Table 3.9 Periodic Trends in Valence of Elements as shown by the Formulas of Their Compounds

Group	**1**	**2**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**
Formula of hydride	LiH NaH KH	 CaH_2	B_2H_6 AlH_3	CH_4 SiH_4 GeH_4 SnH_4	NH_3 PH_3 AsH_3 SbH_3	H_2O H_2S H_2Se H_2Te	HF HCl HBr HI
Formula of oxide	Li_2O Na_2O K_2O	MgO CaO SrO BaO	B_2O_3 Al_2O_3 Ga_2O_3 In_2O_3	CO_2 SiO_2 GeO_2 SnO_2 PbO_2	N_2O_3, N_2O_5 P_4O_6, P_4O_{10} As_2O_3, As_2O_5 Sb_2O_3, Sb_2O_5 Bi_2O_3 –	 SO_3 SeO_3 TeO_3 –	– Cl_2O_7 – –

There are many elements which exhibit variable valence. This is particularly characteristic of transition elements and actinoids, which we shall study later.

(b) Anomalous Properties of Second Period Elements

The first element of each of the groups 1 (lithium) and 2 (beryllium) and groups 13-17 (boron to fluorine) differs in many respects from the other members of their respective group. For example, lithium unlike other alkali metals, and beryllium unlike other alkaline earth metals, form compounds with pronounced covalent character; the other members of these groups predominantly form ionic compounds. In fact the behaviour of lithium and beryllium is more similar with the second element of the following group i.e., magnesium and aluminium, respectively. This sort of similarity is commonly referred to as **diagonal relationship** in the periodic properties.

What are the reasons for the different chemical behaviour of the first member of a group of elements in the ***s***- and ***p*-blocks** compared to that of the subsequent members in the same group? The anomalous behaviour is attributed to their small size, large charge/ radius ratio and high electronegativity of the elements. In addition, the first member of group has only four valence orbitals (2*s* and 2*p*) available for bonding, whereas the second member of the groups have nine valence orbitals (3*s*, 3*p*, 3*d*). As a consequence of this, the maximum covalency of the first member of each group is 4 (e.g., boron can only form $[BF_4]^-$, whereas the other members of the groups can expand their valence shell to accommodate more than four pairs of electrons e.g., aluminium forms $[AlF_6]^{3-}$). Furthermore, the first member of *p*-block elements displays greater ability to form $p_\pi - p_\pi$ multiple bonds to itself (e.g., C = C, C ≡ C, N = N, N ≡ N) and to other second period elements (e.g., C = O, C = N, C ≡ N, N = O) compared to subsequent members of the same group.

Property	**Element**		
Metallic radius M/ pm	**Li** 152 **Na** 186	**Be** 111 **Mg** 160	**B** 88 **Al** 143
Ionic radius M^+ / pm	**Li** 76 **Na** 102	**Be** 31 **Mg** 72	

Problem 3.9

Are the oxidation state and covalency of Al in $[AlCl(H_2O)_5]^{2+}$ same ?

Solution

No. The oxidation state of Al is +3 and the covalency is 6.

3.7.3 Periodic Trends and Chemical Reactivity

We have observed the periodic trends in certain fundamental properties such as atomic and ionic radii, ionization enthalpy, electron gain enthalpy and valence. We know by now that the periodicity is related to electronic configuration. That is, all chemical and physical properties are a manifestation of the electronic configuration of elements. We shall now try to explore relationships between these fundamental properties of elements with their chemical reactivity.

The atomic and ionic radii, as we know, generally decrease in a period from left to right. As a consequence, the ionization enthalpies generally increase (with some exceptions as outlined in section 3.7.1(a)) and electron gain enthalpies become more negative across a period. In other words, the ionization enthalpy of the extreme left element in a period is the least and the electron gain enthalpy of the element on the extreme right is the highest negative (note : noble gases having completely filled shells have rather positive electron gain enthalpy values). This results into high chemical reactivity at the two extremes and the lowest in the centre. Thus, the maximum chemical reactivity at the extreme left (among alkali metals) is exhibited by the loss of an electron leading to the formation of a cation and at the extreme right (among halogens) shown by the gain of an electron forming an anion. This property can be related with the reducing and oxidizing behaviour of the elements which you will learn later. However, here it can be directly related to the metallic and non-metallic character of elements. Thus, the metallic character of an element, which is highest at the extremely left decreases and the non-metallic character increases while moving from left to right across the period. The chemical reactivity of an element can be best shown by its reactions with oxygen and halogens. Here, we shall consider the reaction of the elements with oxygen only. Elements on two extremes of a period easily combine with oxygen to form oxides. The normal oxide formed by the element on extreme left is the most basic (e.g., Na_2O), whereas that formed by the element on extreme right is the most acidic (e.g., Cl_2O_7). Oxides of elements in the centre are amphoteric (e.g., Al_2O_3, As_2O_3) or neutral (e.g., CO, NO, N_2O). Amphoteric oxides behave as acidic with bases and as basic with acids, whereas neutral oxides have no acidic or basic properties.

Problem 3.10

Show by a chemical reaction with water that Na_2O is a basic oxide and Cl_2O_7 is an acidic oxide.

Solution

Na_2O with water forms a strong base whereas Cl_2O_7 forms strong acid.

$Na_2O + H_2O \rightarrow 2NaOH$

$Cl_2O_7 + H_2O \rightarrow 2HClO_4$

Their basic or acidic nature can be qualitatively tested with litmus paper.

Among transition metals (3*d* series), the change in atomic radii is much smaller as compared to those of representative elements across the period. The change in atomic radii is still smaller among inner-transition metals (4*f* series). The ionization enthalpies are intermediate between those of *s* and *p* blocks. As a consequence, they are less electropositive than group 1 and 2 metals.

In a group, the increase in atomic and ionic radii with increase in atomic number generally results in a gradual decrease in ionization enthalpies and a regular decrease (with exception in some third period elements as shown in section 3.7.1(d)) in electron gain enthalpies in the case of main group elements.

Thus, the metallic character increases down the group and non-metallic character decreases. This trend can be related with their reducing and oxidizing property which you will learn later. In the case of transition elements, however, a reverse trend is observed. This can be explained in terms of atomic size and ionization enthalpy.

SUMMARY

In this Unit, you have studied the development of the **Periodic Law** and the **Periodic Table**. Mendeleev's **Periodic Table** was based on atomic masses. Modern **Periodic Table** arranges the elements in the order of their atomic numbers in seven horizontal rows (**periods**) and eighteen vertical columns (**groups** or **families**). Atomic numbers in a period are consecutive, whereas in a group they increase in a pattern. Elements of the same group have similar **valence shell** electronic configuration and, therefore, exhibit similar chemical properties. However, the elements of the same period have incrementally increasing number of electrons from left to right, and, therefore, have different valencies. Four types of elements can be recognized in the periodic table on the basis of their electronic configurations. These are ***s*-block, *p*-block, *d*-block** and ***f*-block** elements. **Hydrogen** with one electron in the 1*s* orbital occupies a unique position in the periodic table. **Metals** comprise more than seventy eight per cent of the known elements. **Non-metals**, which are located at the top of the periodic table, are less than twenty in number. Elements which lie at the border line between metals and non-metals (e.g., Si, Ge, As) are called **metalloids** or **semi-metals**. Metallic character increases with increasing atomic number in a group whereas decreases from left to right in a period. The physical and chemical properties of elements vary periodically with their atomic numbers.

Periodic trends are observed in **atomic sizes, ionization enthalpies, electron gain enthalpies**, **electronegativity** and **valence.** The atomic radii decrease while going from left to right in a period and increase with atomic number in a group. Ionization enthalpies generally increase across a period and decrease down a group. Electronegativity also shows a similar trend. Electron gain enthalpies, in general, become more negative across a period and less negative down a group. There is some periodicity in valence, for example, among representative elements, the valence is either equal to the number of electrons in the outermost orbitals or eight minus this number. **Chemical reactivity** is hightest at the two extremes of a period and is lowest in the centre. The reactivity on the left extreme of a period is because of the ease of electron loss (or low ionization enthalpy). Highly reactive elements do not occur in nature in free state; they usually occur in the combined form. Oxides formed of the elements on the left are basic and of the elements on the right are acidic in nature. Oxides of elements in the centre are amphoteric or neutral.

EXERCISES

3.1 What is the basic theme of organisation in the periodic table?

3.2 Which important property did Mendeleev use to classify the elements in his periodic table and did he stick to that?

3.3 What is the basic difference in approach between the Mendeleev's Periodic Law and the Modern Periodic Law?

3.4 On the basis of quantum numbers, justify that the sixth period of the periodic table should have 32 elements.