

The periodic table

MATTER is everywhere around you, from the water you drink to the air you inhale. Matter is made of elements and elements are made of atoms. Even the atoms of an elements can be different, having distinct number of protons and neutrons. This chapter covers the principles of the atomic structure. You will learn what makes an atom and will be able to quantify the particles that make atoms. Perhaps more importantly, you will also learn about the periodic table of the elements and the different types of chemical formulas.

1.1 The periodic table

The periodic table is a chart containing all known elements arranged in increasing number of electrons per atom in a way that elements with similar chemical and physical properties are located together. The periodic table contains all existing elements—some of them are synthetic others are natural—that form the matter arranged in columns and rows. Every element has a different name accompanied by a symbol that represents their name. The tabular arrangement of elements in the form of rows and columns allow further classification of the elements according to their properties. This section will cover the different features of the periodic table.

Elements and Symbols Elements cannot be broken down into simpler substances.

For example aluminum is an element only made of aluminum atoms and if you analyze the composition of a piece of this metals you would only find aluminium atoms. Chemical symbols are one- or two-letter abbreviations that represent the names of the elements. Only the first letter is capitalized and if a second letter exist in the element's name, the second letter should be lowercase. For example, the chemical symbol for aluminum is Al with capital A and lowercase l. The periodic table in next page contains the symbols of all elements.

Sample Problem 1

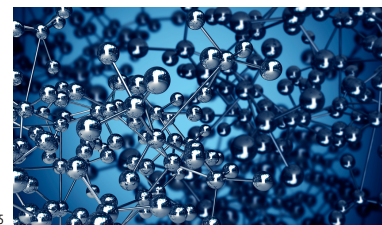
Give the symbol or name the following elements: Au, Iron, Na and Iodine.

SOLUTION

The chemical symbol of Au is Gold. The chemical symbol of Iron is Fe and the chemical symbol of Iodine is I.

STUDY CHECK

Give the symbol or name the following elements: Ni.



GOALS

- 1 Navigate the periodic table
- 2 Calculate average atomic masses, number of electrons, protons and neutrons in an atom
- 3 Calculate simple molecular weights
- 4 Calculate molecular formulas from empirical formulas

Discussion: Why having a periodic table? What is the basic information all periodic tables provide? Do you know any other periodic table design?

“Nothing exists except atoms and empty space; everything else is opinion.”
Democritus

Periods and groups The periodic table contains all elements arranged in rows and columns. The horizontal rows are called *periods* and the vertical columns are called *groups or families*. For example, the first period contains hydrogen (H) and helium (He), whereas the second group contains Beryllium (Be), Magnesium (Mg), Calcium (Ca), Strontium (Sr), Barium (Ba) and Radium (Ra). There are seven periods (periods 1-7) and 18 groups. Some of the groups are labeled with an A (e.g. group 8A) whereas others are labeled with a B (e.g. group 8B). The groups numbers can be found written with roman numbers and a letters (A or B) or with a more modern group numbering of 1-18 going across the periodic table. For example, the group 2 (Mg-Ra) can also be called IIA, and the group 13 (B-Ti) is also known as IIIA.

Properties in the periodic table The physical and chemical properties of some elements of the table are similar, and these similarities led to the organization of the periodic table. Elements in the same group share properties and for example, oxygen and sulfur have similar properties: both are reactive elements. Differently, the properties across periods change going from metals to nonmetals. For example, the properties of Li and Ne are very different and lithium is a reactive metal whereas neon is a nonreactive gas.

Metals, Nonmetals, and Metalloids Overall, the elements of the periodic table can be classify as metals, nonmetals, and metalloids. Metals are those elements on the left of the table and nonmetals are the elements on the right of the table. The elements between metals and nonmetals are called metalloids and include only B, Si, Ge, As, Sb, Te, Po, and At. Metals are shiny solids and usually melt at higher temperatures. Some examples of metals are Gold (Au) or Iron (Fe). Nonmetals are often poor conductors of heat and electricity with low melting points. They also tend to be matt (non-shinny), malleable, or ductile. Some examples of nonmetals are Carbon (C) or Nitrogen (N). Metalloids are elements that share some properties with metals and others with the nonmetals. For example, they are better conductors of heat and electricity than the nonmetals, but not as good conductors as the metals. Metalloids are semiconductors because they can act as both conductors and insulators under certain conditions. An example of metalloids is Silicon (Si) that should not be confused from silicone, a chemical employed in prosthetics.

Sample Problem 2

Answer the following questions: (a) Give the group and period of the following elements, and give the name: Ca, Ir, and C. (b) Classify as alkali metal, alkali earth metal, transition metal, halogen or noble gas, and give the name: Mg, Li, Co, He, F. (c) Classify as metal, nonmetal or metalloid, and give the name: Ba, N, Si.

SOLUTION

(a) The period and group of Ca (Calcium) is 2 (2A) and 4, respectively. The period and group of Ir (Iridium) is 9 (8B) and 6, respectively. The period and group of C (Carbon) is 14 (IVA) and 2, respectively. (b) Mg (Magnesium) is an alkali earth metal, whereas Li (Lithium) is a alkali metal. Co (Cobalt) is a transition metal. He (Helium) is a noble gas. F (Fluorine) is an halogen. (c) Ba (Barium) is a metal. N (Nitrogen) is a nonmetal. Si (Silicon) is a metalloid.

STUDY CHECK

Answer the following questions: (a) Give the group and period of the following elements, and give the name: Cl. (b) Classify as alkali metal, alkali earth metal,

transition metal, halogen or noble gas, and give the name: Ne. (c) Classify as metal, nonmetal or metalloid, and give the name: W.

Classification of elements in terms of groups Some of the groups in the periodic table have specific names such as alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, transition metals, chalcogens, halogens or noble gases. Alkali metals are the group 1A elements: lithium (Li), sodium (Na), potassium (K), rubidium (Rb), cesium (Cs), and francium (Fr). Alkali elements are soft and shiny metals, and they are also good conductors of heat and electricity, with low melting points. Alkali earth metals are the group 2A (2) elements: beryllium (Be), magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr), barium (Ba), and radium (Ra). Transition metals are the elements from group 3 to 12 and they are located in the middle of the table. Chalcogens are the group 6A (16) elements: oxygen (O), sulfur (S), selenium (Se), tellurium (Te), and polonium (Po). Halogens are the group 7A (17) elements: fluorine (F), chlorine (Cl), bromine (Br), iodine (I), and astatine (At). Halogens are very reactive elements. Finally, noble gases are the group 8A (18) elements: helium (He), neon (Ne), argon (Ar), krypton (Kr), xenon (Xe), and radon (Rn). They are inert and rarely combine with other elements in the periodic table, like a noble family: have you ever meet a royal?

How to classify Hydrogen At first sight, hydrogen (H) may seem to be put in the wrong spot at the periodic table. Although it is located at the top of Group 1A (1), it is not an alkali metal, as it has very different properties. Thus hydrogen does not belong to the alkali metals, being a nonmetal.

1	1A	1	1.0079	H	Hydrogen	2	2A	2	4.0026	He	Helium
3	3A	3	6.941	Li	Lithium	4	4A	4	9.0122	Be	Beryllium
11	11A	11	22.990	Na	Sodium	12	12A	12	24.305	Mg	Magnesium
19	19A	19	39.098	K	Potassium	20	20A	20	40.078	Ca	Calcium
37	37A	37	85.468	Rb	Rubidium	38	38A	38	87.62	Sr	Strontium
55	55A	55	132.91	Cs	Cesium	56	56A	56	137.33	Ba	Barium
87	87A	87	223	Fr	Francium	88	88A	88	226	Ra	Radium
21	3B	21	44.956	Sc	Scandium	22	4B	22	47.867	Ti	Titanium
23	5B	23	50.942	V	Vanadium	24	6B	24	51.996	Cr	Chromium
25	7B	25	54.938	Mn	Manganese	26	8B	26	55.845	Fe	Iron
27	9B	27	58.933	Co	Cobalt	28	10B	28	58.693	Ni	Nickel
29	11B	29	63.546	Cu	Copper	30	12B	30	65.39	Zn	Zinc
31	13B	31	69.723	Al	Aluminum	32	14B	32	72.64	Ge	Germanium
33	15B	33	74.922	P	Phosphorus	34	16B	34	78.96	Se	Selenium
35	17B	35	79.904	Br	Bromine	36	18B	36	83.8	Kr	Krypton
37	19B	37	85.468	Rb	Rubidium	38	20B	38	87.62	Sr	Strontium
39	21B	39	88.906	Y	Yttrium	40	22B	40	91.224	Zr	Zirconium
41	23B	41	92.906	Nb	Niobium	42	24B	42	95.94	Mo	Molybdenum
43	25B	43	96	Tc	Technetium	44	26B	44	101.07	Ru	Ruthenium
45	27B	45	102.91	Rh	Rhodium	46	28B	46	106.42	Pd	Palladium
47	29B	47	107.87	Ag	Silver	48	30B	48	112.41	Cd	Cadmium
49	31B	49	114.82	In	Indium	50	32B	50	118.71	Sn	Tin
51	33B	51	121.76	Sb	Antimony	52	34B	52	127.6	Te	Tellurium
53	35B	53	126.9	I	Iodine	54	36B	54	131.29	Xe	Xenon
55	37B	55	132.91	Cs	Cesium	56	38B	56	137.33	Ba	Barium
57	39B	57	138.91	La	Lanthanum	58	40B	58	140.12	Ce	Cerium
59	41B	59	140.91	Pr	Praseodymium	60	42B	60	144.24	Nd	Neodymium
61	43B	61	145	Pm	Promethium	62	44B	62	150.36	Sm	Samarium
63	45B	63	151.96	Eu	Europium	64	46B	64	157.25	Gd	Gadolinium
65	47B	65	158.93	Tb	Terbium	66	48B	66	162.50	Dy	Dysprosium
67	49B	67	164.93	Ho	Holmium	68	50B	68	167.26	Er	Erbium
69	51B	69	168.93	Tm	Thulium	70	52B	70	173.04	Yb	Ytterbium
71	53B	71	174.97	Lu	Lutetium	72	54B	72	178.49	Hf	Hafnium
73	55B	73	180.95	Ta	Tantalum	74	56B	74	183.84	W	Tungsten
75	57B	75	186.21	Re	Rhenium	76	58B	76	190.23	Os	Osmium
77	59B	77	192.22	Ir	Iridium	78	60B	78	195.08	Pt	Platinum
79	61B	79	196.97	Au	Gold	80	62B	80	200.59	Hg	Mercury
81	63B	81	204.38	Tl	Thallium	82	64B	82	207.2	Pb	Lead
83	65B	83	208.98	Bi	Bismuth	84	66B	84	209	Po	Polonium
85	67B	85	210	At	Astatine	86	68B	86	222	Rn	Radon
87	69B	87	223	Fr	Francium	88	70B	88	226	Ra	Radium
89	71B	89	227	Ac	Actinium	90	72B	90	232.04	Th	Thorium
91	73B	91	231.04	Pa	Protactinium	92	74B	92	238.03	U	Uranium
93	75B	93	237	Np	Neptunium	94	76B	94	244	Pu	Plutonium
95	77B	95	243	Am	Americium	96	78B	96	247	Cm	Curium
97	79B	97	247	Bk	Berkelium	98	80B	98	251	Cf	Californium
99	81B	99	252	Es	Einsteinium	100	82B	100	257	Fm	Fermium
101	83B	101	258	Md	Mendelevium	102	84B	102	259	No	Nobelium
103	85B	103	262	Lr	Lawrencium	104	86B	104	261	Rf	Rutherfordium
105	87B	105	262	Db	Dubnium	106	88B	106	266	Sg	Seaborgium
107	89B	107	264	Bh	Bohrium	108	90B	108	277	Hs	Hassium
109	91B	109	281	Mt	Mitlerium	110	92B	110	285	Ds	Darmstadtium
111	93B	111	286	Rg	Roentgenium	112	94B	112	289	Uub	Ununbium
113	95B	113	288	Uut	Ununtrium	114	96B	114	294	Uuq	Ununquadium
115	97B	115	290	Uup	Ununpentium	116	98B	116	293	Uuh	Ununhexium
117	99B	117	294	Uus	Ununseptium	118	100B	118	294	Uuo	Ununoctium

Figure 1.1 The periodic table of the elements

1.2 The atom

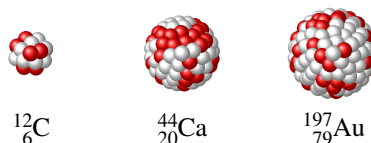
Atoms are the smallest piece of an element that retains its characteristics. They are the building blocks of matter. This section covers the structure of the atom. You will learn how to calculate the number of subatomic particles that made an atom and how to differentiate atoms of an element—all atoms of an elements are not equal.

Atomic Structure Atoms contain three atomic particles: the proton, neutron, and electron. Protons have positive charge (+), whereas electrons carry negative charge (−). Neutrons on the other hand are neutral, and they have no electrical charge. Protons and neutrons are located in the core of the atom, which is called the nucleus, and account for the mass of the atom. Electrons are delocalized in the exterior part of the atoms. They are not necessarily located in a specific spot and their existence spreads in the area next to the nucleus. When an atoms is neutral it has no charge and the number of electrons and protons are the same. Some atoms have positive charge, resulting of removing electrons, and we call these cations. Others—called anions—can have negative charge as a result of accepting a negatively charged electron.

Atomic and mass number Elements are made of atoms, and each atom of an element is characterized by a atomic number (Z) and a mass number (A). The atomic number (Z) of an element indicates the number of electrons of an atom. This number can be easily located in the periodic table. The mass number (A) of an element indicates the combined number of protons and neutrons. Mass numbers are nowhere located in the periodic table as different atoms of the same element can have different mass numbers. Both A and Z for an atom X are indicated in the following form called isotope notation:

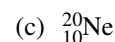
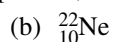
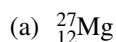


As an example, the notation ${}^{24}_{12}\text{Mg}$ means that the atomic number of Mg is $Z=12$ and the mass number is $A=24$. Remember that the atomic number can be found in the periodic table whereas the mass number A is not on the table. By means of the isotope notation, one can quickly identify the number of protons, neutrons and electrons in an atom. As the atomic number is always indicated on the bottom part (e.g. Mg has 12 electrons). At the same time, the number of electrons and protons in a neutral atom is the same—neutral means an atom without a charge. The number of neutrons of an isotope can be computed by subtracting the atomic number from the mass number.



Sample Problem 3

Calculate the number of protons, neutrons and electrons of the following atoms:



SOLUTION

(a) ${}^{27}_{12}\text{Mg}$ has 12 electrons ($Z=12$) and 12 protons as well (the number of electrons and protons are the same if the atom is neutral), and 15 neutrons, as $27-12=15$.

(b) ${}^{22}_{10}\text{Ne}$ has 10 electrons and 10 protons, and 12 neutrons. (c) ${}^{20}_{10}\text{Ne}$ has 10 electrons and 10 protons, and 10 neutrons as well.

STUDY CHECK

Calculate the number of protons, neutrons and electrons of the following atoms:



Isotopes All atoms of the same element are not the same. Some are heavier than others. Isotopes are atoms of the same element with different numbers of neutrons and therefore with different mass number but with the same atomic number. For example: ${}^{24}_{12}\text{Mg}$, ${}^{25}_{12}\text{Mg}$ and ${}^{26}_{12}\text{Mg}$ are three isotopes of Mg. ${}^{27}_{12}\text{Mg}$ is heavier than ${}^{24}_{12}\text{Mg}$ as it contains more neutrons and protons in the nucleus. Each of the isotopes has a specific abundance, as some isotopes are more abundant than others. For example, the abundance of ${}^{24}_{12}\text{Mg}$ is 79%, and the abundance of ${}^{25}_{12}\text{Mg}$ and ${}^{26}_{12}\text{Mg}$ is 10% and 11%, respectively. This means, ${}^{24}_{12}\text{Mg}$ is more abundant than for example ${}^{26}_{12}\text{Mg}$.

Average atomic mass The average atomic mass represents the mass of the atoms of an element and results from all existing isotopes taking into account their abundance. The units of atomic mass are called *amu*, which stands for atomic mass units. This value can be simply found at any periodic table. Using the periodic table provided in this manual Figure 1.1, you can find the atomic mass of each element on top of the symbol at the right side. For example, the atomic mass of oxygen (O) is 15.999 amu and the atomic mass of nitrogen (N) is 14.007 amu. As atoms are made of numerous isotopes—this means different atoms of the same element but with different number of neutrons and hence different weight—the atomic mass found in the periodic table is an average that results from including the mass of the different isotopes and their abundance. That is you need to do an average of the mass of each isotope using values of abundance. In another words: the *average atomic mass* of an element—herein called simply atomic mass—, expressed in *amu* (atomic mass units), is the weighted average of the masses of the individual isotopes of the element. For an element with n isotopes with different masses (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) and different fractional abundances for each isotope (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n), the atomic mass is given by

$$\text{Atomic mass} = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \cdot f_i = A_1 \cdot f_1 + A_2 \cdot f_2 + \dots + A_n \cdot f_n$$

Also, note that when adding the fractional abundances of all isotopes, one should obtain a value of one:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f_i = f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_n = 1$$

Sample Problem 4

Naturally occurring copper (Cu) consists of 69.17% ${}^{63}\text{Cu}$ and 30.83% ${}^{65}\text{Cu}$. The mass of ${}^{63}\text{Cu}$ is 62.939598 amu, and the mass of ${}^{65}\text{Cu}$ is 64.927793 amu. What is the atomic mass of copper?

SOLUTION

The weighted average is the sum of the mass of each isotope times its fractional abundance. We have that the isotope ${}^{63}\text{Cu}$ has a mass of 62.939598 amu and an abundance of 69.17%, that is the same as 0.6917. At the same time, the isotope ${}^{65}\text{Cu}$ has a mass of 64.927793 amu and an abundance of 0.3083. After adding both contributions, we have:

$$62.939598 \text{ amu} \times \frac{69.17}{100} + 64.927793 \text{ amu} \times \frac{30.83}{100} = 63.55 \text{ amu}$$

STUDY CHECK

Lithium is made up of two isotopes, Li-7 (7.016003 amu) and Li-6 (6.015121 amu). Calculate the percent abundance of each isotope knowing that copper’s atomic weight is 6.94 amu.

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Table 1.1 Isotope abundance of some elements

Element	Isotope	% Abundance	Element	Isotope	% Abundance
Hydrogen	¹ H	99.9885%	Silicon	²⁸ Si	92.2297%
	² H	0.0115%		²⁹ Si	4.6832%
Helium	³ He	0.000137%	Sulfur	³⁰ Si	3.0872%
	⁴ He	99.999863%		³² S	94.93%
Lithium	⁶ Li	7.59%		³³ S	0.76%
	⁷ Li	92.41%		³⁴ S	4.29%
Boron	¹⁰ B	19.9%	Chlorine	³⁶ S	0.02%
	¹¹ B	80.1%		³⁵ Cl	75.78%
Carbon	¹² C	98.93%	Argon	³⁷ Cl	24.22%
	¹³ C	1.07%		³⁶ Ar	0.3365%
Nitrogen	¹⁴ N	99.632%		³⁸ Ar	0.0632%
	¹⁵ N	0.368%	Potassium	⁴⁰ Ar	99.6003%
Oxygen	¹⁶ N	99.757%		³⁹ K	93.2581%
	¹⁷ O	0.038%		⁴⁰ K	0.0117%
	¹⁶ O	0.205%		⁴¹ K	6.7302%

1.3 An introduction to molecules

The periodic table contains all elements in nature. At the same time, elements combine to form molecules. For example, in the air there are traces of Argon–this is an element–
and also water, a molecule (H₂O) that results from the combination of two elements,
hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O). This section will first introduce some of the properties
of molecules, without paying attention to their chemical names that will covered in the
following chapters.

Molecular weight Here are two example of molecules: molecular oxygen O₂ and
molecular nitrogen N₂. How do we interpret these formulas? The subscript "2" indicates
that each molecule contains two atoms. For example, a O₂ molecule is made of two
oxygen atoms O. At the same time, the weight of a set of molecules is called the
molecular weight (MW). However, you will find different terms to refer to the same
property such as: molecular mass, molar mass, or formula unit mass. All these terms
indeed mean the weight a large set of molecules. We can calculate the MW by adding
the weight of each atom that form the molecule taking into the account the number of
atoms of each element present in the molecule. The units of molecular weight are the
same as the units of atomic weight: amu, atomic mass units.

Sample Problem 5

Calculate: (a) The atomic weight of O; (b) the molecular mass of molecular oxygen, O₂

SOLUTION

(a) According to the periodic table the atomic weight (AW) of O is 15.999 amu.

(b) The molar mass of O_2 is the result of adding the atomic masses of 2O atoms, that is 31.998 amu, close to 32 amu.

STUDY CHECK

Calculate the molar mass of water H_2O and ammonia, NH_3

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Mass percent composition of a compound Look at these two molecules:

C_2H_2 and C_2H_6 . They contain different amounts of hydrogen. We quantify the amount of an element in a compound by means of the mass % composition. The mass % of an element in a compound is the mass of the element with respect to the molecular weight of the molecule in percent form. Mind that you have to take into account the molecular indexes in the compound as C_2H_2 is made of 2H and C_2H_6 is made of 6H. For example, given that the molar mass of C_2H_2 is 26 amu, the mass % of hydrogen in C_2H_2 would be:

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$$\%_H \text{ in } C_2H_2 = \frac{2 \cdot AW(H)}{MW(C_2H_2)} \times 100 = \frac{2 \cdot 1}{26} \times 100 = 7.7\%$$

Similarly, the mass % of C would be:

$$\%_C \text{ in } C_2H_2 = \frac{2 \cdot AW(C)}{MW(C_2H_2)} \times 100 = \frac{2 \cdot 12}{26} \times 100 = 92.3\%$$

By adding the mass % of all elements in a molecule we should obtain 100.

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$$\%_H \text{ in } C_2H_2 + \%_C \text{ in } C_2H_2 = 100$$

Sample Problem 6

Calculate the mass % composition for each element of glucose, $C_6H_{12}O_6$.

SOLUTION

We first need the molecular weight of glucose, $C_6H_{12}O_6$, that is: $6 \cdot 12 + 12 \cdot 1 + 6 \cdot 16 = 180$ amu. Now we can calculate the mass percent of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen:

$$\%_C \text{ in } C_6H_{12}O_6 = \frac{6 \cdot 12}{180} \times 100 = 40\%$$

$$\%_H \text{ in } C_6H_{12}O_6 = \frac{12 \cdot 1}{180} \times 100 = 6.6\%$$

By subtraction, we have that $\%_O \text{ in } C_6H_{12}O_6 = 53.4$.

STUDY CHECK

Urea $CO(NH_2)_2$ is a colorless crystalline compound excreted in urine, product of protein metabolism in mammals. Calculate the mass % composition for each element of urea.

1.4 Empirical and molecular formula of a chemical

There are two different types of formulas: molecular formulas and empirical formulas.

Empirical formula (EFs) are simplified formulas resulting from an experiment, whereas molecular formulas (MFs) are exact formulas of molecules. For example: the molecular

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formula of hydrogen peroxide, a mild antiseptic used on the skin to prevent infection of minor cuts, is H_2O_2 as the hydrogen peroxide molecule is made of two oxygen and two hydrogen atoms. Differently, the empirical formula of the same chemical is HO, being
 185 this the result of the simplification of H_2O_2 . One can obtain empirical formulas simply by dividing the molecular formula by the smallest integer number, of course, given you know the molecular formula. The word empirical means "from an experiment", and the use of empirical formulas comes from the fact that the formulas of all chemicals actually come from experiments, and from experiments one normally can only obtain ratios of atomic
 190 composition.

Sample Problem 7

From the following formulas identify the empirical and molecular formulas: P_4O_{10} , $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}$, N_2O_4 and C_5H_{11} .

SOLUTION

Empirical formulas are simplified versions of molecular formulas. For example, $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}$ and C_5H_{11} are empirical formulas. Differently, P_4O_{10} and N_2O_4 are molecular formulas.

STUDY CHECK

Given the following molecular formulas, obtain the corresponding empirical formula: P_4O_{10} , N_2O_4 and $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$.

Molecular weight of empirical formulas and molecular formulas

The molecular weight of an empirical formula and its corresponding molecular formula are related by the following formula:

$$n = \frac{MW_{MF}}{MW_{EF}}$$

where:

MW_{EF} is the molecular weight of the empirical formula

MW_{MF} is the molecular weight of the molecular formula

195 n is a integer number such as 1, 2, 3...

Understanding the formula above is simple. On one hand, the MW of a molecular formula H_2O_2 that is 34 amu. On the other hand, the molecular weight of the empirical formula of the same chemical HO is 17 amu. If we do $34/17$ we would obtain 2, as we need to multiply HO by two in order to obtain H_2O_2 . As a final note, mind that
 200 empirical formulas are just simplified formulas. So when we think about the molecular weight of a chemical we normally have molecular formula in mind. Let us work on an example:

Sample Problem 8

Given that the empirical formula of dichloromethane is ClCH_2 and the molecular weight of the chemical is 98 amu, calculate the molecular formula of dichloromethane.

SOLUTION

Given the empirical formula of dichloromethane one can think of many different molecular formulas, for example: $\text{Cl}_3\text{C}_3\text{H}_6$ or $\text{Cl}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$. From these, and many

other, there is only one real molecular formula. How do we calculate the real molecular formula? By comparing the MW of the molecular and empirical formula we can figure out the number of times we need to multiply the MF to obtain the MF. We know the MW is 98amu. Using the EF we can also calculate a MW: $35 + 12 + 2 \cdot 1 = 49$ amu. If we compare both numbers using the formula:

$$n = \frac{MW_{MF}}{MW_{EF}}$$

we have: $n = 98/49$ and solving we have $n = 2$. Therefore the MF is: $\text{Cl}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$.

STUDY CHECK

The empirical formula of dinitrogen tetroxide, a red-brown liquid with an unpleasant chemical odor, is NO_2 and the molecular weight of the chemical is 92 amu. Calculate the molecular formula of dinitrogen tetroxide.

1.5 Determining empirical formulas

We said that the formula of a chemical that takes into account the correct number of atoms in a molecule is the molecular formula and therefore the real molecular weight of a chemical comes from these formulas. Empirical formulas are obtained from experiments in which a chemical is fragmented and analyzed so that the elements in the molecule and the mass percentage of each element is determined. Molecular formulas are obtained by using the molecular weight of the chemical and the empirical formula. Mind that the formula of a chemical that takes into account the correct number of atoms in a molecule is the molecular formula and therefore the real molecular weight of a chemical comes from these formulas. Let us work on an example in order to learn the procedure of obtaining molecular formulas.

Calculating molecular formulas By means of an experiment, we want to calculate the empirical formula of a chemical given that the chemical contains 2.8 g of nitrogen and 6.4 g of oxygen. In order to calculate the EF we will set up a table like the one presented below.

Empirical Formula Calculation		
	N	O
Grams	2.8g	6.4g
AW	14	16
Grams/AW	0.2	0.4
÷ by smallest	1	2
Formula	$\text{N}_1\text{O}_2 = \text{NO}_2$	

In each column we will add each of the elements that form the molecule. In the first row we will include the grams of each element (sometimes this information is given in terms of mass %), in the second we will divide the grams of each element by its atomic weight ($\text{AW}(\text{N})=14\text{amu}$, $\text{AW}(\text{O})=16\text{amu}$). Among all numbers of the second row (in this example 0.2 and 0.4), we will select the smallest number (0.2). Once we have the

smallest, we will divide all numbers by the smallest and that will give us round numbers (1 and 2); these will be the numbers in an empirical formula: NO_2 .

Sample Problem 9

The mass percentage composition of a compound is: 18.59% O, 37.25% S, and 44.16% F. Calculate its empirical formula.

SOLUTION

We will set up the the molecular formula table, knowing that the percentage are mass percentages, that is the mass of each element in the chemical, hence they should go in the grams row. Also the atomic weights of O, S and F are 16, 32 and 19 amu.

Empirical Formula Calculation			
	O	S	F
Grams	0.1859g	0.3725g	0.4416g
AW	16	32	19
Grams/AW	0.0116	0.0116	0.0232
÷ by smallest	1	1	2
Formula	OSF_2		

STUDY CHECK

What is the empirical formula of a compound if a sample contains 10.28 g of C, 1.71 H and 12.71 g of oxygen?

CHAPTER 1

THE PERIODIC TABLE

1.1 Select from below the atomic symbol for the element Gold is:

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| (a) Go | (c) G | (e) Ol |
| (b) Au | (d) Ca | |

1.2 The atomic symbol for aluminum is:

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| (a) Al | (c) A | (e) Ag |
| (b) Am | (d) Sn | |

1.3 The atomic symbol for iron is:

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| (a) Ir | (c) Fe | (e) Ir |
| (b) Fs | (d) In | |

1.4 Ca is the symbol for:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) Carbon | (d) Copper |
| (b) Calcium | |
| (c) Cobalt | (e) Cadmium |

1.5 Which of the following elements is a metal?

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| (a) Nitrogen | (d) Iron |
| (b) Lithium | |
| (c) Calcium | (e) Iodine |

1.6 Which of the following elements is a alkaline metal?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (a) Nitrogen | (d) Iron |
| (b) Lithium | |
| (c) Calcium | (e) Ruthenium |

1.7 Which of the following elements is a nonmetal?

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| (a) Nitrogen | (d) Iron |
| (b) Lithium | |
| (c) Calcium | (e) Iodine |

1.8 Which of the following elements is a halogen?

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| (a) Nitrogen | (d) Iron |
| (b) Lithium | |
| (c) Calcium | (e) Iodine |

1.9 What is the symbol of the element in Period 4 and Group 2?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) Be | (d) C |
| (b) Mg | |
| (c) Ca | (e) Si |

THE ATOM

1.10 In an atom, the nucleus contains

- (a) an equal number of protons and electrons.
- (b) all the protons and neutrons.
- (c) all the protons and electrons.
- (d) only neutrons.
- (e) only protons.

1.11 The atomic number of an atom is equal to the number of

- (a) nuclei
- (b) neutrons
- (c) neutrons plus protons.
- (d) electrons plus protons.
- (e) electrons

1.12 The mass number of an atom is equal to the number of

- (a) nuclei
- (b) neutrons
- (c) neutrons plus protons.
- (d) electrons plus protons.
- (e) electrons

1.13 The mass number of an atom is equal to the number of

- (a) electrons
- (b) neutrons
- (c) neutrons plus protons.
- (d) protons

1.14 Consider a neutral atom with 30 protons and 34 neutrons. The atomic number of the element is

- (a) 30
- (b) 32
- (c) 34
- (d) 64
- (e) 94

1.15 Consider a neutral atom with 30 protons and 34 neutrons. The mass number of the element is

- (a) 30
- (b) 32
- (c) 34
- (d) 64
- (e) 94

1.16 The atomic mass of Ga is 69.72 amu. There are only two naturally occurring isotopes of gallium: ^{69}Ga , with a mass of 69.0 amu, and ^{71}Ga , with a mass of 71.0 amu. Calculate the natural abundance of the ^{69}Ga isotope.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULES

1.17 Calculate the molecular mass of the following molecule: CCl_2F_2

1.18 Calculate the molecular mass of the following molecule: C_4H_{10}

1.19 Calculate the molecular mass of the following molecule: $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_8$

EMPIRICAL AND MOLECULAR FORMULAS

1.20 What is the empirical formula of a compound if a sample of this compound contains 2.8 g of nitrogen and 3.2 g of oxygen?

1.21 What is the empirical formula and the molecular formula of a compound if a sample contains 3 g of C, 0.5 H and 4 g of oxygen? $\text{MW}=60\text{amu}$

1.22 What is the empirical and molecular formula of a compound with a percent composition of 49.47% C, 5.201% H, 28.84% N, and 16.48% O, if its molecular mass is 194.2 amu.

1.23 A 1.587 g sample of a compound containing N and O was analyzed finding a composition of 0.483 g of Nitrogen and 1.104 g of Oxygen. Calculate the empirical formula of the compound.

Answers 1.1 (b) 1.3 (c) 1.5 (d) 1.7 (a) 1.9 (c) 1.11 (e) 1.13 (c) 1.15 (d) 1.17 121 amu 1.19 210 amu
1.21 CH₂O 1.23 NO₂