Drawing the Atom

Bohr-Rutherford Diagrams

Bohr-Rutherford diagrams are one model that describes the arrangement of subatomic particles in the atom. It shows the location and number of electrons, protons, and neutrons.

Reminder: # protons = atomic number # neutrons = n = mass number – atomic number # electrons = # protons

Atomic Number

3

Li
Lithium

To draw Bohr-Rutherford diagrams

1. Using the periodic table, calculate the number of protons, neutrons and electrons.

6.941 +

Atomic Mass

- 2. Draw the nucleus by first writing the symbol of the element and indicating the number of protons (p) and neutrons (n).
- 3. Draw the electrons in their orbits. Only a certain number of electrons can be held in each orbit:
 - fill the lower orbits (or energy levels) first
 - the first orbit will hold up to two electrons.
 - the other orbits can hold up to eight electrons.
 - these rules hold up to calcium (element 20)

| Draw a Bohr-Rutherford diagram for helium | Draw a Bohr-Rutherford diagram for nitrogen | Draw a Bohr-Rutherford diagram for boron |
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Lewis Diagrams

When atoms combine, only electrons in the outer (valence) shell are involved. We can represent these valence electrons with Lewis diagrams (electron dot diagrams). Lewis diagrams are a simple way to understands how electrons are involved in the formation of chemical compounds.

To draw Lewis diagrams:

- 1. Write the element symbol. Instead of having plus signs represent positive charges, the element symbol represents the nucleus.
- 2. Around this draw dots one for each valence electron.
- 3. The dots should be spread over four sides. Dots are not paired until all sides have at least one dot.
- 4. The number of valence electrons is equal to the group number. For example, hydrogen is in Column 1 and it has one valence electron. Neon is in Column 18 and it has 8 valence electrons. The only exception is He which has 2 valence electrons.

Drawing Lewis diagrams help us to identify **electron pairs** (two electrons interacting) which are less likely to participate in a single bond than **unpaired electron** (electron in an outer shell that is not part of a pair.

Example:

| Draw a Lewis diagram for oxygen | Draw a Lewis diagram for neon | Draw a Lewis diagram for sodium |
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