# Powers of 10 video



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- A.  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  is greater than  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ .
- B. A Gigawatt is 1,000,000 Watts.
- C. A microgram is  $10^{-9}$  kg.
- D. A centimeter is 10 millimeters.
- E. A millipede is a kind of arthropod.

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## Cavendish Experiment: Direct measurement of *G*



Which is *false* about the Cavendish experiment?

- A. In the Cavendish experiment, it helps to use masses of large density as this allows the distance between masses to be reduced.
- B. The Cavendish experiment helps us determine the mass of the Earth, if we know the Earth's radius and the acceleration of gravity.
- C. The Cavendish experiment, performed on the surface of Mars, can tell us what Newton's gravitational constant is.
- D. The Cavendish experiment, performed on a spacecraft falling into a black hole, would yield the same value for the gravitational constant as when performed on Earth.
- E. If the Cavendish experiment were conducted on the moon, the gravitational acceleration of the moving masses would be about 1/6 of that measured on Earth.

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Which statement about supernova explosions is *false*?

- A. Supernovae can be so bright that they can be seen with the naked eye.
- B. Supernova explosions happen when very massive stars run out of nuclear fuel.
- C. Supernova explosions leave behind neutron stars or black holes.
- D. Supernovae were first detected when telescopes were invented.
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Which statement about neutron stars is true?

- A. Neutron stars tend to spin many times per second.
- B. Neutron stars emit intense neutron radiation.
- C. Neutron stars are created when black holes merge.
- D. Neutron stars are much bigger in diameter than the sun.
- E. Stars much less massive than the sun end up as neutron stars.



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# **Atoms and Molecules**





Greek philosopher Democritus pondered:

- Suppose you divide a piece of matter in half, then again, then again, ...
- Then either:
  - You can do this indefinitely ("matter is continuous")
  - Or, you arrive at a smallest indivisible piece of matter ("atom").
- Democritus argued in favor of the atomic theory of matter:
- All matter is made of tiny, indivisible particles, too small to be seen.



How did Democritus know about atoms?

- He didn't. He just liked the idea.
- Atomic theory was a popular topic for debate for the ancients.
- Truth was to be decided by the quality of the rhetoric, rather than by actual evidence.

#### What evidence do we have for atomic theory?

Descartes attributed the beautiful symmetry of snowflakes to the existence of water molecules that arrange themselves in hexagonal arrays.





#### Salt crystals (cubic in shape)



Another piece of evidence for the atomic theory is Brownian motion:

The erratic motion of tiny particles in water as they are bounced around by the water molecules.





## Evidence from Chemistry: Dalton



- The atoms of a given element are different from those of any other element; the atoms of different elements can be distinguished from one another by their respective relative atomic weights.
- All atoms of a given element are identical.
- Atoms of one element can combine with atoms of other elements to form chemical compounds; a given compound always has the same relative numbers of types of atoms.
- Atoms cannot be created, divided into smaller particles, nor destroyed in the chemical process; a chemical reaction simply changes the way atoms are grouped together.
- Elements are made of tiny particles called atoms.





#### Most convincing was Dalton's table for nitrogen oxides:

Current name	Formula	Mass ratio*
Nitrous oxide	N <sub>2</sub> O	57
Nitric oxide	NO	2 x 57 = 114
Nitrous anhydride	$N_2O_3$	3 x 57 = 171
Nitrogen dioxide	NO <sub>2</sub>	4 x 57 = 228
Nitric anhydride	N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	5 x 57 = 285
Nitrogen peroxide	NO <sub>3</sub>	6 x 57 = 342

\* Grams of oxygen for each 100 grams of nitrogen

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Nitric anhydride	N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	5 x 57 = 285
Nitrogen peroxide	$NO_3 = N_2O_6$	6 x 57 = 342

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## Size of atoms?

- Can Dalton's measurements of ratios tell us how big atoms are?
- For example, how many atoms in a gram of oxygen?

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## Size of atoms/molecules

The English physicist Lord Rayleigh (John William Strutt, 1842 – 1919) came up with an ingenious and simple method estimate the size of oil molecules:

- Drop of oil onto water.
- Oil spreads to form a very thin layer.
- Spreading stops when the oil film is one molecule in thickness.
- From know volume of drop, determined thickness to be 10<sup>-9</sup> m.
- Concluded atoms must be even smaller than this.



Size of atom is about 10<sup>-10</sup> meters, i.e., 0.000000001 meters

# In 1905, Einstein made an estimate based on the theory of Brownian motion and got about the same answer.





<u>Video</u>

## Scanning Tunneling Microscope (STM)



Binning & Rohrer Nobel Prize in Physics: 1986



#### Scanning Tunneling Microscope (STM)



#### Scanning Transmission Electron Microscopy (STEM)







- Single Atom (Cr, V)
  Substitutional Dopants in Monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub>
- Atomic Structure
- Identify atoms with EELS (spectroscopy)

### **X-Ray Diffraction**

- Find location of atoms in crystals by scattering x-rays.
- Use known wavelength of x-rays to determine distance between atom layers.



Which of the following does <u>**not</u>** give us an indication of the size of atoms?</u>

- A. Oil drop spreading on the surface of water.
- B. Atomically resolved STM images.
- C. Brownian motion.
- D. X-ray diffraction of crystals.
- E. Dalton's experiments on chemical combination ratios.

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## Atoms and Molecules

- A total of fewer than 100 substances were found that could not be decomposed.
- These are called the chemical elements.
- Including elements that can only be made in the laboratory, there are 118 elements known today.



 A substance made of more than one element is called a <u>compound</u>.

 $H_2O$ 

Oxygen

Hydrogen

• Water is a well-known example:



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# Some atoms, such as hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen, form two-atom molecules.



Hydrogen molecules



Air: Nitrogen and Oxygen Molecules

#### Others, such as helium, are single-atom gases.



Compounds and elements are represented in abbreviated form. Every element has a one- or two-letter abbreviation, and the number of atoms of each element per molecule is given as a subscript:

Water:	H <sub>2</sub> O
Salt:	NaCl
Hydrogen gas:	H <sub>2</sub>

#### <u>Solids</u>

- Atoms are closely packed
- They vibrate around fixed locations
- The material is "rigid"
- Two variants:
  - Crystal
  - Amorphous





#### Liquid:

- Atoms are still closely packed.
- They move freely around one another.
- The material can "flow".
- Volume is approximately fixed.



#### <u>Gas</u>

- Atoms or molecules are far apart.
- They move freely between collisions.
- Gas expands to fill available volume.



#### **Plasma**

 Like a gas, but (+) ions and (-) electrons move separately





Gas

Plasma

#### Phase change simulation

