

Atomic structure

- Until the early 20th century, chemists considered atoms to be indivisible particles.
- The discovery of SUBATOMIC PARTICLES changed the way we view atoms!

The subatomic particles

PROTON

- a small, but relatively massive particle that carries an overall unit POSITIVE CHARGE

NEUTRON

- a small, but relatively massive, particle that carries NO CHARGE
- slightly more massive than the proton

ELECTRON

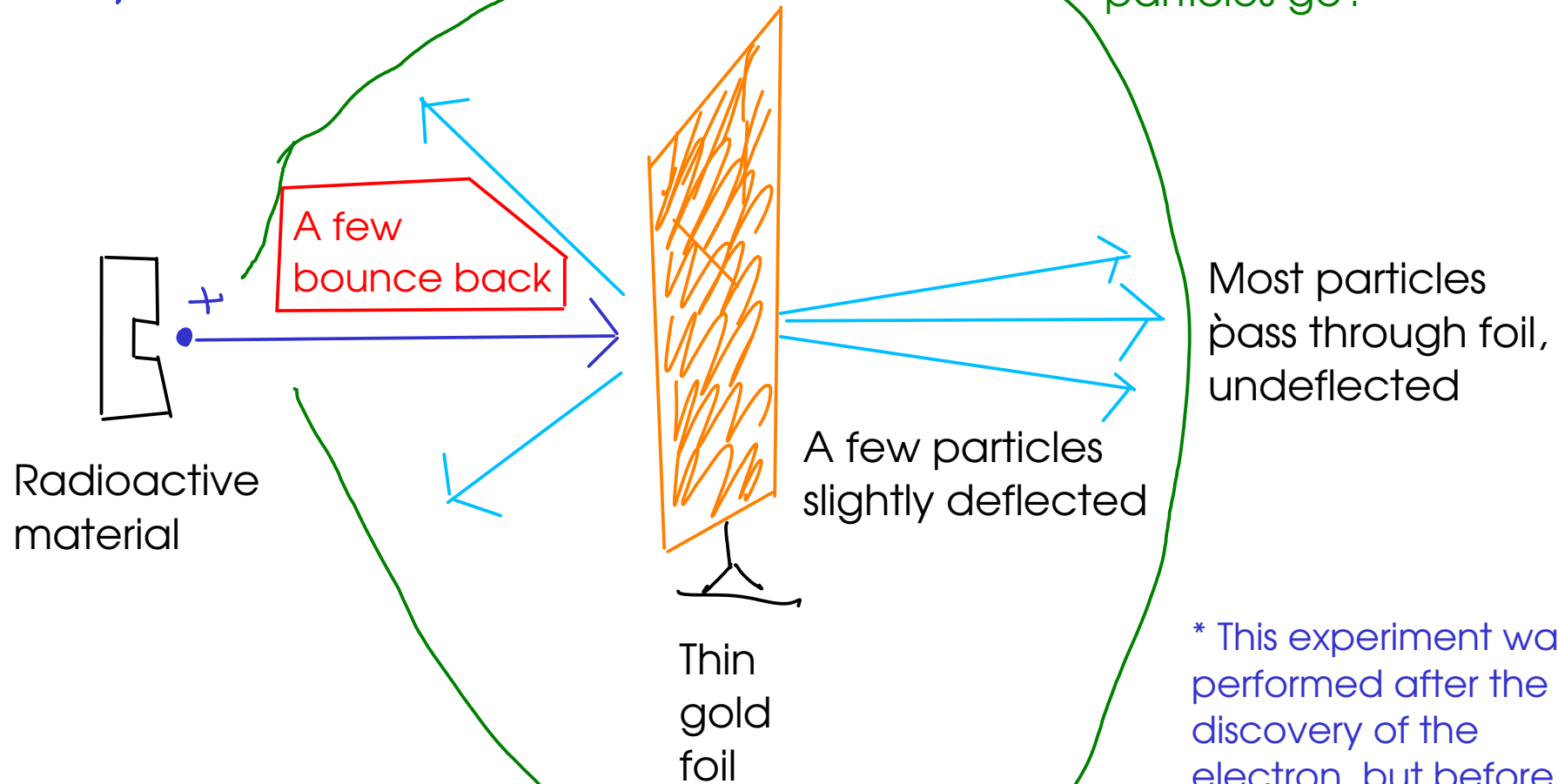
- a small particle that carries an overall unit NEGATIVE CHARGE
- about 2000 times LESS massive than either protons or neutrons

... So these particles were all thought to be parts of the atom. But how were these parts put together?

- In the early 20th century, there was a debate on the structure of the atom.

RUTHERFORD EXPERIMENT (1911)

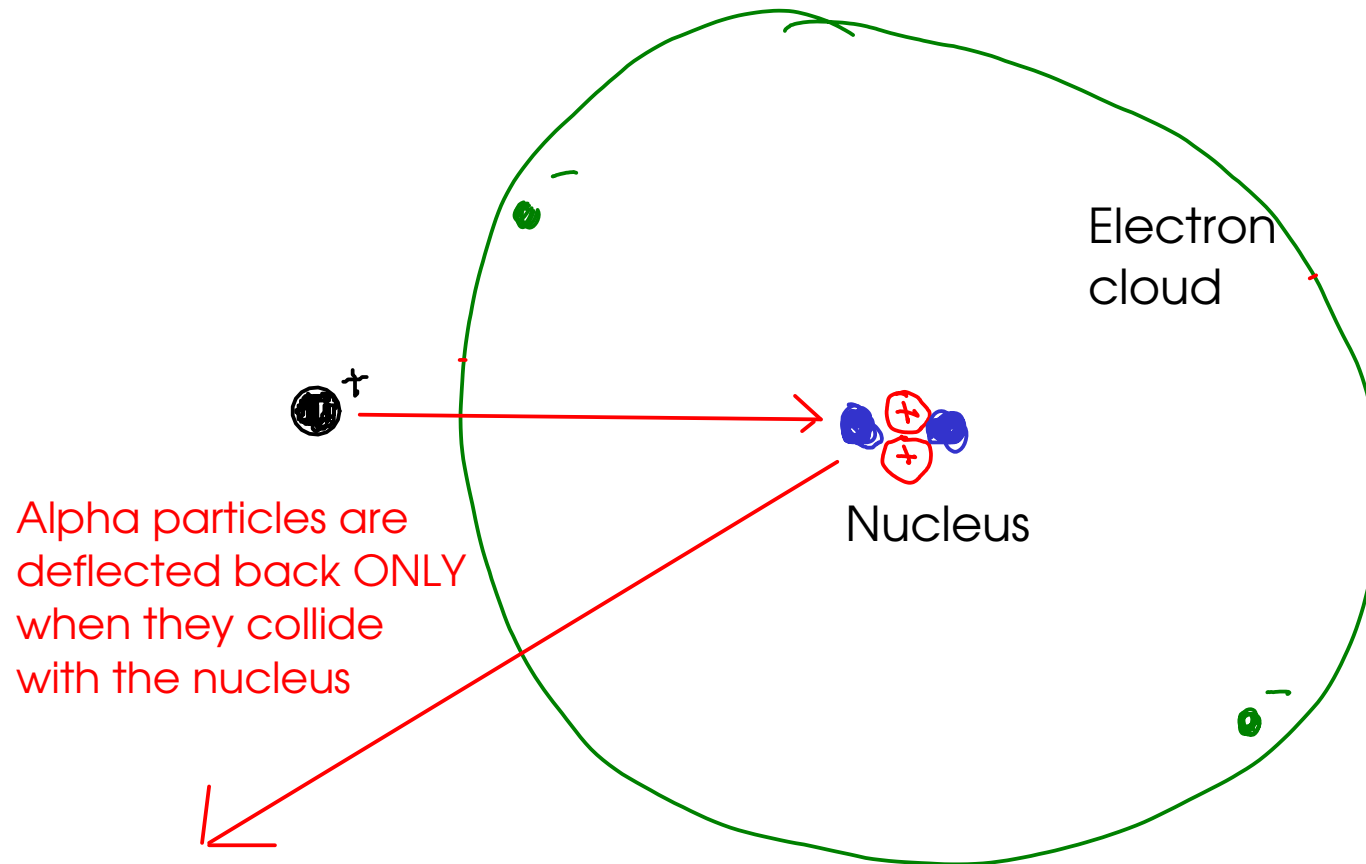
Where do the particles go?



* This experiment was performed after the discovery of the electron, but before the discovery of the proton or neutron!
(1919) (1932)

NUCLEAR MODEL

- Atoms are mostly empty space
- NUCLEUS, at the center of the atom, contains protons and neutrons. This accounts for almost all the mass of an atom
- Electrons are located in a diffuse ELECTRON CLOUD surrounding the nucleus



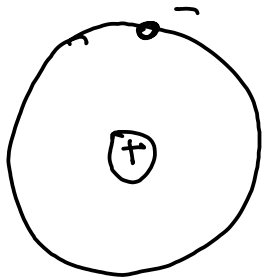
- ATOMIC NUMBER: The number of protons in the atomic nucleus. Each ELEMENT has the SAME NUMBER OF PROTONS in every nucleus. In neutral atoms, the number of ELECTRONS is also equal to the atomic number.

Example: Helium has an atomic number of 2. Every helium atom has two protons in its nucleus.

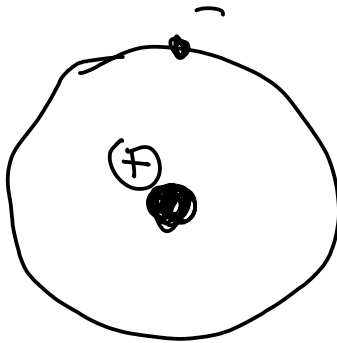
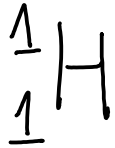
- MASS NUMBER: The number of protons PLUS the number of neutrons in the atomic nucleus, Atoms of the same element may have DIFFERENT mass numbers.

- ISOTOPES: are atoms of the same element with different mass numbers. In other words, they have the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons.

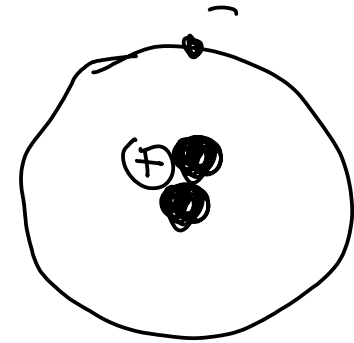
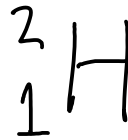
A few isotopes



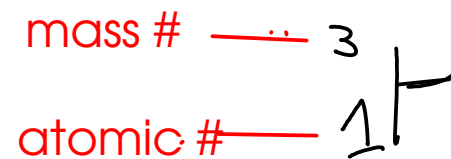
Hydrogen-1



Hydrogen-2
"Deuterium"



Hydrogen-3
"Tritium"



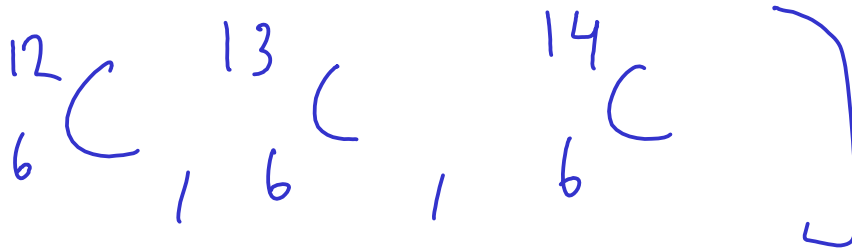
Isotopes

- Have identical CHEMICAL properties
- Differ in MASS
- May differ in stability. Elements may have some isotopes that are RADIOACTIVE

Atomic weight

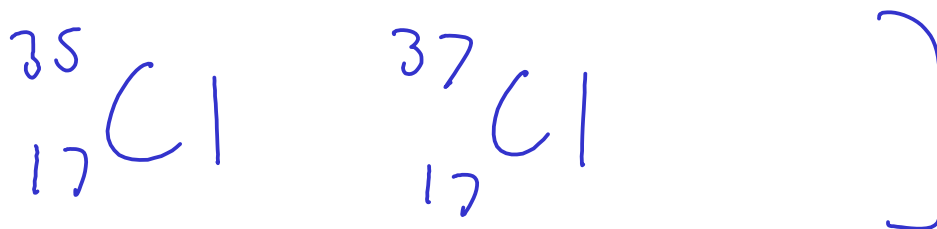
- The AVERAGE MASS of all naturally occurring isotopes of an element.

Example: Hydrogen has an atomic weight of 1.008 "atomic mass units"
(Naturally-occurring hydrogen is almost all Hydrogen-1!)



(Natural carbon is mostly carbon-12)

atomic weight of C:
12.01 amu



(Natural chlorine is mostly chlorine-35)

atomic weight of Cl:
35.45 amu