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Third Report of the Committee on Atomic Weights of the International Union of Chemistry

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The following report of the Committee covers the twelve month period, September 30, 1931 to September 30, 1932.¹

Only two changes in the table of atomic weights are recommended, from 126.932 to 126.92 in the case of iodine and from 138.90 to 138.92 in the case of lanthanum.

Physico-chemical Methods

Carbon.—Moles and Salazar² have determined the normal density of carbon monoxide prepared by four methods: (1) reaction of sodium formate with phosphorus pentoxide, (2) dehydration of formic acid with phosphoric acid, (3) dehydration of formic acid with concentrated sulfuric acid, (4) reaction of potassium ferrocyanide with concentrated sulfuric acid. In each case the gas was subjected to chemical purification and then was fractionally distilled.

| Т | HE DENSITY OF CARB | on Monoxide | |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | Preliminary S | eries | |
| Method | Globe N-2 608.87 ml. | Globe G 987.52 ml. | Average |
| 1 | 1.25058 | 1.25006 | 1.25032 |
| 2 | 1.25076 | 1.24984 | 1.25030 |
| | 1.25013 | 1.24986 | 1.24999 |
| | 1.25130 | 1.25018 | 1.25074 |
| | 1.25105 | 1.25024 | 1.25064 |
| | 1.25073 | 1.25027 | 1.25050 |
| | (1.25124) | (1.25081) | (1.25102) |
| | 1.25095 | 1.25090 | 1.25092 |
| | 1.25019 | 1.24945 | 1.24982 |
| Average | 1.25073 | 1.25011 | 1.25042 |

(1) Authors of papers bearing on the subject are requested to send copies to each of the five members of the Committee at the earliest possible moment: Prof. G. P. Baxter, Coolidge Laboratory, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A.; Mme. Prof. M. Curie, Institut du Radium, 1 Rue Pierre Curie, Paris Ve, France; Prof. O. Hönigschmid, Sofienstrasse 9/2, Munich, Germany; Prof. P. Le Beau, Faculté de Pharmacie, 4 Avenue de l'Observatoire, Paris VIe, France; Prof. R. J. Meyer, Landshuter Str. 11-12, Berlin W 30, Germany.

(2) Moles and Salazar, Anales soc. españ. fis. quim., 30, 182 (1932).

THE DENSITY OF CARBON MONOXIDE (Concluded) Final Series Globe G Globe N

| 992.04 ml. | 987.52 ml. | Average |
|------------|---|--|
| 1.24953 | 1.24980 | 1.24966 |
| 1.25000 | 1.25053 | 1.25026 |
| 1.24941 | 1.24992 | 1.24966 |
| 1.24953 | 1.25046 | 1.24999 |
| 1.24962 | 1.25018 | 1.24989 |
| 1.24920 | 1.24959 | 1.24939 |
| 1.24972 | 1.25039 | 1.25005 |
| 1.25179 | 1.25067 | 1.25123 |
| 1.25003 | 1.25109 | 1.25056 |
| 1.25061 | 1.24997 | 1.25029 |
| 1.24930 | 1.25019 | 1.24974 |
| 1.25029 | 1.24973 | 1.25001 |
| 1.25013 | 1.25023 | 1.25018 |
| 1.24966 | 1.25056 | 1.25011 |
| 1.24968 | 1. 25105 | 1.25036 |
| 1.24967 | 1.25081 | 1.25023 |
| 1.24990 | 1.25030 | 1.25010 |
| | $\begin{array}{c} 992.04 \text{ ml.} \\ 1.24953 \\ 1.25000 \\ 1.24941 \\ 1.24953 \\ 1.24962 \\ 1.24962 \\ 1.24962 \\ 1.24972 \\ 1.25179 \\ 1.25003 \\ 1.25003 \\ 1.25061 \\ 1.24930 \\ 1.25029 \\ 1.25013 \\ 1.24966 \\ 1.24968 \\ 1.24967 \end{array}$ | 992.04 ml.987.52 ml. 1.24953 1.24980 1.25000 1.25053 1.24941 1.24992 1.24953 1.25046 1.24962 1.25018 1.24962 1.24959 1.24972 1.25039 1.25179 1.25067 1.25003 1.25109 1.25061 1.24997 1.25013 1.25019 1.25029 1.24973 1.25013 1.25023 1.25013 1.25056 1.24966 1.25056 1.24968 1.25105 1.24967 1.25081 |

This result is in exact agreement with that previously found by Pire and Moles. With the values 22.414 and 1.00050 for R and $1 + \lambda$, respectively, the atomic weight of carbon is calculated to be 12.006. Because of the small coefficient of deviations from Boyle's law, carbon monoxide is as well suited for precise molecular weight determination as the permanent gases, so that this result may be accepted as a valuable addition to the evidence which has been accumulating recently that the atomic weight of carbon is somewhat higher than 12.00.

Nitrogen.—Batuecas³ has continued the investigation on nitrous oxide. previously reported, by determination of the density at pressures below one atmosphere. The gas was prepared (1) by the reaction of hydroxylamine hydrochloride and sodium nitrite, (2) by the decomposition of ammonium nitrate. Chemical purification was followed by condensation and fractional distillation. The values given in the following table are

| | THE DENSITY OF N | Itrous Oxide | |
|----------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| | P = 506.6 | 7 mm. | |
| Method | Globe G 1007.55 ml. | Globe N-3 772.58 ml. | Average |
| 1 | 1.9749 | 1.9741 | 1.9745 |
| 1 | 1.9750 | 1.9744 | 1.9747 |
| 1 | 1.9743 | 1.9746 | 1.9745 |
| Average | 1.9747 | 1.9744 | 1.9746 |
| 2 | 1.9744 | 1.9744 | 1.9744 |
| 2 | 1.9738 | 1.9745 | 1.9741 |
| 2 | 1.9745 | 1.9758 | 1.9751 |
| Average | 1.9742 | 1.9749 | 1.9745 |

(3) Batuecas, J. chim. phys., 28, 572 (1931); Anales soc. españ. fis. quím., 29, 538 (1931).

| THE DENSITY OF NITROUS OXIDE (Concluded) | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--|--|
| Method | Globe G 1007.55 ml. | Globe N-3 772.58 ml. | Average | | |
| | P = 38 | 60 mm. | | | |
| 1 | 1.9723 | 1.9721 | 1.9722 | | |
| 1 | | 1,9719 | 1.9719 | | |
| 1 | | 1.9706 | 1.9706 | | |
| 1 | 1.9724 | 1.9724 | 1.9724 | | |
| Average | 1.9724 | 1.9718 | 1.9718 | | |
| 2 | 1.9718 | 1,9719 | 1.9718 | | |
| 2 | 1.9726 | 1.9730 | 1.9728 | | |
| 2 | 1.9722 | 1.9730 | 1.9726 | | |
| Average | 1.9722 | 1.9726 | 1.9724 | | |
| | P = 25 | 3.33 mm. | | | |
| 1 | 1.9695 | 1.9701 | 1.9698 | | |
| 1 | 1.9685 | 1.9700 | 1.9692 | | |
| 1 | | 1.9677 | 1.9677 | | |
| 1 | 1.9691 | 1.9691 | 1.9691 | | |
| Average | 1.9690 | 1.9692 | 1.9690 | | |
| 2 | 1.9701 | 1.9698 | 1.9700 | | |
| 2 | 1.9691 | 1.9701 | 1.9696 | | |
| 2 | | 1.9700 | 1.9700 | | |
| Average | 1.9696 | 1.9700 | 1.9699 | | |

referred to one atmosphere without correction for the deviation from Boyle's law.

The limiting density is calculated on the assumption that a linear relation holds between pressure and density referred to one atmosphere.

| Pressure, atmospheres | Density | Limiting density | $1 + \lambda$ |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1.9804 | | |
| 2/3 | 1.9746 | 1.9630 | 1.00886 |
| 1/2 | 1.9722 | 1.9640 | 1.00835 |
| 1/4 | 1.9694 | 1.9639 | 1.00840 |
| | A | verage 1.9636 | 1.00854 |

The calculation of $1 + \lambda$ by linear extrapolation of values for *PV* found from the expression $L_1/L_P \frac{P_1}{P}$ gave the following result

| Pressure, atmospheres | PV | $1 + \lambda$ |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1 | 1.00000 | |
| ² /s | 1.00294 | 1.00882 |
| 1/2 | 1.00416 | 1.00832 |
| 1/3 | 1.00559 | 1.00839 |
| | | Average 1.00851 |
| | | |

With the values 1.9804, 22.414 and 1.0085 for the density at one atmosphere, R and $1 + \lambda$, respectively, the molecular weight of nitrous oxide is found to be 44.014 and the atomic weight of nitrogen 14.007.

BAXTER, CURIE, HÖNIGSCHMID, LE BEAU AND MEYER

In an article devoted chiefly to criticism of the report of this Committee for 1931, Moles⁴ applies corrections to the above results (1) for diminution in volume of the globes when filled at low pressures and (2) for adsorption as found by Crespi in work as yet unpublished. The corrected figures are as follows

| Pressure atmospheres | Density | Limiting density | $1 + \lambda$ | N_2O |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | 1.98034 | | | |
| ² / ₃ | 1.97459 | 1,96309 | 1.00880 | 44.001 |
| 1/2 | 1.97223 | 1.96412 | 1.00829 | 44.023 |
| 1/3 | 1.96946 | 1.96402 | 1.00833 | 44.022 |
| Average | | 1.96364 | 1.00845 | 44.016 |
| | | | | |

Whence N = 14.008

Fluorine.-Moles⁵ discusses critically earlier determinations of the atomic weight of fluorine with the final conclusion that the atomic weight of this element is very close to integral, 19.000, and suggests that the higher value recently found by Patterson, Whytlaw-Gray and Cawood, through the density of methyl fluoride, is due to the effect of impurity of methane in the methyl fluoride employed by the latter. Patterson, Whytlaw-Gray and Cawood⁶ have prepared methyl fluoride by their own (Collie's) method (pyrolysis of tetramethylammonium fluoride) and that of Moles and Batuecas (action of potassium methyl sulfate on potassium fluoride) and found that the two samples had identical critical constants within the error of the experiments. A direct determination of the compressibility of methyl fluoride vielded the values 1.0114 at 0° and 1.0087 at 21°. The latter is essentially identical with the value calculated from their experiments with the micro-displacement-balance but the former is much lower than that found by Moles and Batuecas from gas density measurements. 1.018. Batuecas⁷ discusses the calculation of Patterson, Whytlaw-Gray and Cawood's density determinations with the micro-balance and points out that since the methyl fluoride employed by Moles and Batuecas possessed a vapor pressure obeying the law log p = -(A/T) + B it must have been essentially free from impurity. The Committee feel that the preponderance of evidence is in favor of the lower value for fluorine and see no reason at present to alter the value in current use.

Potassium.—Heller and Wagner⁸ were unable to detect by analysis of potassium chloride from plant sources any concentration of the higher isotope of potassium. This confirms their previous finding.⁹

Selenium.—Hönigschmid¹⁰ has synthesized silver selenide from pure silver and pure selenium. The product was brought to constant weight in

- (8) Heller and Wagner, Z. anorg. allgem. Chem., 206, 152 (1932).
- (9) Heller and Wagner, ibid., 200, 105 (1931).
- (10) Hönigschmid, Naturwiss., 20, 659 (1932).

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⁽⁴⁾ Moles, Anales soc. españ. fís. quím., 30, 460 (1932).

⁽⁵⁾ Moles, J. chim. phys., 29, 53 (1932); Nature, 128, 966 (1931).

⁽⁶⁾ Patterson, Whytlaw-Gray and Cawood, ibid., 129, 245 (1932); J. Chem. Soc., 2180 (1932).

⁽⁷⁾ Batuecas, J. chim. phys., 29, 269 (1932).

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vacuum. Eleven experiments yielded the ratio $2Ag : Ag_2Se = 0.732081$ and the atomic weight of selenium 78.962. This value agrees with Aston's value and is considerably lower than the current one. Until further details are available no change is recommended in the table.

Iodine.—Hönigschmid and Striebel¹¹ have continued their experiments on the conversion of silver iodide to silver chloride, with precipitated silver iodide, instead of material synthesized from the elements used previously.

Iodine was three times distilled from iodide solutions prepared from similar iodine and was sublimed in an oxygen current over red hot platinum. From this iodine hydriodic acid was prepared by direct synthesis with hydrogen and after solution in water this acid was distilled.

Sample A of silver iodide was precipitated by adding an excess of 0.15 N hydriodic acid solution to an acid solution of the purest silver (0.15 N). Sample B was precipitated in ammoniacal solution and then an excess of nitric acid was added. Sample C was prepared by adding 0.2 N ammoniacal silver nitrate to an excess of 0.2 N ammoniacal ammonium iodide. Sample D resulted from adding an excess of 0.16 N silver nitrate to 0.16 N hydriodic acid.

After washing and drying the silver iodide was fused in an air current containing free iodine and then in pure air in a weighed quartz tube, and weighed. Then the silver iodide was converted to silver chloride by heating in a chlorine current at gradually increasing temperatures up to fusion. Proof was secured that the iodide did not retain iodine and that the conversion was complete. Vacuum weights are given.

| Тне Атоміс | WEIGHT | of Iodine |
|------------|--------|-----------|
|------------|--------|-----------|

| Sample | Wt, of AgI | Wt. of AgCl | Ratio AgI: AgCl | At. wt., I |
|--------|------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| A | 14.41889 | 8.80228 | 1.638085 | 126.918 |
| A | 10.61180 | 6,47828 | 1.638058 | 126.914 |
| Α | 13.61047 | 8.30885 | 1,638070 | 126.916 |
| в | 17.91554 | 10.93678 | 1.638100 | 126.920 |
| A | 14.11519 | 8.61692 | 1.638078 | 126.917 |
| A | 14.03900 | 8.57050 | 1.638061 | 126.915 |
| Α | 13.39032 | 8.17448 | 1.638064 | 126.915 |
| в | 11.47497 | 7.00511 | 1.638085 | 126.918 |
| в | 13.49506 | 8.23839 | 1.638070 | 126.916 |
| в | 14.36421 | 8.76879 | 1.638106 | 126.921 |
| C | 10.72744 | 6.54879 | 1.638080 | 126.917 |
| С | 8.42456 | 5.14298 | 1,638069 | 126.916 |
| D | 14.91865 | 9.10741 | 1.638078 | 126.917 |
| D | 12.57197 | 7.67526 | 1.638080 | 126.918 |
| D | 8.28549 | 5.05809 | 1.638067 | 126.916 |
| С | 13.95958 | 8.52190 | 1.638083 | 126.918 |
| С | 9.21692 | 5.62671 | 1.638066 | 126.916 |
| | | Aver | age 1.638076 | 126.917 |

⁽¹¹⁾ Hönigschmid and Striebel, Z. anorg. allgem. Chem., 208, 53 (1932).

In view of the concordance of this result and the earlier one of Hönigschmid and Striebel (see report for 1931) the atomic weight of iodine is changed in the table from 126.932 to 126.92.

Tellurium.—Hönigschmid¹² has prepared and analyzed tellurium tetrabromide. From the two ratios $TeBr_4$: 4Ag and $TeBr_4$: 4AgBr the atomic weight of tellurium is found to be 127.587.

Krypton and Xenon.—Allen and Moore¹³ have separated krypton and xenon from liquid air residues by means of fractional distillation. The average density of the purest krypton fractions, found with a globe of 22 ml. capacity, was 3.733 and that of the purest xenon 5.887. Using values calculated by Watson in 1910 for the compressibilities of these gases the atomic weights of krypton and xenon are found to be 83.6 and 131.4 with an uncertainty of 0.1 unit in each case. These results, which agree with the recent results of Aston, Watson, and Whytlaw-Gray, Patterson and Cawood (see report for 1931) escaped notice by the Committee in preparing the report for 1931.

Lanthanum.—Baxter and Behrens¹⁴ have determined the atomic weight of lanthanum by analysis of lanthanum bromide. Lanthanum ammonium nitrate which had already been brought to a high state of purity in an earlier investigation was subjected to thirty series of fractional crystallizations. After conversion to bromide this salt was carefully dehydrated in a current of dry nitrogen and hydrogen bromide in such a way that melting of the hydrate was avoided, and the salt was finally fused in an atmosphere of pure hydrogen bromide. After being weighed the salt was dissolved and compared with silver in the conventional way and finally the silver bromide was collected and weighed. The following table gives weights corrected to vacuum. The fractions of lanthanum are numbered in the order of increasing solubility of the double nitrate, No. 371 representing the head fraction of the last series of crystallizations.

THE ATOMIC WEIGHT OF LANTHANUM

| Fraction | Wt. of LaBr: | Wt. of Ag | Ratio LaBrs: 3Ag | At. wt. of La | | Ratio LaBr₃: 3AgBr | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------|
| 376 | 4.01090 | 3.42801 | 1.170037 | 138.923 | 5.96743 | 0.672132 | 138.923 |
| 379 | 5.19186 | 4.43727 | 1.170057 | 138.929 | 7.72475 | .672107 | 138.909 |
| 372 | 6.57727 | 5.62133 | 1.170056 | 138.929 | 9.78548 | .672146 | 138.931 |
| 371 | 6.38414 | 5.45612 | 1.170088 | 138.939 | 9.49843 | .672126 | 138.920 |
| 372 | 6.91830 | 5.91287 | 1.170061 | 138.931 | 10.29285 | .672146 | 138.931 |
| 371 | 6.19359 | 5.29339 | 1.170041 | 138.924 | | | |
| | | Average | 1.170057 | 138.929 | | .672131 | 138.923 |

The average value of the two methods, 138.926, is slightly higher than the value previously found by Baxter, Tani and Chapin, corrected for a new determination of the density of lanthanum chloride, 138.916. The

- (12) Hönigschmid, Naturwiss., 20, 659 (1932).
- (13) Allen and Moore, THIS JOURNAL, 53, 2512 (1931).
- (14) Baxter and Behrens. ibid., 54, 591 (1932).

average, 138.92, is probably nearer the truth than that recently given in the International table and the atomic weight of lanthanum is therefore changed in the table from 138.90 to 138.92.

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Thallium.—Briscoe, Kikuchi and Peel¹⁵ have redetermined the atomic weight of thallium by comparison of the chloride with silver. The processes of purification consisted in repeated crystallization of thallous sulfate and chloride, prepared from (A) English thallium of unknown origin and (B) German thallium obtained from Westphalian pyrites. The novel feature of the investigation lies in the method of titrating the chloride with silver. A few milligrams (2–3) excess of silver was added in every case to the thallous chloride solution and after standing and settling the supernatant solution (6–7 liters) was decanted, evaporated to small bulk and the silver content estimated by titration with n/1000 thiocyanate. Vacuum weights are given in the following table.

| | Тне Атоміс W | VEIGHT OF THA | LLIUM | |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Wt. of TlCl | Wt. of Ag | TlCl/Ag | At. wt., Ti |
| English | 2.41969 | 1.08861 | 2.22273 | 204.33 |
| | 4,97940 | 2.24057 | 2.22234 | 204.29 |
| | 4.90541 | 2.20686 | 2.22280 | 204.34 |
| | 4.90351 | 2.20608 | 2.22272 | 204.33 |
| | 4.90391 | 2.20615 | 2.22283 | 204.34 |
| | 6.27962 | 2.82533 | 2.22261 | 204.32 |
| | | | | 204,33 |
| German | 5.05837 | 2.27554 | 2.22293 | 204.35 |
| | 5.25891 | 2.36607 | 2.22264 | 204.32 |
| | 9.53621 | 4.28987 | 2.22296 | 204.35 |
| | 10.01985 | 4.50788 | 2.22274 | 204.33 |
| | 7.25159 | 3.26254 | 2,22268 | 204.33 |
| | | | | 204.34 |
| English A | 10.04965 | 4.52210 | 2.22234 | 204.29 |
| | 11.55090 | 5.19723 | 2.22251 | 204.31 |
| | 10.60756 | 4.77211 | 2.22282 | 204.34 |
| | 9.91726 | 4.46146 | 2.22288 | 204.35 |
| | 9.53722 | 4.29023 | 2.22300 | 204.36 |
| | 11.88154 | 5.34523 | 2.22283 | 204.34 |
| | | | | 204.33 |
| English B | 9.49327 | 4.27091 | 2.22277 | 204.34 |
| | 9.91925 | 4.46205 | 2,22302 | 204.36 |
| | 10.43230 | 4.69329 | 2.22281 | 204.34 |
| | 10.06308 | 4.52668 | 2.22305 | 204.36 |
| | 9.07037 | 4.08074 | 2.22272 | 204.33 |
| | | | | 204.35 |
| | | | Average of a | all 204.34 |

Exception may be taken to the analytical method, which was adopted because of alleged uncertainty in the conventional nephelometric method of comparison. The large bulk of supernatant liquid and washings must (15) Briscoe, Kikuchi and Peel, Proc. Roy. Soc., (London) **A133**, 440 (1931). have contained many milligrams of dissolved silver chloride, since the excess of silver used was very small. The ultimate fate of this silver chloride is difficult to guess but it is hard to believe that the titration of the excess of silver was not seriously affected by it especially in view of the well-known disturbance of the thiocyanate titration of silver in the presence of silver chloride. In fact it is hard to understand why the excess of silver in the individual experiments was so small as actually found. The effect of this difficulty would be, however, to raise rather than lower the atomic weight of thallium so that it is surprising that the atomic weight found is lower rather than higher than that recently found by Hönigschmid, 204.39.

One experiment in which the nephelometric method was used showed erratic behavior, the final result for the atomic weight of thallium being 204.43.

The ratio of thallium to thallous nitrate also was determined. Buttons of fused electrolytic thallium were polished with chamois, fused in hydrogen and bottled in nitrogen for weighing. Solution in nitric acid followed by repeated evaporation with oxalic acid and fusion of the residue failed to give a product of constant weight, so that the authors consider the method (Crookes) unreliable. The results of two experiments are given in which the final weight of thallous nitrate is employed.

| T 1 | TINO ₈ | At. wt., Tl |
|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 12.08412 | 15.74910 | 204.42 |
| 12.33736 | 16.07846 | 204.46 |

The results of both methods seem of doubtful value.

Johnson¹⁸ claims that the equal opalescence method of titrating halogen compounds with silver is insensitive and gives erroneous results, and that the silver halide is probably contaminated with adsorption products. A new method of finding the end-point is proposed, by comparing the test solution with standard solutions of the reactants containing known amounts of silver and halide.

Wild¹⁷ has compared the values for $1 + \lambda$ as found (1) by extrapolation of high pressure measurements of PV, (2) from low pressure measurements of PV, and (3) from gas density determinations. In computing the high pressure values the expression $PV = A + Bp + Cp^2 + Dp^4$ was employed. In case of the low pressure and density determinations the relation of PVto P is assumed to be linear.

| High Pressure | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|
| Observer | Hı | Nt | O_2 | He | Ne | Α | | | |
| Onnes | 0.99942 | 1.00041 | 1.00096 | 0.99949 | 0.99959 | | | | |
| Holborn and Otto | .99938 | 1.00046 | 1.00098 | . 99947 | .99952 | 1.00098 | | | |
| Ve rs choyle | .99937 | 1.00049 | | | | | | | |
| Average | . 99939 | 1.0004 5 | 1.00097 | .99948 | .99956 | 1.00098 | | | |

(16) Johnson, J. Phys. Chem., 35, 540, 830, 2237, 2581 (1931); 36, 1942 (1932).

(17) Wild, Phil. Mag., 12, 41 (1931).

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| Low Pressure | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| Observer | H: | N_2 | O2 | He | Ne | Α | | | | |
| Chappuis | 0.99942 | 1.00043 | | | | | | | | |
| Gray and Burt | | | 1.00097 | | | | | | | |
| Geneva Lab. | 0.99935 | 1.00043 | 1.00086 | | | | | | | |
| Heuse and Otto | .99942 | 1.00048 | 1.00097 | 0.99948 | 0.99953 | 1,00094 | | | | |
| Ave ra ge | . 99940 | 1.00045 | 1.00093 | , 99948 | ,99953 | 1.00094 | | | | |
| Density | | | | | | | | | | |
| Baxter and Starkweather | | 1.00040 | 1.00093 | | 0.99941 | 1.00107 | | | | |
| Final mean | 0.99939 | 1.00044 | 1.00094 | 0.99948 | .99951 | 1.00099 | | | | |

Atomic Weights from Isotopes

A comprehensive report of the German Chemical Society by Hahn¹⁸ covers the year 1931.

The question of the conversion factor from the physical to the chemical scale still seems to be unsettled. Birge and Menzel¹⁹ prefer the Mecke and Childs value, 1.00022, to that of Babcock and Naudé, 1.00012. Aston²⁰ has been successful in photographing the lines of $O^{16}O^{17}$ and $O^{16}O^{18}$ of sufficient intensity for comparison with O_2^{16} . From the relative intensities 1:4:1072 the relative abundance of O_{17} , O_{18} and O_{16} is 0.24:1:536, a result which seems to support the ratio of O^{18} to O^{16} found by Mecke and Childs, 1:630. Since the accuracy of the mass spectrograph is admittedly no greater than $1/_{10,000}$ and the uncertainty of the conversion factor obviously is as large, while the measurement of isotopic ratios has inherent uncertainties, the degree of precision of the determination of atomic weights from mass spectrographic data still seems to be inferior to that of the best chemical methods, although the striking concordance of the two methods in most cases is reassuring.

Recent results obtained by $Aston^{21}$ with the mass spectroscope are given in the following table. The factor used for conversion from the physical to the chemical basis is 1.000125.

Hydrogen.—Urey, Brickwedde and Murphy,²² by spectroscopic examination of the least volatile fractions remaining from the evaporation of large quantities of liquid H₂, have detected the lines corresponding to the principal series of H². Examination of the spectrum of ordinary hydrogen indicated the proportion to be approximately 1 in 4000. Bainbridge²³ finds the mass of H² to be 2.01353 assuming He = 4.00216 and H¹ = 1.00778 The atomic weight of hydrogen is therefore slightly higher than the value for H¹ found by Aston.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Hahn, Ber., 65A, 1 (1932).

⁽¹⁹⁾ Birge and Menzel, Phys. Rev., 37, 1669 (1931).

⁽²⁰⁾ Aston, Nature, 130, 21 (1932).

⁽²¹⁾ Aston, Proc. Roy. Soc. (London), **A134**, 571 (1932); Nature, **128**, 221 (1931); **128**, 725 (1931); **139**, 649 (1932).

⁽²²⁾ Urey, Brickwedde and Murphy, Phys. Rev., 89, 164 (1932).

⁽²³⁾ Bainbridge, ibid., 41, 115 (1932).

| | | | Is | otopic weight: | and percenta | ages | | Packing fraction | At wt. | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---------------|--|---|---|---------------|--|---|------------|
| Lithium | 6 91.7 | 7 8,3 | | | | | | $\begin{cases} 20 \times 10^{-4} \\ 17 \times 10^{-4} \end{cases}$ | 6.928 | |
| Scandium | 45 100 | | | | | | | -7×10^{-4} assumed | 44.96 ^{BAXTER} 85.43 ^R | J |
| Rubidium | 85 75 | 87 25 | | | | | | -8.2×10^{-4} assumed | | |
| Strontium | 86 10 | 87 6.6 | 88 83.3 | | | | | -8.2×10^{-4} assumed | 87.64 CURIE | |
| Cesium | 133 100 | | | | | | | -5×10^{-4} | 132.91 HON | |
| Barium | $\frac{135}{5.9}$ | $\frac{136}{8.9}$ | $137\\11.1$ | $\frac{138}{74.2}$ | | | | -6.1×10^{-4} | 137.43 SCHMI | |
| Thallium | $\begin{array}{c} 203 \\ 70.6 \end{array}$ | $205 \\ 29.4$ | | | | | | 1.8×10^{-4} | | -1 1 |
| Lead (common) | 203 (0.04) | $\begin{array}{c} 204 \\ 1.50 \end{array}$ | 205 (0.03) | $\frac{206}{27.75}$ | 207 2 0,20 | $\begin{array}{c} 208 \\ 49.55 \end{array}$ | 209 (0,85) | $0-1 \times 10^{-4}$ | 207.19 BRAU | 1 |
| Lead (Katanga) | | | | 206 93.3 | $\begin{array}{c} 207 \\ 6.7 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 208 \\ 0.02 \end{array}$ | | (-1×10^{-4}) | 206.067 AND | |
| Lead (Wilberforce) | | | | $\begin{array}{c} 206 \\ 85.9 \end{array}$ | 207 8.3 | $\begin{array}{c} 208 \\ 5.8 \end{array}$ | | (i-1 × 10 ⁻⁴ | 206.20 MEYER | |
| Lead (Norwegian Thorite) | | | | 206 4.6 | $\frac{207}{1.3}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 208\\94.1\end{array}$ | | $0-1 \times 10^{-4}$ | 207.895 ~ | |
| Uranium | 23 8 100 | | | | | | | | | |

Atomic Weights

1933

| | Symbol | Atomic Number | Atomic Weight | | Symbol | Atomic Number | Atomic Weight |
|------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Aluminum | AI | 13 | 26.97 | Molybdenum | Mo | 42 | 96.0 |
| Antimony | \mathbf{Sb} | 51 | 121.76 | Neodymium | Nd | 60 | 144.27 |
| Argon | Α | 18 | 39.944 | Neon | Ne | 10 | 20.183 |
| Arsenic | As | 33 | 74.93 | Nickel | Ni | 28 | 58.69 |
| Barium | Ва | 56 | 137.36 | Nitrogen | N | 7 | 14.008 |
| Beryllium | Be | 4 | 9.02 | Osmium | Os | 76 | 190.8 |
| Bismuth | Bi | 83 | 2 09.00 | Oxygen | 0 | 8 | 16.0000 |
| Boron | в | 5 | 10.82 | Palladium | Pd | 46 | 106.7 |
| Bromine | Br | 35 | 79.916 | Phosphorus | Р | 15 | 31.02 |
| Cadmium | Cd | 48 | 112.41 | Platinum | \mathbf{Pt} | 78 | 195.23 |
| Calcium | Ca | 20 | 40.08 | Potassium | K | 19 | 39.10 |
| Carbon | С | 6 | 12.00 | Praseodymium | \mathbf{Pr} | 59 | 140.92 |
| Cerium | Ce | 58 | 140.13 | Radium | Ra | 88 | 225.97 |
| Cesium | Cs | 55 | 132.81 | Radon | Rn | 86 | 222 |
| Chlorine | Cl | 17 | 35.457 | Rhenium | Re | 75 | 186.31 |
| Chromium | Cr | 24 | 52.01 | Rhodium | Rh | 45 | 102.91 |
| Cobalt | Co | 27 | 58.94 | Rubidium | Rb | 37 | 85.44 |
| Columbium | Cb | 41 | 93.3 | Ruthenium | Ru | 44 | 101.7 |
| Copper | Cu | 29 | 63.57 | Samarium | Sm | 62 | 150.43 |
| Dysprosium | Dy | 66 | 162.46 | Scandium | Sc | 21 | 45.10 |
| Erbium | Er | 68 | 167.64 | Selenium | Se | 34 | 79.2 |
| Europium | Eu | 63 | 152.0 | Silicon | Si | 14 | 28.06 |
| Fluorine | F | 9 | 19.00 | Silver | Ag | 47 | 107.880 |
| Gadolinium | Gd | 64 | 157.3 | Sodium | Na | 11 | 22.997 |
| Gallium | Ga | 31 | 69.72 | Strontium | Sr | 38 | 87.63 |
| Germanium | Ge | 32 | 72.60 | Sulfur | S | 16 | 32.06 |
| Gold | Au | 79 | 197.2 | Tantalum | Та | 73 | 181.4 |
| Hafnium | Hf | 72 | 178.6 | Tellurium | Тe | 52 | 127.5 |
| Helium | He | 2 | 4.002 | Terbium | Tb | 65 | 159.2 |
| Holmium | Ho | 67 | 163.5 | Thallium | TI | 81 | 204.39 |
| Hydrogen | н | 1 | 1.0078 | Thorium | Τħ | 90 | 232.12 |
| Indium | In - | 49 | 114.8 | Thulium | $T\mathbf{m}$ | 69 | 169.4 |
| Iodine | Ι | 53 | 126.92 | Tin | Sn | 50 | 118.70 |
| Iridium | Ir | 77 | 193.1 | Titanium | Ti | 2 2 | 47.90 |
| Iron | Fe | 26 | 55.84 | Tungsten | W | .74 | 184.0 |
| Krypton | Kr | 36 | 83.7 | Uranium | U | 92 | 238.14 |
| Lanthanum | La | 57 | 138.92 | Vanadium | V | 23 | 50.95 |
| Lead | Pb | 82 | 207.22 | Xenon | Xe | 54 | 131.3 |
| Lithium | Li | 3 | 6.940 | Ytterbium | Yb | 70 | 173.5 |
| Lutecium | Lu | 71 | 175.0 | Yttrium | Y | 39 | 88.92 |
| Magnesium | Mg | 12 | 24.32 | Zinc | Zn | 30 | 65.38 |
| Manganese | Mn | 25 | 54.93 | Zirconium | Zr | 4 0 | 91.22 |
| Mercury | Hg | 80 | 200.61 | | | | |

Lithium.—Van Wijk and van Koeveringe²⁴ and Nakamura²⁵ from a study of band spectra find a low value for the isotopic ratio of Li^7 to Li^6 , and the corresponding atomic weight 6.89.

Boron.—Elliott²⁶ by a study of the band spectrum of boron monoxide finds the isotopic relationship 3.63 and the atomic weight 10.794.

Lithium, Sodium, Potassium, Cesium.—Bainbridge,²⁷ using a Dempster mass spectrograph, finds the ratio of the abundance of the lithium isotopes to be independent of the temperature of the source of the ions. The abundance ratio was determined in three experiments to be 10.75, 11.28 and 11.51, average 11.18, while Aston finds the ratio 11.

Sodium was found to contain less than $^{1}/_{3000}$ of Na²¹ or Na²⁵ and less than $^{1}/_{800}$ of Na²², if any, while potassium was found to be free from more than $^{1}/_{1500}$ of K⁴³, $^{1}/_{600}$ of K⁴² and $^{1}/_{300}$ of K⁴⁰ referred to K³⁹.

Bainbridge²⁸ supports Aston's conclusion that the cesium mass spectrum is simple. The discrepancy between the atomic weights determined by chemical and physical methods is far larger than the apparent error of either.

Zinc.—The mass spectrum of $zinc^{29}$ obtained with a new form of discharge tube which avoids the presence of zinc hydrides gave no evidence of the isotopes Zn^{65} and Zn^{69} reported by Aston. The atomic weight recalculated from Aston's ratios, assuming the relation of the metallic line to the corresponding hydride to be that of the lines 64 and 65 in Aston's spectra, is found to be 65.33, with the conversion factor 1.00022.

Tellurium.—Additional isotopes of tellurium³⁰ of mass numbers 122, 123, 124 (and 127?) were discovered, the mass numbers and percentages of the complete spectrum being as follows

| 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 130 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|------|
| 2.9 | 1.6 | 4.5 | 6 | 19.0 | 5 | 32.8 | 33.1 |

With Aston's packing fraction -5×10^{-4} and the conversion factor 1.00022 the atomic weight of tellurium is calculated to be 127.58, a value in much closer agreement with the chemical value than Aston's, 128.03.

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⁽²⁴⁾ Van Wijk and van Koeveringe, Proc. Roy. Soc. (London), A132, 98 (1931).

⁽²⁵⁾ Nakamura, Nature, 128, 759 (1931).

⁽²⁶⁾ Elliott, Z. Physik, 67, 75 (1931).

⁽²⁷⁾ Bainbridge, J. Franklin Inst., 212, 317 (1931).

⁽²⁸⁾ Bainbridge, Phys. Rev., 36, 1668 (1930).

⁽²⁹⁾ Bainbridge, ibid., 39, 847 (1932).

⁽³⁰⁾ Bainbridge, ibid., 39, 1021 (1932).