IISER Kolkata

CH1101: Elements of Chemistry

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1. Listing the elements in ascending order of atomic weights, we observe a periodicity of 5 (with some gaps) in their physical states, electrical conductivities and chemical reactivities.

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} Bh^2 & Ik^5 & Uc^6 & Dt^8 & Bc^{11} \\ Ai^{14} & Ye^{15} & Sk^{17} & \textbf{X}^{-19} & On^{20} \\ \textbf{E}^{23} & Zw^{28} & Dr^{30} & Fq^{32} & Fn^{36} \end{array}$$

We may conclude that the element E_{23} may be a gas with very low electrical conductivity and very low chemical reactivity.

Similarly, we may predict the existence of a new element X_{19} , which may be a hard, high melting solid with very high electrical conductivity and high chemical reactivity.

2.

- 3. The power of Mendeleev's periodic table lay in its predictive nature. Seeing the gaps in his table, Mendeleev predicted the existence of new elements, such as 'eka-boron', 'eka-aluminium' and 'eka-silicon', along with their physical and chemical properties with stunning accuracy. He was also able to correct inaccuracies in the then known atomic weights of elements using this device.
- 4. We will use $c = f\lambda$ and E = hf.

1 0		00	Event
	$7.9 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$		Heating food (infrared)
	$6.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$		Reading (visible light)
$3.0 \times 10^{11} \text{ Hz}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}$		Making popcorn (microwave)
$1.2 \times 10^{17} \; \mathrm{Hz}$	$2.5 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}$	$7.9 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J}$	Dental (X-ray)

- 5. We will use $\lambda = h/p$, p = mv. An O_2 molecule weighs 32 amu $\approx 5.3 \times 10^{-26}$ kg. Thus, its momentum is 2.5×10^{-23} kg m/s, and its de Broglie wavelength is 2.6×10^{-11} m = 26 pm. Clearly, this is a small fraction (10.7 %) of the molecular length of O_2 .
- 6. A UV photon will obey the relation $E = hc/\lambda$.
 - (a) Each photon has an energy of $E=4990~{\rm kJ}/N_A\approx 8.3\times 10^{-18}~{\rm J}.$ Thus, we have $\lambda=hc/E\approx 24~{\rm nm}.$
 - (b) A 500 nm photon will have an energy of $hc/\lambda \approx 4.0 \times 10^{-19} \text{J}$. 21 such photons would have an energy just exceeding that of a UV photon.
 - (c) Although 25 such photons carry a total energy more than that of a single UV photon, they cannot induce mutation in a strand of DNA. This is because exactly the right amount of energy must be supplied to the π -bond in a thymine base in DNA for it to break, and thus mutate. The breaking of such a bonding involves the absorption of the photon by an electron in a bonding molecular orbital, promoting it to an antibonding orbital. Such a promotion requires just the right amount of energy the energy difference between the two orbitals.