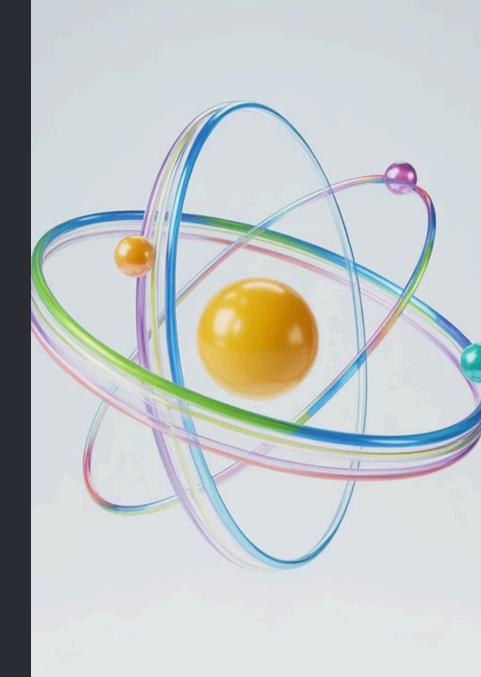
Chemistry Fundamentals

LECTURE 6 : Atomic Structure:

Number & Mass

Mohamed Kamal



The Atomic Revolution - From Indivisible to Complex

1 — Ancient Greeks

"Atomos" (indivisible) - atoms as fundamental, indivisible particles

² — Dalton (1803)

Elements composed of indivisible atoms; identical atoms have same mass

3 — Thomson (1897)

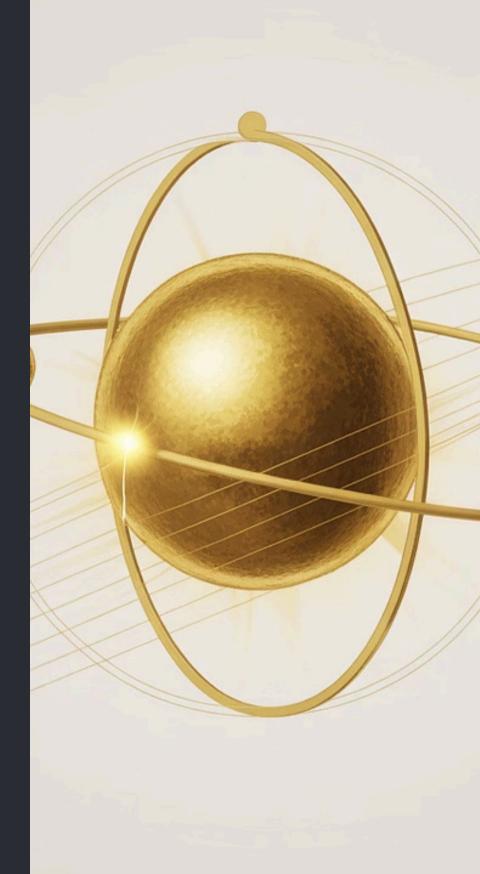
Discovery of electrons - atoms are divisible!

4 — Rutherford (1909)

Gold Foil Experiment revealed dense nucleus with orbiting electrons

Modern Understanding: Nucleus (protons + neutrons) surrounded by electron cloud

Size Perspective: If nucleus were a marble, atom would be size of football stadium



Atomic Number - The Element's Identity Card

Definition: Atomic number (Z) = number of protons in nucleus

Fundamental Rule: Atomic number defines the element - change protons, change element

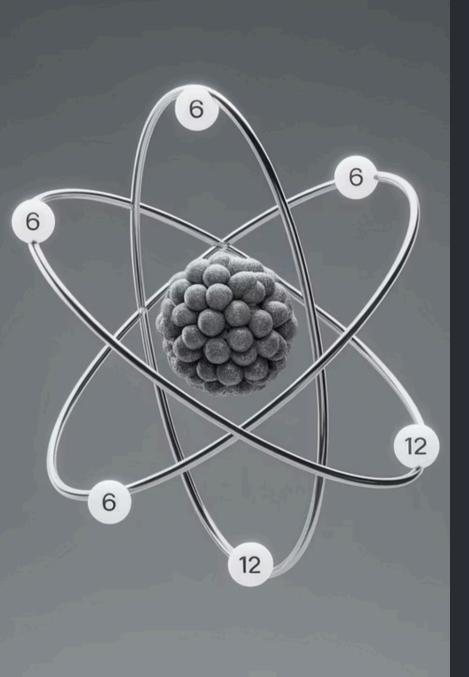
Neutral Atom Rule: Number of protons = number of electrons

Examples: H (Z=1), He (Z=2), Li (Z=3), C (Z=6), O (Z=8), Au (Z=79)



Periodic Table Organization: Elements arranged by increasing atomic number

Historical Note: Mendeleev arranged by mass, modern table by atomic number



Mass Number - Accounting for Nuclear Mass

Definition

Mass number (A) = number of protons + number of neutrons

Mathematical Relationship: A = Z + N (where N = number of neutrons)

Notation

Example: Carbon-12 can be written as ¹²C, C-12, or Carbon-12

Example Calculation: Carbon-12: A = 6 + 6 = 12

Mass Distribution

>99.9% of atom's mass in nucleus

Electron Mass: ~1/1836 of proton mass (negligible for mass number)

Solving Nuclear Composition Problems

Given Information Types: Element symbol, atomic number, mass number

Problem-Solving Strategy:

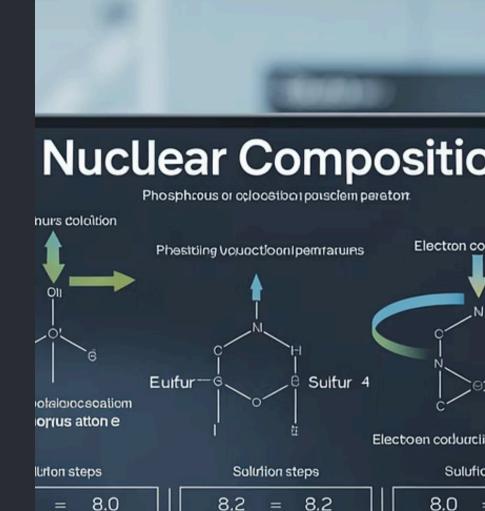
- 1. Identify Z from periodic table or given information
- 2. Use A = Z + N to find missing quantity
- 3. For neutral atoms: electrons = protons = Z

Example 1: Find neutrons in 31P

- Z = 15 (from periodic table), A= 31
- N = A Z = 31 15 = 16
 neutrons

Example 2: Find mass number of sulfur with 18 neutrons

- Z = 16 (from periodic table), N= 18
- $A = Z + N = 16 + 18 = 34 (^{34}S)$



8.2

3.2

8.2

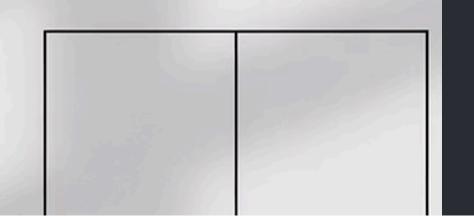
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SOTOPE NOTATIO

C C MAS 19 MAS



MAS 19



Isotope Notation and Symbols

Standard Notation

^A_kX (A = mass number, Z = atomic number, X = element symbol)

Writing Rules: Mass number top-left, atomic number bottomleft of symbol

Alternative Notations

2 X-A format (Carbon-14) or hyphen notation

Common Elements: ¹H, ²H, ³H (hydrogen isotopes), ¹²C, ¹⁴C (carbon isotopes)

Complete Example

²³⁸₉₂U

3

1

Mass number: 238

Atomic number: 92 (Uranium)

Neutrons: 238 - 92 = 146

Practical Applications: Nuclear medicine, dating methods, nuclear power

Atomic Mass Units and Relative Mass

Definition and Standards

Atomic mass unit (amu) = 1/12 mass of ¹²C atom

Conversion Factor: 1 amu = 1.66054×10^{-27} kg

Reference Standard: 12C exactly 12.000000 amu by

definition

Historical Development: Originally based on oxygen-16, changed to carbon-12 in 1961

Particle Masses

Particle	Approximate Mass
Proton	1.007 amu
Neutron	1.009 amu
Electron	0.0005 amu

Mass Defect: Actual atomic mass slightly less than sum of particles (Einstein's E=mc²)



Calculating Average Atomic Mass

Weighted Average Concept: Account for isotope abundance in nature

Formula: Average atomic mass = Σ (isotope mass × fractional abundance)

1

Identify Isotopes

Chlorine has two main isotopes:

³⁵Cl: 34.97 amu (75.77% abundance)

³⁷Cl: 36.97 amu (24.23% abundance)

2

Convert Percentages

Convert percentages to decimal form:

75.77% = 0.7577

24.23% = 0.2423

3

Calculate Weighted Average

 $(34.97 \times 0.7577) + (36.97 \times 0.2423) = 35.45$ amu

This matches the periodic table value for chlorine

Common Error: Forgetting to convert percentages to decimals

Applications and Real-World Connections



Medical Applications

Radioisotopes for imaging (PET scans) and cancer treatment



Carbon Dating

¹⁴C decay for archaeological dating of organic materials



Nuclear Power

²³⁵U fission in power plants generating electricity



Forensic Science

Isotope ratios for determining origin of materials



Environmental Monitoring

Radioactive tracers to study ecosystems and pollution



Food Safety

Irradiation using radioactive isotopes to preserve food

Next Lecture: Isotopes

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