

A Brief History of Atomic Theory

The “modern” atomic picture has evolved over many centuries

Often fraught with religious and philosophical overtones

John Dalton – Early 1800’s

Developed first fairly refined atomic picture in response to two “laws”. Developed using mass measurements!

Law of Conservation of Matter: (Lavoisier 1780’s)

Law of Definite Proportions: (Proust ~1800)

1

Dalton’s Atomic Theory

4 main components

1. All matter is made of Atoms
2. All atoms of a given element are identical
3. Compounds are the result of a combination of two or more different kinds of atoms
4. Chemical reactions involve the combination, separation or rearrangement of atoms



Dalton’s theory leads to the **Law of Multiple Proportions:**

2

Modern Atomic Picture

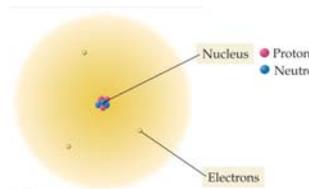
(With thanks to Thompson, Millikan, Rutherford...[Read these sections])

Components of Atoms:

Name	Charge	Symbol	Location	Mass (kg)
electron	-1	${}^0_{-1}e$ or e^-	outside of nucleus	9.11×10^{-31}
proton	+1	1_1p	in nucleus	1.67×10^{-27}
neutron	0	1_0n	in nucleus	1.67×10^{-27}

Characteristics:

- Atoms are small (30 - 150 pm)
- Most of the atom is empty space
- Nucleus is extremely small and massive
 - ~99.9% of the mass ion << 0.1% of volume
 - A pea in Busch stadium
- e^- occupy the region around the nucleus
- Atoms are electrically neutral



Key to Chemical Behavior: *electrons* determine chemical behavior

3

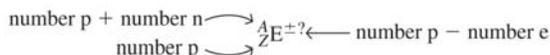
Identifying Atoms

Atomic Number: number of protons in an atom (if atom is neutral, then it also measures the number of electrons).

Mass Number: allows a measure of the total number of protons and neutrons in an atom.

Atomic Mass (Weight): represents the mass of an average atom of the element. Atomic mass is the weighted average factoring in all naturally occurring **isotopes** and their abundance.

Isotope:



4

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Calculating Atomic Masses

The **Atomic Mass Unit (amu)**: 1/12 of the atomic mass of a carbon atom with 6 protons and 6 neutrons. Allows quantitation of mass ratios.

$$1 \text{ amu} = 1.661 \times 10^{-24} \text{g}$$

Actual masses:

Particle	Mass (g)	Mass (amu)
Electron	9.11×10^{-28}	0.0005486
Proton	1.6726×10^{-24}	1.0073
Neutron	1.67×10^{-24}	1.0087

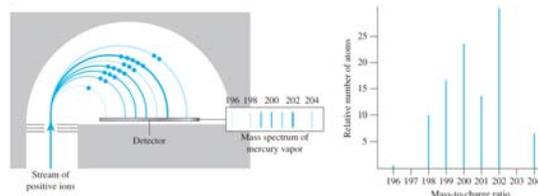
Mass Number allows estimation of mass of an isotope (in amu)

Even given all this, adding up the masses of p, n, and e- \neq experimentally determined mass!! Why?

5

More Isotopes

How do we know what isotopes exist?



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Revisiting Isotope Abundance:

Example: Bromine exists as two isotopes, ^{79}Br and ^{81}Br . If the atomic mass of Bromine is 79.904 amu, what are the relative abundances of the two isotopes?

6

