Atomic Theory Development



Born as early as 400 BC, it took more than 2000 years before Science was ready to accept the idea of atomic structure of matter...<u>and another 150 years to develop a good model</u>! Democritus ~400 BC "Nothing exists except atoms and empty space;

everything else is opinion"

"atomos"="not to be cut"

Democritus (ca. 460 BC - ca. 370 BC)

- Matter could not be divided into smaller and smaller pieces forever, eventually the smallest possible piece would be obtained.
- This piece, atomos (atom), would be indivisible.
- Between atoms, there would be empty space.
- To Democritus, atoms were small, hard particles of different shapes and sizes that were all made of the same material.
- Atoms were <u>infinite in number</u>, <u>always moving</u> and capable of <u>joining together</u>.

John Dalton early 1800s

The first truly scientific theory of the atom: conclusions were reached by <u>experimentation</u> and examination of the results in an <u>empirical fashion</u>.



- All elements are composed of atoms.
- Atoms are <u>indivisible</u> and <u>indestructible</u> particles.
- <u>Atom model</u>: a billiard ball or a *marble*.
 - Atoms of the same element are exactly alike.

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- Atoms of different elements are different.
- Compounds are formed by the joining of atoms of two or more elements.



John Dalton

 <u>1803-1805</u>: first *list* of relative atomic weights containing just 6 elements, namely *hydrogen* (conventionally assumed to <u>weigh 1</u>), oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, sulfur, and phosphorus.

 <u>1808</u>: expanded list of elements

ELEMENTS. Hydrogen. Strontian Azore Barytes Carbon Iron Zinc Oxygen 1 Phosphorus 0 Copper 56 Sulphur 13 Lead Maguesia /20 Silver Lime 24 Gold Soda 18 Platina 10 Potash

<u>Dmitri Mendeleev</u>

• <u>1869</u>: periodic *table* of 66 elements ordered and grouped according to their atomic weight.

опытъ системы элементовъ. основанной на втъ атокномъ въсъ и химическої Ti ~ 50 7-180. V --- 51 Cr - 52 Man 96 W = 186. Mn - 55 Rh-104.4 Pt-197.4 Fe = 56 Bn-104.4 [r-198. NI - Co = 59 Pi=106s 0-=199. H = 1Cu-63.4 Ag-108 Hg-200. Be - 94 Mg - 24 Zn = 654 Cd = 112 8-11 Al = 27.1 2-68 Ur=116 Au=197? C as 12 Si - 28 2 = 105n = 118N.as 14 P-31 As-75 Sb=122 Bi=210? 0 = 165-32 Se=79,4 Te=128? F -- 19 1-127 Cl = 35.6 Br = 80 Li = 7 Na = 23K=39 Rb=854 Cs=133 TI = 204. Ca-40 Sr-87.4 Ba-137 Pb == 207. 2-45 Ct-92 ?Er=56 la=94 ?Y1=60 Di=95 ?in - 75.4 Th - 118? I. Mennachens.

How can we study *the inside* of atom? See what "comes out"!

- Electric current originates within matter; can flow through matter but also...in vacuum!
 - Cathode rays, 1869: streams of something travelling in straight lines observed in vacuum tubes when voltage is applied across the evacuated tube equipped with two electrodes.
- Radioactivity (alpha, beta, gamma)
 - Henri Becquerel, 1896:
 - radioactivity was first discovered in uranium salts during his work on phosphorescence.
- Light (later!)



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Discovery of Electron



Joseph John Thomson



<u>1897</u>: Studying cathode rays, Thomson detected charged particles that were around 1800 times lighter than the lightest atom, hydrogen. Therefore they were not atoms, but a new particle, the first subatomic particle to be discovered. Originally it was called "corpuscle" but was later named *electron*.

- many elements were shown to emit electrons...
- …all atoms must contain electrons as universal building blocks
- atoms are neutral, so there must be a balancing "cloud" of opposite charge



Radioactivity

• Marie Sklodowska-Curie and Pierre Curie, 1898:

- conducted a systematic study to determine which elements and compounds emitted "mysterious radiation" that they called "radioactivity"
- isolated a new radioactive element, <u>polonium</u> (named in honor of Marie's home country),
- 4 years later, discovered an even more intensely radioactive substance, *radium*.



Ernest Rutherford and Frederick Soddy, 1899-1903:

- discovered three different types of radiation "rays" with very different properties and proposed that <u>atoms were not</u> <u>conserved</u> in radioactive emissions.

Discovery of the **Nucleus** Rutherford (Geiger–Marsden), 1908-1913: Gold Foil Experiment

- "Father of nuclear physics"
- Bombarded a <u>thin metal foil</u> with <u>alpha particles</u>. A majority of the particles passed through the sheet, but a <u>small percentage</u> were deflected.



 Rutherford's conclusion: "the greater part of the mass of the atom was concentrated in a minute nucleus... carrying a charge".



Planetary Model Niels Bohr, 1913

<u>Electrons</u> move in <u>definite orbits</u> around the nucleus, <u>much like</u> planets circle the Sun.

 These <u>circular</u> orbits, or <u>energy</u> levels, are located at <u>certain</u> <u>distances</u> from the nucleus.



• Electrons can jump between levels emitting (or absorbing) energy...

...here comes Quantum Theory!





Summary: Structure of Matter



Inside a Nucleus

- <u>Rutherford, 1920</u>: discovery of a proton (Greek: "first"), a positively charged subatomic particle.
- 1920-1932: search for a *neutral* particle.
- Chadwick, 1932: detected zero charged particles with about the same mass as the proton, eventually called neutron (1935 Nobel Prize in Physics).



Atom ~10⁻¹⁰m

Nucleus ~10⁻¹⁴m Proton ~10⁻¹⁵m Neutron ~10⁻¹⁵m

Atomic Nucleus Structure

