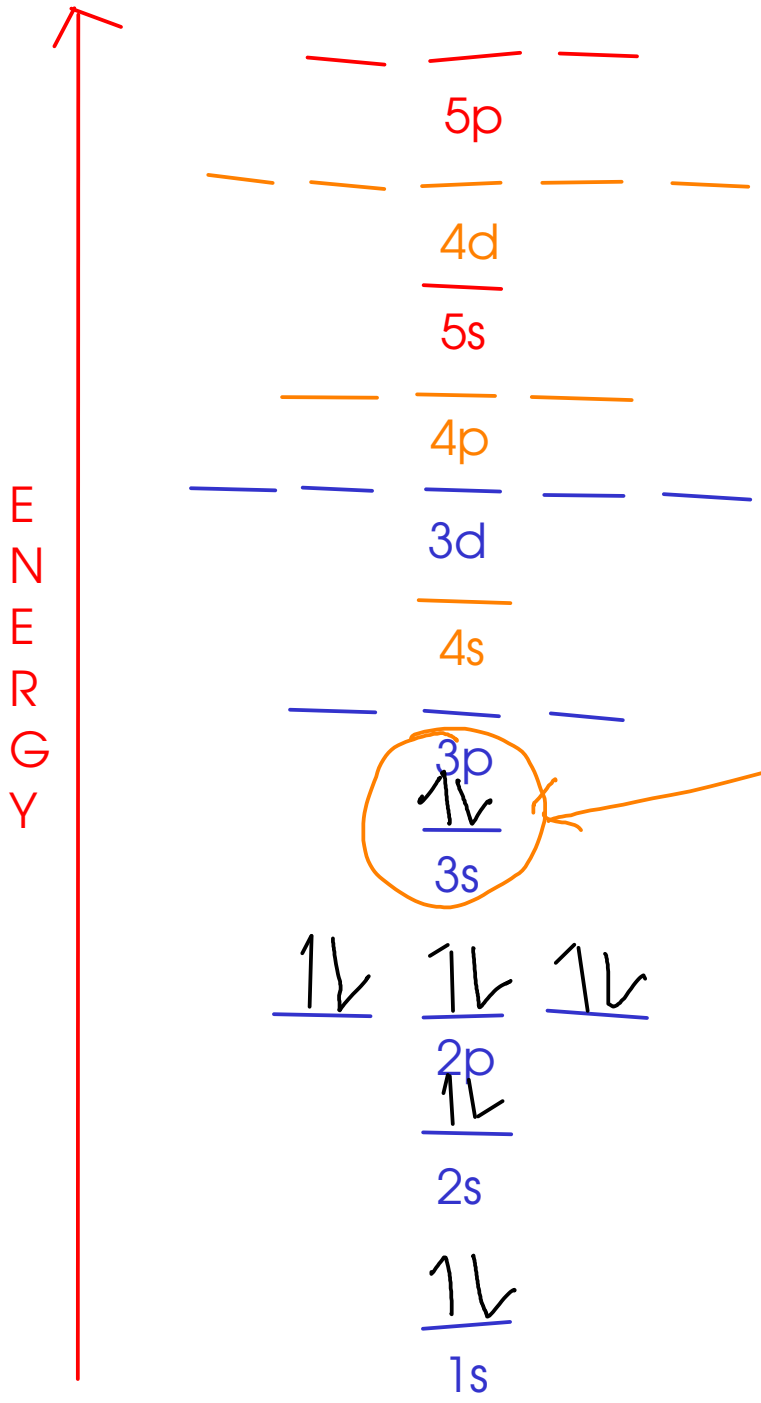
Let's look at some example atoms:

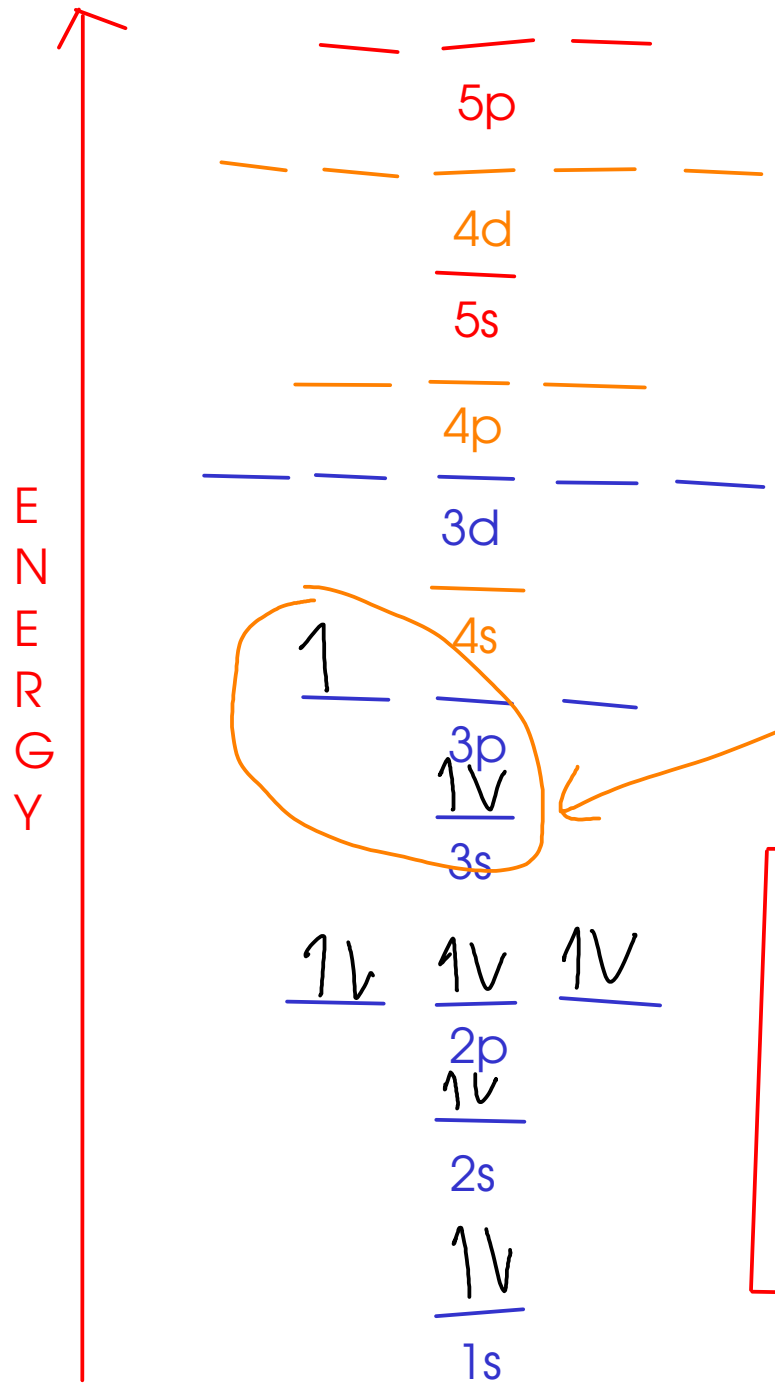
Magnesium: Z=12 , 12 electrons

Z: atomic #



Outermost electrons of magnesium "valence electrons". These electrons are involved in chemical bonding!

Aluminum: Z = 13

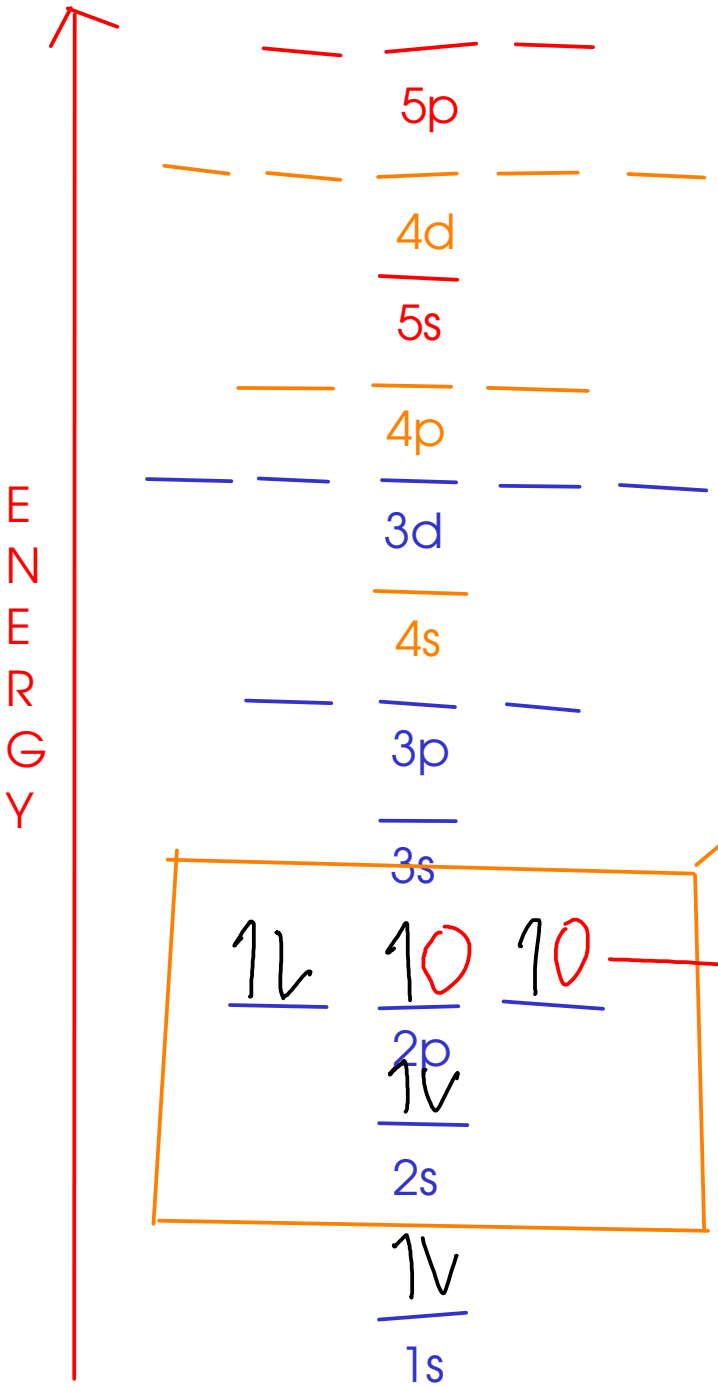


Aluminum has THREE valence electrons!
(All electrons in the outer shell are valence electrons!)

Atoms tend to form ions or chemical bonds in order to end up with filled outer "s" and "p" subshells.

This is called the "octet" rule. (Not all chemical bonds follow this - it's a RULE OF THUMB, not a scientific law!)

Example: Oxygen, Z = 8



Valence electrons for oxygen. (6 electrons)

Oxygen needs two more electrons to complete its outer "p" subshell!

In ionic compounds, oxygen has gained two electrons to become the oxide ion (2- charge). In molecular compounds, oxygen shares electrons with other atoms so that it has a share in eight electrons in its outer shell!

ELECTRON CONFIGURATION

- A shorthand way to write about electron arrangement around an atom.

O: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^4$

Shell and subshell

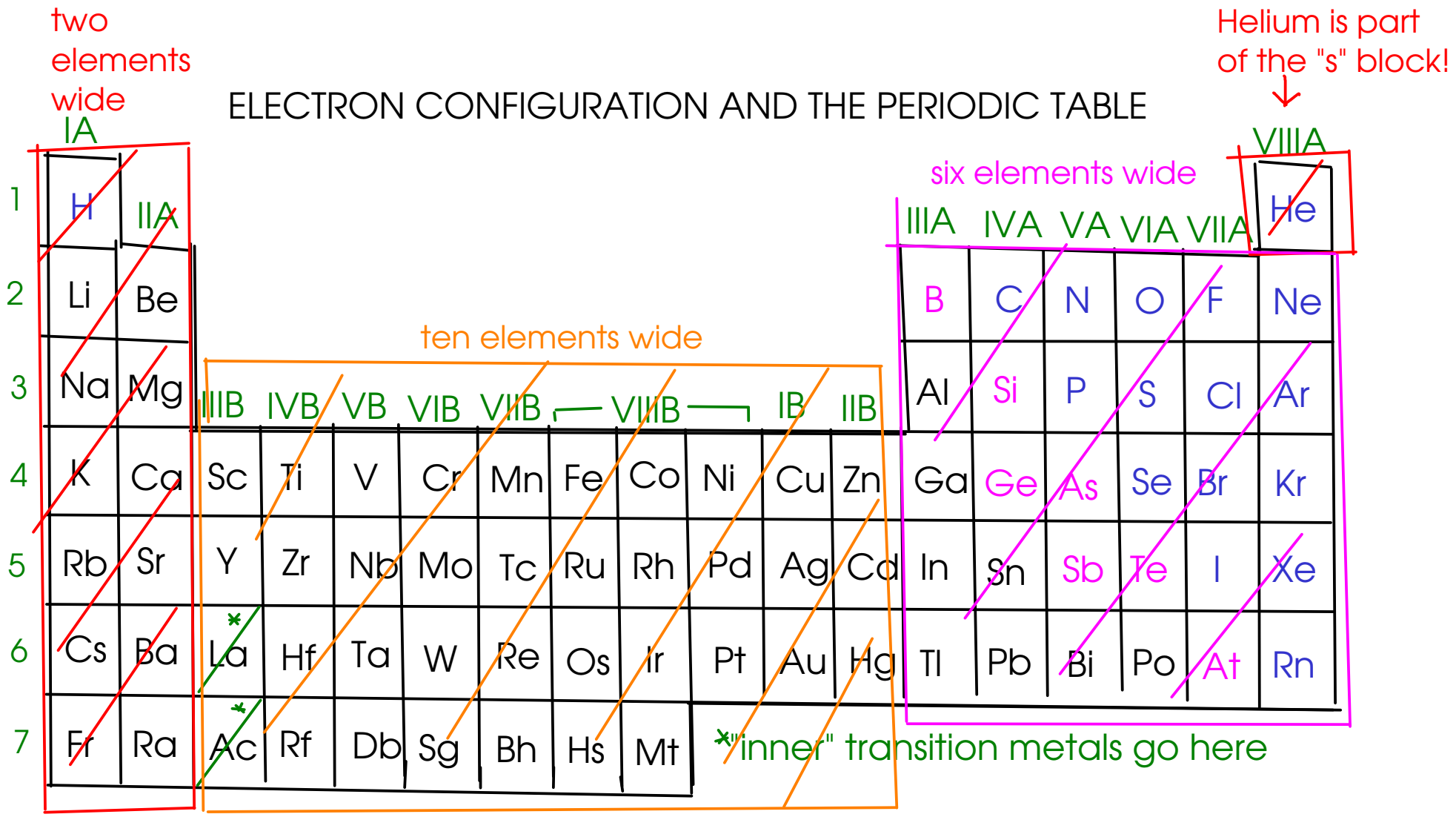
Number of electrons in the subshell!

Mg: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2$

Al: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^1$

Valence electrons are the ones in the outermost SHELL, not just the last subshell. Aluminum has THREE valence electrons.

ELECTRON CONFIGURATION AND THE PERIODIC TABLE

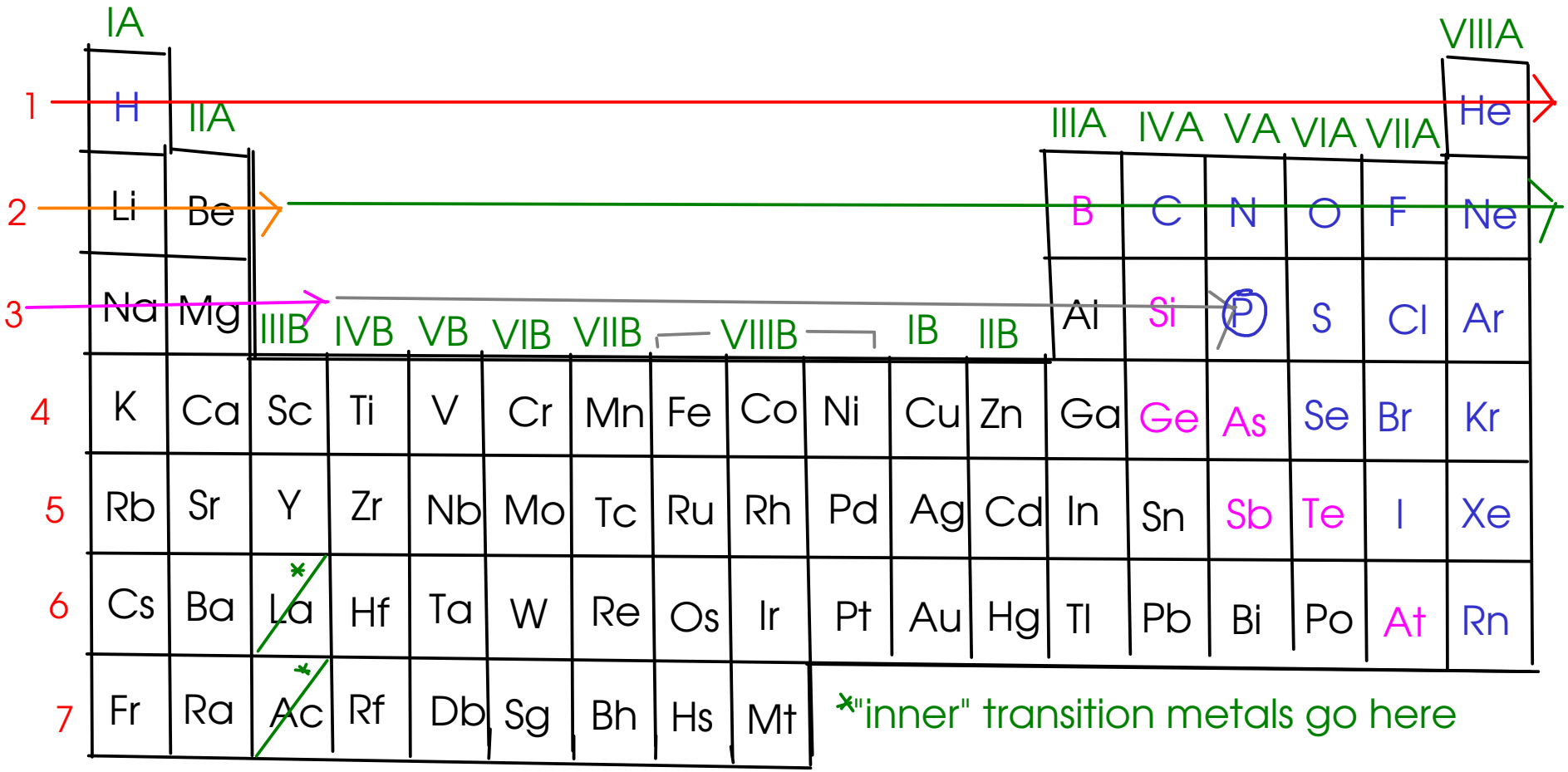


"s" block: last electron in these atoms is in an "s" orbital!

"p" block: last electron in these atoms is in a "p" orbital!

"d" block: last electron is these atoms is in a "d" orbital

- To write an electron configuration using the periodic table, start at hydrogen, and count up the electrons until you reach your element!



Example: Phosphorus (P):

Shortcut: You may use "noble gas core" notation - which starts from the previous noble gas rather than hydrogen. This is useful for big atoms.

EXAMPLES:

F $1s^2 2s^2 2p^5$

Remember - valence electrons are ALL of the electrons in the outermost SHELL! (may have more than one SUBSHELL)!

S $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^4$

TITANIUM is a transition metal that commonly forms either +2 or +4 cations. The 4s electrons are lost when the +2 ion forms, while the 4s AND 3d electrons are lost to form the +4!

Cl $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^5$

$[Ne]\,3s^2 3p^5$

You can order the subshells in numeric order OR in filling order

Ti $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^2 4s^2$ or $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2 3d^2$

or $[Ar]\,3d^2 4s^2$

Se $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^{10} 4s^2 4p^4$

or $[Ar]\,3d^{10} 4s^2 4p^4$

Noble gas core notation. Use the previous noble gas on the table, then add the electrons that it doesn't have to the end.

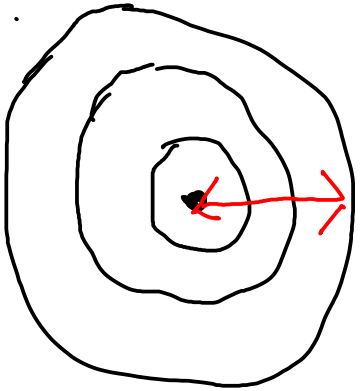
Kr $[Ar]\,3d^{10} 4s^2 4p^6$

You are responsible for writing electron configurations up to Z=18, Argon. These are here to illustrate other points!

PERIODIC TRENDS

- Some properties of elements can be related to their positions on the periodic table.

ATOMIC RADIUS



- The distance between the nucleus of the atoms and the outermost shell of the electron cloud.

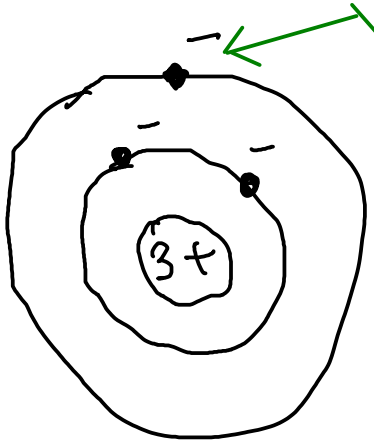
- Relates to the size of the atom.

- As you go DOWN A GROUP (↓), the atomic radius INCREASES.

  - Why? As you go down a group (from one period to the next) , you are ADDING SHELLS!

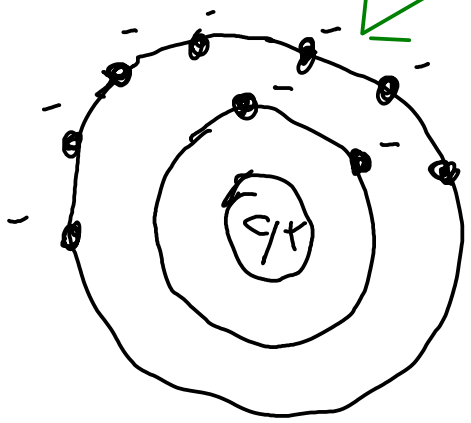
- As you go ACROSS A PERIOD (⟶), the atomic radius DECREASES

Why? Let's look at some sample atoms.



lithium

Outer electron sees an effective +1 charge (shielded from +3 nucleus by 2 electrons)



fluorine

Outer electrons see an effective +7 charge (shielded from +9 nucleus by 2 electrons)

... so fluorine's outer shell is pulled closer to the nucleus than lithium's!

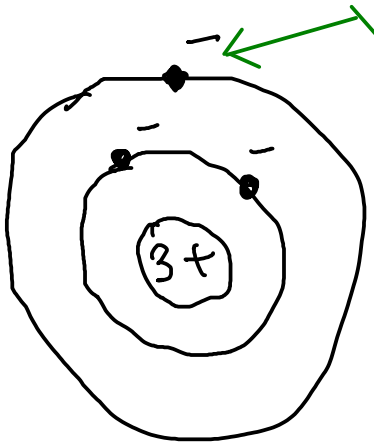
IONIZATION ENERGY (or FIRST IONIZATION ENERGY)

- The amount of energy required to remove a single electron from the outer shell of an atom.
- Relates to reactivity for metals. The easier it is to remove an electron, the more reactive the metal.
- As you go DOWN A GROUP (↓), the ionization energy DECREASES.

  - Why? As you go down a period, you are ADDING SHELLS. Since the outer electrons are farther friom the nucleus and charge attraction lessens with distance, this makes electrons easier to remove as the atoms get bigger!

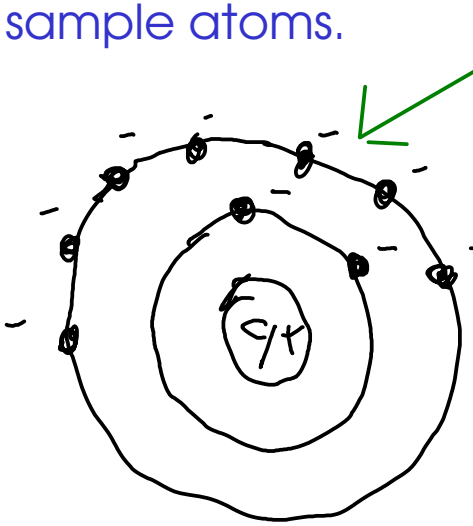
- As you go ACROSS A PERIOD (⟶), the ionization energy INCREASES.

  - Why? Let's look at some sample atoms.



Outer electron sees an effective +1 charge (shielded from +3 nucleus by 2 electrons)

lithium



Outer electrons see an effective +7 charge (shielded from +9 nucleus by 2 electrons)

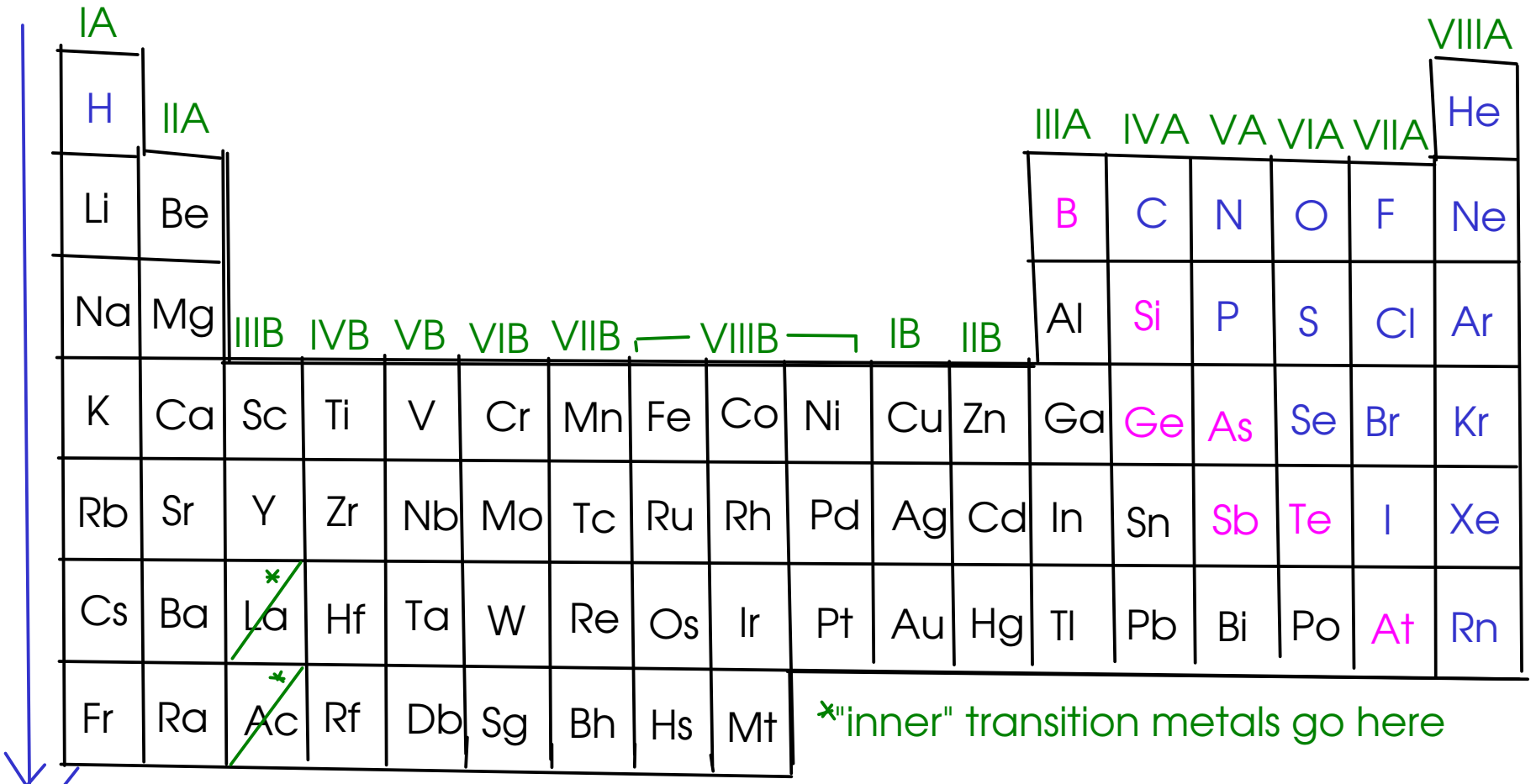
fluorine

... since fluorine's outer electrons are held on by a larger effective charge, they are more difficult to remove than lithium's.

PERIODIC TRENDS IN A NUTSHELL

LARGER IONIZATION ENERGY

SMALLER RADIUS



LARGER RADIUS

SMALLER IONIZATION ENERGY