**Chemistry** is the scientific discipline involved with [compounds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_compound) composed of [atoms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atoms), i.e. [elements](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_element), and [molecules](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molecules), i.e. combinations of atoms: their composition, structure, properties, behavior and the changes they undergo during a [reaction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_reaction) with other compounds.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemistry#cite_note-definition-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemistry#cite_note-2)Chemistry addresses topics such as how atoms and molecules interact via [chemical bonds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_bond) to form new [chemical compounds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_compound). There are four types of chemical bonds: [covalent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covalent) bonds, in which compounds share one or more electron(s); [ionic bonds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ionic_bond), in which a compound donates one or more [electrons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electron) to another compound to produce [ions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ion) ([cations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cation" \o "Cation) and [anions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anion)); [hydrogen bonds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen_bond); and [Van der Waals force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_der_Waals_force) bonds.

The atom is the basic unit of chemistry. It consists of a dense core called the [atomic nucleus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic_nucleus) surrounded by a space occupied by an [electron cloud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electron_cloud). The nucleus is made up of positively charged [protons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protons) and uncharged [neutrons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neutrons) (together called [nucleons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nucleon)), while the electron cloud consists of negatively charged [electrons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electron) which orbit the nucleus

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