# Why Study Atomic Structure?

In Chapter 3, we learned atoms and molecules make up everything. But:

- Why are atoms of different elements different?
- Are atoms really indivisible as Dalton said?

Scientists discovered that atoms are not indivisible — they are made of even smaller particles called sub-atomic particles.

# 4.1 Charged Particles in Matter

## Activity 4.1:

- Comb dry hair → it attracts bits of paper
- Rub glass rod with silk → bring near balloon → balloon gets attracted

✓ Conclusion: Rubbing creates electric charge → things get charged → Matter contains charged particles!

## Sub-atomic Particles

- 1. Electron (e-)
  - Discovered by: J.J. Thomson
  - Charge: -1 unit
  - Mass: negligible (1/2000 of a hydrogen atom)
- 2. Proton (p+)
  - Discovered by: E. Goldstein (via canal rays)
  - Charge: +1 unit
  - Mass: 1 atomic mass unit (u)
- 3. Neutron (n)
  - Discovered by: James Chadwick
  - Charge: 0
  - Mass: ≈ 1 u

# 4.2 Atomic Models

Let's understand how scientists explained atom's structure using models.

#### 4.2.1 Thomson's Model of Atom

**Definition**: J.J. Thomson proposed that atoms are a sphere of positive charge with negatively charged electrons embedded like seeds in watermelon.

### Key points:

- Atom is positively charged with embedded electrons
- Charges are equal & opposite → Atom is neutral

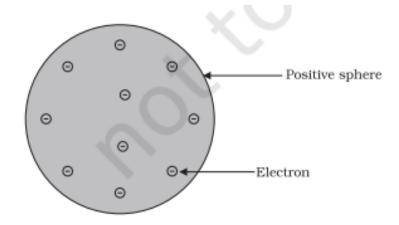


Fig. 4.1 – Thomson's Plum Pudding Model

#### Limitation:

Couldn't explain results of other experiments, like Rutherford's.

## ♦ 4.2.2 Rutherford's Alpha-Particle Scattering Experiment

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- Bombarded thin gold foil with fast-moving α-particles (He<sup>2+</sup>)
- Observed paths of particles

#### Observations:

- 1. Most  $\alpha$ -particles passed straight
- 2. Some deflected slightly
- 3. A few bounced back!

#### Conclusion:

- Most of atom is empty space
- Positive charge & mass concentrated in a tiny central part → nucleus
- Electrons revolve around nucleus

#### Rutherford's Model:

- Atom has a dense nucleus (positive)
- Electrons revolve in circular orbits
- Nucleus is very small

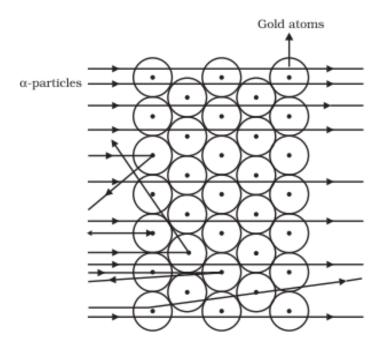


Fig. 4.2 – Rutherford's gold foil experiment

### Limitation:

According to classical physics, electrons moving in circles should lose energy and spiral into nucleus  $\rightarrow$  atom would collapse. But atoms are stable  $\rightarrow$  this model couldn't explain that.

### 4.2.3 Bohr's Model of Atom

Proposed by: Neils Bohr (to fix Rutherford's model)

### Key Postulates:

- 1. Electrons move in fixed energy levels (orbits/shells)
- 2. As long as electrons stay in these orbits, they do not lose energy
- 3. Each orbit has fixed energy and capacity

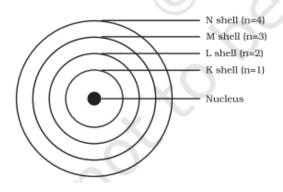


Fig. 4.3 – Energy levels around nucleus

#### 4.2.4 Neutrons

Neutron → Neutral particle in nucleus
Discovered by: James Chadwick (1932)
Mass ≈ 1 u
Neutrons + Protons = nucleons
All atoms (except hydrogen-1) have neutrons

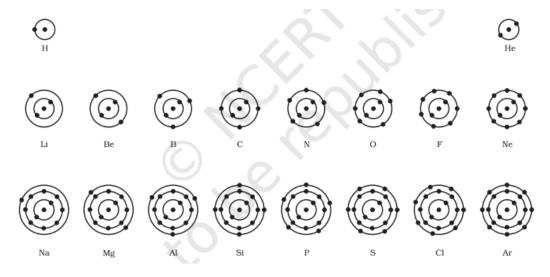
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## 4.3 Electron Distribution in Shells

- Rule for Electron Distribution: (Bohr-Bury scheme)
  - 1. Max electrons in shell =  $2n^2$ (n = shell number: K = 1, L = 2...)

## Capacity:

- $K \rightarrow 2 (2 \times 1^2)$
- L  $\rightarrow$  8 (2×2<sup>2</sup>)
- $M \rightarrow 18 (2 \times 3^2)$
- N  $\rightarrow$  32 (2×4<sup>2</sup>)
- 1. Outer shell can have max 8 electrons
- 2. Inner shells must be filled first



**™** Fig. 4.4 – Atomic structures of first 18 elements

■ Table 4.1 – Atomic number, shells, valency for first 18 elements

# Activity 4.2:

Make a model showing electronic configurations of 1–18 elements

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# 4.4 Valency

■ Valency:

The combining capacity of an atom (how many electrons it can lose/gain/share to complete its

outermost shell).

#### Rules:

- If outer shell has < 4 electrons → valency = number of electrons
- If outer shell has > 4 electrons → valency = 8 number of electrons
- Completely filled shell (like He, Ne, Ar) → valency = 0
- Examples:
  - Na (2,8,1) → Valency = 1
  - O (2,6) → Gains 2 electrons → Valency = 2
  - $F(2,7) \rightarrow Gains 1 \rightarrow Valency = 1$
  - Mg (2,8,2) → Loses 2 → Valency = 2
- Table 4.1 → Column of valencies

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## 4.5 Atomic Number and Mass Number

- Atomic Number (Z):
- Definition: Number of protons in an atom's nucleus
- Z = number of protons = number of electrons (for neutral atom)

Example: Z of carbon = 6

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- Mass Number (A):
- Definition: Total number of protons + neutrons in an atom
- A = number of protons + number of neutrons

Notation:

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 $ZX \rightarrow$  where X = element symbol

Example:

Carbon  $\rightarrow$  <sup>12</sup><sub>6</sub>C  $\rightarrow$  6 protons + 6 neutrons = 12

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# 4.6 Isotopes and Isobars

- Isotopes
- **Definition:**

Atoms of the same element with same atomic number but different mass number.

Examples:

- <sup>1</sup><sub>1</sub>H (protium), <sup>2</sup><sub>1</sub>H (deuterium), <sup>3</sup><sub>1</sub>H (tritium)
- <sup>12</sup><sub>6</sub>C & <sup>14</sup><sub>6</sub>C
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub>Cl & <sup>37</sup><sub>17</sub>Cl

## Properties:

- Chemically same
- Physically different
- Used in medicine & nuclear reactors
- Average atomic mass of Cl = (35×75% + 37×25%) / 100 = 35.5 u

Isobars

### Definition:

Atoms of different elements with same mass number but different atomic number

**Example:** 

 $^{40}{}_{20}$ Ca and  $^{40}{}_{18}$ Ar  $\rightarrow$  different elements, same mass