you can see the relative sizes. If you look carefully at the *2s* orbital, you can see the tiny *1s* orbital inside it. And inside the *3s* orbital you can see both the *1s* and *2s* orbitals inside it. We are coming back to electron energy soon, but for now note that within any shell, the *s* orbital is the lowest energy orbital in that shell. Note also that for all these orbital arrangements, the atomic nucleus is at the center. All orbitals are symmetric about the nucleus.

Beginning with $n=2$, there is a *p* subshell in each shell, and beginning with $n=3$ there is also a *d* subshell in each shell. The orbitals in the *p* subshell are usually described as resembling "dumbbells" because of their twin lobes. There are three of these twin-lobed orbitals in each *p* subshell, each oriented at right angles to the other two. For this reason, they are designated the p_x , p_y , and p_z orbitals—they can be thought of as lined up along the *x*, *y*, and *z* axes in a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system as depicted in Figure 1.12. (I explain the elongated appearance of the orbitals shown in Figure 1.12 shortly.) In Table 1.3, in order to make the *s* orbitals large enough to see and still have room to fit the *p* and *d* orbitals on the page, the *p* and *d* orbitals are shown much smaller than their actual size relative to the *s* orbitals.

Looking now at the $n=3$ orbitals in Table 1.3, note that the *3p* orbitals are shown surrounding the *2p* orbitals. The three *3p* orbitals are superimposed on each other just as the *2p* ones are

n	Possible Values of l	Subshell Name	Possible Values of m_l (Each value corresponds to one orbital.)	Number of Orbitals in the Subshell	Total Number of Orbitals in the Shell ($= n^2$)
1	0	1s	0	1	1
2	0	2s	0	1	4
	1	2p	-1, 0, 1	3	
3	0	3s	0	1	9
	1	3p	-1, 0, 1	3	
	2	3d	-2, -1, 0, 1, 2	5	
4	0	4s	0	1	16
	1	4p	-1, 0, 1	3	
	2	4d	-2, -1, 0, 1, 2	5	
	3	4f	-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3	7	

Table 1.2. Subshells and orbitals for the $n=1$ through $n=4$ shells.

(Figure 1.12). Finally, you can see that shapes of the five $3d$ orbitals are pretty bizarre. These orbitals are also superimposed on each other, and the whole bunch of them is superimposed on top of all the other orbitals in the table. Then, of course, there are all the orbitals for higher principle quantum numbers superimposed on top of them. Beginning with the $n = 4$ shell (not shown in the table) there is an f subshell in each shell. There are seven orbitals in each f subshell,

		Shell		
		$n = 1$	$n = 2$	$n = 3$
Subshell	s orbitals	$1s$	$2s$	$3s$
	p orbitals		$2p_x$ $2p_y$ $2p_z$	$3p_x$ $3p_y$ $3p_z$
	d orbitals			$3d_{z^2}$ $3d_{xz}$ $3d_{yz}$ $3d_{xy}$ $3d_{x^2-y^2}$

Table 1.3. Shapes of s , p , and d orbitals for the $n = 1$, $n = 2$, and $n = 3$ shells.

and they sort of resemble the d orbitals, only with six or eight lobes instead of four.

Recall that each orbital can house a maximum of two electrons (with opposite spins). For example, just to be clear, the $2p_x$ orbital with its two lobes is a single orbital (even though Table 1.3 shows the two lobes in different colors). Likewise, the $3d_{z^2}$ orbital with its two lobes and doughnut around the middle is also a single orbital. With a maximum of two electrons in each orbital, you can see that the first shell, $n = 1$, can hold at most two electrons, both in the $1s$ orbital. The $n = 2$ shell can hold a maximum of eight electrons: two in the $2s$ orbital, and two in each of the three $2p$ orbitals. The $n = 3$ shell can hold up to 18 electrons: two in the $3s$ orbital, six in the $3p$ orbitals, and a total of 10 in the $3d$ orbitals.

Before we move on and get back to talking about energy, one more important point should be made about orbitals. As noted above, the orbitals shown in Table 1.3 are the solutions to the Schrödinger equation. However, it is not correct to think of these shapes as locating where the electrons *are*. (Remember, the world of quantum mechanics is weird.) But it turns out that if we *square* the solutions to the Schrödinger equation we get shapes indicating *probabilities* of where the electrons are. This is what is depicted in Figure 1.12. Squaring the $2p$ solutions elongates the shapes of the orbitals. These orbitals that come from squaring solutions to the Schrödinger equation are called *probability distributions*. They should be envisioned as fuzzy at the edges and denser in the middle, indicating a lower probability that an electron is at the edge of the orbital and a higher probability that an electron is in the center part of the orbital.

Note just one more feature of the orbital arrangements: just because an orbital has more than one part—like the two lobes of a p orbital—does not mean that one electron is in one lobe and the other electron is in the other lobe. Instead, both electrons inhabit both lobes. Even stranger, to pass from one lobe to the other the electron somehow passes right through the atomic nucleus. (Don't hurt your brain by trying too hard to understand this. No one else understands it either! Electrons are very strange.)

1.3.3 The Aufbau Principle, the Madelung Rule, and Hund's Rule

Now that you know how the orbitals are arranged, we return to the topic of electron energies. Let's begin by recalling how one knows how many electrons an atom has. Unless it has ionized, an atom has the same number of electrons as protons, and the number of protons is given by the *atomic number* (Z). For example, if you check the periodic table inside the back cover of the book, you see that iron is element 26. This means an atom of iron has 26 protons and 26 electrons. The protons are all in the nucleus with the neutrons. The electrons are distributed around in various orbitals.

Figure 1.13 is another type of energy level diagram and illustrates the energies associated with the different orbitals. In this diagram, each little square represents an orbital, and each string of connected squares represents a subshell. On the left are the orbital energies for the hydrogen atom. As you see, all orbitals associated with a given principle quantum number have the same energy. These are the energies shown in Figures 1.6 and 1.8.

On the right side of Figure 1.13 is a general arrangement depicting the energies for atoms other than hydrogen. Here the energies go up with each subshell. For example, subshell $4f$ has

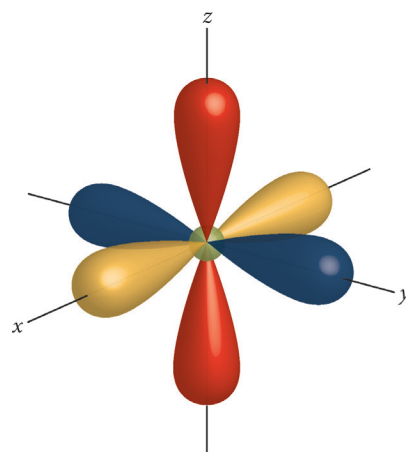


Figure 1.12. The elongated “probability distributions” of the $2s$ and $2p$ orbitals shown together. ($2s$ = green; $2p_x$ = yellow, $2p_y$ = blue, $2p_z$ = red)

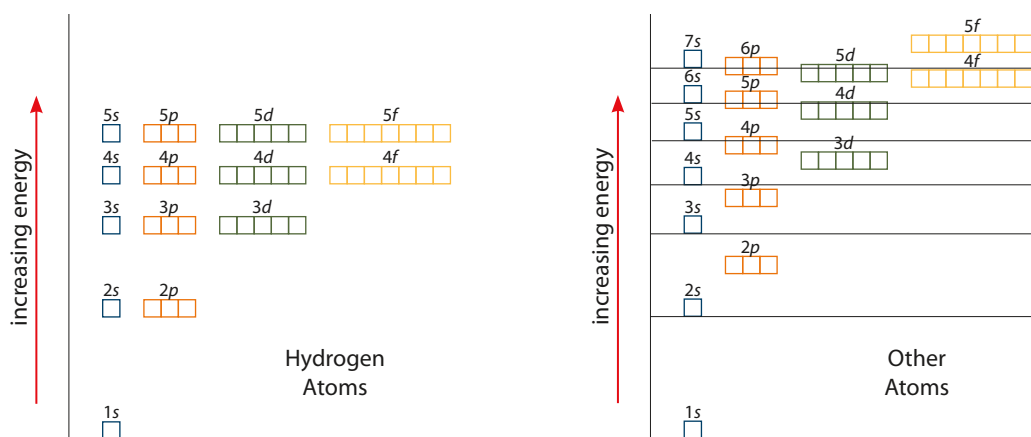


Figure 1.13. In hydrogen atoms, all orbitals within a given shell are at the same energy level. In atoms of other elements, orbital energy increases with increasing azimuthal quantum number, and the sequence of energies follows the Madelung rule.

a higher energy than $4d$, which has a higher energy than $4p$, which has a higher energy than $4s$. Also, note especially that the energies associated with different principle quantum numbers (shells) overlap. Thus, subshell $4s$ has a lower energy than subshell $3d$.

An important point to note about the right side of Figure 1.13 is that the exact energies associated with various subshells are different for every atom. With only one electron, the orbitals in an energy level of a hydrogen atom are basically all the same. But with multiple electrons repelling each other in an atom, the subshells begin spreading upward and each subshell is at a different energy. The amount of spread—and thus the exact energy associated with each subshell—is different for every atom. The important consequence of this for what we have covered so far in this

chapter pertains to atomic spectra. The energy released by an electron transition from, say, a $5d$ orbital to a $4p$ orbital depends on the atom—that is, the element—involved. As you know, the energy in an emitted photon determines its wavelength and color (the Planck relation). The fact that the energies for the different orbitals depend on the element is the reason why spectroscopy can be used to identify the presence of elements in a sample. Each atom emits its own spectrum of wavelengths corresponding to the unique energy differences between the orbitals in that particular kind of atom.

The colors emitted by excited atoms in two metals are illustrated in Figure 1.14. The images show lithium and copper wires heated in a stove-top gas flame, causing electrons in the metal atoms to absorb photons of heat energy (electromagnetic radiation in the infrared region). As the electrons return to the ground state, they emit photons of visible light, and the colors produced depend on the energies of the subshells in the atoms of the respective metals. If the flames are observed through a prism, the colors in the flames are separated into a line spectrum and the in-

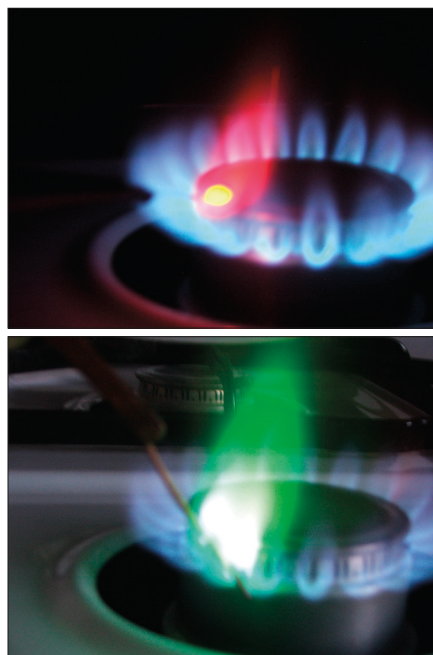


Figure 1.14. Lithium (top) and copper flame tests.

dividual color wavelengths can be identified. A test like this that uses flame as the energy source for exciting the metal is called a *flame test*.

With the energy picture under our belts, we are finally ready to describe how electrons are arranged in atoms. We are describing here the electron positions when atoms are in the ground state. You already know that when atoms are excited, electrons jump from ground state energies up to higher energies.

There are three principles involved in determining electron arrangement in ground state atoms. The first is the *Aufbau principle*, named after a German word meaning “building up.” The Aufbau principle states that *electrons fill places in orbitals in order of increasing energy, starting from the lowest energy orbital and going up from there*. Remember: chemistry is all about minimizing energy. Electrons in a ground-state atom go into the lowest energy orbitals available.

The second principle is the *Madelung rule*. This principle specifies the order of the shells and orbitals for increasing energy. On the right side of Figure 1.13, the sequence the orbitals are in as energy increases follows the Madelung rule. Another common way of depicting the sequence of energies according to the Madelung rule is shown in Figure 1.15. If you start at the top and follow the arrows in descending order, you get the same sequence of orbitals as shown on the right side of Figure 1.13. The mathematical principle involved is that each arrow in Figure 1.15 represents a particular value of the sum of the principle quantum number and the azimuthal quantum number, $n + l$.

For example, look at the arrow starting at the $3d$ orbital. For $3d$, $n = 3$ and $l = 2$, so $n + l = 5$. (The values of l are shown in Table 1.1.) For $4p$, $n = 4$ and $l = 1$, and $n + l = 5$. For $5s$, $n = 5$ and $l = 0$, so $n + l = 5$. So the subshells fill up in the sequence shown in Figure 1.15.

The third principle involved in electron arrangements is *Hund’s rule*, which applies to the case of subshells that are only partially filled. Hund’s rule states that *if orbitals of equal energy are available within a subshell, electrons fill them all up singly before they begin doubling up in orbitals*. For example, as you can see from the right side of Figure 1.13, the $3d$ subshell contains five orbitals of equal energy. According to Hund’s rule, if there are electrons in this subshell, but not enough electrons to fill the subshell, the electrons go into the orbitals as one electron per orbital until each of the five orbitals has one electron in it. After that, any remaining electrons go in as the second electron in each orbital until each orbital has a place. And again, remember that all orbitals can hold at most two electrons.

The principle at work behind Hund’s rule is again energy minimization. Spreading single electrons in the orbitals of unfilled subshells is a lower energy configuration than putting pairs of electrons together when other orbitals remain empty. Minimizing the energy this way also makes the atom more stable, just as the cone on its side in Figure I.6 is more stable than the cone on its point.

1.4 Electron Configurations

1.4.1 Electron Configurations and Orbital Diagrams

You may be pleased to know that the ocean of information described in the previous section will be a lot easier to remember after you have had a bit of practice writing *electron configurations* to indicate where all the electrons are in an atom of a given element. The electron configuration for a given element is a list, written in a particular format, of all the subshells in use in an atom and how many electrons are in each one. As an example, consider iron, atomic number 26

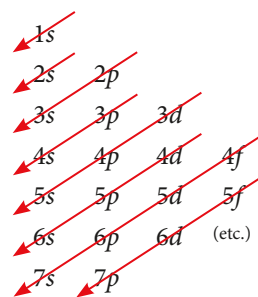
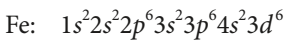


Figure 1.15. Since each red arrow represents a particular value of $n + l$, this diagram shows the order in which the subshells fill with electrons, according to the Madelung rule.

($Z = 26$). There are 26 electrons in an atom of iron. The subshells required to hold them all, in order of increasing energy according to the Madelung rule, are as follows:

1s	2s	2p	3s	3p	4s	3d
holds 2 electrons	holds 2 electrons	holds 6 electrons	holds 2 electrons	holds 6 electrons	holds 2 electrons	holds 6 electrons in 10 places

The electron configuration is formed simply by chaining these together, placing the numbers of electrons as superscripts on the subshells they go with, without any punctuation. In front of the electron configuration, it is customary to place the element's chemical symbol followed by a colon. So, the electron configuration for iron is written as follows:



Electron configurations only indicate subshells; they do not indicate which orbitals electrons are in inside the subshells. But we can use an *orbital diagram* similar to Figure 1.13 to show more precisely where the electrons are. Remember, Hund's rule comes into play, requiring that orbitals of equal energy each receive one spin-up electron before any of them take a second spin-down electron. A great metaphor for this was first used by Wolfgang Pauli, who formulated the Pauli exclusion principle. Pauli said that when filling up the orbitals in a subshell, electrons are like passengers filling a bus. Each takes a seat by himself until every seat has one person in it. After that, people start doubling up.

Figure 1.16 shows the electron arrangement for phosphorus, $Z = 15$. Each of the little arrows represents one electron, with upward arrows representing spin up and downward arrows representing spin down. Notice that the three electrons in the $3p$ subshell are placed so that each orbital contains one spin-up electron, as Hund's rule requires.

To make an orbital diagram, you simply show the orbitals in order, side by side, and put in the arrows representing the electrons. Thus, the orbital diagram and electron configuration for phosphorus are as follows:

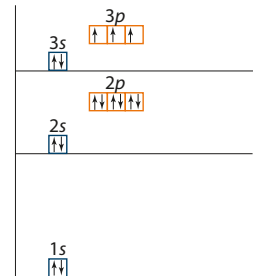


Figure 1.16. The electron arrangement for phosphorus, with 15 electrons.

Orbital Diagram	Electron Configuration
$1s$ $2s$ $2p$ $3s$ $3p$ 	P: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^3$

Here are three more examples: sodium (Na) with 11 electrons, chlorine (Cl) with 17 electrons, and nickel (Ni) with 28 electrons:

Z	Orbital Diagram	Electron Configuration
11	$1s$ $2s$ $2p$ $3s$ 	Na: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^1$
17	$1s$ $2s$ $2p$ $3s$ $3p$ 	Cl: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^5$
28	$1s$ $2s$ $2p$ $3s$ $3p$ $4s$ $3d$ 	Ni: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2 3d^8$

Note in each case that the superscripts add up to the number of electrons being represented in the notation, 11, 17, and 28 in the three examples above.

s-block elements (includes He)																		p-block elements														
1	H																	He														
2	Li	Be															B	C	N	O	F	Ne										
3	Na	Mg															Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar										
4	K	Ca															Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
5	Rb	Sr															Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
6	Cs	Ba	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
7	Fr	Ra	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og

Figure 1.17. Common terms applied to groups of elements based on the type of suborbital that is being filled as we move through the block in a given period (row). Group numbers shown are the numbers typically shown on the standard table with the f -block elements taken out.

To write an electron configuration, you need to know the atomic number (Z) to get the number of electrons, the number of electrons that can reside in each of the types of subshells (s , p , d , and f ; we won't deal with g subshells), and the energy sequence according to the Madelung rule. The periodic table itself is the best aid to writing an electron configuration. Figure 1.17 is a depiction of the periodic table in its full, long form. The rare-earth elements, normally shown separated out beneath the main table, are shown in their rightful place.³ Notice the captions on the different blocks of elements in the table. There are two groups (columns) in the s block, because s subshells can only hold two electrons. The p subshells can hold six electrons because there are three orbitals in each p subshell, and the p block is six groups wide. In the same way, the d block is 10 groups wide, and the f block is 14 groups wide. (See Table 1.2 to confirm the number of orbitals in a subshell, keeping in mind that each orbital can hold up to two electrons.)

Now look what happens as we move in order through elements in the table:

- Hydrogen (H) has one electron, helium (He) has two. In the element at the end of the 1st period (row)—helium—the $1s$ subshell is full.
- Lithium (Li) has three electrons, beryllium (Be) has four. With Be, the $1s$ and $2s$ subshells are full. The 5th electron possessed by boron (B) goes into the $2p$ subshell. So do all the additional electrons added in elements 6 through 10. Neon (Ne) has 10 electrons, so in the element at the end of the 2nd period (neon), subshells $1s$, $2s$, and $2p$ are all full.
- Sodium (Na) has 11 electrons, and the 11th one goes in the $3s$ subshell. Magnesium (Mg) has 12, and the 12th one fills the $3s$ subshell. Aluminum (Al) has 13, and the 13th one goes in the $3p$ subshell. In the element at the end of the third period—argon (Ar)—the $1s$, $2s$, $2p$, $3s$, and $3p$ subshells are full.
- The 4th period begins with potassium (K) and calcium (Ca), in which new electrons are placed in the $4s$ subshell. Then look what happens next: the next element, scandium (Sc), has 21 electrons and the 21st one goes into a d subshell, the $3d$ subshell, in fact. Each new electron for elements 21 through 30 goes into the $3d$ subshell. Then the 31st electron in gallium (Ga) is placed in the $4p$ subshell. In the element at the end of the 4th period—krypton (Kr)—the $1s$, $2s$, $2p$, $3s$, $3p$, $4s$, $3d$, and $4p$ subshells are full.

³ The f -block elements shown are also called the *inner transition metals* or *rare-earth elements*. They are usually removed from the table and shown beneath it for the simple reason that with them in place, the table is inconveniently wide. Since most of our work in chemistry is with s -, p -, and d -block elements, the removal of the f -block elements in the standard representation of the periodic table doesn't cause much trouble.

This pattern continues, and the order of new shells coming into use continues to follow the Madelung rule. Now you can see why the blocks of elements in Figure 1.16 are identified the way they are. Moving from left to right across any period in the table, the additional electron for atoms of the next element goes into a subshell of the type indicated by the name of the block the element is in.

Be careful when writing electron configurations for elements at the beginning of the *d* and *f* blocks. The first *d* subshell that occurs in the sequence of shell filling is the *3d* subshell, even though the elements that fill it are in the 4th period. Table 1.2 and Figure 1.15 will help remind you that the number of subshells for a particular principle quantum number *n* is equal to *n*.

1.4.2 Condensed Electron Configurations

You may already know that the elements in Group 18, the noble gases, are very unreactive. In fact, these elements eluded discovery by researchers for a long time. Since they don't form compounds, scientists didn't even know they existed!

The reason the noble gases are so nonreactive is that their electron arrangements are very stable, low-energy configurations. Obviously, each of the noble gases is at the end of a period in the periodic table (Group 18). Figure 1.18 illustrates the pattern that occurs in the orbital filling of these elements. In each case, all orbitals are filled up to but not including the *s* orbital of the next principle quantum number.

Since the noble gases are so stable, occurring as they do at the end of each period, the chemical symbols of the noble gases are used to form the so-called *condensed electron configurations*. The condensed electron configuration is a shorter, more convenient form.

Here's an example to show how this works. A glance at the periodic table shows that the only difference in the electron configurations of, say, titanium (Ti, *Z* = 22) and argon (Ar, *Z* = 18), is that titanium has four extra electrons. The electron configurations for argon and titanium are:

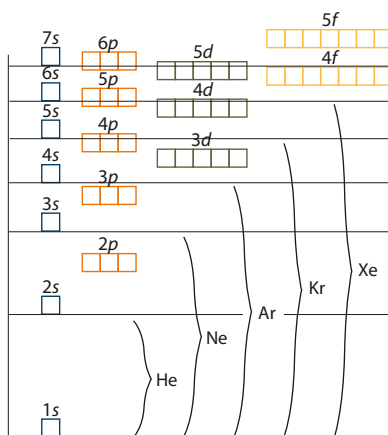
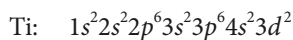
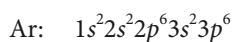


Figure 1.18. The orbital filling pattern of the noble gases.



The condensed electron configuration for any element is written by using the chemical symbol of the noble gas in the previous period to represent all the filled orbitals up to that point, and then just adding on the orbitals in the period where the element is. The noble gas chemical symbol is always written in square brackets. The condensed electron configuration for titanium is written as



As one more example, the condensed electron configuration for phosphorus (*Z* = 15) is written as



In the condensed electron configuration, the inner-shell electrons lumped together under the noble gas symbol are called the *core electrons*.

1.4.3 Anomalous Electron Configurations

There are a few elements with electron configurations that are notable exceptions to the ordinary rules. All these exceptions are *d*-block or *f*-block elements, as shown in Figure 1.19.

We would expect the condensed electron configuration for chromium ($Z = 24$) to be



However, it is not! One of the $4s$ electrons goes into the $3d$ subshell instead, giving



Copper ($Z = 29$), does the same thing. We would expect the condensed electron configuration to be



Instead, it is



The electron configurations for all the anomalous elements are shown in Table 1.4. Notice that palladium ($Z = 46$) is so anxious to get electrons into the $4d$ subshell that it steals both the electrons that ordinarily would be in the $5s$ subshell and places them in the $4d$ subshell to fill it up.

The electron configurations for these elements are not difficult to remember. For the *d*-block exceptions, except for palladium, they move one *s*-subshell electron into a *d* subshell at the highest energy in the atom. Palladium is the exception among exceptions: it moves two.

The *f*-block exceptions move one *f* subshell electron into a *d* subshell at the highest energy in the atom. As with the *d*-block exceptions, there is one exception among the *f*-block anomalies: thorium moves two *f*-subshell electrons into the *d* subshell.

Although the details are complex, the bottom line for these exceptions to the normal rules is that

Figure 1.19. Elements with anomalous electron configurations.

Element	Atomic Number, Z	Symbol	Condensed Configuration
chromium	24	Cr	Cr: $[\text{Ar}]4s^13d^5$
copper	29	Cu	Cu: $[\text{Ar}]4s^13d^{10}$
niobium	41	Nb	Nb: $[\text{Kr}]5s^14d^4$
molybdenum	42	Mo	Mo: $[\text{Kr}]5s^14d^5$
ruthenium	44	Ru	Ru: $[\text{Kr}]5s^14d^7$
rhodium	45	Rh	Rh: $[\text{Kr}]5s^14d^8$
palladium	46	Pd	Pd: $[\text{Kr}]4d^{10}$
silver	47	Ag	Ag: $[\text{Kr}]5s^14d^{10}$
lanthanum	57	La	La: $[\text{Xe}]6s^25d^1$
cerium	58	Ce	Ce: $[\text{Xe}]6s^24f^15d^1$
gadolinium	64	Gd	Gd: $[\text{Xe}]6s^24f^75d^1$
platinum	78	Pt	Pt: $[\text{Xe}]6s^14f^{14}5d^9$
gold	79	Au	Au: $[\text{Xe}]6s^14f^{14}5d^{10}$
actinium	89	Ac	Ac: $[\text{Rn}]7s^26d^1$
thorium	90	Th	Th: $[\text{Rn}]7s^26d^2$
protactinium	91	Pa	Pa: $[\text{Rn}]7s^25f^26d^1$
uranium	92	U	U: $[\text{Rn}]7s^25f^36d^1$
neptunium	93	Np	Np: $[\text{Rn}]7s^25f^46d^1$
curium	96	Cm	Cm: $[\text{Rn}]7s^25f^76d^1$

Table 1.4. Elements with anomalous electron configurations.

there are other factors coming into play in their atomic structure. At high energy levels, the orbital energies are very close together. The anomalous configurations represent the arrangement of electrons that minimizes the energy in the atom.

1.5 Isotopes and Atomic Masses

1.5.1 Isotopes

As you know, the atomic number (Z) of an element designates the number of protons in the nucleus of an atom of that element. For a given element, the atomic number is fixed: if an atom has a different number of protons, it is an atom of a different element. But the number of neutrons that may be present in the nucleus is not fixed. For most elements, there are variations in the number of neutrons that can be present in the nucleus. The varieties are called *isotopes*. For most elements, there is one isotope that is the most abundant in nature and several other isotopes that are also present but in smaller quantities. The general term for any isotope of any element is *nuclide*.

Isotopes are designated by writing the name of the element followed by the number of nucleons (protons and neutrons) in the isotope. The number of nucleons in a nucleus is called the *mass number*. For example, the most common isotope of carbon is carbon-12, accounting for about 98.9% of all the naturally occurring carbon. In the nucleus of an atom of carbon-12 there are six protons and six neutrons. There are two other naturally occurring carbon isotopes. Carbon-13 with seven neutrons accounts for about 1.1% of natural carbon. Atoms of carbon-14, of which only a trace exists in nature, have eight neutrons in the nucleus.

1.5.2 The Unified Atomic Mass Unit

The mass of a single atom is an extremely small number. But so much of our work in chemistry depends on atomic masses that scientists having been using units of *relative* atomic mass for a long time—all the way back to John Dalton, before actual masses of atoms were even known. Prior to the discovery of isotopes in 1912, the so-called *atomic mass unit* (amu) was defined as 1/16 the mass of an oxygen atom. After the discovery of isotopes, physicists defined the amu as 1/16 the mass of an atom of oxygen-16, but the definition used by chemists was 1/16 the average mass of naturally occurring oxygen, which is composed of several isotopes. To eliminate the confusion resulting from these conflicting definitions, the new *unified atomic mass unit* (u) was adopted in 1961 to replace them. Many texts continue to use the amu as a unit, but they define it as the u is defined. Technically, the amu is an obsolete unit that has been replaced by the u.

The unified atomic mass unit, u, is defined as exactly 1/12 the mass of an atom of carbon-12. Table 1.5 lists a few nuclides and their atomic masses using the u as a unit of mass. All the elements listed exist as other isotopes in addition to those shown, but as you see from the percentage abundances, the ones shown are the major ones for the elements represented in the table.

1.5.3 Atomic Masses

In addition to the atomic number, the Periodic Table of the Elements lists the atomic mass in unified atomic mass units (u) for each element. But since there are multiple isotopes for just about every element, *the atomic mass values in the periodic table represent the weighted average of the masses of naturally occurring isotopes.*

An example of a weighted average is the average age of the students in the sophomore class at your school. Let's say there are 47 sophomores, 40 of whom are 15 years old and 7 of whom are 16 years old at the beginning of the school year. To determine the average age of these students, let's first determine the proportion of the students at each age.

$$\frac{40}{47} = 0.851 \text{ (85.1\%)}$$

$$\frac{7}{47} = 0.149 \text{ (14.9\%)}$$

To calculate the average age, we first multiply each student age by the proportion of students of that age to find the contribution to the average from each age group. Then we add the contributions together to find the weighted average age for the sophomore class.

$$\begin{aligned} 15 \text{ years} \cdot 0.851 &= 12.8 \text{ years} \\ + 16 \text{ years} \cdot 0.149 &= 2.38 \text{ years} \\ \hline &= 15.2 \text{ years} \end{aligned}$$

We perform a similar calculation when computing the average atomic mass of an element from the masses of its isotopes, as shown in the following example.

▼ Example 1.2

Given the isotope masses and abundances for copper-63 and copper-65 in Table 1.5, determine the atomic mass for naturally occurring copper.

Multiply each isotope's mass by its abundance to get the isotope's contribution to the average atomic mass of the element. Then add together the contributions from each isotope. The data from the table are:

copper-63: mass = 62.9296 u, abundance = 69.15%

copper-65: mass = 64.9278 u, abundance = 30.85%

$$\begin{aligned} 62.9296 \text{ u} \cdot 0.6915 &= 43.51 \text{ u} \\ + 64.9278 \text{ u} \cdot 0.3085 &= 20.03 \text{ u} \\ \hline &= 63.55 \text{ u} \end{aligned}$$

Compare this value to the value shown in the periodic table inside the back cover of the text.



The unified atomic mass unit, u, is defined as 1/12 the mass of an atom of carbon-12. Although the value of this mass is quite close to the masses of the proton and neutron, it is not exact because of the mass of the electrons in atoms of carbon-12, and also because of the mass-en-

Z	Nuclide	Mass (u)	Abundance (%)
1	hydrogen-1	1.0078	99.9885
1	hydrogen-2	2.0141	0.0115
6	carbon-12	12.0000	98.93
6	carbon-13	13.0034	1.078
14	silicon-28	27.9769	92.223
14	silicon-29	28.9765	4.685
14	silicon-30	29.9738	3.092
17	chlorine-35	34.9689	75.76
17	chlorine-37	36.9659	24.24
20	calcium-40	39.9626	96.941
20	calcium-42	41.9586	0.647
26	iron-54	53.9396	5.845
26	iron-56	55.9349	91.754
26	iron-57	56.9354	2.119
26	iron-58	57.9333	0.282
29	copper-63	62.9296	69.15
29	copper-65	64.9278	30.85
92	uranium-235	235.0439	0.7204
92	uranium-238	238.0508	99.2742

Table 1.5. Major isotopes for a few elements.

Particle	Mass
proton	1.007276 u
neutron	1.008665 u
electron	0.0005486 u

Table 1.6. Masses in u of the three basic subatomic particles.

ergy involved in binding the nucleus of the atom together. (The mass of nucleons bound together in a nucleus does not equal the sum of their individual masses.) Table 1.6 shows the masses of the three basic subatomic particles in unified atomic mass units.

Still, the proton and neutron masses are very close to unity (one) and the electron mass is extremely small. This means that for elements with a very large abundance of one isotope we can use the atomic mass and atomic number in the periodic table to determine the numbers of protons and neutrons in the nucleus

of the most common isotope. For example, from Table 1.5, the mass of uranium-238 is very close to 238 u. Since an atom of uranium-238 has 92 protons, the balance of the mass is essentially all neutrons. Thus, there are $238 - 92 = 146$ neutrons in uranium-238.

1.5.4 The Mole and the Avogadro Constant

When solving problems in chemistry, we are generally working with chemical reactions in which huge numbers of atoms are involved, including all the naturally occurring isotopes, so performing reaction calculations with the masses of individual atoms is not practical. However, the mass of a given multiple of some kind of atom is simply that multiple times the atomic mass. The mass of one million atoms of aluminum is simply 1,000,000 times the atomic mass of aluminum.

In chemistry, the standard bulk quantity of substance used in calculations is the *mole* (mol). The mole is a particular number of particles of a substance, just as the terms *dozen*, *score*, and *gross* refer to specific numbers of things. The mole may be defined two different but equivalent ways. The first is as follows:

A mole is the amount of a substance that contains the same number of particles as there are atoms in 12 grams of carbon-12.

And how many atoms are there in 12 grams of carbon-12? Answer: there are 6.022142×10^{23} atoms of carbon-12 in 12 grams of carbon-12.

This value is known today as the *Avogadro constant*, N_A . More formally, the Avogadro constant is defined as:

$$N_A = 6.022142 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1} \quad (1.6)$$

Usually we just round this value to $6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$. Now, don't freak out over the unit of measure. Allow me to explain. Raising a unit of measure to the power -1 is mathematically equivalent to placing the unit in a denominator, because $x^{-1} = \frac{1}{x}$. In other words, Equation (1.6) is the same thing as saying "6.022 $\times 10^{23}$ per mole." To make things even clearer, it's okay to say it this way: " N_A equals 6.022 $\times 10^{23}$ particles per mole." This is the way I like to think of it when performing unit conversions, as we do quite a lot in coming chapters. Without the units of measure, the value 6.022 $\times 10^{23}$ is called *Avogadro's number*. With the units, it is called the Avogadro constant.

The definition given above for the mole refers to *particles* of a substance. For substances that exist as molecules, the particles are the molecules. For substances that exist as individual atoms, the particles are the individual atoms. Metals are like this, since a metal is composed of individual, identical atoms joined together in a crystal lattice. The noble gases are also like this. The noble gases are located in the far right-hand column of the Periodic Table of the Elements. As I discuss more in coming chapters, atoms of noble gases are almost completely unreactive—they

don't bond with other atoms at all. At ordinary temperature and pressure, the noble gases are gases composed of individual atoms.

For crystalline compounds, the “particles” in a mole of the substance are the *formula units* in the crystal lattice. A formula unit is one set of the atoms represented by the chemical formula of the compound. For example, the chemical formula for calcium carbonate is CaCO_3 . One formula unit of calcium carbonate includes one calcium atom, one carbon atom, and three oxygen atoms.

Now that you know there are 6.022×10^{23} particles in one mole of carbon-12, we can offer this equivalent definition for the mole:

A mole is the amount of a pure substance (element or compound) that contains Avogadro's number of particles of the substance.

The value of the Avogadro constant was determined by French Physicist Jean Perrin (Figure 1.20) in the early 20th century. Perrin determined the value of the constant through several different experimental methods. His research put the atomic nature of matter beyond dispute, and for this work he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1926. Perrin proposed naming the constant after Amedeo Avogadro, a 19th-century Italian scientist who was the first to propose that the volume of a gas at a given temperature and pressure was proportional to the number of particles of the gas (atoms or molecules), regardless of the identity of the gas. In fact, at 0°C and atmospheric pressure, one mole of any gas occupies a volume of 22.4 L.

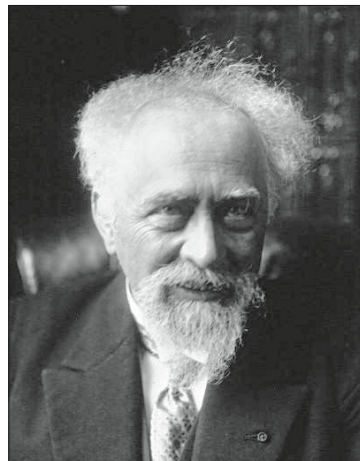


Figure 1.20. French physicist Jean Perrin (1870–1942).

1.5.5 Molar Mass and Formula Mass

As defined above, there are exactly 12 grams of carbon-12 in one mole of carbon-12. But the definition of the unified atomic mass unit is that an atom of carbon-12 has a mass of 12.0000 u. So according to these definitions, an atom of carbon-12 has a mass of 12.0000 u, and a mole of carbon-12 has a mass of 12.0000 grams. This quantity, the mass of one mole of a substance, is called the *molar mass*. Because of the way the molar and atomic masses are defined, the molar mass for an atom is numerically equivalent to the atomic mass.

These are very handy definitions! For example, from the periodic table we find that the average mass of 1 atom of silicon ($Z = 14$) is 28.0855 u. This also tells us that the mass of 1 mole of silicon is 28.0855 g. So the molar mass of silicon is 28.0855 g/mol. Likewise, from the periodic table we find that the average mass of 1 atom of copper ($Z = 29$) is 63.546 u. This also tells us that the mass of 1 mole of copper is 63.546 g, so the molar mass of copper is 63.546 g/mol. For the elements that exist as single atoms, the molar mass in g/mol and the atomic mass in u are numerically equivalent.

From the periodic table, we can also determine the molar mass of compounds—the mass of a mole of the compound. We simply add up the molar masses for the elements in the chemical formula, taking into account any subscripts present in the formula, and we have the molar mass for the compound in g/mol. If we add up the element atomic masses in unified atomic mass units we obtain what is called the *formula mass* of the compound in u. If the compound is molecular, then the formula mass may also be referred to as the *molecular mass*, the average mass of a single molecule of the substance.

The details of these three different mass terms are summarized in Table 1.7.

Quantity	Units	Definition
molar mass	g/mol	The mass of one mole of a substance, equal to the sum of the atomic masses of the elements in a chemical formula, taking into account the subscripts indicating atomic ratios in the compound.
formula mass	u	The mass of one formula unit of a substance. Numerically equivalent to the molar mass.
molecular mass	u	The average mass of a single molecule of a molecular substance. Numerically equivalent to the formula mass. (May also be converted to grams and expressed in grams, see Section 1.5.6.)

Table 1.7. Definitions and units for molar mass, formula mass, and molecular mass.

▼ Example 1.3

Determine the formula mass and molar mass for water, H_2O . We note that since water is composed of molecules, the formula mass may also be called the molecular mass.

From the periodic table, the atomic masses of hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O) are:

H: 1.0079 u

O: 15.9994 u

There are two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom in each water molecule, so we multiply these numbers by the element atomic masses and add them up to get the formula mass of H_2O .

$$(2 \times 1.0079 \text{ u}) + (1 \times 15.9994 \text{ u}) = 18.0152 \text{ u}$$

Thus, the formula mass for water is 18.0152 u. This is also the molecular mass. The calculation of the molar mass is identical, except we use units of g/mol instead of u.

From the periodic table, the molar masses of hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O) are:

$$\text{H: } 1.0079 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

$$\text{O: } 15.9994 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

There are two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom in each water molecule, so we multiply these numbers by the element masses and add them up to get the molar mass of H_2O .

$$\left(2 \times 1.0079 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} \right) + \left(1 \times 15.9994 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} \right) = 18.0152 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$



▼ Example 1.4

Determine the molar mass for nitrogen gas, N_2 .

From the periodic table, the atomic mass of nitrogen (N) is:

$$\text{N: } 14.0067 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

There are two nitrogen atoms in each molecule, so we multiply the atomic mass by two to get the molar mass of N_2 .

$$\left(2 \times 14.0067 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} \right) = 28.0134 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$



▼ Example 1.5

Determine the mass in grams of 2.5 mol sodium bicarbonate, NaHCO_3 (baking soda).

In any problem like this, we first find the molar mass of the given compound. Then we simply use that molar mass to compute the mass of the given quantity. From the periodic table, the atomic masses of the elements in the compound are:

$$\text{Na: } 22.9898 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

$$\text{H: } 1.0079 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

$$\text{C: } 12.011 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

$$\text{O: } 15.9994 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

The oxygen appears three times in the formula, so its mass must be multiplied by three and added to the others.

$$22.9898 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} + 1.0079 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} + 12.011 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} + \left(3 \times 15.9994 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} \right) = 84.007 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

This value is the molar mass for NaHCO_3 . To find the mass of 2.5 mol we multiply:

$$2.5 \text{ mol} \cdot 84.007 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} = 210 \text{ g}$$



▼ Example 1.6

A scientist measures out 125 g of potassium chloride (KCl). How many moles of KCl does this quantity represent?

First, determine the molar mass of KCl. From the periodic table:

$$\text{K: } 39.098 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

$$\text{Cl: } 35.4527 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

The formula includes one atom of each, so we add them to obtain the molar mass:

$$39.098 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} + 35.4527 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} = 74.551 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

Beginning now, always think of the molar mass of any substance as a conversion factor that can be written right side up or upside down to convert grams to moles or vice versa. For KCl, 74.551 g is equivalent to 1 mol, so these quantities can be written as conversion factors, like this:

$$\frac{74.551 \text{ g}}{1 \text{ mol}} = \frac{1 \text{ mol}}{74.551 \text{ g}}$$

This makes the last step of this problem easy. Just select the way of writing the molar mass conversion factor that cancels out the given units (g) and gives the units required (mol). This is nothing but a unit conversion.

$$125 \text{ g} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ mol}}{74.551 \text{ g}} = 1.68 \text{ mol}$$



The photograph in Figure 1.21 shows one mole of each of four substances. The first is one mole of copper, equal to 63.5 g. The second is a 250-mL beaker containing one mole of water. As you can see, this is not much water—only 18 mL. In the upper right is a weigh tray containing one mole of sodium chloride, 40.0 g. (This is just under 1/4 cup.) Finally, one mole of baking soda, 84.1 g. (This is right at 1/3 cup.)

▼ Example 1.7

Calculate the number of water molecules in a 1.00-liter bottle of water.

The logic of this problem, in reverse, is as follows: To calculate a number of molecules, we must use the Avogadro constant. To use the Avogadro constant, we need to know the number of moles of water we have. To determine the number of moles, we need to know both the molar mass and the mass of the water. To determine the mass from a volume, we use the density equation.

So we begin with the given information and the density equation to determine the mass of water we have. The given information and unit conversions are as follows:



Figure 1.21. Clockwise from left are shown 1 mole of copper, 1 mole of water, 1 mole of table salt, and 1 mole of baking soda.

$$V = 1.00 \text{ L} \cdot \frac{1000 \text{ cm}^3}{1 \text{ L}} = 1.00 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^3$$

$$\rho = 0.998 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^3}$$

$$m = ?$$

Now we write down the density equation and solve for the mass:

$$\rho = \frac{m}{V}$$

$$m = \rho \cdot V = 0.998 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^3} \cdot 1.00 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^3 = 998 \text{ g}$$

Next we need the molar mass of water. We calculated this in Example 1.3 and obtained 18.0152 g/mol. We use this molar mass as a conversion factor to convert the mass of water into a number of moles of water:

$$998 \text{ g} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ mol}}{18.0152 \text{ g}} = 55.40 \text{ mol}$$

This intermediate result has four significant digits—one more than we need in the final result. Finally, with the number of moles in hand we use the Avogadro constant to determine how many particles of water this is, which is identical to the number of water molecules.

$$55.40 \text{ mol} \cdot \frac{6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ particles}}{\text{mol}} = 3.34 \times 10^{25} \text{ particles}$$



1.5.6 Gram Masses of Atoms and Molecules

The molar mass from the periodic table and the Avogadro constant can be used to calculate the mass in grams of an individual atom. Recall that the atomic mass value in the periodic table gives both the average atomic mass in u, and the molar mass in g/mol. Knowing the molar mass in g/mol we can simply divide by the number of atoms there are in one mole to find the mass of one atom in grams. Although this kind of calculation is quite simple, I have found that it is *very* easy for students to get confused and not be able to determine whether one should multiply or divide or what. So here's a problem solving tip: let the units of measure help you figure out what to do. If you include the units of measure in your work and pay attention to how the units cancel out or don't cancel out, these calculations are pretty straightforward. *Keep this principle firmly in mind throughout your study of chemistry!* Units of measure are not an annoying burden; they are the student's friend.

▼ Example 1.8

Determine the average mass in grams of an atom of boron.

From the periodic table we find that the molar mass of boron is 10.811 g/mol. One mole consists of Avogadro's number of atoms of boron, so if we divide the molar mass by the Avogadro

constant, we will have the mass of a single atom of boron. Let's begin by setting up the division I just described, and then use the old invert-and-multiply trick for fraction division to help with the unit cancellations.

$$\frac{10.811 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}}{6.0221 \times 10^{23} \frac{\text{particles}}{\text{mol}}} = 10.811 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} \cdot \frac{1}{6.0221 \times 10^{23} \text{ particles}} \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{particles}}$$

$$= \frac{10.811}{6.0221 \times 10^{23}} \frac{\text{g}}{\text{particle}} = 1.7952 \times 10^{-23} \frac{\text{g}}{\text{particle}}$$

So the average mass of one boron atom is 1.7952×10^{-23} g. Note that I use five digits in the value of the Avogadro constant to preserve the precision we have in the molar mass.



For molecular substances, the molar mass can be used to compute the molecular mass in grams, the average mass of one molecule. This is done by first computing the molar mass of the compound, just as we did before. Then we simply divide by the Avogadro constant to obtain the mass of one molecule.

Like the atomic mass, the molecular mass is an average mass, since the atomic masses used in calculating the molar mass are all based on the average mass of different isotopes with their abundances taken into account. The molecular mass for a *specific* molecule would have to be calculated based on the specific masses of the nuclides in the molecule.

▼ Example 1.9

Determine the mass in grams of one molecule of carbon tetrachloride, CCl_4 .

From the periodic table we find that the molar masses of carbon and chlorine are 12.011 g/mol and 35.4527 g/mol, respectively. From this we calculate the molar mass of CCl_4 :

$$\left(1 \times 12.011 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}\right) + \left(4 \times 35.4527 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}\right) = 153.822 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}}$$

With this molar mass we use the Avogadro constant to get the molecular mass in grams. This time, instead of writing the Avogadro constant in the denominator of a big fraction, I simply treat it as a conversion factor and write it in the equation such that the mole units cancel out. (This is the way I always perform such calculations.) I also use six digits in the Avogadro constant to preserve the precision we have in the molar mass.

$$153.822 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ mol}}{6.02214 \times 10^{23} \text{ particles}} = 2.55427 \times 10^{-22} \frac{\text{g}}{\text{particle}}$$



1.5.7 Percent Composition and Empirical Formulas

Laboratory chemical analysis of a substance enables a chemist to determine the *percent composition* of the substance. When a new compound is discovered, chemists place a high priority on determining the percentages, by mass, of each element in the substance. This is the percent

composition. From the percent composition a so-called *empirical formula* for the substance can be worked out—a formula that represents the ratios of the elements in the substance.

For example, suppose laboratory analysis of a 221.6-g sample of ascorbic acid (vitamin C) results in the following mass data:

H: 10.15 g

C: 90.68 g

O: 120.8 g

If we divide each of the mass values by the total mass of the sample we have the percent composition of the sample:

$$\text{H: } \frac{10.15 \text{ g}}{221.6 \text{ g}} = 0.04580$$

$$\text{C: } \frac{90.68 \text{ g}}{221.6 \text{ g}} = 0.4092$$

$$\text{O: } \frac{120.8 \text{ g}}{221.6 \text{ g}} = 0.5451$$

Thus, the percent composition is 4.58% hydrogen, 40.92% carbon, and 54.51% oxygen. Note that we expect these percentages to add up to 100%, but due to limits on the precision of the data they add to 100.01%.

Given either the percent composition or the actual masses from a sample we can determine the empirical formula for a substance. The empirical formula may differ from the actual *molecular formula* of the substance. An empirical formula represents the smallest whole number ratios of the elements in the substance, while the molecular formula represents the actual numbers of each element in the molecule.

For example, hydrogen peroxide, H_2O_2 , is a common household disinfectant. Molecules of hydrogen peroxide contain two atoms of hydrogen and two atoms of oxygen, so the molecular formula for this substance is H_2O_2 . But the empirical formula is HO, because the empirical formula contains the smallest whole number values that can represent the ratios in the compound. Since each molecule of H_2O_2 contains two atoms of H and two atoms of O, the ratio of H to O in the molecule is 1 : 1, giving an empirical formula of HO.

In many cases, the empirical and molecular formulas are identical. The molecular formula for methane, for example, is CH_4 . This formula indicates a ratio of carbon to hydrogen atoms in the molecule of 1 : 4. This same formula is the empirical formula, because 1 and 4 are the smallest whole numbers that can represent this ratio.

To determine the empirical formula from percent composition, assume you have a sample of the substance with a mass of exactly 100 g. Use the percent composition to determine the masses of each element in the 100-g sample, then use the mass data from the periodic table to convert each of these masses to numbers of moles. Finally, divide each of the mole values by the smallest number of moles to determine the whole number ratios in the formula. An example illustrates the calculation.

▼ Example 1.10

Given percent composition data for ascorbic acid (see above), determine the empirical formula for this substance.

We assume a sample with a mass of exactly 100 g. We begin by using the percent composition to obtain masses in grams for each element in the substance. Assuming a 100-g sample just makes this easy. Since hydrogen is 4.58% of the 100-g sample, the mass of the hydrogen in the sample is 4.58 g. Similarly, the masses of the carbon and oxygen are 40.92 g and 54.51 g, respectively.

Next, we use the molar masses for each element to convert each of these masses to number of moles. We use the molar mass as a conversion factor, just as we have before.

$$4.58 \text{ g H} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ mol}}{1.0079 \text{ g}} = 4.54 \text{ mol H}$$

$$40.92 \text{ g C} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ mol}}{12.011 \text{ g}} = 3.407 \text{ mol C}$$

$$54.51 \text{ g O} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ mol}}{15.9994 \text{ g}} = 3.408 \text{ mol O}$$

Next, to determine the ratios of elements in the substance, divide each of these mole amounts by the smallest of them.

$$\frac{4.54 \text{ mol}}{3.407 \text{ mol}} = 1.33$$

$$\frac{3.407 \text{ mol}}{3.407 \text{ mol}} = 1.00$$

$$\frac{3.408 \text{ mol}}{3.407 \text{ mol}} = 1.00$$

These values tell us that the ratio of hydrogen to carbon to oxygen in ascorbic acid is 1.33 : 1.00 : 1.00. Now, we need the smallest whole numbers that preserve this same ratio. Noting that the value 1.33 is very close to 4/3, we multiply all the values by 3 to get whole number ratios of 4 : 3 : 3 for hydrogen : carbon : oxygen. Finally, we use these ratios to write the empirical formula. In formulas containing these three elements it is traditional to write the elements in the formula in the order C—H—O. Doing so gives us



1.5.8 Determining a Molecular Formula from an Empirical Formula

The empirical formula determined in the previous example relates to the molecular formula by some simple multiple. Recall that the subscripts in the molecular formula of hydrogen peroxide, H_2O_2 , are simply double the subscripts in the empirical formula, HO. We can determine the molecular formula for a compound from the empirical formula if we have access to the molecular mass of the compound. We do this by computing the formula mass for the empirical formula and comparing this to the molecular mass to see what the multiple is between the empirical

formula mass and the molecular mass. Then we can multiply the subscripts in the empirical formula by the same multiple to get the molecular formula. In other words,

$$\text{whole number multiple} = \frac{\text{molecular mass}}{\text{empirical formula mass}}$$

This calculation is illustrated in the following example. Note that although this example uses atomic masses and molecular mass in u, the same computation can be performed using molar masses in g/mol.

▼ Example 1.11

The experimentally determined molecular mass for ascorbic acid is 176.1 u. Use this value and the empirical formula from Example 1.9 to determine the molecular formula for ascorbic acid.

We begin by determining the formula mass for the empirical formula, $\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{O}_3$.

C: 12.011 u

H: 1.0079 u

O: 15.9994 u

$$(3 \times 12.011 \text{ u}) + (4 \times 1.0079 \text{ u}) + (3 \times 15.9994 \text{ u}) = 88.063 \text{ u}$$

Next we calculate the whole number ratio by dividing the molecular mass by the empirical formula mass:

$$\text{whole number multiple} = \frac{176.1 \text{ u}}{88.063 \text{ u}} = 2.000$$

Finally, we multiply all the subscripts in the empirical formula by this multiple to obtain the molecular formula:



1.5.9 Significant Digit Rules for Addition

As noted just before Example 1.1, I have been assuming in this chapter that students using this text are already familiar with the use of significant digits in scientific measurements and computations. If you are not, then now is the time to study the tutorial on the subject in Appendix A.

If you have used the significant digits rules prior to this course, your experience with the use of significant digits may be limited to computations involving multiplication and division. The rule for these kinds of computations is based on the number of significant digits in the values used in the computation: the result must have the same number of significant digits as the least precise value in the computation. With this rule, the limitation on the result is the *number of significant digits* in the least precise value used in the computation.

For addition, a completely different rule applies. If you pay attention to the significant digits in Example 1.3, you notice that our result contains six significant digits, even though one of the values used in the computation has only five significant digits. This is a result of the addition rule.

When performing addition, it is not the number of significant digits that governs the precision of the result. Instead, it is the *place value of the last digit that is farthest to the left in the numbers being added* that governs the precision of the result. To illustrate, consider the following addition example:

$$\begin{array}{r} 13.65 \\ 1.9017 \\ + 1,387.069 \\ \hline 1,402.62 \end{array}$$

Of the three values being added, 13.65 has digits out to the hundredths place, the second number goes out to the ten thousandths place, and the last number goes out to the thousandths place. Looking at the final digits of these three, you can see that the final digit farthest to the left is the 5 in 13.65, which is in the hundredths place. This is the digit that governs the final digit of the result. There can be no digits to the right of the hundredths place in the result. The justification for this rule is that one of our measurements is precise only to the nearest hundredth, even though the other two are precise to the nearest thousandth or ten thousandth. Since one of our values is precise only to the nearest hundredth, it makes no sense to have a result that is precise to a place more precise than that, so hundredths are the limit.

Correctly performing addition problems in science (where nearly everything is a measurement) requires that you determine the place value governing the precision of your result, perform the addition, then round the result. In the above example, the sum is 1,4602.6207. Rounding this value to the hundredths place gives 1,4602.62.

Going back to Example 1.3, performing the multiplications gives the following addition problem:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2.0158 \\ + 15.9994 \\ \hline 18.0152 \end{array}$$

Both values are precise to the nearest ten thousandth, and so is the result. In this case, we gain precision because now we have a value with six significant digits. The same thing occurs in the illustration above. One of the values in the addition has only four significant digits, but the result has six.

Chapter 1 Exercises

SECTION 1.1

1. Determine the energy in a photon of light from a green laser with a wavelength of 543 nm.
2. An atom absorbs a photon, causing one of its electrons to move to an orbital associated with 2.2718×10^{-19} J higher energy. Determine the wavelength of the absorbed photon and state what region of the electromagnetic spectrum it is in.
3. For a single photon to ionize a ground-state hydrogen atom, its energy has to raise the energy of the atom's electron to 0 J. What wavelength of light does this and what part of the electromagnetic spectrum is it in?
4. Calculate the energies for the four lines in the visible spectrum of the hydrogen atom.

SECTION 1.2

5. What are two of the limitations of the Bohr model of the atom?
6. In the Bohr model, how many electrons would you expect the 5th energy level to be able to hold? Explain your response.

SECTION 1.3

7. A certain atom is in the ground state. The $3p$ subshell of this atom is $2/3$ full.
 - a. Identify the element this atom represents.
 - b. How many unpaired electrons are there in the atom? (A paired electron is one in an orbital with another one possessing opposite spin.)
8. In a certain ground-state atom, the $4d$ subshell has two electrons in it.
 - a. Identify the element this atom represents.
 - b. How many unpaired electrons are there in the atom?
9. How do the values of the azimuthal quantum number and magnetic quantum number relate to the principle quantum number?
10. Demonstrate mathematically that the $4f$ subshell can accommodate 14 electrons.
11. Generally speaking, what is the explanation for an atom's electron configuration not following the sequence described by the Madelung rule?

SECTION 1.4

12. For each of the following elements, draw the orbital diagram and write the full-length electron configuration.

a. chlorine	b. oxygen	c. ruthenium
d. potassium	e. vanadium	f. bromine
13. For each of the following elements, write the condensed electron configuration.

a. chlorine	b. nitrogen	c. aluminum
d. yttrium	e. strontium	f. tungsten
g. cesium	h. iodine	i. neodymium
14. Compare the electron configurations for beryllium, magnesium, and calcium. Formulate a general rule for the condensed electron configuration of a Group 2 element.
15. For which group of elements does the electron configuration always end with np^2 ? Explain how you know.
16. Write the condensed electron configurations for ytterbium, einsteinium, and nobelium.

SECTION 1.5

17. Which two nuclides in Table 1.5 have 20 neutrons?
18. In Table 1.5, how many neutrons are there in the heaviest nuclide listed? How many neutrons are there in the lightest nuclide listed?
19. Determine the number of atoms in each of the following.

a. 73.2 g Cu	b. 1.35 mol Na	c. 1.5000 kg W
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20. Determine the mass in grams for each of the following.

a. 6.022×10^{23} atoms K	b. 100 atoms Au	c. 0.00100 mol Xe
d. 2.0 mol Li	e. 4.2120 mol Br	f. 7.422×10^{22} atoms Pt
21. Determine the number of moles present in each of the following.

Chapter 1

- a. 25 g $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ b. 286.25 g $\text{Al}_2(\text{CrO}_4)_3$ c. 2.111 kg KCl
d. 47.50 g LiClO_3 e. 10.0 g O_2 f. 1.00 mg $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$
22. As mentioned in the text, the sum of the masses of the particles in an atom does not equal the mass of the atom. Some of the mass of the individual particles is converted to energy, and the atom weighs less than the sum of the weights of its parts. How much mass is converted into energy when the individual protons, neutrons, and electrons are assembled to form an atom of uranium-238?
23. Referring to Table 1.5, calculate the atomic mass for silicon, calcium, iron, and uranium. Compare your results to the values shown in the periodic table.
24. Calculate the molar mass for each of the following compounds or molecules.
- a. ammonia, NH_3 b. carbon dioxide, CO_2 c. chlorine gas, Cl_2
d. copper(II) sulfate, CuSO_4 e. calcium nitrite, $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_2)_2$ f. sucrose, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$
g. ethanol, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ h. propane, C_3H_8 i. glass, SiO_2
25. Determine the formula masses for these compounds:
- a. MgCl_2 b. $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ c. $(\text{SO}_4)^{2-}$ (The 2- indicates this is an ion with an electrical charge of -2. The charge does not affect your calculation.)
d. CuSO_4 e. BF_3 f. CCl_4
26. Determine the mass in grams of 2.25 mol silver nitrate, AgNO_3 .
27. Given 2.25 kg CCl_4 , answer these questions:
- a. How many moles CCl_4 are present?
b. How many carbon atoms are present?
c. Approximately how many carbon-13 atoms are present?
28. Given 1.00 gal H_2O at 4°C , answer the questions below. (Hint: You must use the appropriate volume conversion and the density of water to determine the mass of 1.00 gal H_2O . See the information in Tables B.3 and B.5 in Appendix B.)
- a. How many moles H_2O are present?
b. How many hydrogen atoms are present?
c. Approximately how many deuterium (hydrogen-2) atoms are present?
29. Automobile antifreeze is composed of ethylene glycol. This green liquid is 38.7% C, 9.7% H, and 51.6% O by mass. The molecular mass is 62.1 u. Determine the empirical formula and the molecular formula for ethylene glycol.
30. A scientist isolates 47.593 g of a new, unidentified substance. The scientist also determines the following masses for the elements in the substance: carbon: 43.910 g; hydrogen: 3.683 g. Finally, the scientist is also able to determine the molecular mass of the substance to be 78.11 u. From these data, determine:
- a. the percent composition
b. the empirical formula
c. the molecular formula