Atoms, Elements, Molecules, and Compounds

The Atom

Our modern model of the atom comes from the contributions of several scientist over millennia.

 The Greek scientist **Democritus** (BC 460-370) proposed that there had to be a smallest part of matter, which he called *atomos* (indivisible).



Democritus: Indivisible atoms are hard spheres.

Dalton: Each element's atoms are the same.

- In 1808 John Dalton published a theory of the atom that had these important points:
- · All atoms of a particular element are the same.
- Atoms of different elements have different properties, mass, and chemical reactivity.
- Atoms are not changed by chemical reactions, just rearranged in order or number.



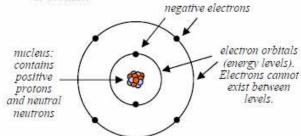
Thomson: plum pudding atom: negative plums (electrons) in the positive pudding (atom).

 Electrons were discovered by J.J. Thomson in 1897. By watching streams of particles bend toward positive plates, he realized the particles were negative. Knowing atoms were neutral, he thought that electrons were like negative plums in positive pudding.



Rutherford: the atom is mostly empty space with a solid nucleus.

- 4. The nucleus was discovered in 1911 when Ernest Rutherford shot alpha particles at gold foil. Most of the particles passed thru the foil, since the atom is mostly empty space with a solid, central nucleus.
- In 1913 Niels Bohr, while studying light, realized that electrons can only exist in certain energy levels or orbitals.



Niels Bohr model of the atom.

 Scientists have now split the atom and even split protons, neutrons, and electrons into even smaller particles called quarks.

Subatomic Particles

Subatomic means "smaller than the atom". Each particle has different properties and locations.

Particle	Charge	Location	Mass	Tells the
proton	positive	Nucleus	1 amu	element
neutron	neutral	Nucleus	1 amu	isotope
electron	negative	Orbitals	1/2000 amu	ion

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Atoms

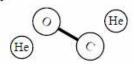
An atom is a single piece of an element that retains the element's properties.



3 atoms 2 elements 1 molecule 1 compound

Elements

An element has only one kind of atom. All elements are found on the periodic table of elements.



4 atoms 3 elements 1 molecule 1 compound

Molecules

A molecule is any combination of two or more atoms. Not all molecules are compound.



2 atoms 1 element 1 molecule 0 compounds

Compounds

A compound is any combination of two or more different atoms. All compounds are molecules.



3 atoms 2 elements 1 molecule 1 compound

