

Relative Formula Mass

Answer the questions below.

1. State the chemical symbol for potassium.

K

2. List the elements in $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$.

Zinc, oxygen, hydrogen

3. Where on the periodic table are non-metals found?

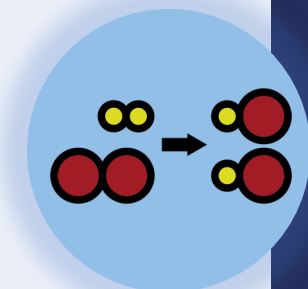
On the right-hand side

4. List 2 elements that are in group 1 of the Periodic Table

Lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, caesium, francium

5. How many atoms are there in $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$?

5



Relative Formula Mass

C3.2.2

Science
Mastery



C3.2.1 Prior Knowledge Review

➤ **C3.2.2 Relative Formula Mass**

C3.2.3 Percentage by Mass

C3.2.4 Conservation of Mass

C3.2.5 Balancing Equations

C3.2.6 Uncertainty

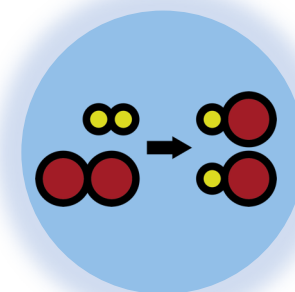
C3.2.7 Introducing Concentration

C3.2.8 Concentration Calculations

C3.2.9 Soluble Salts

C3.2.10 Making Soluble Salts

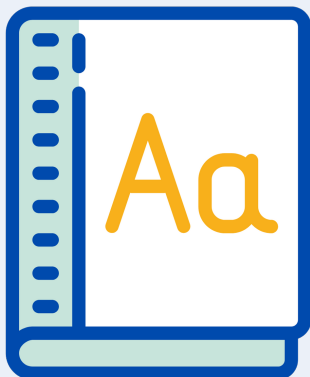
C3.2.11 Making Soluble Salts 2



Following this lesson, students will be able to:

- Recall that relative atomic mass can be written as A_r and relative formula mass can be written as M_r .
- State the relative atomic mass of an element
- Calculate the relative formula mass for a compound.

Key Words:



relative atomic mass

relative

relative formula mass

This is the fix-it portion of the lesson

The **fix-it** is an opportunity to respond to gaps in knowledge, especially those identified by the previous lesson's exit ticket.

- The teacher should customise this slide as needed, to facilitate
 - **reteach, explanation, demonstration** or **modelling** of ideas and concepts that students have not yet grasped or have misunderstood.
 - **practise** answering specific questions or of key skills.
 - **redrafting** or **improving** previous work.

Answer the questions below.

1. Ammonia (NH_3) contains:
 - ☐ A. 3 nitrogen atoms and 1 hydrogen atom
 - ☐ B. 3 nitrogen atoms and 3 hydrogen atoms
 - ☒ C. 3 hydrogen atoms and 1 nitrogen atom
2. How many hydrogen atoms are in the formula $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$?
 - ☐ A. 4
 - ☒ B. 8
 - ☐ C. 6
3. Copper carbonate reacted with hydrochloric acid. Which statement is correct?
 - ☒ A. Carbon dioxide is produced, and if it is bubbled through limewater it would turn cloudy/milky
 - ☐ B. Carbon dioxide is produced, and if it was bubbled through limewater it would remain clear
 - ☐ C. Carbon dioxide is not produced.

Exit ticket

Relative Atomic Mass

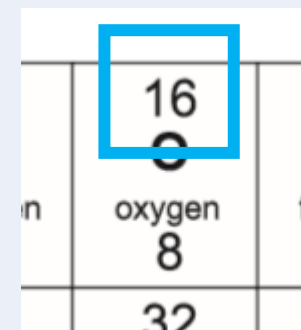
Atoms are very small and have very little mass. So instead of using their actual mass in kg, their **relative** masses are used. This is the **relative atomic mass** or A_r .

The relative atomic mass of an **element** can be found in the **periodic table**.

Use a periodic table to find the A_r of carbon. 12

The **relative atomic mass** (A_r) is the average mass of the atoms of an element compared to the mass of carbon-12.

Relative
means
compared
to
something
else



| | | |
|----|--------|----|
| | 16 | |
| | O | |
| in | oxygen | fl |
| | 8 | |
| | 32 | |

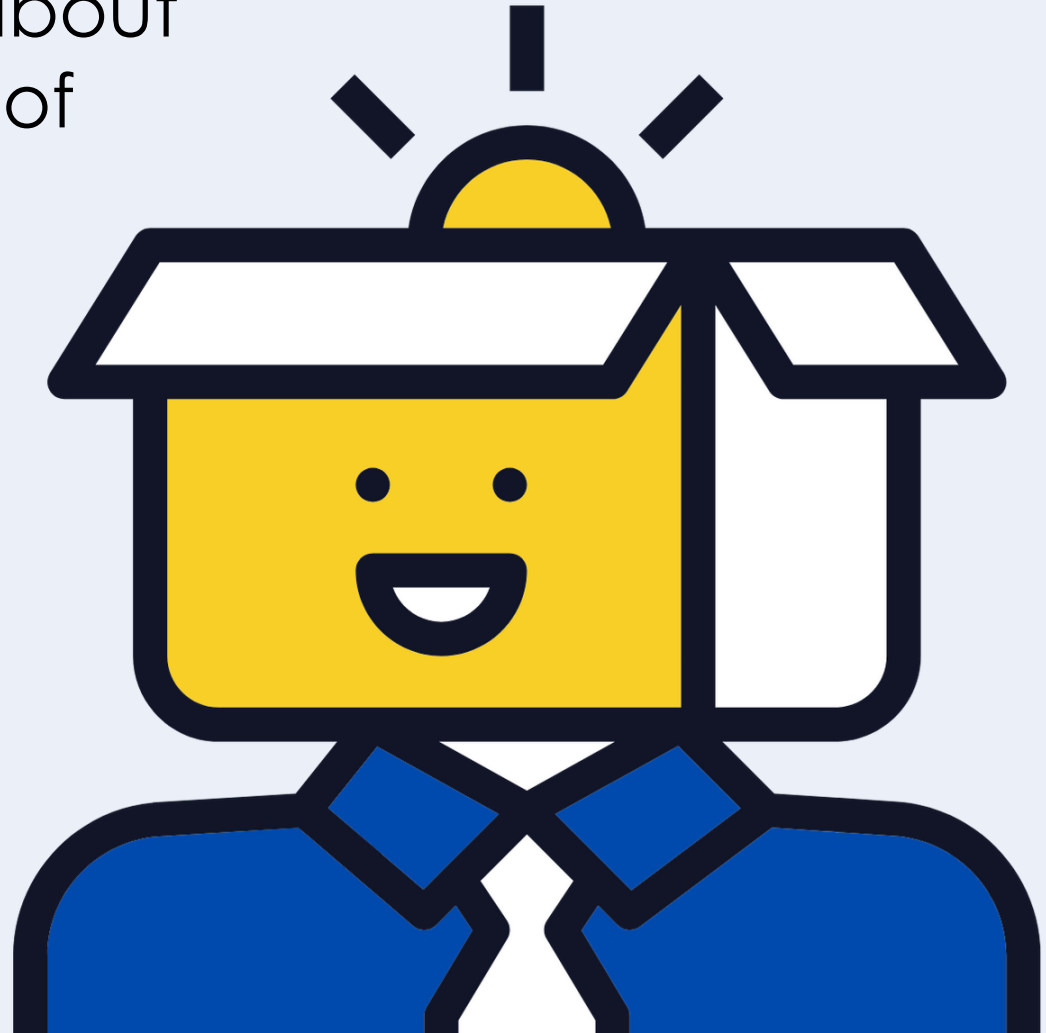
State the relative atomic mass (A_r) for the following elements.

1. Potassium **39**
2. Iron **56**
3. Neon **20**
4. Hydrogen **1**
5. Gold **197**
6. Sulfur **32**
7. Helium **4**
8. Magnesium **24**
9. Carbon **12**

**You'll need
your Periodic
Table for this!**

Think outside the box!

Why do you think we **use relative atomic masses** when talking about the mass of elements, instead of grams or kilograms?



Relative Formula Mass

For compounds (different elements combined together chemically) we can calculate the **relative formula mass** or M_r .

This is calculated by adding up the relative atomic masses of all the atoms in the **formula**.

CO_2 contains 1 carbon atom and 2 oxygen atoms.

$A_r: \text{C} = 12$

$\text{O} = 16$

To calculate the M_r :

$$M_r \text{ of } \text{CO}_2 = 12 + (2 \times 16) = 44$$

The **relative formula mass** (M_r) is the sum of the relative atomic masses of the elements in a compound.

Calculating the relative formula mass (M_r)

1. Calculate the M_r for the following compounds.

(A_r : H = 1; C = 12; N = 14; O = 16; K = 39)

a. NH_3 $14 + (1 \times 3) = 17$

b. O_2 $16 \times 2 = 32$

c. H_2O $(1 \times 2) + 16 = 18$

d. KOH $39 + 16 + 1 = 56$

2. Use your understanding of the conservation of mass to find the M_r of CaO . (M_r : $\text{CaCO}_3 = 100$; $\text{CO}_2 = 44$)



$$100 \qquad \qquad ? \qquad 44$$

$$100 - 44 = 56$$

$$100 = 56 + 44$$

Calculating relative formula mass

A student has written the following to work out the relative formula mass for $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$.

With your partner, discuss

- Why hasn't student done this calculation correctly?
- What should the answer be?

N - nitrogen

N – nitrogen x 1

N – 1 x 7 = 7

H - hydrogen

H – hydrogen x 4

H – 4 x 1 = 4

S - sulfur

S – sulfur x 1

S – 1 x 16 = 16

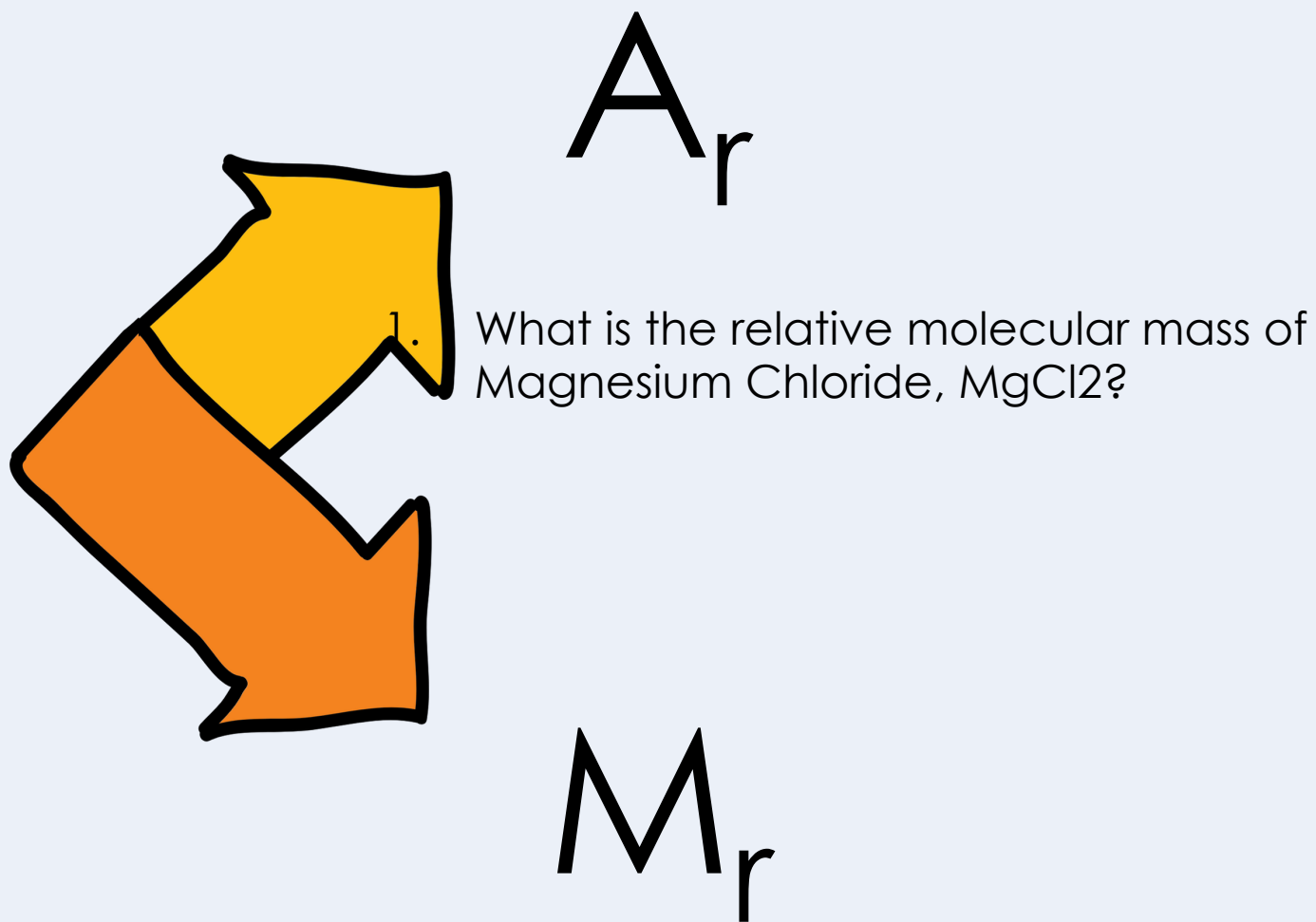
O – oxygen

O – oxygen x 4

O – 4 x 8 = 32

$$7 + 4 + 16 + 32 = \underline{59}$$

What is the difference between these two terms?



Drill

1. What letters denote relative atomic mass?
2. What is the definition for relative atomic mass?
3. What is M_r ?
4. What is the difference between A_r and A_r ?
5. What is the relative atomic mass of Aluminium, Al?
6. What is the relative molecular mass of sodium Chloride, NaCl?
7. How many atoms of each element are present in $Mg(OH)_2$?
8. What is the relative molecular mass of $Mg(OH)_2$?
9. How many atoms of each element are present in $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$?
10. What is the relative molecular mass of $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$?

Drill answers

1. A_r
2. The average mass of the atoms of an element compared to the mass of carbon 12
3. Relative formula mass
4. A_r is relative atomic mass and Ar is the symbol for argon
5. 27
6. $23 + 35.5 = 58.5$
7. $Mg = 1, O = 2, H = 2$
8. $24 + (16 \times 2) + (2 \times 1) = 58$
9. $Ca = 3, P = 2, O = 8$
10. $(40 \times 3) + (31 \times 2) + (16 \times 8) = 120 + 62 + 128 = 310$

I: Calculating relative formula mass

Magnesium nitrate, $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$

Mg is Magnesium, 24

N is Nitrogen, 14

O is Oxygen, 16

Magnesium: 1

Nitrogen: 2

Oxygen: 6

Magnesium: $24 \times 1 = 24$

Nitrogen: $14 \times 2 = 28$

Oxygen: $16 \times 6 = 96$

$24 + 28 + 96 = \underline{148}$

Steps:

1. Write out the **elements** and their **relative atomic masses**
2. Use the formula to write the **number of atoms** of each element
3. Calculate the **mass of the atoms** of each element (Relative atomic mass x number of atoms)
4. **Add up the total mass** of the elements (this is your M_r)

We: Calculating relative formula mass

Calcium carbonate, CaCO_3

Ca is Calcium, 40

C is Carbon, 12

O is Oxygen, 16

Calcium: 1

Carbon: 1

Oxygen: 3

Calcium: $40 \times 1 = 40$

Carbon: $12 \times 1 = 12$

Oxygen: $16 \times 3 = 48$

$40 + 12 + 48 = \underline{100}$

Steps:

1. Write out the **elements** and their **relative atomic masses**
2. Use the formula to write the **number of atoms** of each element
3. Calculate the **mass of the atoms** of each element (Relative atomic mass x number of atoms)
4. **Add up the total mass** of the elements (this is your M_r)

You: Calculating relative formula mass

Calcium phosphate, $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$

Ca is Calcium, 40

P is Phosphate, 31

O is Oxygen, 16

Calcium: 3

Phosphate : 2

Oxygen: 8

Calcium: $40 \times 3 = 120$

Phosphate : $31 \times 2 = 62$

Oxygen: $16 \times 8 = 128$

$120 + 62 + 128 = 310$

Steps:

1. Write out the **elements** and their **relative atomic masses**
2. Use the formula to write the **number of atoms** of each element
3. Calculate the **mass of the atoms** of each element (Relative atomic mass x number of atoms)
4. **Add up the total mass** of the elements (this is your M_r)

Answer the questions below.

1. The relative formula mass for NH_3 is... (A_r : N = 14; H = 1)

- ☒ A. 17
- ☐ B. 15
- ☐ C. 45

2. The relative formula mass for Fe_2O_3 is...

- ☐ A. 384
- ☒ B. 160
- ☐ C. 76

3. Complete the sentence. The relative formula mass is

- ☐ A. The sum of the atomic mass of protons and electrons in a compound
- ☒ B. The sum of the relative atomic masses of the elements in a compound
- ☐ C. The sum of the relative atomic masses in an element

Lesson C3.2.2

What was good about this lesson?

What can we do to improve this lesson?

[Send us your feedback by clicking this link](#)
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Thank you!