

A BARNES & NOBLE OUTLINE

COLLEGE Chemistry

JOHN R. LEWIS

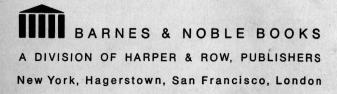


THE BARNES & NOBLE OUTLINE SERIES

COLLEGE CHEMISTRY

Ninth Edition

JOHN R. LEWIS University of Utah



0

Ninth Edition, 1971
Copyright 1932, 1933, 1934, 1938, 1941, 1945, 1951, 1965, 1971
By John R. Lewis
Copyright Renewed 1960, 1961, 1962, 1966, 1969, by John R. Lewis
and Assigned to Barnes & Noble, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

ISBN: 0-06-460005-X

L. C. catalogue card number: 77-149833

82 83 84 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12

College Chemistry

About the Author

John R. Lewis received the doctorate degree in physical chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1924. After teaching at Wisconsin University for an additional four years, he became an Associate Professor and, later, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Utah.

From 1942 to 1958 he was Head of the Department of Metallurgical Engineering, University of Utah. From 1958 to 1963 he taught metallurgy and did research in the same area. At present he is Professor Emeritus at the University of Utah.

Professor Lewis has published several papers and bulletins in the fields of physical chemistry, extractive metallurgy, and chemical education. He is a member of several professional, scientific, and honor societies, including the American Chemical Society, the Honor Society of Sigma Xi, and Phi Kappa Phi. He is listed in American Men of cience, Who's Who in Engineering, Who Ki ws—And What, and Who's Who in Ame

Preface

The ninth edition of College Chemistry reflects another thorough revision. To keep up with progress in modern chemistry, some of the less important chapters have been deleted and others have been rearranged or combined. The chapters on atomic structure and the periodic classification of the elements have been revised so completely that they are, essentially, new material. A new chapter on the chemical bond has also been added. The revised book contains a number of important new tables, graphs, and figures that will be very useful to students and others. The appendixes have been enlarged to include (1) an activity table of the metals and (2) a table containing the electronic populations of atoms.

This new edition, like the earlier ones, summarizes the chemistry found in the latest editions of the most widely used general chemistry texts and also new texts that have recently come on the market. And, like the earlier editions, this new College Chemistry may be used as a textbook.

The author and publishers are grateful to students and others who have written to them concerning earlier editions. It is to be hoped that comments and suggestions regarding the ninth edition will also be forthcoming.

The author wishes to thank Dr. Gladys Walterhouse, Editor, of Barnes and Noble, Inc. for her excellent work in editing this book. It has been markedly improved through her valuable suggestions.

I wish to thank Mrs. Iris Adams for the careful work she did in typing part of the manuscript. My thanks are also due to Mrs. Dawn Ann Bailey for stenographic work and especially for the many courtesies she extended to the author. They made his tasks easier.

Finally great credit and appreciation are due my wife, Hazel, for the careful work she did in preparing the Index.

Noble Gases	10	Ne 2s ² 2p ⁶ 20.183	18 Ar	3e ^{23p6} 39.948	36	4s ² 4p ⁶ 83.80	22 2	5e ² 5p ⁶ 131.30	98	68 ² 6p ⁶ (222)		71 Lu 4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁶ 6 ²	103 Lw sr ¹⁴ 6d ¹ 7s ² (257)
		F 2s ² 2p ⁵ 18.9984	17 C	3s ^{23p5} 35.453	35	4s ² 4p ⁵ 79.909	53	58 ² 5p ⁵ 126.9044	88	At 6s ² 6p ⁵ (210)		70 Yb 4f ¹⁴ 5d ⁰ 6s ²	
sentativ	VIA	2s ² 2p ⁴ 15.9994	16 S	3s ² 3p ⁴ 32.064	% 34 Se	4e ² 4p ⁴ 78.96	52	58 ² 5p ⁴ 127.60	28	6s ^{26p} ⁴		69 Tm 4f ¹³ 5d ⁶ 6s ²	101 Md 5f ¹³ 6d ⁰ 7s ² (256)
p Series of Representative Elements	VA	2s ² 2p ³ 14.0067	15 P	3e ^{23p³} 30.9738	33 As	4s ² 4p ³ 74.9216	51	5e ² 5p ³ 121.75	83	6e ² 6p ³ 208.980		68 Er 4f ¹² 5d ⁰ 6s ²	102.30 104-930 107.20 108.934 173.04 Cf E9 Fm Md No No Stroger, St
Series o	IVA	$\frac{\mathbf{C}}{2\mathbf{s}^22\mathbf{p}^2}$	14 S:	3s ² 3p ² 28.086	32	4624p2	50	5s ² 5p ² 118.69	82	68 ² 6p ² 207.19		67 Ho 4f ¹¹ 5d ⁶ 6s ²	99 Es 5f ¹¹ 6d ⁰ 7s ² (254)
d (IIIA	2s ² 2p ¹ 10.811	13 A	3s ^{23p¹} 26.9815	31 Ga	4s ² 4p ¹ 69.72	49	5s ² 5p ¹ 114.82	18	6s ² 6p ¹ 204.37	Metals		98 Cf Sf ¹⁰ 6d ⁰ 7s ² (249)
				IIB	30 Zn	3d104s2 65.37	48		8	Hg 5d106s2 200.59	nsition	65 Tb 4f°5d°6s²	97 Bk 5f ⁸ 6d ⁰ 7s ² (247)
ments				IB	C 29	34104e1 63.54	47	4d ¹⁰ 5 ₈ 1 107.870	62	Au 5d106e1 196.967	Series of Transition Metals		150.35 151.90 157.25 158.924 Pu Pu Am Cm Bk Srearn, Sr
Periodic Table of the Elements Key - → 11 Na Valence electron	ration			1	82 iZ	wro.	100	441° 106.4	78	5d ⁹ 66,1 195.09	f Series	63 Eu 4f ⁷ 5d ⁹ 6s ²	95 Am 5f'6d°7s² (243)
e of th	configuration	Metals	VIII	1	22	34 ⁷ 46 ² 58.9332	45 DL	4d ⁸ 5s ¹ 102.905	77	5d ⁷ 6s ² 192.2			94 Pu Sf ⁶ 6d ⁰ 7s ² (242)
odic Tabl	1	nsition			26 Fe	3d ⁶ 4s ² 55.847	44	4d ⁷ 5s ¹ 101.07	92	Sd ⁶ 6s ² 190.2		61 Pm 4f ⁵ 5d ⁶ 6s ²	Np Sr ⁴ 6d ¹ 7s ² (237)
Periodic Key Key Na	38 → 22.9	s of Tra		VIIB	25 Mn	3d ⁵ 4 ₆ ² 54.938	43	4d ⁶ 5e ¹ (99)	75	Ke 5d ⁵ 6s ² 186.2		-	92 U Sf ³ 6d ¹ 7s ² 238.03
P. Atomic number –	eight –	d Series of Transition Metals		VIB	24 Cr	3d ⁵ 4s ¹ 51.996	42 M	4d ⁵ 5s ¹ 95.94	74	Sd*6e ² 183.85		59 Pr 4f ³ 5d ⁹ 6e ²	140.12 140.907 90 91 Th Pa \$F ⁶ 6d ² 7 ₈ ² \$F ⁶ 6d ¹ 7 ₈ ² 232.038 (231)
omic n	Atomic weight $- \Rightarrow 22.998$			VB	23 V	3d ³ 4s ² 50.942	1 4 7	4d ⁴ 5s ¹ 92.906	73	1.a 5d ³ 6s ² 180.948		58 Ce 4f ¹ 5d ¹ 6s ²	140.12 90 Th 5f ⁰ 6d ² 7s ² 232.038
¥.	At			IVB	22 Ti	3d ² 4 ₆ ² 47.90	40	4d ² 5s ² 91.22	72	HI 4f ¹⁴ 5d ² 6s ² 178.49	104 ?	nides	Actinides
				IIIB	21 Sc	3d ¹ 4s ² 44.956	39	4d ¹ 5s ² 88.905	57	Sd ¹ 6s ² 138.91	89 Ac 6d ¹ 7s ² (227)	Lanthanides	Acti
Series of Representative Elements		28 ² 9.0122	Mg 12	cal	20 CB	40.08	38	5s ² 87.62	9.2	6s ² 137.34	88 Ra 7s ² (226)		
s Series of Representate Elements	1.00797	28-1 6.939	Z &	3s1 22.9898	19 K	461 39.102	37 Rh	5s1 85.47	55	68. 132.905	87 Fr 781 (223)		
1st period	n = 1 $2nd$	period n = 2	3rd period	n = 3	4th	n = 4	5th	period n = 5	6th	period n = 6	7th period n = 7		

Table of International Atomic Weights (1968)

Values in parentheses are estimated for isotopes of longest half-life in most cases.

		Atomic				Atomic	Atomic
Element	bol	No.	Weight	Element	bol	No.	Weight
Actinium	Ac	89	(227)	Mercury	Hg	80	200.59
Aluminum	Al	13	26.9815	Molybdenum	Mo	42	95.94
Americium	Am	95	(243)	Neodymium	Nd	60	144.24
Antimony	Sb	51	121.75	Neon	Ne	10	20. 179
Argon	Ar	18	39.948	Neptunium	Np	93	(237)
Arsenic	As	33	74.9216	Nickel	Ni	28	58.71
Astatine	At	85	(210)	Niobium	Nb	41	92.906
Barium	Ba	56	137.34	Nitrogen	N	7	14.0067
Berkelium	Bk	97	(247)	Nobelium	No	102	(255)
Beryllium	Be	4	9.0122	Osmium	Os	76	190. 2
Bismuth	Bi	83	208. 980	Oxygen	0	8	15.9994
Boron	В	5	10.8114	Palladium	Pd	46	106. 4
Bromine	Br	35	79.904	Phosphorus	P	15	30. 9738
Cadmium	Cd	48	112.40	Platinum	Pt	78	195.09
Calcium	Ca	20	40.08	Plutonium	Pu	94	(244)
Californium	Cf	98	(252)	Polonium	Po	84	(210)
Carbon	C	6	12.011154	Potassium	K	19	39. 102
Cerium	Ce	58	140.12	Praseodymium	Pr	59	140.907
Cesium	Cs	55	132.905	Promethium .	Pm	- 61	(147)
Chlorine	Cl	17	35.4536	Protactinium	Pa	91	(231)
Chromium	Cr	24	51.996	Radium	Ra	88	(226)
Cobalt	Co	27	58.9332	Radon	Rn	.86	(222)
Copper	Cu	29	63.546	Rhenium	Re	75	186.2
Curium	Cm	96	(247)	Rhodium	Rh	45	102.905
Dysprosium	Dy	66	162.50	Rubidium	Rb	37	85.47
Einsteinium	Es	99	(254)	Ruthenium	Ru	44	101.07
Erbium	Er	68	167. 26	Samarium	Sm	62	150. 35
Europium ·	Eu	63	151.96	Scandium	Sc	21	44.956
Fermium	Fm	100	(257)	Selenium	Se	34	78.96
Pluorine	F	9	18.9984	Silicon	Si	14	28.0864
Francium	Fr	87	(223)	Silver	Ag	47	107. 868
Gadolinium	Gd	64	157.25	Sodium	Na	11	22.9898
Gallium	Ga	31	69.72	Strontium	Sr	38	87.62
Germanium	Ge	32	72.59	Sulfur	S	16	32.0644
Gold	Au	79	196.967	Tantalum	Ta	73	180.948
Hafnium	Hf	72	178.49	Technetium	Tc	43	(99)
Helium	He	2	4.0026	Tellurium	Te	52	127. 60
Holmium	Ho	67	164.930	Terbium	Tb	65	158.924
Hydrogen	H	1	1.007974	Thallium	T1	81	204.37
Indium	In	49	114.82	Thorium	Th	90	232.038
Iodine	I	53	126.9044	Thulium	Tm	69	168. 934
Iridium	Ir	77	192.2	Tin	Sn	50	118.69
Iron	Fe	26	55.8476	Titanium	Ti	22	47.90
Krypton	Kr	36	83.80	Tungsten	W	74	183.85
Lanthanum	La	57	138.91	Uranium	U	92	238.03
Lawrentium	Lw	103	(256)	Vanadium	V	23	50.942
Lead	Pb	82	207.19	Xenon	Xe	54	131.30
Lithium	Li	3	6.939	Ytterbium	Yb	70	173.04
Lutetium	Lu	71	174.97	Yttrium	Y	39	88.905
Magnesium	Mg	12	24. 305	Zinc	Zn	30	65.37
Manganese	Mn	25	54.9380	Zirconium	- Zr	40	91. 22
Mendelevium	Md	101	(257)				

a The atomic weight varies because of natural variations in the isotopic composition of the

The atomic weight varies because of natural variations in the isotopic composition of the element. The observed ranges are boron, ± 0.003 ; carbon, ± 0.0005 ; hydrogen, ± 0.0001 ; oxygen, ± 0.0001 ; silicon, ± 0.001 ; sulfur, ± 0.003 .

The atomic weight is believed to have an experimental uncertainty of the following magnitude; bromine, ± 0.002 ; chlorine, ± 0.001 ; chromium, ± 0.001 ; iron, ± 0.003 ; silver, ± 0.003 . For other elements the last digit given is believed to be reliable to ± 0.5 .

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Atomic Structure	11
3	The Periodic Classification of the Elements	32
4	The Chemical Bond	41
5	Atomic Weights, Symbols, Formulas, Equations,	
	and Valence	49
6	Acids, Bases, Salts, Nomenclature	58
7	Gases and the Kinetic Theory	69
8	Liquids and Solids	83
9	Oxygen and Hydrogen	91
10	Water and Solutions	103
11	Solutions of Nonelectrolytes and of Electrolytes	117
12	Chemical Equilibrium	128
13	Oxidation and Reduction	137
14	Nuclear Chemistry	145
15	Electrochemistry	157
16	Thermal Energy and Chemical Reactions	166
17	The Colloidal State	172
18	The Halogen Family	179
19	The Nitrogen Family	192
20	The Sulfur Family	213
21	Group IVA Elements	222
22	Metallurgy, General Properties of Metals, Alloys	239
23	The Alkali Metals (Group IA)	247
24	The Alkaline Earth Metals (Group IIA)	254
25	Group IIIA Elements	264
26	Group IB Metals	271
27	Group IIB Metals	281
28	Group VIII Metals—Other Industrial Metals	286
29	Organic Chemistry	306
30	Chemical Calculations	334
Appe	endixes	
I	Important Definitions	357
II	A Short List of Scientists	371

III	The Metric System	374
IV	Vapor Pressures of Water	374
V	Borax Bead Tests	375
VI	Flame Tests	375
VII	Solubility Rules and Data	376
VIII	Tests for the Common Cations	378
IX	Tests for the Common Anions	384
X	Table of Common Chemicals, Their Chemical	
	Names, Formulas, and Common Uses	387
XI	The Activity Series of Metals	392
XII	Electron Populations of the Atoms of the Elements	394
XIII	General Review Questions and Answers	399
XIV	Four-Place Logarithms and Antilogarithms	410
	Index	415

Chapter 1 Introduction

Chemistry is one of the physical sciences. It contributes to the other physical sciences as well as to the biological sciences. As a matter of fact, chemistry occupies such an important place in the affairs of mankind that all students should have a basic knowledge of elementary chemistry in order to better understand what is going on around them. Our country's triumph in placing men on the moon was made possible through the contributions of many people, but especially by those trained in the physical sciences, including chemistry. In addition mathematicians, the various types of engineers, computer scientists, and many technicians in various disciplines worked as a team to accomplish this great feat. As students go through this book they will become aware of the many contributions chemistry has made in the past and will be in a position to appreciate worthwhile contributions made in the future.

Basic Definitions. Chemistry is the science that investigates the composition and structure of matter, the changes that matter undergoes, the amounts and kinds of energy necessary for these changes, and the laws that govern change. Let us now define the important terms used in this definition.

Science is classified or systematized knowledge. It is gained and verified by observation and correct scientific thinking. In many cases scientific relationships can be expressed by mathematical equations. Science may be divided into the physical sciences, such as physics, chemistry, and geology, and the biological sciences, such as botany and zoology.

Matter is anything that occupies space and has mass. Experience shows that in ordinary chemical changes (or reactions) matter can be neither created nor destroyed. This statement is not true for nuclear reactions (see Chapter 14). Matter that is homogeneous, such as sulfur, sugar, water, or silver, is called a substance.

Matter may exist in three different physical forms or states:

2 INTRODUCTION

solid, liquid, and gaseous. Solids are rigid and have a definite form, usually crystalline. Liquids flow and assume the shape of the vessel in which they are stored. Gases diffuse and "fill" any container in which they are placed. It is possible to change a substance from one physical state to another by changing the conditions under which it is maintained. Changes of temperature or pressure are frequently used to bring about these transformations. For example, if the pressure remains constant, the physical state of water depends upon the temperature. Ice (water in the crystalline state) is stable below 0°C, water (as liquid) is stable from 0°C to 100°C, and steam (water vapor) is stable above 100°C.

Matter. Ordinary matter is made up of elements and compounds. An element used to be thought of as a substance that had not yet been chemically decomposed to give two or more simplier substances. In terms of more recent classifications, an element is a substance the properties of which give it a definite place in the periodic table (see inside front cover), or a substance all the atoms of which have the same nuclear charge (atomic number).

Thus hydrogen and oxygen are elements because they have never been decomposed into simpler substances. Water is not an element because it can be decomposed into hydrogen and oxygen. An up-to-date periodic table provides for 103 elements. Some of the elements, such as uranium and radium, are radioactive. These elements are so interesting that they are given special consideration in Chapter 14.

A compound is a substance composed of two or more elements chemically combined in definite proportions by weight. When the term weight is used we assume the value used is the value obtained at sea level. Compounds are homogeneous. The constituent elements of a compound have lost their original identity and they can be separated only by chemical means. The energy stored within a compound is not equal to the sum of the energies possessed by the uncombined elements. Water, sodium chloride (table salt), and sucrose (cane or beet sugar) are examples of compounds. Water is made up of hydrogen and oxygen. The properties of water are quite different from the properties of its constituent elements. The same is true for sodium chloride and sucrose.

A body made up of two or more substances which retain their

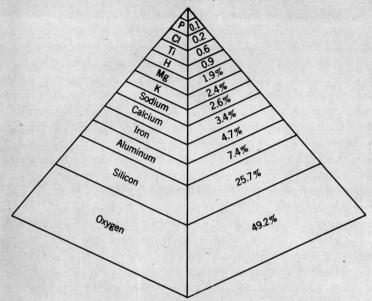


Fig. 1-1. Elemental composition of earth's crust.

own properties is called a *mixture*. Mixtures are heterogeneous, variable in composition, separable into their constituents by mechanical means, and composed of substances that retain their own energy contents. There is no gain or loss in chemical energy upon forming or destroying a mixture. Salt and pepper can be mixed together and then separated from each other without the gain or loss of chemical energy. A *solution* is a homogeneous body the composition of which can vary continuously within certain limits.

CHANGES IN MATTER. Matter undergoes physical and chemical changes. In a physical change the composition of the substance is not altered and the substance retains its identity. A rubber band will stretch and a copper wire will bend, but each object retains its identity. In a chemical change substances lose their identity, and the new substances formed have new physical and chemical properties. Thus, when a wax candle is burned in oxygen, the wax is changed into two new substances, carbon dioxide and water.

When elements or compounds combine, that is, react with each other to form more complex substances, the process may be

4 INTRODUCTION

called chemical combination. For example, if a mixture of iron filings and flowers of sulfur is heated, the chemical compound iron sulfide is formed. Chemical decomposition occurs when a compound such as mercuric oxide is thoroughly heated. Metallic mercury and oxygen are formed. In simple replacement reactions an uncombined element may replace an element already in chemical combination with another element. If a strip of iron is placed in a water solution of copper sulfate the iron replaces the copper. A double replacement, or double decomposition, as it is usually called, is a chemical change in which two substances react to give two new substances. For example, when a silver nitrate solution is added to a table salt solution (sodium chloride solution), silver chloride, a white precipitate, and a sodium nitrate solution are formed.

IDENTIFICATION OF MATTER. Substances are identified by enumerating their physical and chemical properties. The common physical properties include color, odor, taste, solubility in solvents, physical state, and density. For metals such as iron, gold, and silver, malleability, ductility, and conduction of heat and of electricity may also be included under physical properties. A physical description of hydrogen would entail stating that it is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is slightly soluble in water and has the lowest density of any chemical substance. Chemical properties of substances are expressed in terms of the stability of the substance toward heat, light, and shock, and of its behavior when placed in contact with other substances at ordinary or elevated temperatures. See p. 184 for a list of the chemical properties of chlorine.

CLASSIFICATION OF ELEMENTS. Of the 103 known elements about 70 are metals and 33 are nonmetals. There is no sharp dividing line between the two groups; therefore, a few elements have properties of both.

With the exception of mercury (a liquid) metals are crystalline solids that are malleable and ductile and good conductors of heat and electricity. Excluding gold and copper, the metals are essentially silver-colored. The density of metals varies considerably, from lithium, sodium, and potassium, which are lighter than water, to platinum, which is about twenty times heavier than water.

The physical properties of *nonmetals* that are solids at ordinary temperatures can be summarized by saying that they have com-

paratively low densities, are poor conductors of heat and electricity, are brittle (if solid), and, in many cases, have characteristic colors. For example, sulfur is pale yellow, bromine is reddish brown, chlorine is greenish yellow, phosphorus is white or red, and carbon is transparent or black. It is interesting to note that of the known elements only two are liquids at ordinary temperatures, mercury, a metal, and bromine, a nonmetal.

CLASSIFICATION OF COMPOUNDS. In general, compounds are classified according to their composition and properties. Those of similar composition and properties are grouped together. This enables one to remember the chemistry of many more compounds than would be possible if each were considered separately. For example, acids and bases are the names of two groups of compounds, the constituent members of which have properties in common. Acids contain hydrogen that is replaceable by metals. Water solutions of acids have a sour taste, will change litmus paper from blue to red, and will neutralize bases. If, to a glass of water, one adds several drops of hydrochloric acid or a few drops of sulfuric acid, the addition of acid gives the water a sour taste. Further, if a strip of magnesium ribbon is added to the glass of water containing acid, it reacts with the water solution, liberating a gas, i.e., hydrogen. Bases are oxides or hydroxides of metals. A base will neutralize an acid. If the base is soluble it will change the color of litmus paper from red to blue.

Energy. We may define energy as the ability to do work. Matter always possesses energy in one form or another. Energy acts upon matter to produce chemical and physical changes. Heat, light, kinetic (mechanical), electrical, and chemical are the words used to describe different forms of energy. In ordinary chemical changes energy can neither be created nor be destroyed, but it can be changed from one form to another. This is a statement of the law of conservation of energy. When carbon combines chemically with oxygen, an oxide of carbon is formed. Chemical energy causes the reaction of carbon and oxygen to form, let us say, carbon dioxide. At the same time, however, heat is liberated and light may also be produced. In a lead storage battery chemical energy is changed to electrical energy. In 1905 Einstein developed an equation which indicated that matter can be converted into energy. We shall consider this in more detail in Chapter 14. We shall also give consideration to atomic energy in Chapter 2.

Divisions of Chemistry. The science of chemistry covers a

6 INTRODUCTION

broad field. Because of this fact it is generally divided into several areas of study. General Chemistry is a survey of the entire field of chemistry with particular emphasis on fundamental concepts and elementary laws. Textbooks in this branch of chemistry are given such titles as General Chemistry, College Chemistry, Modern Chemistry, Introduction to Chemistry, and Essentials of Chemistry. Analytical Chemistry is concerned with the detection, separation, and determination of substances and their constituents. Qualitative analysis identifies the constituents; quantitative analysis determines their amounts. Physical Chemistry is concerned with the laws underlying chemical changes. Where possible these laws are expressed mathematically. Organic Chemistry is the study of the compounds of carbon. There are more than a million compounds of carbon and so they are given special consideration. Biochemistry is the study of the compounds and chemical changes that are associated with living processes. Most of these compounds contain carbon. Nuclear Chemistry is treated in general chemistry texts and in modern texts in physical chemistry. Chapter 14 in this book is devoted to this subject and summarizes some of the results obtained when atomic nuclei are bombarded with suitable projectiles.

Other Important Definitions. Fact. An event or an occurrence is a fact. That which is true is a fact.

(1) It is a fact that two United States astronauts spent several hours on the moon. (2) It is a fact that water contains hydrogen and oxygen.

Hypothesis. (1) A generalization based on a few facts. (2) A tentative explanation of experimental facts. Sometimes more than one hypothesis has been advanced to explain a given set of experimental facts. If this is the case, then the hypothesis which best explains the facts and which also explains newly discovered facts, in the same area, will be retained and the others discarded.

Theory. A statement or statements based on many facts and on reason that explains facts and laws. A very satisfactory hypothesis may be advanced to become a theory. A well-established theory is not likely to be discarded. However, it may be revised to fit new facts.

Law. A concise statement that summarizes a large number of facts. Often a law can be stated by a mathematical equation. In the statement of the law there is no attempt to explain why the law is true. Thus Boyle's gas law states that at constant tempera-

ture, the volume of a given mass of gas varies inversely with the pressure applied. Note that there is no attempt to explain why the gas expands or contracts with a pressure change. The kinetic theory accounts for this behavior of the gas.

Units of Measurement. The English system of measurement used in the United States, except for certain scientific work, is awkward and inconvenient. Table 1-1 illustrates this fact. Further, the conversion from one unit to another is always a nuisance.

Table 1-1
The English System of Measurement

For lengths less than one inch, the units are common fractions such as:

1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/32, etc. Volume Units

> 4 gills = 1 pint 2 pints = 1 quart 4 quarts = 1 gallon

Mass Units (Avoirdupois)

437½ grains = 1 ounce 16 ounces = 1 pound 2000 pounds = 1 ton

The metric system used in western European countries and for certain scientific work in the United States is a decimal system. Therefore the conversion of one unit to another is simple and rapid.

The unit of *length* is the meter. Originally one meter was taken as one ten-millionth (.0000001) of the distance from the north pole to the equator. Recently the meter was more accurately defined as 1,650,763.73 wave lengths of the orange-red light emitted when krypton is excited by an electric discharge.