



CH-110 Advanced General Chemistry I

Prof. A. Steinauer
angela.steinauer@epfl.ch

French

- This part of the class will be taught **in English**.
- We will do our best to support you during this transition:
 - Recordings with French subtitles*
 - Lecture transcripts in French*
 - You can ask questions in French in class (I'll do my best!) and on the forum.*
 - Five of our six teaching assistants speak French (see separate slide).*
- For my part of the exam (atomic structure), the questions will be in English and in French. You can write your answers in English or French.

CH-110 Advanced General Chemistry (Fall 2025)

- Lectures:

Tuesday, 16:15-18:00, BCH 2201

Friday, 11:15-12:00, ELA1

- Exercises:

Friday, 13:15-14:00, AAC231

Course organization and exam

- Part I: 9 weeks (A. Steinauer, atomic structure)
- Part II: 5 weeks (J. Waser, organic chemistry, in French)

- Two 3-hour written exams during the winter exam session 2025/26:
Steinauer/Waser (3 hours)
Fierz (3 hours)

- No material other than that provided is permitted during the examination.
- You will be provided with a periodic table and a list of formulas (see Moodle for last year's versions)

Changes compared to last year

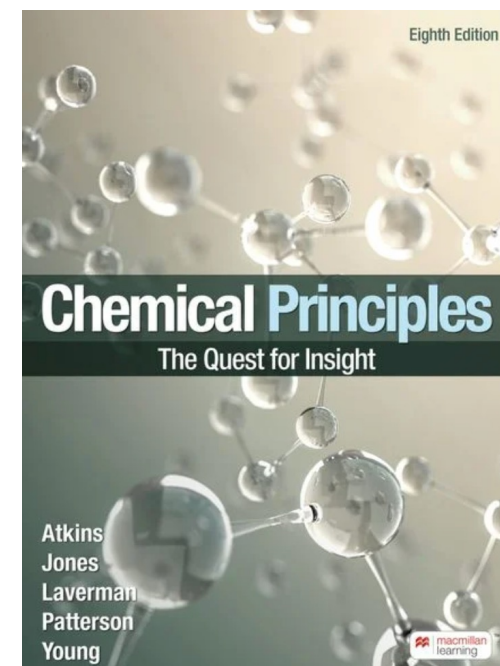
Student feedback	Change this year
Too many slides	Will try to condense material, do the important parts on the blackboard
Not clear what students are expected to know at exam	Clearer communication: the exercises provided in class and in the book are the most important practice opportunity!
Exercises were not aligned with lecture material	I will double-check each week if there are exercises that you cannot solve because we didn't cover the material in class.
Not enough practice exams	There is one now. The best practice opportunity are the exercises in the book.

Lecture content and exercises

- Syllabus online
- Textbook: Chemical Principles – The Quest for Insight by Atkins, Jones et al.
- Available at the EPFL bookstore
- Exercises:

Weekly. Not graded.

Form study groups!



Moodle

- <https://moodle.epfl.ch/course/view.php?id=15739>
- Slides, exercises, recordings will be uploaded weekly
- Forum to ask questions:
- <https://edstem.org/eu/courses/2603/discussion>
- Announcements

Teaching assistants

Name	Languages	Email
Georges Barnikol	Fr, En, German	georges.barnikol@epfl.ch
Paula Oeser	Fr, En	paula.oeser@epfl.ch
Ollie Dennis	En	oliver.dennis@epfl.ch
Diogo De Abreu Viegas	Fr, En, Portuguese	diogo.deabreuviegas@epfl.ch
Yannick Calvino Alonso	Fr, En, Spanish, German	yannick.calvinoalonso@epfl.ch
Tuna Karasu	Fr, En, Turkish	tuna.karasu@epfl.ch



Georges



Paula



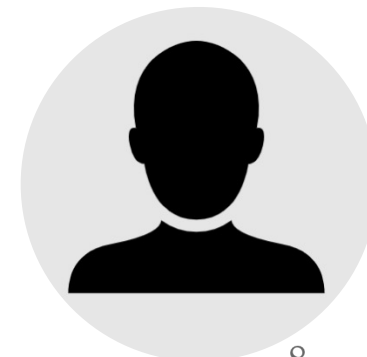
Ollie



Diogo



Yannick



Tuna

Clicker questions

- <http://responseware.eu>
- Session ID: _____

What's your native language?

- A. French
- B. English
- C. German
- D. Italian
- E. Other

What You Can Expect from Me

- **Dedication:** Preparing these lectures takes significant time, and I am committed to delivering quality content that helps you succeed.
- **Openness to feedback:** I am receptive to constructive feedback. You will have the opportunity to provide feedback through Moodle.
- **Answering questions:** I encourage you to attempt finding the answer yourself first. If needed, both the TAs and I are available to help guide you in the right direction.
- **Investment in your success:** I genuinely want you to do well and will support you in your academic journey!

What I Expect from You:

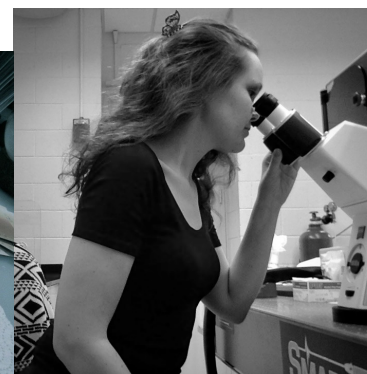
- **A respectful and productive classroom environment:** Please engage with the material and avoid distractions. If you need to discuss something with your peers during class, keep your conversation quiet so as not to disturb others. If the matter is urgent and can't wait, feel free to step outside and continue your discussion over coffee. I don't mind.
- **Curiosity and openness to learning:** Challenge yourself to ask, "Is this a question I could answer on my own with a bit of effort?"
- **Responsibility for learning:** You are responsible for your own learning. This means attending class and independently solving exercises, keeping up with the reading, and taking ownership of your progress.



Definition of Chemistry

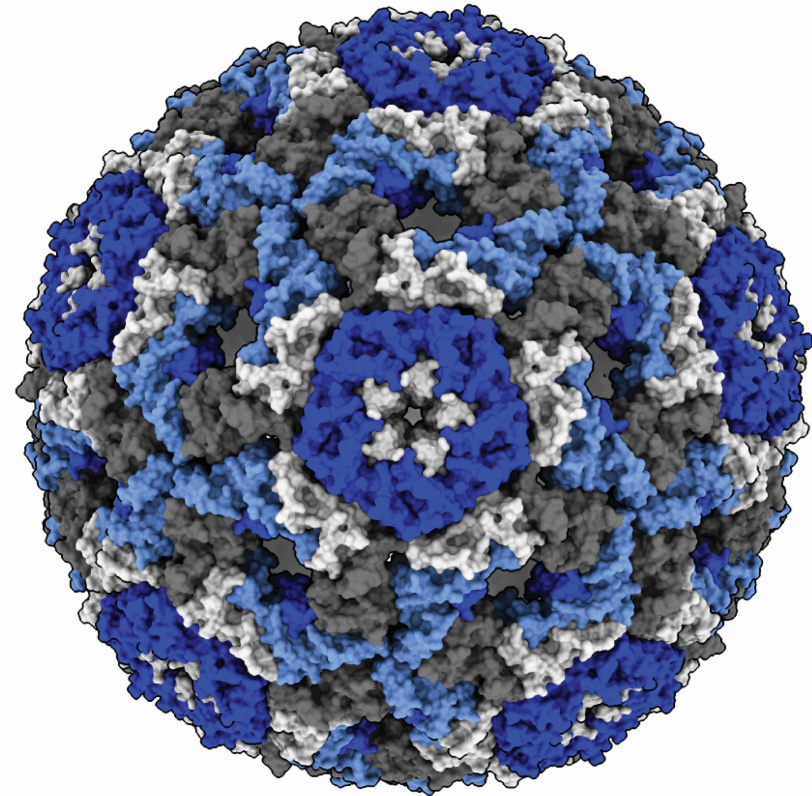
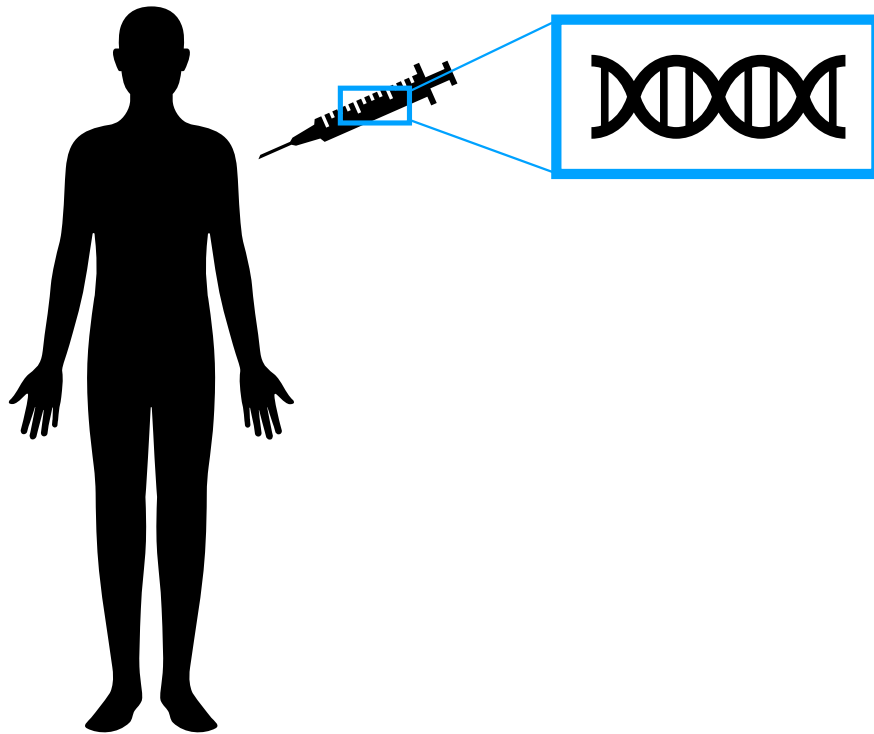
- Chemistry is the science of matter and the changes it can undergo.

Why I studied chemistry



Why did you choose to study chemistry?

What can you do with this course?



Overview of this course

FOCUS 1: ATOMS

Topic 1A: Investigating Atoms

Topic 1B: Quantum Theory

Topic 1C: Wavefunctions and Energy Levels

Topic 1D: The Hydrogen Atom

Topic 1E: Many-Electron Atoms

Topic 1F: Periodicity

Chapters from “Chemical Principles – The Quest for Insight” Atkins, Jones, et al.

FOCUS 2: BONDS BETWEEN ATOMS

Topic 2A: Ionic Bonding

Topic 2B: Covalent Bonding

Topic 2C: Beyond the Octet Rule

Topic 2D: The Properties of Bonds

Topic 2E: The VSEPR Model

Topic 2F: Valence-Bond Theory

Topic 2G: Molecular Orbital Theory

FOCUS 3: STATES OF MATTER

Topic 3D: Intermolecular Forces

Topic 3F: Liquids

Topic 3G: Solids

Early chemists

- Prepared glass, jewels, coins, ceramics, and, inevitably, weapons:
Art, agriculture, & warfare
- Alchemy & mysticism:
The Philosopher's stone: a material that will turn cheap metals into gold and silver

The Alchemist

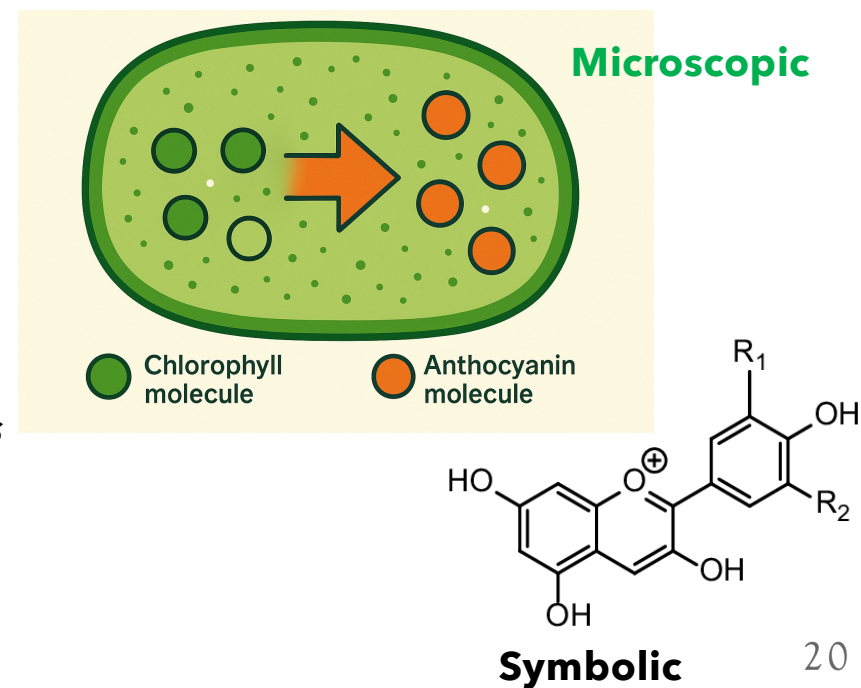
Ink on paper attributed to Philip Galle after Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c. 1558)



Chemistry is a science at three levels

- **Macroscopic:** Matter and transformations (a leaf turns orange).
- **Microscopic:** (Re)arrangement of atoms (molecular changes that make the leave turn orange).
- **Symbolic:** Chemical symbols and mathematical equations.

A chemist thinks at the microscopic level, conducts experiments at the macroscopic level, and represents both symbolically.



How science is done: The scientific method

- **Meticulously careful** and **highly creative**

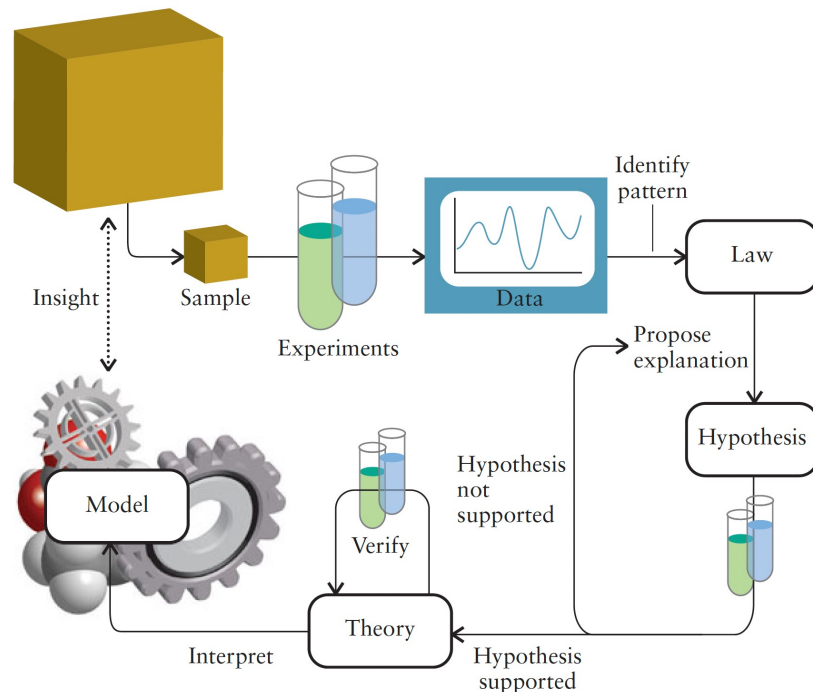


Figure 4

- **Law:** succinct summary of a wide range of observations
- **Hypothesis:** possible explanation of the law
- **Theory:** formal explanation of the law
- **Model:** a simplified version of the object of study that scientists can use to make predictions

Branches of chemistry

- **Organic Chemistry:** Carbon compounds, hydrocarbons, biomolecules
- **Inorganic Chemistry:** Metals, minerals, non-organic compounds
- **Physical Chemistry:** Thermodynamics, kinetics, quantum & computational chemistry
- **Analytical Chemistry:** Composition, techniques, instrumentation
- **Biochemistry/Chemical Biology/Biological Chemistry:** Enzymes, proteins, nucleic acids, metabolism, biomedical applications
- **Environmental Chemistry:** Pollution, green chemistry, ecosystems

Which subfield of chemistry are you (currently) most interested in?

- A. Organic chemistry
- B. Inorganic chemistry
- C. Physical chemistry
- D. Analytical chemistry
- E. Biochemistry/chemical
biology
- F. Environmental chemistry
- G. Other

Fundamentals

**Please review Fundamentals A yourself
(slides on Moodle):**

A: Matter and Energy

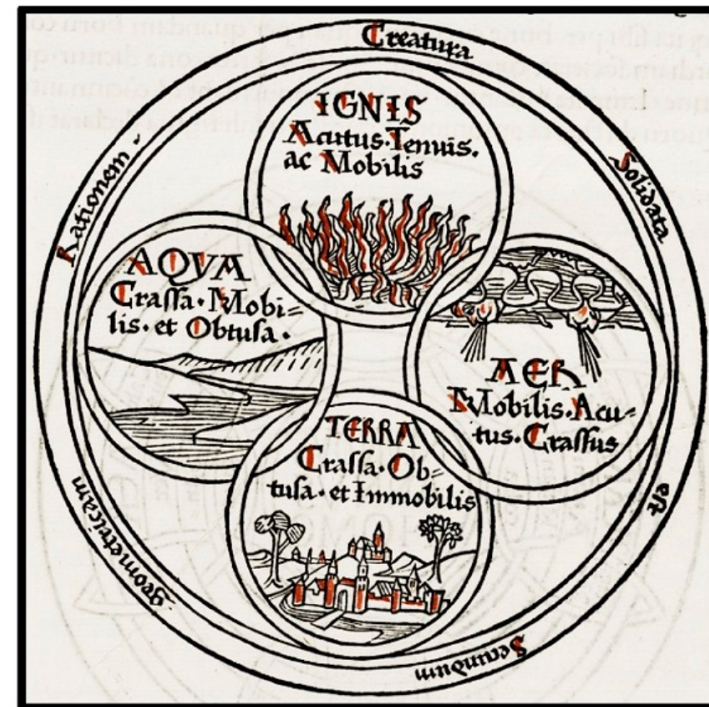
B: Elements and Atoms

Science: how are things organized? A quest for simplicity

Ancient Greek:

four elements: water, earth, fire, air

Today: +100 elements



De responsione et de astrorum ordinatione

Yale Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (1472)

Atoms

Individual atoms by scanning
tunneling microscopy

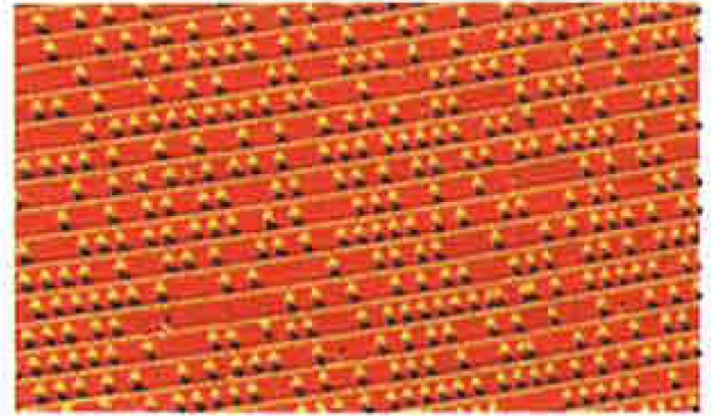


Figure B.3

Atomic hypothesis (Dalton)

The nuclear model

The nuclear model



Figure B.4

Mass spectrometry

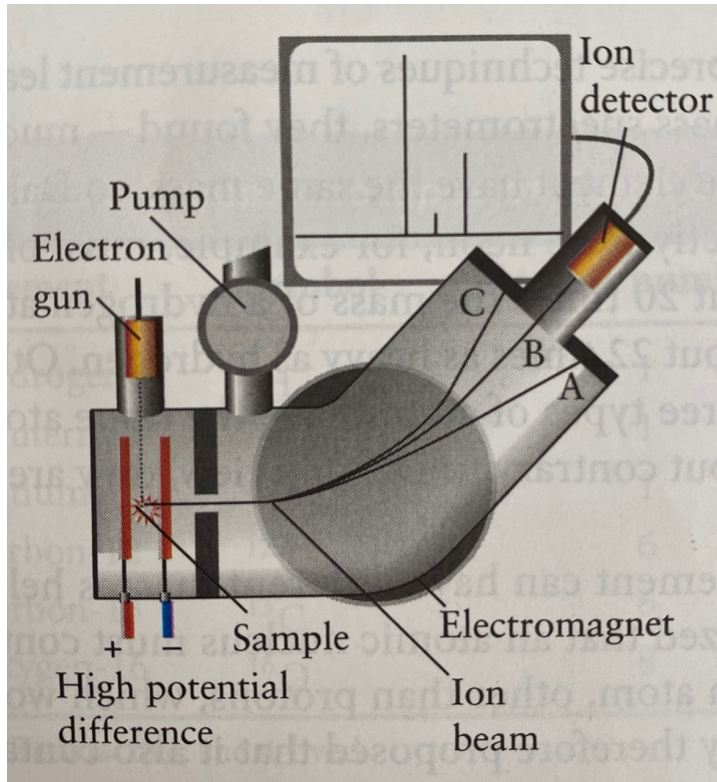


Figure B.5

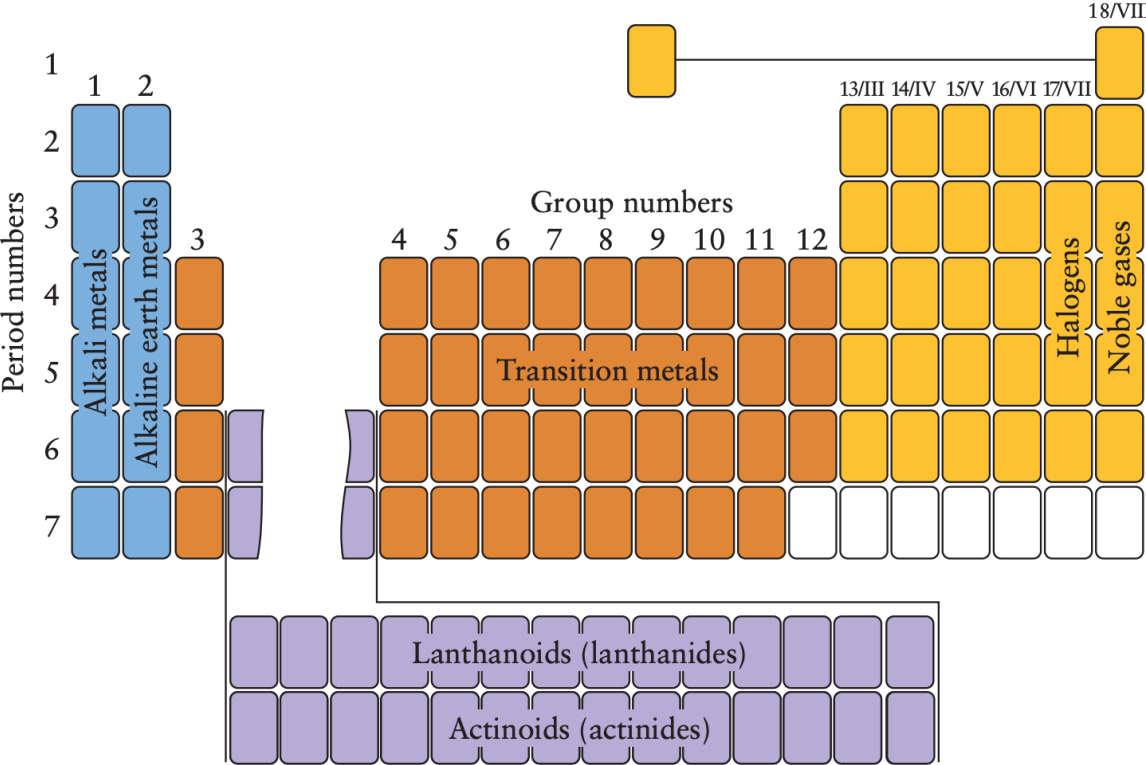
Isotopes

Isotopes and mass number

Isotopes and mass number

The organization of the elements

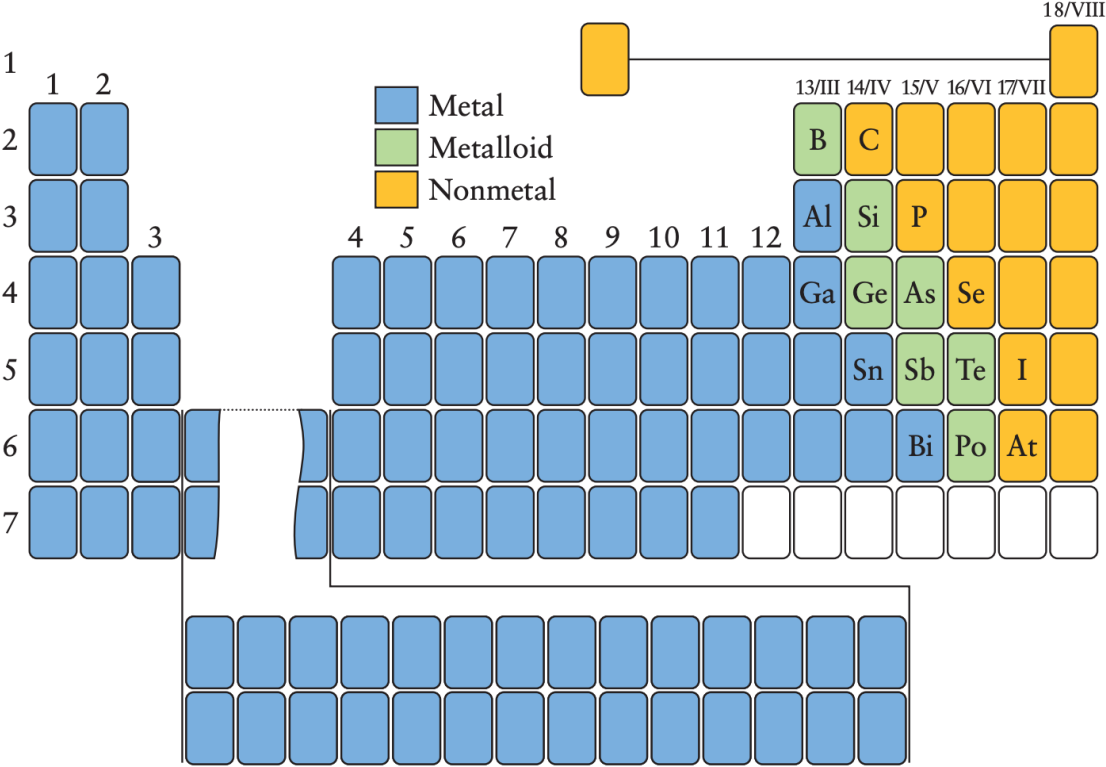
The periodic table



Fundamentals B: Elements and Atoms

The periodic table

The periodic table



PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

Group	1	2	Period 1										13	14	15	16	17	18
	I	II											III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
	IA	IIA											IIIA	IVA	VA	VIA	VIIA	VIIIA
	3 Li lithium 6.94 2s ¹	4 Be beryllium 9.01 2s ²	1 H hydrogen 1.0079 1s ¹										5 B boron 10.81 2s ² 2p ¹	6 C carbon 12.01 2s ² 2p ²	7 N nitrogen 14.01 2s ² 2p ³	8 O oxygen 16.00 2s ² 2p ⁴	9 F fluorine 19.00 2s ² 2p ⁵	10 Ne neon 20.18 2s ² 2p ⁶
2	11 Na sodium 22.99 3s ¹	12 Mg magnesium 24.31 3s ²											13 Al aluminum 26.98 3s ² 3p ¹	14 Si silicon 28.09 3s ² 3p ²	15 P phosphorus 30.97 3s ² 3p ³	16 S sulfur 32.06 3s ² 3p ⁴	17 Cl chlorine 35.45 3s ² 3p ⁵	18 Ar argon 39.95 3s ² 3p ⁶
3	19 K potassium 39.10 4s ¹	20 Ca calcium 40.08 4s ²	21 Sc scandium 44.96 3d ¹ 4s ²	22 Ti titanium 47.87 3d ² 4s ²	23 V vanadium 50.94 3d ³ 4s ²	24 Cr chromium 52.00 3d ⁴ 4s ¹	25 Mn manganese 54.94 3d ⁵ 4s ²	26 Fe iron 55.84 3d ⁶ 4s ²	27 Co cobalt 58.93 3d ⁷ 4s ²	28 Ni nickel 58.69 3d ⁸ 4s ²	29 Cu copper 63.55 3d ¹⁰ 4s ¹	30 Zn zinc 65.41 3d ¹⁰ 4s ²	31 Ga gallium 69.72 4s ² 4p ¹	32 Ge germanium 72.64 4s ² 4p ²	33 As arsenic 74.92 4s ² 4p ³	34 Se selenium 78.96 4s ² 4p ⁴	35 Br bromine 79.90 4s ² 4p ⁵	36 Kr krypton 83.80 4s ² 4p ⁶
4	37 Rb rubidium 85.47 5s ¹	38 Sr strontium 87.62 5s ²	39 Y yttrium 88.91 4d ¹ 5s ²	40 Zr zirconium 91.22 4d ² 5s ²	41 Nb niobium 92.91 4d ⁴ 5s ¹	42 Mo molybdenum 95.94 4d ⁵ 5s ¹	43 Tc technetium (98) 4d ⁵ 5s ²	44 Ru ruthenium 101.07 4d ⁶ 5s ¹	45 Rh rhodium 102.90 4d ⁷ 5s ¹	46 Pd palladium 106.42 4d ¹⁰	47 Ag silver 107.87 4d ¹⁰ 5s ¹	48 Cd cadmium 112.41 4d ¹⁰ 5s ²	49 In indium 114.82 5s ² 5p ¹	50 Sn tin 118.71 5s ² 5p ²	51 Sb antimony 121.76 5s ² 5p ³	52 Te tellurium 127.60 5s ² 5p ⁴	53 I iodine 126.90 5s ² 5p ⁵	54 Xe xenon 131.29 5s ² 5p ⁶
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6	87 Fr francium (223) 7s ¹	88 Ra radium (226) 7s ²	89 Ac actinium (227) 6d ¹ 7s ²	104 Rf rutherfordium (261) 6d ² 7s ²	105 Db dubnium (262) 6d ³ 7s ²	106 Sg seaborgium (266) 6d ⁴ 7s ²	107 Bh bohrium (264) 6d ⁵ 7s ²	108 Hs hassium (267) 6d ⁶ 7s ²	109 Mt meitnerium (268) 6d ⁷ 7s ²	110 Ds darmstadtium (271) 6d ⁸ 7s ²	111 Rg roentgenium (272) 6d ⁹ 7s ¹	112*	113	114	115	116	117	118
7			Lanthanoids (lanthanides) 6		58 Ce cerium 140.12 4f ¹ 5d ¹ 6s ²	59 Pr praseodymium 140.91 4f ³ 6s ²	60 Nd neodymium 144.24 4f ⁴ 6s ²	61 Pm promethium (145) 4f ⁵ 6s ²	62 Sm samarium 150.36 4f ⁶ 6s ²	63 Eu europium 151.96 4f ⁷ 6s ²	64 Gd gadolinium 157.25 4f ⁷ 5d ¹ 6s ²	65 Tb terbium 158.93 4f ⁹ 6s ²	66 Dy dysprosium 162.50 4f ¹⁰ 6s ²	67 Ho holmium 164.93 4f ¹¹ 6s ²	68 Er erbium 167.26 4f ¹² 6s ²	69 Tm thulium 168.93 4f ¹³ 6s ²	70 Yb ytterbium 173.04 4f ¹⁴ 6s ²	71 Lu lutetium 174.97 5d ¹ 6s ²
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Molar masses (atomic weights) quoted to the number of significant figures given here can be regarded as typical of most naturally occurring samples.

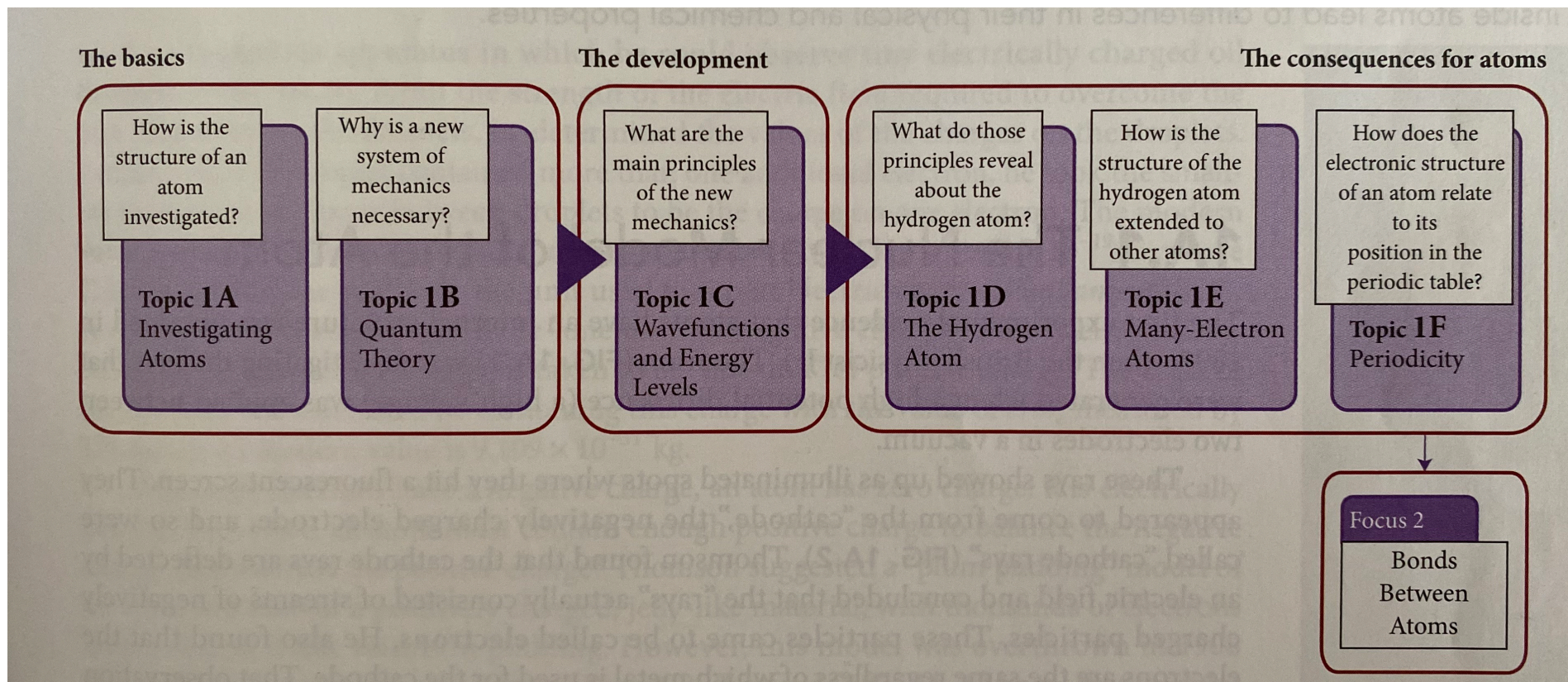
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- ❑ Write the symbols of the elements.
- ❑ Describe the organization of the periodic table and the characteristics of elements in different regions of the table.

Summary: The periodic table is an arrangement of the elements by atomic number that reflects their family relationships; members of the same group typically show a smooth trend in properties.

Preview Chapter 1 (Focus 1: Atoms)



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Preview Chapter 1 (Focus 1: Atoms)

