

What is an atom?

What is the structure of an atom?

### The Model—the structure of an atom

(Reference: sections 2.4 - 2.6 in Silberberg 5<sup>th</sup> ed.)

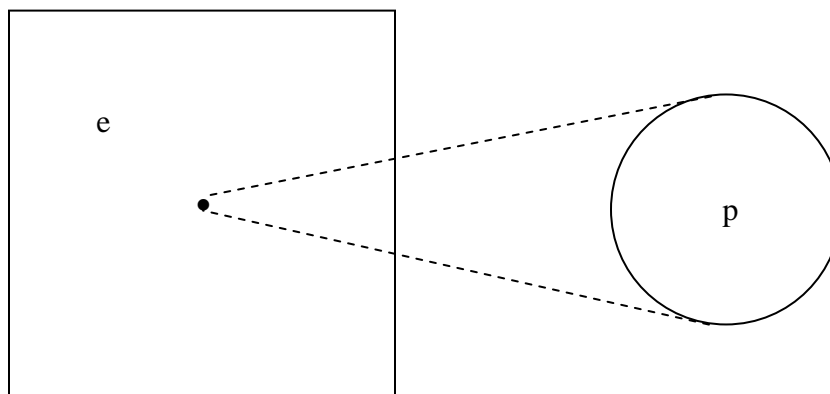
The subatomic particles that chemists are typically concerned with are the **electron**, the **proton**, and (to a lesser extent) the **neutron**. The following table shows what distinguishes one subatomic particle from another:

Particle	Charge	Mass (amu <sup>*</sup> )	Symbol used in the diagrams below
electron	-1	0.00055	e
proton	+1	1.00728	p
neutron	0	1.00867	n

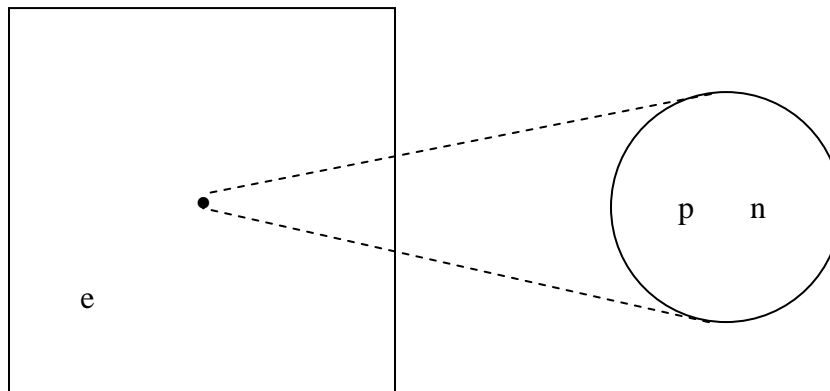
\* The **atomic mass unit** (amu) is equivalent to  $1.6606 \times 10^{-24}$  g.

Suppose we had a **VERY** powerful microscope/camera that allowed us to take the following “snapshots” of atoms. (A snapshot is involved because the particles within the **nucleus of an atom** (don’t confuse it with a nucleus of a cell!) are in constant motion as are the electrons in space outside of the nucleus. To see what’s in the nucleus, we have to zoom in real close.

#### Hydrogen-1

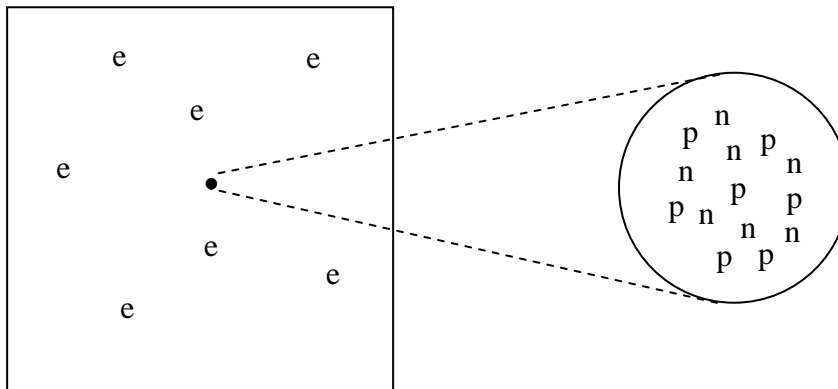


#### Hydrogen-2



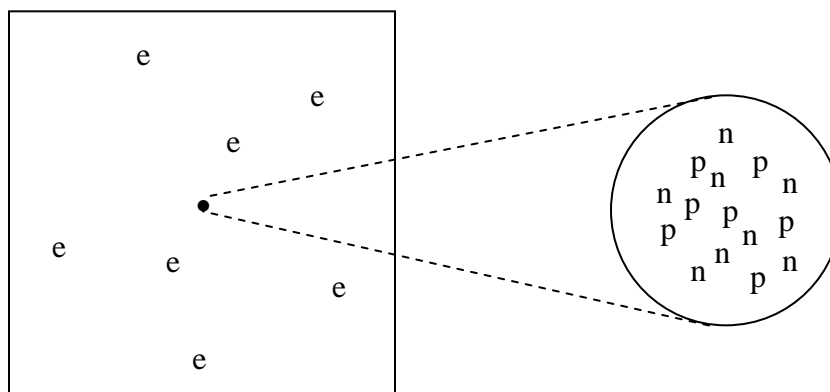
**Nitrogen-14**

$^{14}_7\text{N}$



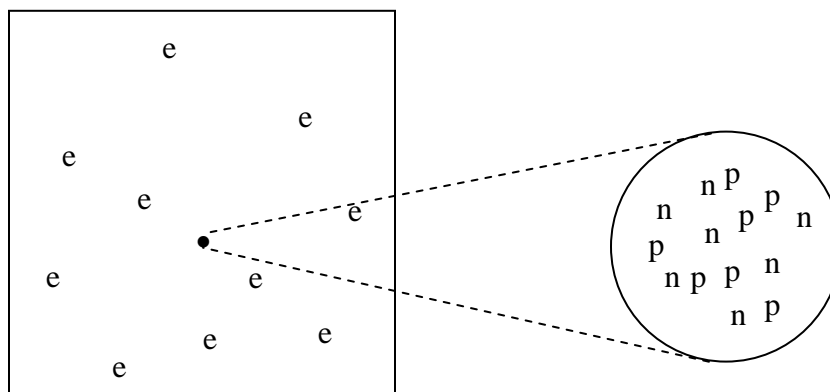
**Nitrogen-15**

$^{15}_7\text{N}$



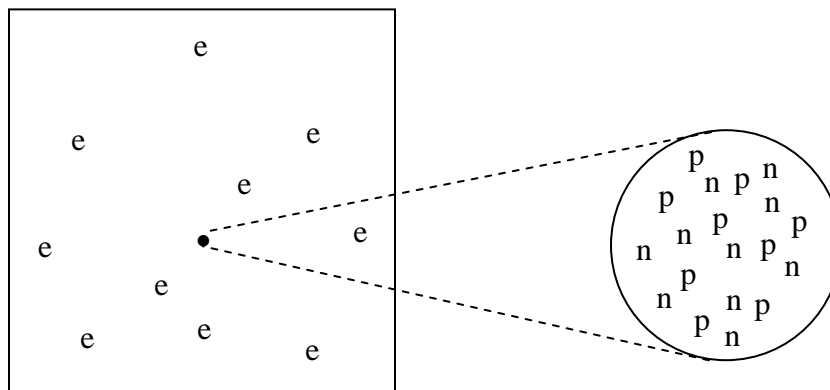
**a Nitride ion** (an ion of nitrogen)

$^{14}_7\text{N}^{3-}$

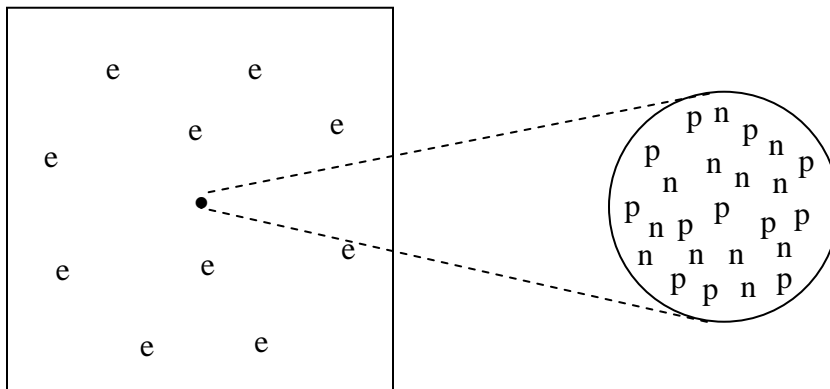
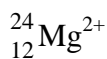


**a Fluoride ion** (an ion of fluorine)

$^{19}_9\text{F}^-$



### a Magnesium ion

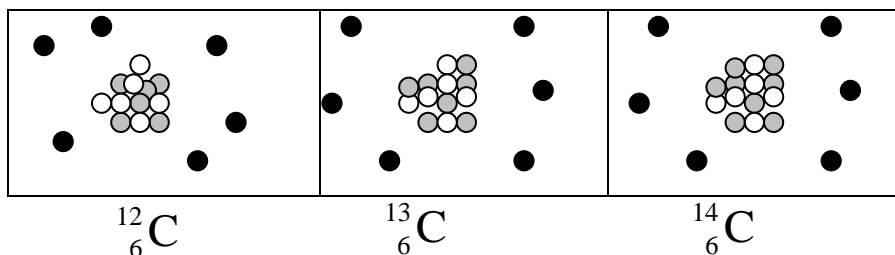


The following three diagrams are carbon atoms using the following symbols (not drawn to scale)

○ = proton (positive charge)

● = electron (negative charge)

◐ = neutron (no charge)

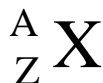


(6 protons, 6 neutrons)

(6 protons, 7 neutrons)

(6 protons, 8 neutrons)

Notice the type of notation used for atoms:



**X** = chemical symbol of the element

**Z** = “atomic number”

**A** = “mass number”

${}^{12}_6\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{13}_6\text{C}$ , and  ${}^{14}_6\text{C}$  are notations that represent *isotopes* of carbon.

${}^1_1\text{H}$ ,  ${}^2_1\text{H}$  and  ${}^3_1\text{H}$  are notations that represent *isotopes* of hydrogen.

The part of the atom where the protons and neutrons are is called the *nucleus*.

### *Key Questions*

- 1 a.) How many *protons* are found in each of the following?  ${}^{14}_7\text{N}$  \_\_\_\_\_  ${}^{15}_7\text{N}$  \_\_\_\_\_  ${}^{14}_7\text{N}^{3-}$  \_\_\_\_\_
- b.) How many *neutrons* are found in each of the following?  ${}^{14}_7\text{N}$  \_\_\_\_\_  ${}^{15}_7\text{N}$  \_\_\_\_\_  ${}^{14}_7\text{N}^{3-}$  \_\_\_\_\_
- c.) How many *electrons* are found in each of the following?  ${}^{14}_7\text{N}$  \_\_\_\_\_  ${}^{15}_7\text{N}$  \_\_\_\_\_  ${}^{14}_7\text{N}^{3-}$  \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 a.) Based on the Model, what do all atoms (neutral or charged) of **Nitrogen** have in common?
- b.) Based on the Model, what do all atoms (neutral or charged) of **Hydrogen** have in common?
3. Look at the **Periodic Table** on [page 7](#). What is the significance of the number (called the **atomic number** and represented by the letter *Z*) that appears above the symbol of each element on the periodic table. (e.g., “H” for Hydrogen and “N” for Nitrogen)?
4. What do all **Arsenic** (As) atoms have in common?
5. The number of what subatomic particle determines the **identity of an atom**?
6. The left-hand superscript in the symbol for an atom (e.g., the 2 in  ${}^2_1\text{H}$ ) is called the **mass number** and is represented by the letter **A**. What subatomic particle(s) determine(s) the value of **A**?
7. Hydrogen-1, Hydrogen-2 and Hydrogen-3 are **isotopes** of the element Hydrogen. Nitrogen-14 and Nitrogen-15 are isotopes of the element Nitrogen. What subatomic particle distinguishes isotopes of the same element from each other?
8. If present, what does the **right-hand superscript** in the symbol for an atom (e.g., the “2+” in  ${}^{24}_{12}\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ) tell the reader?
- 9 a.) When an atom becomes an **ion** (e.g., when  ${}^{14}_7\text{N}$  becomes  ${}^{14}_7\text{N}^{3-}$ ), which subatomic particle undergoes a change in number in the atom?
- b.) Is that particle gained or lost? Explain.
- c. How is the magnitude of the charge on an ion determined?

## Exercises

10. Complete the table below.

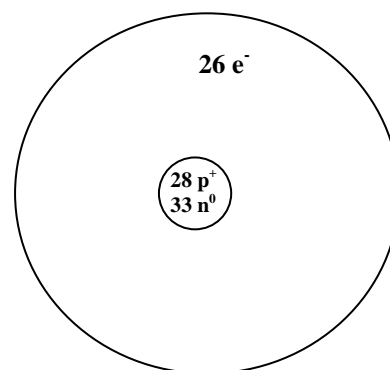
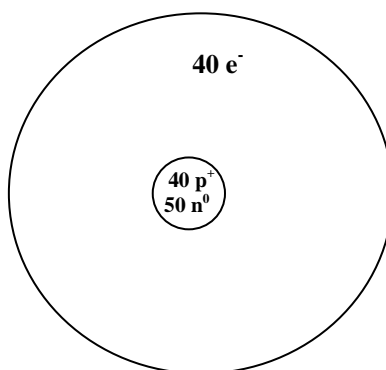
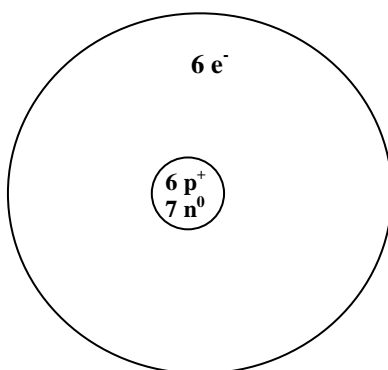
Isotopic Symbol	Z	A	# of electrons	# of protons	# of neutrons
$^{12}_6\text{C}$					
$^{56}_{26}\text{Fe}^{3+}$					
$^{32}_{16}\text{S}^{2-}$					
	42	98	42		
			48	50	70
	15		18		16

11. Write the isotopic notation (e.g.  $^9_4\text{Be}$ ) for each representation of the following atoms or ions.

a.) Isotopic notation:

b.) Isotopic notation:

c.) Isotopic notation:



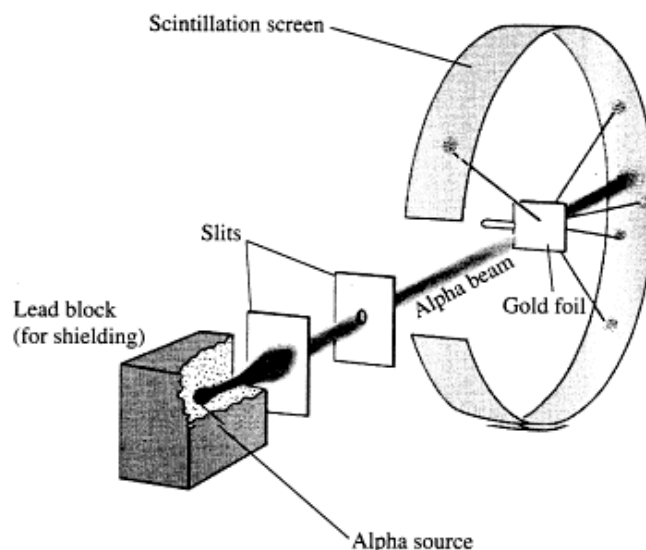
12. Draw the atomic representations similar to those in the previous question for each of the following atoms or ions.

a.)  $^{207}_{82}\text{Pb}$

b.)  $^9_4\text{Be}$

c.)  $^{75}_{33}\text{As}^{5+}$

13. Rutherford's "gold foil experiment" involves passing a beam of  **$\alpha$ -particles** (*i.e.* **helium nuclei**,  $\text{He}^{2+}$ ) through a very thin sheet of gold. Most of the  $\alpha$ -particles pass through the gold foil (a very dense metal) with little or no deflection. However, a few of the  $\alpha$ -particles are observed to be deflected significantly—some were even deflected back to the source!



- a.) Explain why most of the  $\alpha$ -particles pass directly through the gold foil with little to no deflection.
- b.) Explain why only a very small fraction of the  $\alpha$ -particles have large deflection angles.
- c.) Explain why some of the  $\alpha$ -particles are deflected back to the source. What does this tell you about the structure of the atom?
14. What is the **net charge** on *every atom*? Explain why.
15. An oxide ion (oxygen ion) has a 2<sup>−</sup> charge. (Use your periodic table if necessary)
- a.) How many **protons** does the oxide ion have?
- b.) How many **electrons** does an oxide ion have?

# PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

1 A																										8 A	
1	1 <b>H</b> 1.0079														2 <b>He</b> 4.0026												
	2 A																										
2	3 <b>Li</b> 6.941	4 <b>Be</b> 9.012											5 <b>B</b> 10.811	6 <b>C</b> 12.011	7 <b>N</b> 14.007	8 <b>O</b> 16.00	9 <b>F</b> 19.00	10 <b>Ne</b> 20.179									
3	11 <b>Na</b> 22.99	12 <b>Mg</b> 24.30											13 <b>Al</b> 26.98	14 <b>Si</b> 28.09	15 <b>P</b> 30.974	16 <b>S</b> 32.06	17 <b>Cl</b> 35.453	18 <b>Ar</b> 39.948									
4	19 <b>K</b> 39.10	20 <b>Ca</b> 40.08	21 <b>Sc</b> 44.96	22 <b>Ti</b> 47.90	23 <b>V</b> 50.94	24 <b>Cr</b> 52.00	25 <b>Mn</b> 54.938	26 <b>Fe</b> 55.85	27 <b>Co</b> 58.93	28 <b>Ni</b> 58.69	29 <b>Cu</b> 63.55	30 <b>Zn</b> 65.39	31 <b>Ga</b> 69.72	32 <b>Ge</b> 72.59	33 <b>As</b> 74.92	34 <b>Se</b> 78.96	35 <b>Br</b> 79.90	36 <b>Kr</b> 83.80									
5	37 <b>Rb</b> 85.47	38 <b>Sr</b> 87.62	39 <b>Y</b> 88.91	40 <b>Zr</b> 91.22	41 <b>Nb</b> 92.91	42 <b>Mo</b> 95.94	43 <b>Tc</b> (98)	44 <b>Ru</b> 101.1	45 <b>Rh</b> 102.91	46 <b>Pd</b> 106.42	47 <b>Ag</b> 107.87	48 <b>Cd</b> 112.41	49 <b>In</b> 114.82	50 <b>Sn</b> 118.71	51 <b>Sb</b> 121.75	52 <b>Te</b> 127.60	53 <b>I</b> 126.91	54 <b>Xe</b> 131.29									
6	55 <b>Cs</b> 132.91	56 <b>Ba</b> 137.33	57 ◊ <b>La</b> 138.91	72 <b>Hf</b> 178.49	73 <b>Ta</b> 180.95	74 <b>W</b> 183.85	75 <b>Re</b> 186.21	76 <b>Os</b> 190.2	77 <b>Ir</b> 192.2	78 <b>Pt</b> 195.08	79 <b>Au</b> 196.97	80 <b>Hg</b> 200.59	81 <b>Tl</b> 204.38	82 <b>Pb</b> 207.2	83 <b>Bi</b> 208.98	84 <b>Po</b> (209)	85 <b>At</b> (210)	86 <b>Rn</b> (222)									
7	87 <b>Fr</b> (223)	88 <b>Ra</b> 226.02	89 * <b>Ac</b> 227.03	104 <b>Unq</b> (261)	105 <b>Unp</b> (262)	106 <b>Unh</b> (263)	107 <b>Uns</b> (262)	108 <b>Uno</b> (265)	109 <b>Une</b> (266)																		

◊ Lanthanides

\* Actinides

58 <b>Ce</b> 140.12	59 <b>Pr</b> 140.91	60 <b>Nd</b> 144.24	61 <b>Pm</b> (145)	62 <b>Sm</b> 150.4	63 <b>Eu</b> 151.97	64 <b>Gd</b> 157.25	65 <b>Tb</b> 158.93	66 <b>Dy</b> 162.50	67 <b>Ho</b> 164.93	68 <b>Er</b> 167.26	69 <b>Tm</b> 168.93	70 <b>Yb</b> 173.04	71 <b>Lu</b> 174.97
90 <b>Th</b> 232.04	91 <b>Pa</b> 231.04	92 <b>U</b> 238.03	93 <b>Np</b> 237.05	94 <b>Pu</b> (244)	95 <b>Am</b> (243)	96 <b>Cm</b> (247)	97 <b>Bk</b> (247)	98 <b>Cf</b> (251)	99 <b>Es</b> (252)	100 <b>Fm</b> (257)	101 <b>Md</b> (258)	102 <b>No</b> (259)	103 <b>Lr</b> (260)