Atomic Theory

Where it came from and what we know now

The first mention of the atom came from Democritus in ancient Greece

He suggested that the universe was made up of small, indivisible units called atoms

He believed that the differences in the atoms had to do with their shape, and that these differing shapes gave them their properties

Unfortunately, he had no evidence for his theory. He was a philosopher...all they do is think...



460-370 (BC)





The next big step in atomic theory came from John Dalton

He noticed that all atoms of a certain element were exactly the same and that when different atoms combined, they formed new compounds.

He observed the reactions of chemicals with each other and saw that they consistently combined the same way.

1766-1844



J. J. Thomson discovered the presence of negatively charged particles of an atom

His Cathode Ray Tube experiment allowed him to discover that, when the cathode ray was introduced to a magnetic field, the ray would deflect towards the positive terminal

He created the "plum pudding" theory of the atom, where the raisins in the pudding represented the electrons



1856-1940







¹⁸⁵⁶⁻¹⁹⁴⁰

Cathode Ray Tube Experiment



Earnest Rutherford, using alpha particles and gold foil, discovered that most of the mass of an atom was centrally located

1871-1937



What the atom now looks like!

1. The universe is made up of tiny indivisible units, we now call atoms

3. Atoms have negatively charged particles 2. All atoms of the same element are exactly alike, and can combine with other elements to create compounds

4. Most of the mass of an atom is concentrated at the center

What is the atom composed of?

Protons – Positively charged, located in the nucleus Neutrons No charge, located in the nucleus Negative Charge, Located in the electron cloud Electrons -

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Particle	Charge	Mass (Kg)	Location in the atom
Proton	+1	1.67 x 10 ⁻²⁷	Nucleus
Neutron	Ο	1.67 x 10 ⁻²⁷	Nucleus
Electron	-1	9.11 X 10 ⁻³¹	Electron cloud

What do the protons tell us about the element?

Protons tell us what element it is. It is the atomic number.



Neutrons add mass to the atom. To get the atomic mass, you add the number of protons to the number of neutrons. The number of neutrons in an atom is not constant.

What they tell us about the atom



If an atom has a different number of neutrons than the stable element, it is said to be an isotope. The atomic mass is a ratio of all of the isotopes that naturally exist in the world

Why are electrons so important?

Electrons are found in what is known as the electron cloud. The cloud consists of different energy orbitals.

The specific location of each electron is unknowable since they are constantly transitioning from one orbital to the next.

Valence electrons

The valence electrons are located on the outer most orbital of the electron, and can be determined by which group of the periodic table they reside in.

How many valence electrons an element has determines its reactivity

Valence electrons

As we move from left to right across the groups, we increase our valence electrons



What does this tell us?

Atoms want to be stable, and an atom is most stable when its outer shell is full. A full shell has 8 electrons.

Valence Electrons

Lets look at the first period.



A new way to look at mass

Moles: The S.I. base unit we use to measure the amount of a substance.

1 mole is defined as the number of atoms in 12 grams of carbon-12

There are 6.022 x 10²³ atoms in 12 grams of carbon-12. this is known as Avogadro's number



Converting between mass and moles

Ex 1. Convert 2 moles of lead to mass:Type equation here.

Ex 2. How many moles are there in 54.5 grams of carbon?

The atom is made up of a nucleus with protons and neutrons, and the electrons are in the electron cloud.

We now know that electrons exist is very specific energy levels; never in between.



The electrons jump from level to level when they are bombarded by photons and other energy sources



The number of energy levels filled depends on the number of electrons present.

Energy level	Number of orbitals by type		of by	Total number of orbitals	Number of electrons	
	S	р	d	f		
1	1				1=1	2
2	1	3			1+3=4	8
3	1	3	5		1+3+5=9	18
4	1	3	5	7	1+3+5+7=16	32

Element	Number of electrons	Orbital
Hydrogen (H)	1	1s ¹
Carbon (C)	6	1s ² 2s ² 2p ²
Oxygen (O)	8	1s ² 2s ² 2p ⁴
Neon (Ne)	10	1s ² 2s ² 2p ⁶
Sulfur (S)	16	1s ² 2s ² 2p ⁶ 3s ² 3p ⁴
Potassium (K)	19	1s ² 2s ² 2p ⁶ 3s ² 3p ⁶ 4s ¹

Oxygen (O): 1s² 2s² 2p⁴

