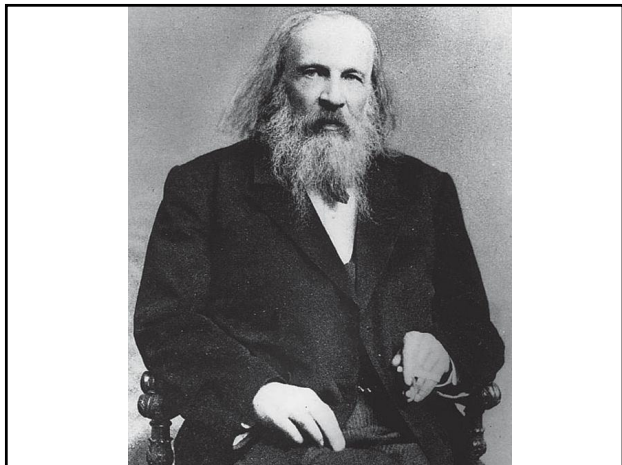




Electron Configuration and Chemical Periodicity

The Periodic Table

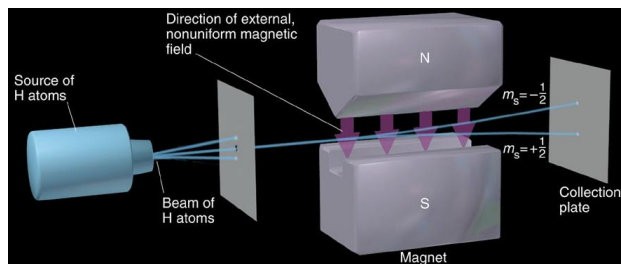
- **Periodic law (Mendeleev, Meyer, 1870)** – periodic reoccurrence of similar physical and chemical properties of the elements arranged by increasing **atomic mass**
 - Periodic table included the 65 known elements
 - Mendeleev left blank spaces for the undiscovered elements and was able to predict their properties
 - The true basis of periodicity is the **atomic number** not the atomic mass (Mosley, 1913)

8.1 Many-Electron Atoms

- Only approximate solutions of the Schrödinger equation are available
- Electron-electron interactions are important
- The same three quantum numbers (n , l and m_l) are used to describe the solutions (the orbitals are hydrogen-like)

The Electron Spin

- The electron can be viewed as a ball of spinning charge – has a magnetic moment
- The magnetic moment is quantized – only two orientations of the spin are allowed in a magnetic field



⇒ **Spin quantum number (m_s)** – two possible values of m_s (+1/2 and -1/2)

- Each electron in an atom is described by four quantum numbers – n , l , m_l , m_s

- **The Pauli exclusion principle** – no two electrons in an atom can have the same set of four quantum numbers

⇒ **Each orbital can hold no more than two electrons and they must have opposite spins (paired spins, $\uparrow\downarrow$)**

Orbital Energies

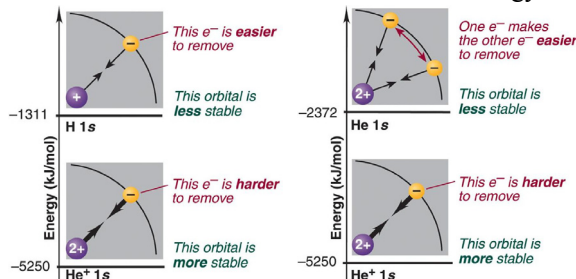
- Orbital energies depend on both n and l

$$n\uparrow \rightarrow E\uparrow \quad l\uparrow \rightarrow E\uparrow$$

⇒ **Orbitals in different subshells of a given principal shell have different energies**

- Evidence – many-electron atoms have more complex atomic spectra (splitting of E -levels)

- Electrons are attracted by the nucleus and repelled by each other
 - **The effect of nuclear charge (Z)** – higher Z lowers the orbital energy
 - **The effect of electron repulsion** – an additional e^- in the same orbital raises the orbital energy



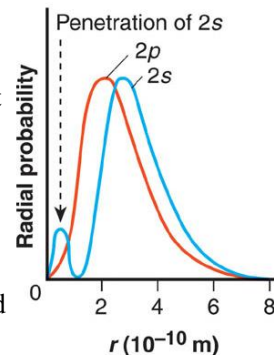
- **Electron shielding** – electrons shield each other from the nuclear charge
 - **Inner electrons** shield **outer electrons** more effectively than electrons in the same orbital or subshell
- **Effective nuclear charge (Z_{eff})** – smaller than the actual nuclear charge (Z) due to electron shielding
- **Penetration** – electrons on orbitals in different subshells of a given shell are shielded to a different extent depending on their penetration (closeness) to the nucleus
 - More penetration → less shielding → higher Z_{eff}

- The **s-orbitals** have the greatest penetration to the nucleus

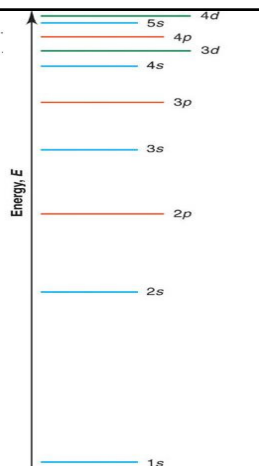
Least shielded → highest Z_{eff} → lowest energy

- The **p-orbitals** have a node at the nucleus and lower penetration than the s-orbitals

More effectively shielded → lower Z_{eff} → higher energy

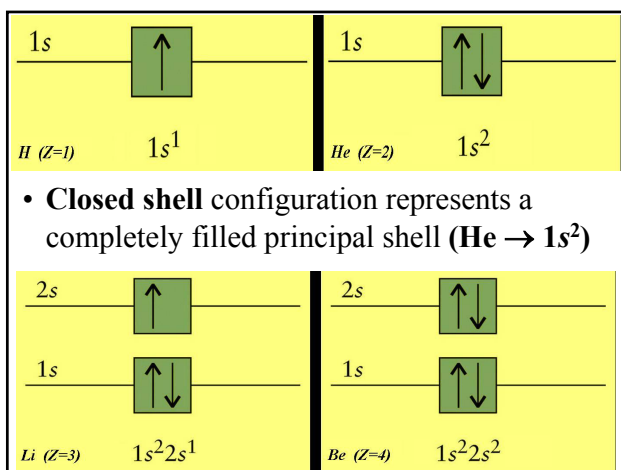


- Penetration decreases with increasing l
 - More effective shielding → lower Z_{eff} → higher energy
- Energy order of the subshells in a given shell:
 - $s < p < d < f < g \dots$**
- This leads to much greater number of energy levels compared to one-electron species like H

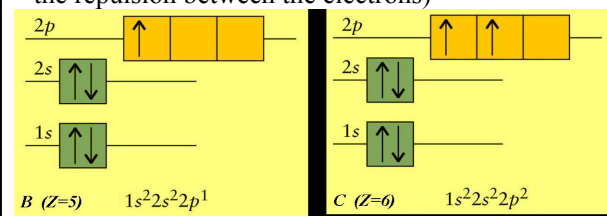


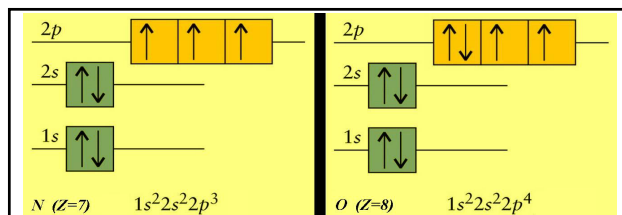
8.2 Electron Configurations

- **Building-up (aufbau) principle** – as new electrons are added to the atom, they are placed in the lowest energy available orbital (minimization of the total energy of the atom)
 - **Electron configuration** – a list of the occupied subshells and the number of electrons on them
 - **Orbital diagrams** – each orbital is represented by a box; the electrons are shown as up or down arrows depending on the spin quantum number (+1/2 or -1/2)



- **Degenerate orbitals** – orbitals with equal energies
 - All orbitals in a subshell are degenerate (same n and l) → the three **2p**-orbitals are degenerate
- **Hund's rule** – in filling degenerate orbitals, electrons enter the empty orbitals having identical spins before pairing in one of them (minimization of the repulsion between the electrons)





- **Outer electrons** – electrons in the outermost occupied principal shell
- **Inner (core) electrons** – inner shells
- **Condensed e⁻ configurations** – inner shells (or part of them) can be abbreviated with the symbol of the previous noble gas in brackets
 $1s^2 \rightarrow$ abbreviated as **[He]**

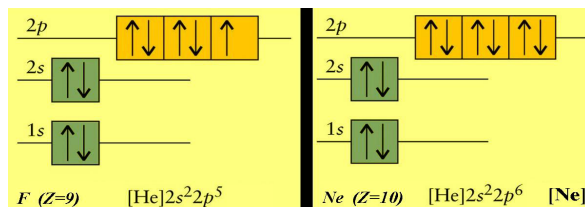
Example: Predict the electron configurations of F and Ne.

orbital order: $1s, 2s, 2p, 3s, 3p, \dots$

F ($Z = 9, 9 e^-$) $\rightarrow 1s^2 2s^2 2p^5 \rightarrow [\text{He}] 2s^2 2p^5$

Ne ($Z = 10, 10 e^-$) $\rightarrow 1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 \rightarrow [\text{He}] 2s^2 2p^6$

$[\text{He}] 2s^2 2p^6 \rightarrow$ closed shell $\rightarrow$ abbreviated as **[Ne]**



Atomic Number/ Element	Partial Orbital Diagram (3s and 3p Sublevels Only)	Full Electron Configuration	Condensed Electron Configuration
11/Na	$3s \uparrow \quad 3p \square \square \square$	$[1s^2 2s^2 2p^6] 3s^1$	$[\text{Ne}] 3s^1$
12/Mg	$3s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3p \square \square \square$	$[1s^2 2s^2 2p^6] 3s^2$	$[\text{Ne}] 3s^2$
13/Al	$3s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3p \uparrow \square \square$	$[1s^2 2s^2 2p^6] 3s^2 3p^1$	$[\text{Ne}] 3s^2 3p^1$
14/Si	$3s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3p \uparrow\uparrow \square$	$[1s^2 2s^2 2p^6] 3s^2 3p^2$	$[\text{Ne}] 3s^2 3p^2$
15/P	$3s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3p \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$	$[1s^2 2s^2 2p^6] 3s^2 3p^3$	$[\text{Ne}] 3s^2 3p^3$
16/S	$3s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3p \uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow$	$[1s^2 2s^2 2p^6] 3s^2 3p^4$	$[\text{Ne}] 3s^2 3p^4$
17/Cl	$3s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3p \uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow$	$[1s^2 2s^2 2p^6] 3s^2 3p^5$	$[\text{Ne}] 3s^2 3p^5$
18/Ar	$3s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3p \uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow$	$[1s^2 2s^2 2p^6] 3s^2 3p^6$	$[\text{Ne}] 3s^2 3p^6$

- How to remember the energy order of the orbitals:
 $1s < 2s < 2p < 3s < 3p < 4s < 3d < 4p < 5s < 4d < 5p < 6s < 4f < 5d < 6p < 7s < 5f < 6d < 7p$

Note:

4s is filled before 3d



Atomic Number	Element	Partial Orbital Diagram (4s, 3d, and 4p Sublevels Only)	Condensed El. Configuration
19	K	$4s \uparrow \quad 3d \square \square \square \square \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^1$
20	Ca	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \square \square \square \square \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2$
21	Sc	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \uparrow \square \square \square \square \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^1$
22	Ti	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \uparrow\uparrow \square \square \square \square \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^2$
23	V	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \square \square \square \square \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^3$

- Exceptions to the building-up principle
 - **Half-filled subshells** have exceptional stability
 $\text{Cr} \rightarrow [\text{Ar}] 4s^1 3d^5$ instead of $[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^4$

Atomic Number	Element	Partial Orbital Diagram (4s, 3d, and 4p Sublevels Only)	Condensed El. Configuration
24	Cr	$4s \uparrow \quad 3d \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^1 3d^5$
25	Mn	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^5$
26	Fe	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^6$
27	Co	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^7$
28	Ni	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^8$
29	Cu	$4s \uparrow \quad 3d \uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^1 3d^{10}$
30	Zn	$4s \uparrow\downarrow \quad 3d \uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow \quad 4p \square \square \square$	$[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^{10}$

- **Completely filled subshells** have exceptional stability
 $\text{Cu} \rightarrow [\text{Ar}] 4s^1 3d^{10}$ instead of $[\text{Ar}] 4s^2 3d^9$

Table 8.4 Partial Orbital Diagrams and Electron Configurations* for Period 4

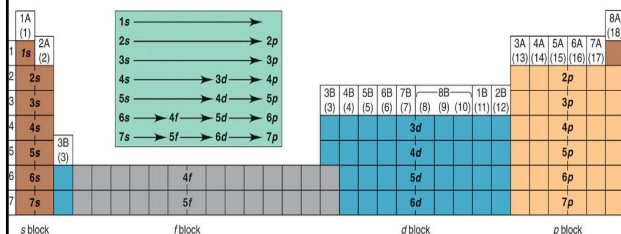
Atomic Number	Element	Partial Orbital Diagram (4s, 3d, and 4p Sublevels Only)			Condensed El. Configuration
31	Ga	$\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow$	[Ar] 4s ² 3d ¹⁰ 4p ¹
32	Ge	$\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\uparrow$	[Ar] 4s ² 3d ¹⁰ 4p ²
33	As	$\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$	[Ar] 4s ² 3d ¹⁰ 4p ³
34	Se	$\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow$	[Ar] 4s ² 3d ¹⁰ 4p ⁴
35	Br	$\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow$	[Ar] 4s ² 3d ¹⁰ 4p ⁵
36	Kr	$\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$	[Ar] 4s ² 3d ¹⁰ 4p ⁶

– Similarly, the building-up principle is used to obtain the electron configurations for periods 5, 6 and 7 (similar and even more drastic exceptions are observed)

Electronic Structure and the Periodic Table

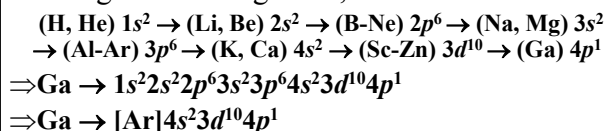
- The table is divided into *s*, *p*, *d*, and *f* blocks named by the last occupied subshell being filled
- Electron configurations can be deduced from the positions of elements in the periodic table
 - Outer shell principal quantum numbers equal period numbers (F → 2nd period, *n*=2)
 - All elements in a period have the same noble-gas core configurations ([He], [Ne], [Ar], ...)

- The filling order of the orbitals can be obtained from the periodic table:
 - The *ns*, *np*, (*n*-1)*d* and (*n*-2)*f* orbitals are filled in the *n*th period from left to right
 - The filling order is *ns* < (*n*-2)*f* < (*n*-1)*d* < *np*



Examples:

Write the full and condensed electron configurations of gallium, **Ga**.



Write the electron configuration of osmium, **Os**.

Os is in the 6th period → outer shell *n*=6

Previous noble gas is Xe → noble-gas core is [Xe]

After Xe → 2 *ns*, 14 (*n*-2)*f*, and 6 (*n*-1)*d* elements



- Valence electrons** – the electrons in the outermost occupied principal shell and in partially filled subshells of lower principal shells (important in chemical reactions)
 - The number of valence electrons equals the “new” group # or (group # - 10 for *p*-elements)
 - All elements in a group have analogous **valence shell electron configurations** (F → [He]2s²2p⁵; Cl → [Ne]3s²3p⁵; all halogens → ns²np⁵)
- *s* and *p* elements → group 1 ns¹, group 2 ns², group 13 ns²np¹, ..., group 18 ns²np⁶
- *d* elements → group 3 (*n*-1)*d*¹ns², ..., group 12 (*n*-1)*d*¹⁰ns²

Example:

Write the electron configuration and the valence shell orbital diagram of lead, **Pb**.

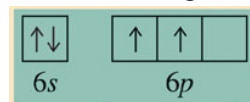
outer shell *n*=6 noble-gas core [Xe]

After Xe → 2 *6s*, 14 *4f*, 10 *5d*, and 2 *6p* elements



⇒ Valence shell configuration → 6s²6p²

⇒ Valence shell orbital diagram:



8.3 Periodic Trends in Atomic Properties

- Periodicity is based on the electron configuration which depends on the # of electrons which in turn depends on the number of protons (atomic #)

Trends in Atomic Size

- **Atomic radius** – half of the distance between the centers of two adjacent identical atoms
 - **Metallic radius** – for metals in the solid phase
 - **Covalent radius** – for nonmetals in molecules
- Atomic radii **increase down a group** and **decrease from left to right across a period** (for main group elements)

	1A (1)								8A (18)
1	H 37								He 31
2	Li 152	Be 112							
3	Na 186	Mg 160							
4	K 227	Ca 197							
5	Rb 248	Sr 215							
6	Cs 265	Ba 222							

	3A (13)	4A (14)	5A (15)	6A (16)	7A (17)	
	B 85	C 77	N 75	O 73	F 72	Ne 71
	Al 143	Si 118	P 110	S 103	Cl 100	Ar 98
	Ga 135	Ge 122	As 120	Se 119	Br 114	Kr 112
	In 167	Sn 140	Sb 140	Te 142	I 133	Xe 131
	Tl 170	Pb 146	Bi 150	Po 168	At (140)	Rn (140)

- **Down a group** – the valence shell **principal quantum number (n) increases** $\Rightarrow$ orbitals and electron clouds become larger
- **Across a period** – the nuclear charge increases while the new electrons enter the same principal shell (do not shield each other effectively) $\Rightarrow$ the **effective nuclear charge (Z_{eff}) increases** and draws the electrons closer to the nucleus

Example: Compare the sizes of **Ge**, **Sn** and **Se**.

Sn is below **Ge** $\Rightarrow$ **Sn > Ge**

Ge is to the left of **Se** $\Rightarrow$ **Ge > Se**

- For the **transition elements**, the size trend **across a period** is not as pronounced because electrons are added to inner shells which provides better shielding of the outer electrons, so **Z_{eff}** does not increase as much

	3B (3)	4B (4)	5B (5)	6B (6)	7B (7)	(8)	8B (9)	(10)	1B (11)	2B (12)
4	Sc 162	Ti 147	V 134	Cr 128	Mn 127	Fe 126	Co 125	Ni 124	Cu 128	Zn 134
5	Y 180	Zr 160	Nb 146	Mo 139	Tc 136	Ru 134	Rh 134	Pd 137	Ag 144	Cd 151
6	La 187	Hf 159	Ta 146	W 139	Re 137	Os 135	Ir 136	Pt 138	Au 144	Hg 151

Trends in Ionization Energy

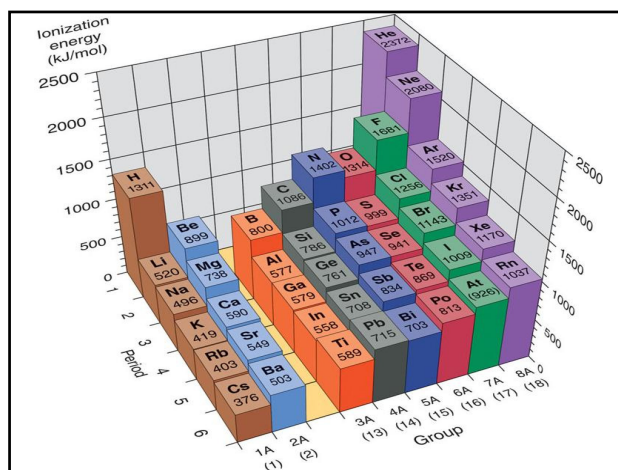
- **Ionization energy (I)** – energy required to remove an electron from a gas-phase atom
 - **First ionization energy (I_1)** – to remove the 1st e^-

$$X(g) \rightarrow X^+(g) + e^-$$
 - **Second ionization energy (I_2)** – to remove a 2nd e^-

$$X^+(g) \rightarrow X^{2+}(g) + e^-$$
- Ionization energies are positive (endothermic) and become larger with every subsequent ionization

$$0 < I_1 < I_2 < I_3 < I_4 \dots$$

- It's harder to remove an e^- from a positive ion



- First ionization energies **decrease down a group** and **increase** from left to right **across a period** (with some exceptions)
 - Down a group** electrons are removed from shells that are farther from the nucleus (less tightly bound)
 - Across a period** Z_{eff} increases (valence electrons are more tightly bound to the nucleus)
- Low ionization energy accounts for the metallic character of elements in the lower left corner of the table (*s*, *d*, *f* and some of the *p* block) – easy removal of e^- provides better conductivity and tendency to form cations

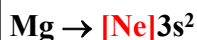
- Irregularities in the ionization energy trends
 - Decrease in I_1 between groups 2(2A) and 13(3A) elements
 - group 2A $\rightarrow ns^2$ group 3A $\rightarrow ns^2np^1$
 - The *np* electron is easier to remove than the *ns* electron – *p*-subshells have higher energy and are less tightly bound
 - Decrease in I_1 between groups 15 and 16 elements
 - group 15(5A) $\rightarrow ns^2np_x^1np_y^1np_z^1$
 - group 16(6A) $\rightarrow ns^2np_x^2np_y^1np_z^1$
 - It's easier to remove the paired electron on the *p_x*-orbital – paired electrons repel each other stronger than unpaired electrons

- Considerable **jump** in the successive ionization energies occurs after removal of all valence electrons – core electrons are much more difficult to remove than valence electrons
 - explains the charges of stable metal cations



$I_1 = 496 \text{ kJ/mol}$, $I_2 = 4562 \text{ kJ/mol}$

Stable cation $\rightarrow \text{Na}^+$



$I_1 = 738 \text{ kJ/mol}$, $I_2 = 1450 \text{ kJ/mol}$, $I_3 = 7734 \text{ kJ/mol}$

Stable cation $\rightarrow \text{Mg}^{2+}$

Trends in Electron Affinity

- Electron affinity (*A*)** – energy associated with the addition of an electron to a gas-phase atom
 - First** electron affinity (A_1) – to add the 1st e^-

$$\text{X(g)} + e^- \rightarrow \text{X}^-(\text{g})$$
 - Second** electron affinity (A_2) – to add a 2nd e^-

$$\text{X}^-(\text{g}) + e^- \rightarrow \text{X}^{2-}(\text{g})$$
- Electron affinities can be either exothermic (-) or endothermic (+)
 - A_1 is typically (-) (exceptions: group 2A, 8A, ...)
 - A_2 , A_3 ... are always positive
 - By convention, “larger” *A* is more exothermic (-)

1A (1)						8A (18)	
H -72.8	2A (2)						He (0.0)
Li -59.6	Be (+18)	B -26.7	C -122	N +7	O -141	F -328	Ne (+29)
Na -52.9	Mg (+21)	Al -42.5	Si -134	P -72.0	S -200	Cl -349	Ar (+35)
K -48.4	Ca (+186)	Ga -28.9	Ge -119	As -78.2	Se -195	Br -325	Kr (+39)
Rb -46.9	Sr (+146)	In -28.9	Sn -107	Sb -103	Te -190	I -295	Xe (+41)
Cs -45.5	Ba (+46)	Tl -19.3	Pb -35.1	Bi -91.3	Po -183	At -270	Rn (+41)

- First electron affinities tend to be **larger (more exothermic)** in the **upper right corner** of the table similarly to the first ionization energies
- Successive electron affinities are smaller and smaller – more endothermic ($A_1 > A_2 > A_3$...)
 - It's harder to add an e^- to a negative ion
- Considerable **drop** in the successive electron affinities occurs after achieving a noble gas configuration – the new electrons are added to a higher principal shell
 - Explains the charges of the stable anions of groups 15, 16 and 17 (N^{3-} , O^{2-} , F^- ...)

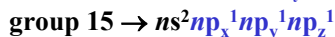
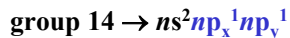
• Irregularities in the electron affinity trends

- Decrease in A_I between groups 1 and 2 elements

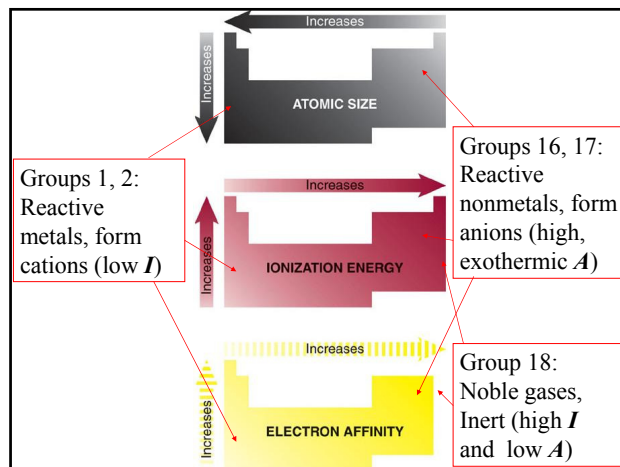


- For group 2 the new electron is added to the higher energy np subshell

- Decrease in A_I between groups 14 and 15 element



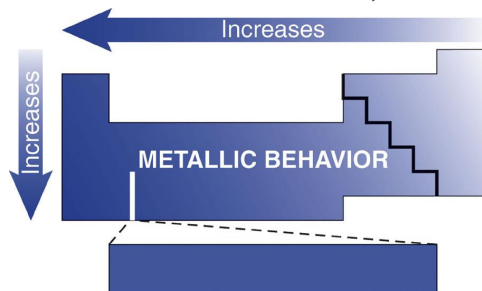
- For group 15 the new electron is added to an already occupied np orbital – pairing of electrons is energetically unfavorable (stronger repulsion)



8.4 Atomic Structure and Chemical Behavior

Trends in Metallic Behavior

- Related to the trends in the size, I and A



• Relative tendency to lose or gain electrons

- The tendency to form cations increases to the left and toward the bottom (I decreases)
- The tendency to form anions increases to the right and toward the top (A increases)

• Elemental oxides

- **Metals** tend to form ionic oxides that act as bases in water $\rightarrow$ **basic oxides** (Na_2O , CaO , BaO , ...)
- **Nonmetals** tend to form covalent oxides that act as acids in water $\rightarrow$ **acidic oxides** (CO_2 , SO_3 , ...)
- Most **metalloids** and **some metals** form **amphoteric oxides** $\rightarrow$ can act as acids or bases in water (Al_2O_3 , GeO_2 , ...)

					(15)				
					N_2O_5				
3	Na_2O	MgO		Al_2O_3	SiO_2	P_4O_{10}	SO_3	Cl_2O_7	Ar
						As_2O_5			
						Sb_2O_5			
						Bi_2O_3			

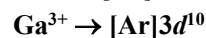
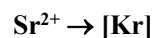
$\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{NaOH} \leftarrow$ (strongly basic)
 $\text{P}_4\text{O}_{10} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \leftarrow$ (weakly acidic)
 $\text{SO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \leftarrow$ (strongly acidic)
 $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + 6\text{H}^+ \rightarrow 2\text{Al}^{3+} + 3\text{H}_2\text{O} \leftarrow$ (amphoteric)
 $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + 2\text{OH}^- + 3\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_4^- \leftarrow$

Properties of Monatomic Ions

• Electron configurations of cations

- For s - and p -elements, electrons are lost first from the np subshell followed by the ns subshell
- All valence electrons are lost until a **noble gas** (or a **pseudo-noble gas**) configuration is achieved (high stability)

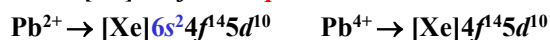
Example: Write the electron configurations of the stable cations of Sr and Ga.



Pseudo-noble gas configuration $\rightarrow [\text{Noble}](n-1)d^{10}$

- **Inert pair** effect – the *np*-electrons have higher energy than the *ns*-electrons and are lost first, so the two *ns*-electrons may or may not be lost (for the heavier metals in the *p*-block → In, Tl, Sn, Pb, and Bi)

Example: Write the electron configurations of the two common cations of Pb.

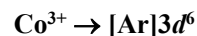


Inert pair

Pseudo-noble gas config. → [Noble](*n*-2)*f*¹⁴(*n*-1)*d*¹⁰

- For ***d*-elements**, electrons are lost first from the *ns* subshell followed by the (*n*-1)*d* subshell
- In general, not all valence electrons are lost and more than one cations are possible

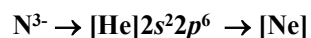
Example: Write the electron configuration of Co³⁺.



• Electron configurations of **anions**

- Electrons are added until a noble-gas configuration is reached

Example: Write the electron configuration of the nitride ion.



• **Magnetic properties** of atoms and ions

- Species with unpaired electrons are **paramagnetic** (attracted by magnetic fields)
- Species having all electrons paired are **diamagnetic** (not attracted by magnetic fields)

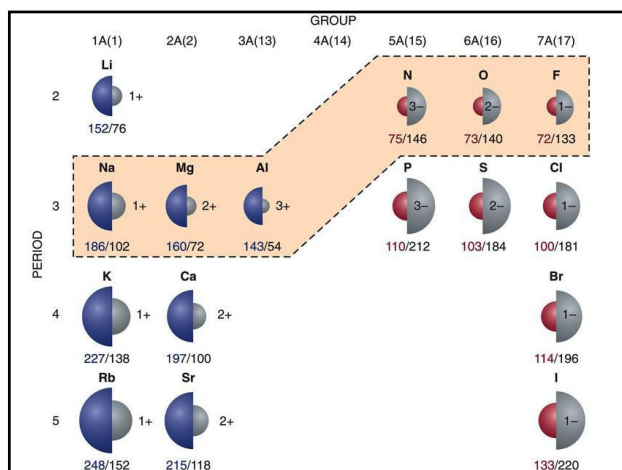
Example: Write the electron configurations of V and V³⁺ and determine which species is more paramagnetic.



More paramagnetic (more unpaired e⁻)

• **Ionic sizes** (ionic radii)

- Part of the distance between the centers of two neighboring ions in an ionic solid (O²⁻ is used as a standard with radius 140 pm)
- **Cations** are smaller than their parent atoms
 - Cation size decreases as charge increases for the different cations of an element
- **Anions** are larger than their parent atoms
- Ionic sizes of cations as well as anions follow the same trends in the periodic table as the sizes of atoms (increase down and to the left)
 - In a given period, the anions are larger than the cations



- **Isoelectronic species** – atoms and ions with the same number of electrons (have the same electron configuration)

- Size decreases with increasing the atomic number of the element (nuclear charge increases)

Example: Compare the sizes of Cl⁻, Ca²⁺ and Sc³⁺

Isoelectronic, electron configuration of argon [Ar]

⇒ **Sc³⁺ < Ca²⁺ < Cl⁻** (atomic number ↓)

Example: Compare the sizes of Ca, Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺

Ca²⁺ < Ca (cation is smaller)

Mg²⁺ < Ca²⁺ (Mg is above Ca) ⇒ **Mg²⁺ < Ca²⁺ < Ca**