



Just How Small Can you get?

Uncovering the Structure of the Atom



DF

What is today's lesson about?
 The structure of the atom.
 The nature of scientific inquiry. How do scientists think?

 How do scientists use models to help them understand complex scientific concepts?









 The reaction of sodium and water.

> sodium + water \rightarrow sodium hydroxide + hydrogen 2Na (s) + 2H₂O (l) \rightarrow 2NaOH (aq) + H₂ (g)



• Time:

11 seconds.



How small could you cut the piece of sodium and still get the same reaction to occur?



 The smallest piece of sodium that would react with water in the same way as a lump of sodium is a sodium atom.

 An *atom* is the smallest part of a chemical element that demonstrates all of the typical chemical properties of that element.



• Atoms are like tiny Lego bricks.

• Different bricks represent atoms of different elements.

• Just as different bricks can be put together to make different *models*, different atoms can be put together to make different *chemicals* or *compounds*.











• This is a computer generated *model* of a compound.

- The compound is made by putting different "building bricks" together.
- The "building bricks" used to make this compound are carbon atoms (grey), hydrogen atoms (white), nitrogen atoms (blue), oxygen atoms (red) and an atom of sulfur (yellow).











 There are approximately 5 – 10 times more stars in the known universe than there are grains of sand on all of the beaches around the world.

• But...

 There are more atoms in a single grain of sand than there are stars in the known universe.







• Two aluminium cans weigh approximately 27 grams. How many atoms of aluminium are there in the two cans?

Answer = 600 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 !





• Two aluminium cans weigh approximately 27 grams. How many atoms of aluminium are there in the two cans?

Answer = 600 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 !



O) F

Atoms are very small. How do scientists know what they look like?

 Scientists use evidence from things that they can observe to infer information about things that they cannot observe directly.



"The snozzcumber!" cried Sophie. "There's no such thing." The BFG looked at Sophie and smiled, showing about twenty of his square white teeth.

• The Big Friendly Giant by Roald Dahl

"Yesterday," he said, "we was not believing in giants, was we? Today we is not believing in snozzcumbers.

• The Big Friendly Giant by Roald Dahl

Just because we happen not to have actually *seen* something with our own two little winkles, we think it is not existing."

• The Big Friendly Giant by Roald Dahl





The Thinker Auguste Rodin (1880) Fundamental Questions in Chemistry...

- What is matter composed of?
- What holds matter together?
- How are matter and energy related?



Ancient ideas about what matter is composed of...



• Fire • Water • Air • Earth



Ancient ideas about what matter is composed of...



Generating interaction
Overcoming interaction



 Is matter infinitely divisible?





 Is matter infinitely divisible?









 Is matter infinitely divisible?



















 The Greek Philosopher Democritus, who lived 2500 years ago, was the first to suggest the idea of atoms.

 While walking on a beach Democritus saw rocks being broken into pebbles and pebbles being broken into sand. He reasoned that eventually there must be tiny pieces of rock that cannot be broken down into anything smaller.
Democritus's story is a good example of how scientific concepts can be inspired by everyday observations. He noticed the natural process of rocks weathering and breaking down into pebbles and then sand. This led him to the important idea that matter is not infinitely divisible, but is composed of fundamental, indivisible units. These units, which he called atomos, are the building blocks of everything in the universe.





The word atom is derived from the Greek word atomos.

- The negative prefix a means not. The root tomos means cut.
- So the literal translation of atomos is cannot be cut.































Enduring Understandings

- Science is a *human endeavour*.
- Scientific discoveries are made through collaboration and by building upon the work of others over a period of time.





John Dalton

• All matter is composed of indivisible particles called atoms.

- Atoms of the same element have the same physical and chemical properties.
- Atoms of different elements have different physical and chemical properties.



John Dalton 1766 – 1844



John Dalton

• Two or more atoms of different elements can chemically combine in simple whole number ratios to form compounds.

• Atoms cannot be subdivided, created or destroyed when involved in a chemical reaction.

 Dalton's theory is based on observations of chemical reactions.



John Dalton 1766 – 1844



John Dalton



• Dalton's atom.



John Dalton 1766 – 1844



Eugne Goldstein 1850 – 1930

Eugne Goldstein

 Discovered that discharge tubes can produce a glow at both the anode (positive) end and the cathode (negative) end.

• He concluded that in addition to the already-known cathode rays (recognised as electrons moving from the negatively charged cathode towards the positive charged anode) there is another ray that travels in the opposite direction.

• The anode ray with the smallest mass comes from hydrogen gas, and is made of hydrogen ions, which are *protons*.





J. J. Thomson 1856 – 1940 Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1906.

Joseph John Thomson

• Discovered the *electron* while performing experiments on cathode rays.



• The discovery of the electron proved that the atom is not indivisible.

 Proposed the "*plum pudding*" model of the atom.





Joseph John Thomson



• Thomson's atom.



J. J. Thomson 1856 – 1940 Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1906.



J. J. Thomson 1856 – 1940 Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1906.

Joseph John Thomson



• Thomson's model of the atom is often referred to as the "*plum pudding*" model.





Ernest Rutherford 1871 – 1937 (Student of J. J. Thomson) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908.

Ernest Rutherford

- Fired alpha particles at a piece of gold foil.
- Most of the alpha particles went straight through the gold foil, demonstrating that atoms are mostly empty space.
- However, some of the alpha particles were deflected through very large angles, demonstrating that there is a small, dense, positive nucleus at the centre of each atom.





Ernest Rutherford



Ernest Rutherford 1871 – 1937 (Student of J. J. Thomson) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908.





Ernest Rutherford 1871 – 1937 (Student of J. J. Thomson) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908. **Ernest Rutherford**



• The results of Rutherford's experiment demonstrate that atoms are mostly empty space, but each atom has a small, dense nucleus at its centre.





Ernest Rutherford 1871 – 1937 (Student of J. J. Thomson) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908. **Ernest Rutherford**



Rutherford's atom.





James Chadwick

 Bombarded atoms of beryllium with alpha particles.

• Discovered that neutral particles are emitted when the beryllium nucleus and alpha particles fuse together. The neutral particles are *neutrons*.

James Chadwick 1891 – 1974 (Student of Rutherford) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1935.





James Chadwick 1891 – 1974 (Student of Rutherford) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1935. **James Chadwick**



• Chadwick's atom.





Niels Bohr

 Rutherford's *model* of the atom was modified by Niels Bohr.

• Bohr said that electrons are only allowed to move in certain orbits.

• When electrons absorb energy, they will move from lower energy orbit to higher energy orbit.

• When electrons move from higher energy orbit to lower energy orbit, they will emit energy.



Neils Bohr 1891 – 1973 (Student of Rutherford) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1922.



Niels Bohr



[•] Bohr's atom.



Neils Bohr 1891 – 1973 (Student of Rutherford) Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1922.



 Schrödinger and Dirac
mathematically
treated electrons
as waves instead
of particles and formulated
Schrödinger's
Wave Equation.



Paul Dirac 1902 – 1984 Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1933.



Erwin Schrödinger 1887 – 1961 Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1933.

Schrödinger's Wave Equation

$$\frac{\delta^2 \Psi}{\delta x^2} + \frac{\delta^2 \Psi}{\delta y^2} + \frac{\delta^2 \Psi}{\delta z^2} + \frac{8m\pi^2}{h^2} (E - V)\Psi = 0$$

 Graphical solutions for this complex equation give rise to electron orbitals – the volume of space around the nucleus of an atom in which there is a high probability of finding an electron. Orbitals are not simply spherical, but can have some very strange shapes.





• Some of the graphical solutions to Schrödinger's Wave Equation.







Summary: Modern Structure of the Atom for O' Level chemistry

 At the centre of the atom is a small, dense *nucleus* that is composed of positively charged protons (+1) and *neutral* neutrons (0).



• The *positive nucleus* of the atom is orbited by *negatively charged electrons* (-1). Electrons orbit the nucleus in *electron shells*.







 Scientists think that protons and neutrons are made-up of even smaller particles called *quarks*, which may themselves be made-up of even smaller particles called *superstrings*.





- Models simulate real world processes.
- Models facilitate testing and prediction.
- Models can be physical, conceptual or mathematical.
- Models simplify real world processes or behaviours.
 - Models involve variables.
 - Models have limitations.



 Although an atom is too small to observe directly, Scientists have developed *conceptual models* (based upon empirical evidence obtained through experimental investigations) and *mathematical models* (*i.e.* Schrödinger's Wave Equation) that explain its structure to the best of human knowledge.






How can our solar system be used as a model to help us understand and remember the structure of the atom?





• Sun = Nucleus (small and dense at the centre).

Planets = Electrons (orbiting the sun / nucleus).

• Just like the solar system, atoms are mostly empty space.

• What are the *limitations* of this *model*?



0

OF

What are some other examples of models?

 Models are often used by scientists in order to explain and investigate scientific concepts and phenomena.





 Mathematical models allow testing and prediction of an object's behaviour. This often requires a powerful computer and software to simulate how an object will behave under different conditions.

 Mathematical models can be used in conjunction with physical models.

 Mathematical models are useful tools for investigating phenomena that are very dangerous / difficult / expensive to create in a laboratory, *e.g.* modelling the spread of a virus or modelling a nuclear explosion.

850 hPa Wind Speed (mph)

ŝ



 Supercomputers are used to model extremely complex weather systems in order to predict their impact on human populations.

 Supercomputers are also used to model and predict important changes in the Earth's climate, such as increasing levels of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) and its effect on global temperatures.

850 hPa_Wind Speed (mph)



 Physical models used in architecture help designers visualise the building's shape, size and space. Models also help designers see how the building interacts with light and shadow.

 Physical models help architects in the creative process by allowing them to visualise what happens as they experiment with different ideas.

 Physical models allow architects to visualise how a building is suited to its environment.

Authorised personnel only



• This photograph shows a university student testing a scale model of a car in a wind tunnel.

 This type of investigation allows scientists and engineers to examine the aerodynamic stability of the car. Similar experiments can be conducted on scale models of aircraft and ships.

 Based upon observations made when testing the model, the car's design can be modified before the actual car is manufactured, hence saving both time and money.





 In an age when vehicle design teams have supercomputers, 3D printing and virtual reality at their disposal, most car manufacturers still render actual size models of their prototypes in clay.

- Clay has three characteristics that make it suitable for motor vehicle design:
 - → Clay is easy to change it can be added to the model, taken away, and it is easy to mould.
 - → Clay allows designers to be creative creating and visualising their ideas quickly.

 \rightarrow Clay is good for collaboration – designers can work together and brainstorm on the same model.





114-1

 At first glance, this appears to be a photograph of a street in almost any Asian city.

• This is actually a *hyper-realistic model* created by the artist Joshua Smith.

 It reminds us that models are also important in Art, and that – when constructing a model in Art or Science – we strive to make the model as accurate as possible.









Ionic Bonding – Metal and Non-metal Example – Magnesium Chloride, MgCl₂





Covalent Bonding – Non-metal and Non-metal Example – Ethane, C_2H_6





→ Interact atom <u>www.</u> → Intera atom

Useful Websites

→ Interactive animation* on atomic structure: <u>www.chemical.sg</u>

→ Interactive quiz* on atomic structure: www.learnchemistry.sg

*Requires Adobe Flash Player. For devices that do not support Adobe Flash, download and install the <u>Puffin web browser</u>.





