

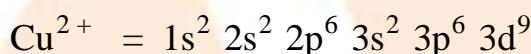
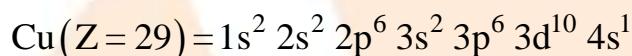
NEET Revision Notes

Chemistry

d and f block elements

Definition

"d-block elements" are those in which the last coming electron enters the d-orbitals of the penultimate shell, i.e. $(n-1)d$, where n is the last shell. A transition element is defined as an element with a partially filled d-orbital, in its ground state or most stable oxidation state.



These elements have attributes that are halfway between those of s-block and p-block elements.

These elements represent a shift in attributes from more electropositive (s-block) to less electropositive (p-block) elements. As a result, these elements are referred to as **transition elements**.

Position in the periodic table

In the periodic table, the location of the d-block element is as follows.

	Group →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Period ↓		H																He		
s-block		Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne	
		Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar	
		K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr	
		Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe	
		Cs	Ba	*	Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
		Fr	Ra	*	Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og
Lanthanides *		La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb					
Actinides *		Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No					

Image: Periodic table

- (1) d-block elements are positioned between the 's' and 'p' block elements in the periodic table, i.e. they are in the middle of the table.
- (2) There are d-block elements in

4th period ($_{21}\text{Sc}$ to $_{30}\text{Zn}$, 10 elements) 1 st Transition series.

5th period ($_{39}\text{Y}$ to $_{48}\text{Cd}$, 10 elements) 2nd Transition series.

6th period ($_{51}\text{La}$, $_{72}\text{Hf}$ to $_{80}\text{Hg}$, 10 elements) 3 rd Transition series.

7th period ($_{89}\text{Ac}$, $_{104}\text{Rf}$ to $_{112}\text{Uub}$, 10 elements) 4 th Transition series.

Electronic configuration

(1) As the atomic number of a d-block element increases, electrons fill the d orbitals of the penultimate shell, $(n-1)d^{1-10}, ns^{0-2}$ is the standard electrical configuration of the d-block element.

(2) Four rows (called series) of 10 elements each are obtained depending on which penultimate shell's d orbitals are filled, i.e. $n = 4, 5, 6, 7$. They correspond to the subshells 3d, 4d, 5d, and 6d.

(3) Because the energy of the ' $(n-1)d$ ' subshell is somewhat higher than that of the 'ns' subshell, the orbital is filled first, followed by the $(n - 1)$ d orbitals.

(4) The following is the general electronic configuration of d-block/d-series elements:

1. First (3d) Transition Series (Sc–Zn)

Atomic no.	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Element	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn
E.C	$3d^1 4s^2$	$3d^2 4s^2$	$3d^3 4s^2$	$3d^5 4s^1$	$3d^5 4s^2$	$3d^6 4s^2$	$3d^7 4s^2$	$3d^8 4s^2$	$3d^{10} 4s^1$	$3d^{10} 4s^2$

2. Second (4d) Transition Series (Y–Cd)

Atomic no.	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
Element	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc*	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd
E.C	$4d^1 5s^2$	$4d^2 5s^2$	$4d^4 5s^1$	$4d^5 5s^1$	$4d^6 5s^1$	$4d^7 5s^1$	$4d^8 5s^1$	$4d^{10} 5s^0$	$4d^{10} 5s^1$	$4d^{10} 5s^2$

3. Third (5d) Transition Series (La–Hg)

Atomic no.	57	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
Element	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg
E.C	$5d^1 6s^2$	$5d^2 6s^2$	$5d^3 6s^2$	$5d^4 6s^2$	$5d^5 6s^2$	$5d^6 6s^2$	$5d^7 6s^2$	$5d^9 6s^1$	$5d^{10} 6s^1$	$5d^{10} 6s^2$

4. Fourth (6d) Transition Series

Atomic no.	89	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
Element	Ac	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Uub
E.C	$6d^1 7s^2$	$6d^2 7s^2$	$6d^3 7s^2$	$6d^4 7s^2$	$6d^5 7s^2$	$6d^6 7s^2$	$6d^7 7s^2$	$6d^8 7s^2$	$6d^{10} 7s^1$	$6d^{10} 7s^2$

Exceptional configuration of Cr and Cu:

- The electrical configurations of chromium ($Z = 24$) and copper ($Z = 29$) are the exceptions in the first series.
- It's worth noting that chromium and copper, unlike other elements, have a single electron in the $4s$ orbital.
- This is due to the atom gaining additional stability by either having a half-filled configuration (i.e., containing 5 electrons in the d-sublevel) or a totally filled arrangement (i.e., the d-sublevel contains 10 electrons). In the case of chromium, the $3d$ -level is exactly half-filled with configuration $3d^5 4s^1$, but in the case of copper, it is totally filled with configuration $3d^{10} 4s^1$.

Based on exchange energy, this can be explained.

Thus, chromium ($Z = 24$) and copper ($Z = 29$) have the electrical arrangement.

$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^5 4s^1$ and $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^6 3p^6 3d^{10} 4s^1$ respectively.

Properties

1. Atomic Radii

- (i) Transition metals have atomic radii that are halfway between those of s- and p-block elements.
- (ii) In general, the atomic radii of d-block elements in a series fall as the atomic number increases, but the atomic size reduces only little after midway.
- (iii) At the end of the period, the atomic radii show a modest increase.
- (iv) As you move down the group, the atomic radii get smaller. As a result, the atomic radii of the second transition series are bigger than those of the first. However, the second and third transition series' atomic radii are nearly identical. Because of lanthanide contraction (also known as lanthanoid contraction), the atomic radii of the elements of the second and third transition metals are almost identical.

Ionic radii

- (i) The ionic radii follow the same pattern as the atomic radii.
- (ii) In different oxidation states, transition metals have variable ionic radii.
- (iii) The transition metals' ionic radii are less than those of typical elements from the same period.

Metallic character

- All the transition elements, except for mercury, which is a liquid, have a conventional metallic structure. They have all the properties of metals.
- High melting and boiling temperatures, high thermal and electrical conductivity, and high tensile strength characterise ductile materials.
- Transition elements have one or two electrons in their outermost energy level (ns^1 or ns^2) and have low ionisation energies. Metallic bonds are created as a result.
- As a result, they behave like metals. Due to the overlapping of unpaired electrons between distinct metal atoms, the greater the number of unpaired d electrons, the stronger the bonding.

Melting Point

- Because of their strong metallic connection, transition metals have high melting points. The link between metals.
- The quantity of unpaired e⁻ determines the metallic bonding. The melting point rises (Sc-Cr), reaches a maximum (Cr), and then falls (Cr-Zn)

- Tungsten (W) has the highest melting point, while mercury (Hg) has the lowest.

Ionisation energies or Ionisation enthalpies

(i) D-block elements' first ionisation enthalpies are located between s-block and p-block elements. They are higher than s block elements but lower than p-block elements.

Along a particular transition series, the ionisation enthalpy gradually increases with increasing atomic number, albeit there are occasional exceptions.

(ii) The difference in ionisation enthalpies between any two-consecutive d-block elements in a given series is substantially smaller than the difference between successive s-block or p block elements.

(iii) However, because of the fully filled $(n-1)d^{10}ns^2$ arrangement, the initial ionisation enthalpy of Zn, Cd, and Hg is extremely high.

(iv) While second and third ionisation enthalpies increase over time in general, the degree of the increase for consecutive elements is substantially greater.

Oxidation state

"The Oxidation state or Oxidation number refers to the net numerical charge ascribed to an atom of an element in its combined state."

(1) With the exception of a few elements, majority of d-block elements have multiple oxidation states, or varying oxidation states. Because of the following factors, the oxidation status of the elements varies:

(i) Because the energies of the ' $(n-1)d$ ' and ' ns ' orbitals in the atoms of d-block elements are nearly identical, electrons from ' $(n-1)d$ ' orbitals can be extracted as easily as electrons from 's' orbitals.

(ii) The residue after eliminating the 's' electrons is known as the Kernel of the metal cations. The kernel in d-block elements is unstable, therefore one or more electrons from $(n - 1)d$ electrons are lost. As a result, cations with various oxidation states are formed.

(2) Except for the last element in each series, all transition elements have a changeable oxidation state.

(3) The total number of electrons lost in 4s is the minimum oxidation state. (Total number of electrons in 4s + number of unpaired electrons in 3d lost) = maximum oxidation state

All elements in the '3d' series have two electrons in '4s,' hence they all have the same minimum oxidation state of +2.

(With the exception of 'Cr' and 'Cu,' which have a minimum oxidation state of +1.) Mn^{+7} is the highest oxidation state, with two electrons removed from the 4s orbitals and five unpaired electrons removed from the 3d orbitals.

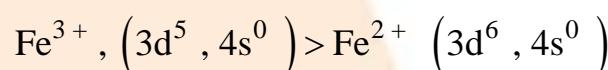
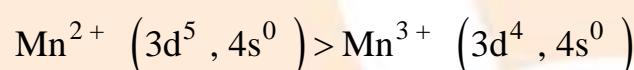
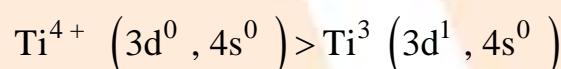
(4) Ruthenium (Ru) and Osmium (Os) have the greatest oxidation state, which is +8.

(5) In metal carbonyl complexes, transition metals also have zero oxidation states. (Nickel tetracarbonyl)

(6) Bonding in lower oxidation state (+2, +3) compounds is primarily ionic, while bonding in higher oxidation state compounds is mostly covalent.

(7) The extra stability rule, according to which d^0 , d^5 , and d^{10} are stable configurations, can be used to explain the relative stabilities of oxidation states.

The stability order of various ions, for example, is as follows:



(8) Due to the high heat of hydration, Cu^{+2} is more stable than Cu^{+1} , even when Cu^{+1} is $3d^{10}$ and Cu^{+2} is $3d$.

The 3d -series of d-block elements show variable oxidation states.

Oxidation States

Electronic Configuration	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn
	d^1s^2	d^2s^2	d^3s^2	d^5s^1	d^5s^2	d^6s^2	d^7s^2	d^8s^2	$d^{10}s^1$	$d^{10}s^2$
	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+1	+2
	+3	+3	+3	+3	+3	+3	+3	+3	+2	
		+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4		
			+5	+5	+5					
				+6	+6	+6				

Standard electrode potentials (E°) and chemical reactivity

The magnitude of ionisation enthalpies of metals can be used to determine the thermodynamic stability of transition element compounds – the smaller the ionisation enthalpy of the metal, the more stable the molecule.

The stability of the compounds in solution is determined by electrode potentials rather than ionisation enthalpies.

Trends in the M^{2+} / M Standard Electrode Potentials

- The $E^\circ (M^{2+}/M)$ values show no consistent trend. This is due to the fact that their ionisation enthalpies ($I_1 + IE_2$) and sublimation enthalpies do not follow a predictable pattern.
 - The increase in the sum of first and second ionisation enthalpies is responsible for the general trend towards smaller negative E° values throughout the run.
 - Copper is the only metal in the series with a positive E° value, making it stand out. This explains why acids do not release hydrogen gas. It only reacts with oxidising acids that have been reduced (HNO_3 and H_2SO_4).
- The total of the enthalpies of sublimation and ionisation is not balanced by the hydration enthalpy, which is why copper has a positive E° value.

Trends in the M^{3+} / M^{2+} Standard Electrode Potentials

- The stability of the Sc^{3+} ion, which possesses a noble gas configuration, is shown by an extremely low value for $E^\circ(Sc^{3+}/Sc^{2+})$.
- The greatest Zn value is due to the extremely high stability of the Zn^{2+} ion in the d^{10} configuration. To transform it to a +3 state, it is difficult to remove an electron from it.
- The relatively high value of $E^\circ(M^{3+}/M^{2+})$ indicates that M^{2+} is particularly stable, as evidenced by its steady d^5 structure.

Values and Chemical Reactivity: The chemical reactivity of transition metals varies greatly. Some are extremely electropositive and dissolve in mineral acids, whereas others are 'noble,' meaning that they do not react with simple acids. The

following are some chemical reactivity of transition metals as a function of their E° values:

- The first transition series metals (excluding copper) are more reactive than the other series metals. As a result, they are oxidised by H^+ ions, though at a slow rate; for example, at ambient temperature, Ti and V are passive to dilute non-oxidizing acids.
- As previously stated, as the series progresses, smaller negative E° values for M^{2+}/M imply a decreasing tendency to produce divalent cations.
- More negative E° values than expected for Mn, Ni, and Zn indicate that Mn^{2+} , Ni^{2+} and Zn^{2+} are more stable.

Catalytic Property

- They have a changeable oxidation state, most transition elements and their compounds have high catalytic characteristics.
- They give the reactant a lot of surface area to absorb.

Catalysts	Uses
$TiCl_4 + Al(C_2H_5)$	Ziegler-Natta catalyst, used in polymerisation of ethylene
V_2O_5	Contact process
Fe	Haber Bosch process
$PdCl_2$	Wacker's process
Pd	Hydrogenation of alkene, alkyne etc
Pt/PtO_2	Adam's catalyst for selective reduction
Pt	Catalytic convertor, for cleaning, car exhaust fumes
Pt/Rh	Ostwald's process
Cu	Oxidation of alcohols

Magnetic Behaviour

- The orbital angular momentum or orbital spin of the electron is also a factor. It results in the formation of a magnetic moment.
- The orbital angular magnetic moment is small in the first transition elements series because the orbital contribution is quenched by the electric fields of the surrounding atoms, therefore the magnetic moment is only equivalent to the spin magnetic moment.

$$\mu = \sqrt{n(n+2)} BM$$

n

n= no. of paired electrons

Because of the presence of unpaired electrons, most transition elements and compounds are paramagnetic.

Complex Formation

Transition metal ions can be found in a wide range of complex molecules. Compounds with a metal ion coupled to several negative ions (anions) or neutral molecules with lone pairs of electrons are known as complex compounds. Ligands are ions or molecules that bind to other ions or molecules. They create coordinate bonds by donating lone pairs of electrons to the core transition metal ion.

Following are a few instances.

$[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{3-}$, $[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{4-}$, $[\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_3]^{2+}$, $[\text{Zn}(\text{NH}_3)_4]^{2+}$, $[\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_4]^{2-}$ and $[\text{PtCl}_4]^{2-}$
s- and p-block components do not create such complex compounds.

Explanation: Because of the following causes, transition elements form complexes:

- (i) Their metal ions are smaller in comparison.
- (ii) Their ionic charges are extremely high.

(They have a large charge/size ratio because (i) and (ii))

- (iii) The presence of unoccupied d-orbitals that can take lone pairs of electrons given by the ligands.

Interstitial Compounds

Small atoms such as hydrogen, carbon, boron, and nitrogen fill the empty spaces (interstitial sites) in the lattices of transition metals, forming a huge number of interstitial compounds. TiC , TiH_2 , Mn_4N , Fe_3H , Fe_3C , and other formulations are used to denote them. However, they are nonstoichiometric materials, such as $\text{TiH}_{1.7}$, $\text{VH}_{0.56}$ and the bonds present are neither ionic nor covalent in nature.

The following are some of their most essential characteristics:

- (i) They are extremely hard and stiff, such as steel, which is a very hard interstitial combination of Fe and C. Some borides are also as hard as diamond.
- (ii) They have melting points that are higher than pure metal melting values.
- (iii) They have conductivity comparable to that of pure metal.

(iv) They become chemically inert.

Alloy formation

- Alloys are homogenous solid solutions of two or more metals formed by melting and cooling the components. Metals with atomic radii that differ by no more than 15% produce these, allowing the atoms of one metal to easily take up positions in the crystal lattice.
- Because transition metals have comparable atomic radii and other properties, they easily combine to create alloys.
- Alloys are tougher, have greater melting temperatures, and are more corrosion resistant than individual metals.
- The metals chromium, vanadium, molybdenum, tungsten, and manganese are used to make alloy steels and stainless steels, which are the most often utilised.
- Alloys with non-transition metals are also quite prevalent. Brass ($\text{Cu} + \text{Zn}$) and bronze ($\text{Cu} + \text{Sn}$) are two examples.

Compounds of transition elements

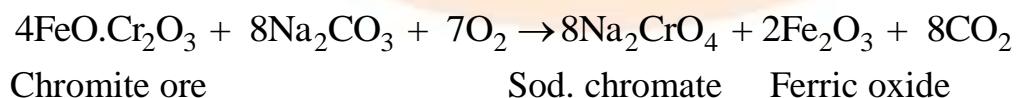
Oxides

- (i) At high temperatures, the metals of the first transition series produce oxides with oxygen.
- (ii) Oxides are generated during oxidation in states +1 to +7
- (iii) In general, metal oxides in lower oxidation levels are basic, while oxides in higher oxidation states are acidic, and oxides in intermediate oxidation states are amphoteric.

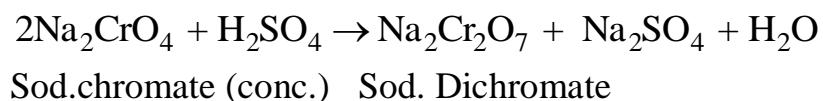
As a result, Mn_2O_7 dissolves in water and forms the acid HMnO_4 .

The following are the many steps involved in the formation of potassium dichromite:

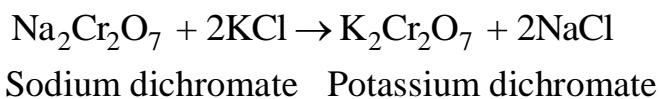
(i) Sodium chromate preparation:



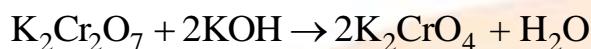
(ii) Sodium chromate to sodium dichromate conversion.



(iii) Sodium dichromate to potassium dichromate conversion:



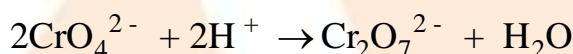
The effect of alkalies: When an alkali is added to an orange red dichromate solution, chromate forms, resulting in a yellow solution.



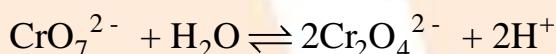
Due to the reformation of dichromate, the colour shifts back to orange red when acidified.



Or



The fact that the $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}$ ions are invariably in equilibrium with 2CrO_4^{2-} ions in dichromate solution at pH = 4 explains this interconversion.

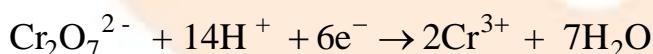


The H^+ ions are used up when an alkali (i.e., increasing the pH of the solution) is added, and the reaction proceeds in the forward direction, creating a yellow chromate solution, according to the rule of chemical equilibrium. When an acid is added (i.e., the pH of the solution is reduced), the concentration of H^+ ions increases, and the reaction proceeds in the opposite direction, generating an orange red dichromate solution.

Potassium dichromate's ability to oxidise: It has a strong oxidising effect. One molecule of potassium dichromate provides three atoms of accessible oxygen in the presence of dilute sulfuric acid, as shown by the equation:



Or



It frees I_2 from the grip of K



Structures of chromate and dichromate ions.

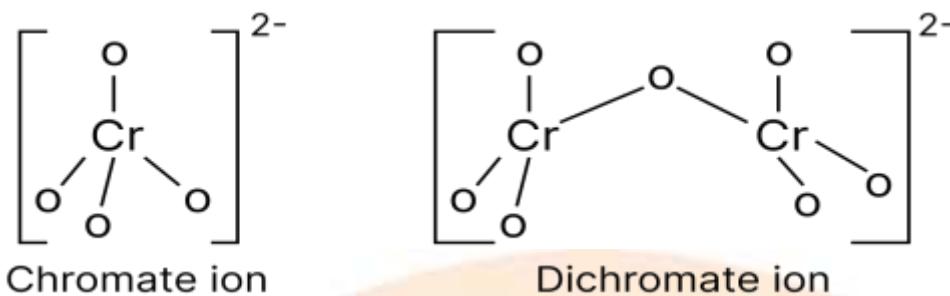
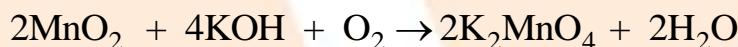


Image: Structure of chromate and dichromate ions

Potassium Permanganate (KMnO_4) Preparation

It is made on a massive scale from the mineral pyrolusite (MnO_2). The following two steps are involved in the preparation:

(i) MnO_2 to potassium manganate conversion. When finely powdered pyrolusite combines with potassium hydroxide or potassium carbonate in the presence of air or an oxidising agent like potassium nitrate or potassium chlorate, green potassium manganate is produced.



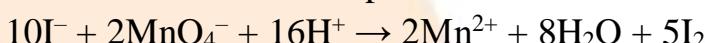
If left to remain for a while, potassium manganate undergoes disproportionation in the neutral or acidic solution as follows:



Potassium permanganate has oxidation properties.

- In acid solutions:

Iodine is liberated from potassium iodide:



- In neutral or faintly alkaline solutions:

A notable reaction is the oxidation of iodide to iodate:



Lanthanoide Series

1. Introduction

The filling up of the antipenultimate 4f energy levels classifies these components.

2. Physical Properties

Electronic Configuration and oxidation states

Element	Electronic Configuration	Electronic Configuration of M^{3+}	Oxidation States
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Lanthanum La	5d ¹ 6s ²	4f ⁰	+ 3
Cerium Ce	4f ¹ 5d ¹ 6s ²	4f ¹	+ 3 (+ 4)
Praseodymium Pr	4f ³ 6s ²	4f ²	+ 3 (+ 4)
Neodymium Nd	4f ⁴ 6s ²	4f ³	(+2) + 3
Promethium Pm	4f ⁵ 6s ²	4f ⁴	(+2) + 3
Samarium Sm	4f ⁶ 6s ²	4f ⁵	(+2) + 3
Europium Eu	4f ⁷ 6s ²	4f ⁶	(+ 2) + 3
Gadolinium Gd	4f ⁷ 5d ¹ 6s ²	4f ⁷	+ 3
Terbium Tb	4f ⁹ 6s ²	4f ⁸	+ 3 (+ 4)
Dysprosium Dy	4f ¹⁰ 6s ²	4f ⁹	+ 3 (+ 4)
Holmium Ho	4f ¹¹ 6s ²	4f ¹⁰	+ 3
Erbium Er	4f ¹² 6s ²	4f ¹¹	+ 3
Thulium Tm	4f ¹³ 6s ²	4f ¹²	(+ 2) + 3
Ytterbium Yb	4f ¹⁴ 6s ²	4f ¹³	(+ 2) + 3
Lutetium Lu	4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹ 6s ²	4f ¹⁴	+ 3

Oxidation state

The total of each element's first three ionisation energies is low. As a result, the oxidation state (+III) is ionic, and the chemistry of these elements is dominated by Ln^{3+} . When Ln^{2+} and Ln^{4+} ions do appear, they are invariably less stable than Ln^{3+} .

Numbers of oxidation (+II) and (+IV) do occur, especially when they lead to:

1. a noble gas configuration (for example, $\text{Ce}^{4+} (f^0)$).
2. a partially filled f shell, such as Eu^{2+} and $\text{Tb}^{4+} (f^7)$
3. a fully filled f level, such as $\text{Yb}^{2+} (f^{14})$.

Atomic radius

The atomic and ionic radii of trivalent ions decrease with increasing atomic number in the lanthanide series, from La^{3+} to Lu^{3+} . Lanthanide contraction is the steady decrease in atomic and ionic radii with increasing atomic number.

- The nuclear charge grows by one unit every element as we progress through the lanthanide series. The new electron is inserted into the same subshell as the previous one (viz., 4f).
- As a result, the nucleus's attraction to electrons increases, and the size tends to shrink. Furthermore, because to the geometries of these f-orbitals, there is incomplete shielding of one electron by another in the f-subshell as a new electron is added.
- This insufficient shielding is inadequate to counteract the increasing nuclear charge's effect.
- As a result, despite the minor decrease in size, the total result is a reduction in size.
- It's worth noting that the drop in atomic radius for 14 elements in the lanthanides (Ce (58) to Lu (71)) is only 11pm (from 183 to 172 pm).

Similarly, the ionic radius drops from Ce^{3+} to Lu^{3+} is only 17 pm (103 to 86 pm)

Atomic and Ionic radii (pm) of lanthanum and lanthanoids.

Element	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Atomic Radii (Ln)	187	183	182	181	181	180	199	180	178	177	176	175	174	173	172
Ionic Radii (Ln^{3+})	106	103	101	99	98	96	95	94	92	91	90	89	88	87	86

Magnetic behaviour

Except for La^{3+} (lanthanum ion, f^0) and Lu^{3+} (lutetium ion, f^{14}), positive lanthanide ions show paramagnetism.

The presence of unpaired electrons in the incomplete 4f subshell gives lanthanides this feature.

The magnetic moments of lanthanides differ from those of transition elements in that they do not satisfy the spin only formula, namely $\mu = \sqrt{n(n + 2)}$ B.M., where n is the number of unpaired electrons. This is because the orbital contribution of transition elements is suppressed by the electric field of the environment, whereas 4f orbitals in lanthanides are too deep to be quenched.

As a result, their magnetic moment is estimated by considering both spin and orbital contribution.

$$\mu = \sqrt{4S(S + 1) + L(L + 1)}$$

The spin quantum number is S, while the orbital quantum number is L.

Colour

The Lanthanides are a group of metals that are silvery white in colour. In the solid form and in aqueous solution, however, most trivalent metal ions are coloured. This is due to partially filled f orbitals, which allow for f-f transitions.

Actinide Series

Elements and their Oxidation States

Atomic	Element	Symbol	Outer electronic structure	Oxidation states
89	Actinium	Ac	$6d^1 7s^2$	+3
90	Thorium	Th	$6d^2 7s^2$	+3, +4
91	Protactinium	Pa	$5f^2 6d^1 7s^2$	+3, +4, +5
92	Uranium	U	$5f^3 6d^1 7s^2$	+3, +4, +5, +6
93	Neptunium	Np	$5f^4 6d^1 7s^2$	+3, +4, +5, +6, +7
94	Plutonium	Pu	$5f^6 7s^2$	+3, +4, +5, +6, +7

95	Americium	Am	$5f^7 7s^2$	+2, +3, +4, +5, +6
96	Curium	Cm	$5f^7 6d^1 7s^2$	+3, +4
97	Berkelium	Bk	$5f^9 7s^2$	+3, +4
98	Californium	Cf	$5f^{10} 7s^2$	+3
99	Einsteinium	Es	$5f^{11} 7s^2$	+3
100	Fermium	Fm	$5f^{12} 7s^2$	+3
101	Mendelevium	Md	$5f^{13} 7s^2$	+3
102	Nobelium	No	$5f^{14} 7s^2$	+3
103	Lawrencium	Lr	$5f^{14} 6d^1 7s^2$	+3
104	Rutherfordium	Rf	$4f^{14} 6d^2 7s^2$	+3

1. Oxidation State

- Actinides, unlike Lanthanides, have a vast variety of oxidation states. This is due to the minor energy difference between the 5f, 6d, and 7s subshells. As a result, all their electrons can participate in the production of bonds.
- These elements have a prevailing oxidation state of +3. (like Lanthanides). Actinides have an oxidation state of +4 in addition to the +3 state.
- The oxidation states of some Actinides are even higher. The maximal oxidation state increases until the middle of the series, then falls; for example, it increases from +4 for Th to +5, +6, and +7 for Pa, U, and Np, then declines for the following elements.
- Actinides are like Lanthanides in that they have more compounds in the +3 state than the +4 state. The compounds in the +3 and +4 states, on the other hand, are more likely to be hydrolyzed.
- It should also be emphasised that the distribution of oxidation states in Actinides is so unequal that discussing their chemistry in terms of oxidation states is pointless.

2. Atomic radius

- Due to the poor shielding effect of the 5f-electrons, the Actinides show Actinide contraction (which is very similar to Lanthanide contraction).

- As a result, the radii of these metals' atoms or ions drop in a predictable pattern across the series. Due to inferior shielding by 5f electrons, the shrinkage is stronger from element to element in this sequence.
- This is since 5f orbitals extend beyond 6s and 6p orbitals in space, but 4f orbitals are buried deep within the atom.

3. Magnetic behaviour

The Actinides elements, like Lanthanides, are extremely paramagnetic. The variation in magnetic susceptibility of Actinides as the number of unpaired electrons increases is comparable to that of Lanthanides, however the values for Actinides are larger than those for Lanthanides.

4. Colour

These metals have a silvery white colour to them. Actinide cations, on the other hand, are usually coloured. The number of 5f-electrons determines the cation's colour. Colourless cations have no 5f-electron or have seven 5f-electrons (i.e., exactly half-filled f-subshell). Both in the crystalline state and in aqueous solution, cations with 2 to 6 electrons in the 5f-subshell are coloured. The colour is caused by the f–f transition.

Comparison of lanthanides and actinides

Similarities:

Because both Lanthanides and Actinides involve the filling of f-orbitals, they are comparable in many ways:

- Both have a predominantly +3 oxidation state.
- They're both electropositive and incredibly reactive.
- They have magnetic and spectral features in common.
- Actinides have contractile properties like Lanthanide

The following are some of the distinctions in their characteristics:

Lanthanides	Actinides
(i) They only exhibit + 2 and +4 oxidation states in a few circumstances, in addition to a + 3 oxidation state.	(i) They also display higher oxidation states of +4, +5, +6, + 7 in addition to the +3 oxidation state.

(ii) The majority of their ions are colorless;	(ii) The majority of their ions are coloured
(iii) They have a lower tendency for complex formation	(iii) They have a higher tendency for complex creation.
(iv) Lanthanide compounds have lower basicity	(iv) Actinides are more basic
(v) Avoid forming oxocation	(v) They are made up of oxocations. Eg. U_2^{2+} , Pu_2^{2+} and UO^+
(vi) They are non-radioactive, except for promethium	(vi) They are radioactive.
(vii) Their magnetic properties are simple to explain.	(vii) Because their magnetic properties are more complex, they are difficult to explain.