

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

4: Electronic Structure

Atoms act the way that they do because of their structure. We already know that atoms are composed of protons, neutrons, and electrons. Protons and neutrons are located in the nucleus, and electrons orbit around the nucleus. But knowing structural details is key to understanding why atoms react the way they do. Virtually everything known about atoms ultimately comes from light. Before the composition of atoms (especially electrons) can be understood, the properties of light need to be understood.

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