

Index of Keywords and Terms

Keywords are listed by the section with that keyword (page numbers are in parentheses). Keywords do not necessarily appear in the text of the page. They are merely associated with that section. *Ex.* apples, § 1.1 (1) **Terms** are referenced by the page they appear on. *Ex.* apples, 1

- A abundance, § 5.1(183), § 7.1(277), § 8.1(353),
§ 9.1(409), § 11.1(487)
- acetolysis, § 1.3.1(50)
- acetonitrile, § 1.3.1(50), § 7.2.3(310),
§ 9.9(451)
- acetylene, § 4.2.2(146)
- Acheson, § 7.2.1(288)
- acid, § 1.2.3(33), § 2.1(65), § 2.5(73), § 2.7(81),
§ 3.4(124), § 6.4.1(223), § 6.5.1(231),
§ 6.5.2(231), § 6.6(244), § 6.9(264),
§ 8.3.6(386), § 8.4.2(395), § 8.4.4(401),
§ 8.5(405), § 9.4(437), § 10.3(476), § 10.4(481),
§ 10.5(483)
- acid rain, § 8.4.1(388), § 9.8(447)
- acid test, § 8.4.2(395)
- acidic, § 1.5(59)
- activity, § 2.5(73)
- acyl halide, § 4.4(173)
- adenosine, § 8.4.4(401)
- ADP, § 8.4.4(401)
- AFM, § 7.2.2.1(295), § 7.2.2.2(306)
- Agricola, § 6.1(203)
- air, § 1.4.1(56), § 8.1(353), § 9.1(409)
- Al₂O₃, § 6.1(203)
- alchemy, § 8.1(353)
- alcohol, § 1.2.3(33), § 2.7(81), § 4.4(173),
§ 6.5.2(231)
- alcoholysis, § 1.3.1(50)
- aldehyde, § 1.2.3(33)
- alkali, § 2.5(73), § 3.1(105)
- alkaline earth, § 4.1(131), § 4.2.1(143)
- alkane, § 6.6(244)
- alkene, § 5.3.2(192), § 6.6(244)
- alkenes, § 7.3.1(333)
- alkoxide, § 6.5.4(241)
- alkyl, § 4.4(173), § 8.4.4(401), § 9.9(451)
- alkylation, § 8.3.5(381)
- alkyne, § 5.3.2(192), § 6.6(244)
- alkynes, § 7.3.1(333)
- allothreonine, § 1.2.3(33)
- alumina, § 6.1(203), § 6.5.3(240), § 6.5.4(241)
- aluminate, § 4.2.3.1(153), § 4.2.3.3(161),
§ 4.2.3.4(166)
- aluminium, § 6.1(203), § 6.2(219), § 6.5.3(240)
- aluminum, § 1.2.2(16), § 1.4.1(56), § 1.5(59),
§ 4.1(131), § 4.2.3.1(153), § 4.2.3.3(161),
§ 4.2.3.4(166), § 4.3(172), § 6.1(203),
§ 6.2(219), § 6.4.1(223), § 6.5.1(231),
§ 6.5.3(240), § 6.5.4(241), § 6.7.2(253),
§ 6.8(260), § 6.9(264), § 9.4(437)
- aluminum oxide, § 6.1(203)
- amide, § 8.3.3(371)
- aminoborane, § 6.6(244)
- ammine, § 8.3.3(371)
- ammoniation, § 8.3.3(371)
- ammonia, § 1.2.3(33), § 1.3.1(50), § 4.2.2(146),
§ 6.6(244), § 8.2(364), § 8.3.1(364),
§ 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.3(371), § 8.3.4(373),
§ 8.3.5(381), § 8.3.6(386), § 9.9(451)
- ammonium, § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.3(371)
- ammonium nitrate, § 1.4.1(56), § 8.4.1(388)
- ammonolysis, § 1.3.1(50), § 8.3.3(371)
- amorphous, § 7.1(277)
- amphoteric, § 1.5(59)
- anesthetic, § 8.4.1(388)
- anhydride, § 7.2.4.3(326)
- anion, § 1.3.1(50), § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114),
§ 6.5.2(231), § 6.9(264), § 9.8(447), § 10.4(481)
- anode, § 9.2(429)
- Antarctica, § 9.2(429)
- anthraquinol, § 9.4(437)
- anthraquinone, § 9.4(437)
- anti, § 1.2.3(33)
- antimony, § 6.7.2(253), § 8.1(353),
§ 8.3.1(364), § 9.1(409)
- antisite, § 1.2.2(16)
- aqua fortis, § 8.4.2(395)
- aqua regia, § 8.4.2(395), § 10.1(457)
- aquation, § 1.3.1(50)
- aqueduct, § 9.3(432)
- aqueous, § 7.2.3(310), § 9.4(437), § 10.4(481)
- arabic, § 7.2.1(288)

- arachno, § 6.4.2(226)
 argon, § 11.1(487)
 argyrodite, § 7.1(277)
 Arles, § 9.3(432)
 aromatic, § 5.3.2(192)
 arsenic, § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253), § 8.1(353),
 § 8.3.1(364), § 8.3.6(386)
 arsenide, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.7.1(249), § 8.3.6(386)
 arsine, § 8.3.1(364), § 8.3.6(386)
 As, § 6.7.2(253)
 assassination, § 7.2.3(310)
 associated liquid, § 2.7(81)
 astatine, § 10.1(457)
 atmosphere, § 7.2.4.2(319), § 8.4.1(388),
 § 9.2(429), § 9.8(447)
 atom, § 1.1.2(4), § 1.2.2(16)
 atom density, § 1.2.2(16)
 atom positions, § 1.2.2(16)
 atomic number, § 2.2(68)
 atomic radius, § 3.2(114), § 7.3.1(333),
 § 9.6(443)
 atomic weight, § 2.2(68)
 ATP, § 8.4.4(401)
 Auschwitz, § 7.2.3(310)
- B** band gap, § 6.7.1(249), § 6.8(260)
 Barbegal, § 9.3(432)
 barites, § 4.1(131)
 barium, § 1.3.1(50), § 4.1(131), § 4.2.1(143),
 § 8.4.2(395), § 10.4(481)
 base, § 1.2.3(33), § 2.5(73), § 2.7(81),
 § 6.2(219), § 6.4.1(223), § 6.5.1(231),
 § 6.6(244), § 6.9(264), § 8.3.2(366),
 § 8.4.4(401), § 8.5(405), § 10.5(483)
 BASF, § 4.2.2(146), § 8.3.4(373)
 basic, § 1.5(59), § 3.1(105), § 4.2.1(143)
 bauxite, § 6.1(203), § 6.5.4(241), § 6.7.1(249),
 § 6.7.2(253)
 Bayen, § 9.1(409)
 Bayer, § 6.1(203)
 beer, § 8.3.4(373)
 Bell Rocket Belt, § 9.5(438)
 bent, § 1.2.1(11)
 Bent's rule, § 1.2.1(11)
 benzene, § 3.4(124), § 6.6(244)
 Berry rotation, § 1.2.3(33)
 bertholite, § 10.1(457)
 beryl, § 4.1(131)
 beryllium, § 4.1(131), § 4.3(172)
 Berzelius, § 6.1(203), § 7.1(277), § 9.1(409)
 Bethe, § 2.9(98)
 bezants, § 8.4.2(395)
- bicarbonate, § 7.2.4.2(319)
 bidentate, § 8.4.2(395), § 9.8(447)
 binder, § 6.5.4(241)
 Bingel reaction, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 bismuth, § 8.1(353), § 8.3.1(364)
 bisulfite, § 9.8(447)
 bisuthine, § 8.3.1(364)
 black, § 8.1(353)
 black hole, § 2.9(98)
 BN, § 6.6(244)
 boat, § 1.2.3(33)
 body-centered, § 1.2.2(16)
 boehmite, § 6.5.3(240), § 6.5.4(241)
 boiling point, § 2.2(68), § 8.3.1(364)
 bond, § 1.2.1(11), § 6.4.1(223), § 6.9(264),
 § 8.4.1(388), § 9.8(447), § 9.9(451), § 10.2(473)
 bond angle, § 8.3.1(364)
 bond strength, § 8.3.1(364)
 borane, § 6.4.1(223)
 boranes, § 6.4.2(226)
 borate ester, § 6.5.2(231)
 borax, § 6.1(203), § 6.5.2(231)
 borazine, § 6.6(244)
 Borch, § 9.1(409)
 boric acid, § 6.5.2(231)
 borides, § 6.3(221)
 borohydride, § 6.4.1(223)
 boron, § 1.3.1(50), § 1.4.1(56), § 6.1(203),
 § 6.2(219), § 6.3(221), § 6.4.1(223),
 § 6.4.2(226), § 6.5.1(231), § 6.5.2(231),
 § 6.6(244), § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253), § 6.9(264)
 borophosphosilicate, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 Boyle, § 2.1(65), § 2.5(73), § 8.1(353),
 § 9.1(409)
 BPSG, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 Brand, § 8.1(353)
 Bravais lattice, § 1.2.2(16)
 bridge, § 2.6(77), § 6.4.1(223), § 10.3(476)
 bridging, § 8.4.2(395)
 Bridgman, § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253)
 brine, § 8.3.4(373), § 10.1(457), § 10.4(481)
 bromide, § 4.2.1(143), § 4.4(173), § 8.5(405),
 § 10.1(457)
 bromine, § 6.9(264), § 7.2.5(327), § 8.5(405),
 § 10.1(457), § 10.5(483)
 Brosnan, § 9.5(438)
 Brønsted, § 2.5(73)
 Buchenwald, § 7.2.3(310)
 Buckyball, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 bulk, § 1.2.2(16)
 Bunsen, § 6.1(203)

- butane, § 1.2.3(33)
 button, § 7.2.1(288)
 byproduct, § 6.7.2(253)
- C** C-Stoff, § 8.3.5(381)
 C60, § 7.2.2.1(295), § 11.1(487)
 C70, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 CaC₂, § 4.2.2(146)
 CaCN₂, § 4.2.2(146)
 cadmium, § 5.1(183), § 5.2.1(188)
 caesium, § 3.2(114)
 caffeine, § 7.2.4.1(316), § 7.2.4.2(319)
 Cailletet, § 9.1(409)
 calamine, § 5.1(183)
 calcium, § 4.1(131), § 4.2.1(143), § 4.2.2(146),
 § 4.2.3.1(153), § 4.2.3.3(161), § 4.2.3.4(166),
 § 6.7.2(253), § 8.4.4(401)
 calcium oxide, § 4.2.2(146)
 calgon, § 8.4.4(401)
 cam, § 9.3(432)
 cancer, § 9.2(429)
 CaO, § 4.2.2(146)
 carbide, § 4.2.2(146), § 6.3(221)
 carbide lamp, § 4.2.2(146)
 carbon, § 6.1(203), § 7.1(277), § 7.2.1(288),
 § 7.2.3(310), § 7.2.4.1(316), § 7.2.4.2(319),
 § 7.2.4.3(326), § 7.2.5(327), § 7.3.1(333),
 § 7.3.2.1(336)
 carbon black, § 7.2.1(288)
 carbon copy, § 7.2.1(288)
 carbon dating, § 7.1(277)
 carbon dioxide, § 1.4.1(56), § 2.10(101),
 § 4.1(131), § 7.1(277), § 7.2.4.2(319),
 § 8.3.5(381), § 8.4.1(388), § 11.1(487)
 carbon monoxide, § 2.3(69), § 7.2.4.1(316),
 § 7.3.2.1(336)
 carbon subnitride, § 7.2.3(310)
 carbon tetrabromide, § 7.2.5(327)
 carbon tetrachloride, § 7.2.5(327)
 carbon tetrafluoride, § 7.2.5(327)
 carbon tetraiodide, § 7.2.5(327)
 carbonate, § 5.1(183), § 7.2.4.2(319),
 § 10.1(457)
 carbonyl halide, § 7.2.5(327)
 carboxylic acid, § 1.2.3(33), § 4.4(173)
 carcinogen, § 4.1(131)
 Caro, § 4.2.2(146)
 carrier, § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253)
 carrier density, § 6.7.1(249)
 cast, § 6.5.4(241)
 catalyst, § 2.3(69), § 2.6(77), § 3.1(105),
 § 4.4(173), § 8.4.1(388)
- catenasulfur, § 9.6(443)
 catenation, § 9.1(409), § 9.6(443), § 9.7(445)
 cathode, § 9.2(429)
 cation, § 1.3.1(50), § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114),
 § 3.3(122), § 4.2.1(143), § 8.3.2(366)
 Cavendish, § 2.1(65), § 2.3(69), § 8.1(353),
 § 11.1(487)
 CdSe, § 5.2.1(188)
 celestine, § 4.1(131)
 cell constant, § 6.8(260)
 cellulose, § 1.2.3(33)
 cement, § 4.2.3.2(154)
 ceramic, § 6.5.4(241)
 ceramic processing, § 6.5.4(241)
 cesium, § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114)
 CFC, § 7.2.5(327)
 chain, § 6.8(260)
 chair, § 1.2.3(33)
 chalcogen, § 9.1(409)
 chalcogenide, § 6.8(260)
 chalcopyrite, § 1.2.2(16)
 charcoal, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 charge, § 1.1.1(3), § 3.3(122)
 charge density, § 4.3(172)
 Charles, § 2.3(69)
 chelate, § 1.2.3(33)
 chemical symbol, § 2.2(68)
 chemical vapor deposition, § 7.3.2.2(344)
 chemical warfare, § 7.2.5(327)
 chemically converted graphene, § 7.2.2.2(306)
 chemistry, § (1), § 4.2.3.1(153), § 4.2.3.3(161),
 § 8.2(364)
 Chile, § 8.3.4(373)
 chiral, § 1.2.3(33), § 8.3.6(386)
 chloramine, § 8.3.5(381)
 chlorate, § 10.3(476)
 chloric, § 10.4(481)
 chloride, § 1.3.1(50), § 1.5(59), § 4.2.1(143),
 § 4.4(173), § 7.1(277), § 8.3.3(371), § 8.5(405),
 § 10.1(457), § 10.3(476)
 chlorine, § 6.9(264), § 7.2.5(327), § 8.5(405),
 § 9.9(451), § 10.1(457), § 10.3(476), § 10.4(481)
 chlorite, § 10.4(481)
 chlorocarbon, § 7.2.5(327)
 chlorous, § 10.4(481)
 cholesterol, § 9.2(429)
 chromium, § 6.5.3(240)
 cigarette, § 7.2.4.1(316), § 9.1(409)
 cinnabar, § 1.2.2(16), § 5.1(183)
 cis, § 1.2.3(33), § 2.7(81)
 clathrate, § 11.1(487)

- cleveite, § 11.1(487)
close packed, § 1.2.2(16)
closo, § 6.4.2(226)
cluster, § 6.9(264)
CMOS, § 7.3.2.3(348)
CO, § 2.3(69), § 7.3.2.1(336)
CO₂, § 7.1(277)
coal, § 7.2.4.1(316), § 8.1(353)
coal gas, § 4.2.2(146)
cobalt, § 6.5.3(240)
coffee, § 7.2.4.1(316)
coke, § 2.3(69), § 7.3.2.1(336)
Colton, § 8.4.1(388)
combustion, § 1.4.1(56), § 9.1(409)
complex, § 3.2(114), § 3.3(122), § 8.3.2(366)
compound, § 1.1.1(3), § 1.2.2(16)
compressed, § 2.10(101)
concentration, § 2.5(73)
conduction band, § 7.3.2.2(344)
conductivity, § 3.1(105)
conductor, § 1.5(59)
conformation, § 1.2.3(33), § 2.7(81), § 9.4(437)
conjugate, § 2.5(73)
Connery, § 9.5(438)
Constantinople, § 8.4.2(395)
coordination, § 4.3(172), § 8.4.2(395)
coordination number, § 1.2.2(16), § 3.1(105),
§ 3.2(114), § 3.3(122), § 7.3.1(333)
copper, § 1.2.2(16), § 5.1(183), § 5.3.1(190),
§ 6.5.3(240), § 8.4.2(395)
copy paper, § 7.2.1(288)
corrosive, § 8.4.2(395)
corundum, § 6.5.3(240), § 6.5.4(241)
covalent, § 1.1.1(3), § 1.1.3(7), § 1.1.4(9),
§ 2.6(77), § 6.2(219), § 10.2(473), § 10.3(476)
covalent radius, § 3.2(114), § 7.3.1(333),
§ 9.6(443), § 10.3(476)
CPU, § 7.3.2.3(348)
critical, § 7.2.4.2(319)
Crookes, § 6.1(203)
crown ether, § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114)
cryptand, § 3.2(114)
crystal, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253)
crystal axes, § 1.2.2(16)
crystal direction, § 1.2.2(16)
crystal growth, § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253)
crystal plane, § 1.2.2(16)
crystal stress, § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253)
crystallography, § 1.2.2(16)
CsCl, § 3.2(114)
cubic, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.6(244), § 6.7.2(253),
§ 6.8(260), § 7.3.2.1(336)
cubic close packed, § 7.1(277)
Curie, § 9.1(409), § 11.1(487)
Curl, § 7.1(277)
CVD, § 7.3.2.2(344), § 7.3.2.3(348)
cyanamide, § 4.2.2(146)
cyanate, § 7.2.3(310)
cyanide, § 7.2.3(310)
cyanogen, § 7.2.3(310)
cyclic, § 8.4.4(401)
Cycloaddition, § 7.2.2.1(295)
cyclodextrin, § 1.2.3(33)
cyclododecasulfur, § 9.6(443)
cyclohexane, § 1.2.3(33)
cyclohexasulfur, § 9.6(443)
cyclooctasulfur, § 9.6(443)
cytochrome c oxidase, § 7.2.3(310)
Czochralski, § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253)

- D** da Vinci, § 9.1(409)
dangling bond, § 1.2.2(16)
Dark Ages, § 9.3(432)
Davy, § 6.1(203), § 7.1(277)
de Boisbaudran, § 6.7.1(249)
decaborane, § 6.4.1(223)
defect, § 1.2.2(16)
density, § 2.2(68), § 7.1(277)
dentist, § 8.4.1(388)
deuterium, § 2.8(93), § 2.9(98)
device, § 7.3.2.3(348)
Dewar, § 2.1(65)
dextrorotatory, § 1.2.3(33)
diamine, § 1.2.3(33)
diamond, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.6(244), § 7.1(277)
diamond cubic, § 7.1(277)
diastereomer, § 1.2.3(33)
diborane, § 2.6(77), § 6.4.1(223)
dichloroethene, § 1.2.3(33)
dicyanoacetylene, § 7.2.3(310)
Die Another Day, § 9.5(438)
dielectric, § 7.3.2.3(348)
dielectric constant, § 10.2(473)
diethyl ether, § 3.4(124), § 4.4(173)
diethylether, § 1.3.1(50)
diffusion, § 7.3.2.2(344)
dihedral, § 1.2.3(33)
dimer, § 4.3(172), § 8.4.1(388)
dinitrogen tetroxide, § 8.4.1(388)
dinitrogen trioxide, § 8.4.1(388)
dioxane, § 4.4(173)
diphosphine, § 8.3.6(386)
dipole, § 1.3.1(50), § 2.7(81), § 7.2.4.2(319),

- § 10.3(476)
- dipole-dipole, § 9.8(447)
- disilenes, § 7.3.1(333)
- disilynes, § 7.3.1(333)
- dislocation, § 1.2.2(16)
- dispersion, § 6.5.4(241)
- dissociation, § 8.4.1(388)
- disulfite, § 9.8(447)
- dithionite, § 9.8(447)
- DMF, § 3.4(124), § 5.3.1(190)
- DMSO, § 1.3.1(50), § 3.4(124), § 5.3.1(190)
- dolomite, § 4.1(131)
- Domesday Book, § 9.3(432)
- dopant, § 7.3.2.2(344)
- dry ice, § 7.2.4.2(319)
- drying, § 6.5.4(241)
- ducats, § 8.4.2(395)

- E** Earth, § 7.2.4.2(319), § 9.2(429)
- eclipsed, § 1.2.3(33), § 2.7(81)
- economics, § (1)
- Eddington, § 2.9(98)
- Edison, § 7.2.1(288)
- EDTA, § 3.2(114), § 8.3.5(381)
- eka-aluminum, § 6.7.1(249)
- ekasilicon, § 7.1(277)
- electric discharge, § 9.2(429)
- electrochemical, § 5.3.1(190)
- electrode, § 2.3(69), § 7.3.2.1(336)
- electrolysis, § 2.3(69), § 3.1(105), § 4.1(131), § 6.1(203), § 9.1(409), § 10.4(481)
- electrolyte, § 6.5.4(241)
- electron, § 1.1.4(9), § 1.2.1(11), § 6.7.1(249), § 8.3.3(371), § 8.4.1(388)
- electron affinity, § 1.1.3(7)
- electron configuration, § 2.2(68)
- electron diffraction, § 6.4.1(223)
- electron mobility, § 6.7.1(249)
- electron spin resonance, § 2.4(72)
- electron transfer, § 1.3.1(50)
- Electronegativity, § 1.1.4(9), § 1.2.1(11), § 3.2(114), § 6.6(244), § 7.3.1(333), § 9.1(409), § 10.2(473), § 10.3(476)
- electronic, § 5.3.2(192)
- electrostatic, § 2.7(81)
- element, § 1.1.1(3), § 1.1.2(4), § 1.1.4(9), § 1.2.2(16), § 1.5(59)
- empirical formula, § 1.2.3(33)
- enantiomer, § 1.2.3(33)
- endohedral fullerene, § 7.2.2.1(295)
- energy, § 1.4.1(56), § 5.4(195)
- engine, § 9.5(438)

- engineering, § (1)
- enol, § 4.4(173)
- entgegen, § 1.2.3(33)
- enthalpy, § 1.3.1(50)
- enzyme, § 7.2.4.2(319), § 9.7(445)
- epitaxy, § 1.2.2(16)
- Epsom, § 4.1(131)
- equilibrium, § 1.3.1(50), § 4.4(173), § 5.3.1(190), § 7.2.4.2(319), § 9.6(443)
- erythritol, § 1.2.3(33)
- erythrose, § 1.2.3(33)
- esr, § 2.4(72), § 3.1(105)
- ester, § 8.4.4(401)
- ethane, § 7.2.3(310)
- ethanol, § 6.4.1(223)
- ether, § 9.6(443)
- ethylene, § 7.2.3(310)
- ethylene glycol, § 6.4.1(223)
- ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, § 8.3.5(381)
- Euler's theorem, § 7.2.2.1(295)
- execution, § 7.2.3(310)
- exothermic, § 1.4.1(56), § 8.4.1(388)
- explosive, § 1.4.1(56), § 8.3.2(366), § 10.4(481)
- exposure, § 9.7(445)

- F** face-centered, § 1.2.2(16)
- ferrite, § 4.2.3.1(153), § 4.2.3.3(161), § 4.2.3.4(166)
- fertilizer, § 4.2.2(146)
- FET, § 7.3.2.3(348)
- field effect transistor, § 7.3.2.3(348)
- firing, § 6.5.4(241)
- First World War, § 7.2.5(327)
- Fischer, § 1.2.3(33)
- Fischer projection, § 1.2.3(33)
- fission, § 2.9(98)
- flame, § 1.4.1(56)
- flint, § 7.1(277)
- Florence, § 8.4.2(395)
- florins, § 8.4.2(395)
- fluidized bed, § 7.3.2.1(336)
- fluorescent, § 5.4(195)
- fluoride, § 1.3.1(50), § 4.2.1(143), § 8.5(405), § 10.1(457), § 10.2(473), § 10.5(483)
- fluorination, § 10.5(483)
- fluorine, § 1.4.1(56), § 2.7(81), § 6.9(264), § 7.2.5(327), § 8.5(405), § 9.9(451), § 10.1(457), § 10.2(473), § 10.3(476), § 10.5(483)
- fluorite, § 4.2.1(143), § 10.1(457)
- fluorocarbon, § 7.2.5(327)
- fluorspar, § 10.1(457)
- Fontana, § 2.3(69)

- formamide, § 7.2.3(310)
 formate, § 7.2.3(310)
 fossil fuel, § 7.2.4.2(319)
 France, § 8.4.2(395), § 9.3(432)
 francium, § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114)
 Frank, § 4.2.2(146)
 Frankland, § 11.1(487)
 Franklin, § 5.3.1(190)
 Frasch, § 9.1(409)
 Frasch process, § 9.1(409)
 Freon, § 7.2.5(327)
 froth flotation, § 5.1(183)
 fuel, § 1.4.1(56)
 fullerene, § 7.1(277), § 7.2.2.1(295), § 11.1(487)
 furnace, § 6.7.2(253), § 7.3.2.1(336)
 fusion, § 2.8(93), § 2.9(98)
- G** Ga, § 6.7.2(253)
 GaAs, § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253)
 gallia, § 6.1(203), § 6.7.1(249)
 gallium, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.1(203), § 6.2(219),
 § 6.5.1(231), § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253),
 § 6.8(260), § 6.9(264)
 gallium arsenide, § 6.7.2(253)
 gangue, § 5.1(183)
 garnet, § 6.5.4(241)
 gas, § 2.1(65), § 8.4.1(388), § 10.1(457),
 § 11.1(487)
 gas chamber, § 7.2.3(310)
 gas mantle, § 4.2.2(146)
 gaslight, § 4.2.2(146)
 gasoline, § 1.4.1(56)
 gate, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 gauche, § 1.2.3(33), § 8.3.5(381)
 Gay-Lussac, § 6.1(203)
 gear, § 9.3(432)
 gelation, § 6.5.4(241)
 Geoffroy, § 8.1(353)
 geometric isomer, § 1.2.3(33)
 geometry, § 1.2.3(33)
 germanium, § 1.2.2(16)
 German, § 7.2.3(310)
 germanium, § 1.3.1(50), § 7.1(277)
 Germany, § 8.3.4(373)
 gibbsite, § 6.5.3(240), § 6.5.4(241)
 Gillespie, § 1.2.1(11)
 glass, § 6.5.2(231)
 glassy, § 8.4.3(399)
 global warming, § 7.2.4.2(319)
 glyceraldehyde, § 1.2.3(33)
 GO, § 7.2.2.2(306)
 Goebbles, § 7.2.3(310)
- gold, § 8.4.2(395), § 10.5(483)
 grain, § 4.2.3.1(153), § 4.2.3.3(161),
 § 4.2.3.4(166), § 8.3.4(373)
 graphene, § 7.2.2.2(306)
 graphite, § 2.7(81), § 6.6(244), § 7.1(277),
 § 7.2.1(288), § 7.2.2.1(295), § 9.2(429)
 graphite oxide, § 7.2.2.2(306)
 green, § 6.5.2(231)
 green body, § 6.5.4(241)
 green energy, § 2.10(101)
 grey, § 8.1(353)
 Grignard, § 4.4(173)
 grinding stone, § 9.3(432)
 grindstone, § 9.3(432)
 Group 1, § 3.2(114)
 Group 12, § 5.1(183)
 Group 12-16, § 1.2.2(16)
 Group 13, § 6.1(203), § 6.9(264)
 Group 13-15, § 1.2.2(16)
 Group 14, § 7.1(277)
 Group 15, § 8.1(353)
 Group 16, § 9.1(409), § 9.6(443)
 Group 18, § 11.1(487)
 Group II-VI, § 1.2.2(16)
 Group III-V, § 1.2.2(16)
 guar gum, § 6.5.2(231)
 guaran, § 6.5.2(231)
 gum, § 7.2.1(288)
 gun cotton, § 8.3.4(373)
 gypsy, § 7.2.3(310)
 Göring, § 7.2.3(310)
- H** H₂, § 2.10(101)
 H₂O, § 2.7(81)
 H₂O₂, § 9.4(437)
 H₂S, § 2.7(81), § 9.7(445)
 Haber, § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.4(373), § 10.1(457)
 hair, § 6.5.2(231)
 half life, § 7.1(277)
 half-life, § 11.1(487)
 halide, § 2.6(77), § 3.2(114), § 4.2.1(143),
 § 4.4(173), § 5.3.2(192), § 8.5(405), § 9.9(451)
 Hall, § 6.1(203)
 Hall-Heroult, § 6.5.4(241)
 hallucinogen, § 8.4.1(388)
 halogen, § 3.4(124), § 7.2.5(327), § 10.2(473)
 halon, § 7.2.5(327)
 Hampson, § 9.1(409)
 Harber, § 8.2(364)
 HCN, § 4.2.2(146)
 heavy water, § 2.8(93)
 helium, § 2.9(98), § 11.1(487)

- helix, § 1.2.3(33)
 heme, § 7.2.4.1(316)
 hemoglobin, § 7.2.4.1(316), § 8.3.6(386)
 heptoxide, § 10.3(476)
 heterocyclic, § 2.7(81)
 heterolytic, § 6.6(244)
 hexagon, § 1.2.2(16)
 hexagonal, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.6(244), § 6.8(260),
 § 8.4.3(399)
 high pressure, § 6.8(260), § 7.3.2.2(344)
 Himmler, § 7.2.3(310)
 Hitler, § 7.2.3(310)
 Holocaust, § 7.2.3(310)
 homolytic, § 6.6(244)
 homosexual, § 7.2.3(310)
 Hooke, § 9.1(409)
 horsepower, § 8.4.1(388)
 hot engine, § 8.3.5(381)
 hybrid, § 1.2.1(11)
 hydrate, § 8.3.2(366)
 hydration, § 4.2.3.3(161), § 4.2.3.4(166)
 hydrazine, § 1.2.3(33), § 8.3.5(381)
 hydrazinium, § 8.3.5(381)
 hydrazonium, § 8.3.5(381)
 hydride, § 1.4.1(56), § 1.5(59), § 2.3(69),
 § 2.6(77), § 6.4.1(223), § 6.6(244), § 8.3.1(364),
 § 9.7(445)
 hydrocarbon, § 1.4.1(56), § 2.3(69), § 3.4(124),
 § 7.1(277), § 7.2.4.1(316)
 hydrochloric, § 10.3(476)
 hydrochloric acid, § 1.3.1(50), § 6.1(203)
 hydrochloric acid, § 10.1(457)
 hydrofluoric acid, § 10.1(457)
 hydrogen, § 1.4.1(56), § 1.5(59), § 2.1(65),
 § 2.3(69), § 2.4(72), § 2.5(73), § 2.6(77),
 § 2.7(81), § 2.8(93), § 2.9(98), § 2.10(101),
 § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114), § 4.1(131), § 6.4.1(223),
 § 6.4.2(226), § 7.3.2.2(344), § 8.3.1(364),
 § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.4(373), § 8.3.6(386),
 § 10.1(457), § 10.2(473), § 10.3(476)
 hydrogen bond, § 1.3.1(50), § 2.7(81),
 § 7.2.3(310), § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.5(381)
 hydrogen cyanide, § 4.2.2(146), § 7.2.3(310)
 hydrogen fluoride, § 10.2(473)
 hydrogen isocyanide, § 7.2.3(310)
 hydrogen peroxide, § 1.2.3(33), § 1.4.1(56),
 § 8.3.5(381), § 9.4(437), § 9.5(438), § 9.7(445)
 hydrogen sulfide, § 9.7(445)
 hydrogen-bonded, § 9.8(447)
 hydrolysis, § 1.3.1(50), § 4.4(173), § 8.5(405)
 hydrophobic, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 hydroxide, § 3.4(124), § 4.1(131), § 6.5.2(231),
 § 6.5.4(241), § 8.3.2(366)
 hydroxymercuration, § 5.3.2(192)
 hydrozincite, § 5.1(183)
 hypervalent, § 7.3.1(333), § 9.6(443)
 hypho, § 6.4.2(226)
 hypochlorite, § 8.3.5(381)
 hypochlorous, § 10.3(476), § 10.4(481)
 hypophosphorous acid, § 8.4.4(401)
 Héroult, § 6.1(203)
- I** ice, § 2.7(81), § 8.3.4(373)
 ignition, § 1.4.1(56)
 iminoboranes, § 6.6(244)
 immigrant, § 7.2.3(310)
 indices, § 1.2.2(16)
 indium, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.1(203), § 6.2(219),
 § 6.5.1(231), § 6.8(260), § 6.9(264)
 industrial, § 9.3(432)
 industry, § (1)
 inert gas, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 inert pair effects, § 6.2(219)
 inorganic, § 8.3.3(371)
 insecticide, § 7.2.3(310)
 insulator, § 1.5(59), § 9.5(438)
 inter-atomic, § 1.2.2(16)
 intermolecular, § 2.7(81)
 interstitial, § 1.2.2(16), § 2.6(77)
 intra-planar, § 1.2.2(16)
 intramolecular, § 2.7(81)
 inversion, § 1.2.3(33), § 8.3.2(366)
 iodide, § 4.2.1(143), § 4.4(173), § 5.3.1(190),
 § 8.5(405), § 10.1(457)
 iodine, § 6.9(264), § 7.2.5(327), § 8.5(405),
 § 10.1(457)
 ion, § 1.1.1(3), § 1.1.2(4), § 1.3.1(50),
 § 3.3(122), § 6.2(219), § 8.5(405)
 ionic, § 1.1.3(7), § 1.1.4(9), § 2.6(77),
 § 10.2(473), § 10.3(476)
 ionic lattice, § 3.1(105)
 ionic radii, § 3.1(105)
 ionic radius, § 2.2(68), § 2.5(73), § 3.2(114),
 § 9.6(443), § 10.3(476)
 ionization energy, § 1.1.2(4), § 4.3(172)
 ionization potential, § 2.2(68)
 IR, § 2.7(81), § 5.3.1(190)
 IR spectroscopy, § 6.4.1(223)
 iron, § 1.3.1(50), § 2.1(65), § 4.2.3.1(153),
 § 4.2.3.3(161), § 4.2.3.4(166), § 5.1(183),
 § 6.2(219), § 6.5.3(240)
 Iron Maiden, § 7.2.4.2(319)
 iron oxide, § 6.1(203)

- isocyanide, § 7.2.3(310)
 isoelectronic, § 8.4.1(388)
 isolation, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 isolobal, § 6.6(244)
 isomer, § 1.2.3(33)
 isopropanol, § 9.4(437)
 isostructural, § 8.4.1(388)
 isotope, § 2.8(93), § 3.1(105), § 4.1(131),
 § 6.1(203), § 8.1(353), § 9.1(409), § 10.1(457),
 § 11.1(487)
 IUPAC, § 8.3.1(364)
- J** James Bond, § 9.5(438)
 Janssen, § 11.1(487)
 Japan, § 5.4(195)
 jet fuel, § 1.4.1(56)
 Jetpack, § 9.5(438)
 jew, § 7.2.3(310)
 Junkers, § 8.3.4(373)
- K** ketone, § 1.2.3(33), § 4.4(173)
 KGB, § 7.2.3(310)
 Kirchhoff, § 6.1(203)
 Kitaibel, § 9.1(409)
 Klaproth, § 9.1(409)
 Komet, § 8.3.5(381)
 Kroto, § 7.1(277)
 krypton, § 11.1(487)
- L** lactic acid, § 1.2.3(33)
 Lamy, § 6.1(203)
 lattice, § 1.2.2(16)
 lattice constant, § 6.7.1(249)
 lattice energy, § 1.3.1(50), § 3.3(122)
 lattice parameter, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.2(219)
 laughing gas, § 8.4.1(388)
 Lavoisier, § 2.1(65), § 7.1(277), § 9.1(409)
 layer, § 6.8(260)
 lead, § 5.1(183), § 7.1(277)
 leather, § 9.3(432)
 LED, § 6.7.1(249)
 lever, § 9.5(438)
 levorotatory, § 1.2.3(33)
 Lewis, § 1.2.1(11), § 6.4.1(223), § 6.6(244),
 § 6.9(264), § 8.4.4(401), § 8.5(405), § 10.3(476)
 Lewis acid, § 1.3.1(50), § 2.7(81), § 4.4(173),
 § 6.5.2(231), § 10.5(483)
 Lewis base, § 1.3.1(50), § 2.7(81), § 4.4(173),
 § 8.3.2(366), § 10.5(483)
 ligand, § 1.2.1(11), § 1.2.3(33), § 3.1(105),
 § 3.2(114), § 4.2.1(143), § 6.9(264),
 § 8.3.3(371), § 8.4.2(395), § 8.4.4(401)
- light, § 5.4(195)
 lightening, § 8.2(364)
 lime, § 4.1(131)
 Linde, § 8.3.4(373)
 linear, § 1.2.1(11)
 liquid, § 2.1(65), § 2.10(101), § 6.1(203),
 § 8.3.3(371), § 8.4.1(388), § 8.4.2(395),
 § 9.4(437), § 9.8(447), § 9.9(451)
 lithium, § 2.8(93), § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114),
 § 3.3(122), § 3.4(124), § 4.4(173), § 6.4.1(223),
 § 8.2(364)
 livres, § 8.4.2(395)
 Lockyer, § 11.1(487)
 Lomonosov, § 9.1(409)
 lone pair, § 1.2.1(11), § 1.2.3(33), § 2.7(81),
 § 8.3.2(366)
- M** macrocyclic, § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114)
 magnesium, § 3.1(105), § 3.3(122), § 4.1(131),
 § 4.2.1(143), § 4.3(172), § 4.4(173), § 8.2(364)
 magnetite, § 4.1(131)
 main group, § (1), § 1.5(59)
 Majdanek, § 7.2.3(310)
 malonic acid, § 7.2.4.3(326)
 manganese, § 6.5.3(240)
 manufacture, § 4.2.3.2(154)
 maravedies, § 8.4.2(395)
 Mars, § 7.2.4.2(319)
 mask, § 7.3.2.2(344)
 mass spectrum, § 3.4(124)
 Mayow, § 9.1(409)
 Me163, § 8.3.5(381)
 mellitic acid, § 7.2.4.3(326)
 melting, § 7.1(277)
 melting point, § 2.2(68), § 6.3(221),
 § 6.5.1(231), § 8.3.1(364)
 Mendeleev, § 6.1(203), § 6.7.1(249), § 7.1(277)
 mercury, § 2.3(69), § 4.1(131), § 5.1(183),
 § 5.3.2(192), § 5.4(195), § 10.3(476),
 § 10.4(481)
 Messerschmitt, § 8.3.5(381)
 meta phosphate, § 8.4.4(401)
 metaborate, § 6.5.2(231)
 metaboric acid, § 6.5.2(231)
 metal, § 1.5(59), § 2.1(65), § 3.1(105),
 § 6.1(203), § 6.3(221), § 8.3.2(366),
 § 8.4.2(395), § 9.2(429), § 10.3(476)
 metal hydride, § 2.10(101)
 metallization, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 metallic, § 5.1(183)
 methane, § 1.4.1(56), § 7.1(277)
 methanol, § 6.4.1(223)

- methylamine, § 1.2.3(33)
 Mexican, § 7.2.3(310)
 Michaelis-Arbusov, § 8.4.4(401)
 microcircuit, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 microphone, § 7.2.1(288)
 Milan, § 8.4.2(395)
 mill, § 9.3(432)
 Miller, § 1.2.2(16)
 Minamata, § 5.4(195)
 mineral, § 4.1(131), § 6.1(203), § 6.5.4(241)
 miserere, § 5.4(195)
 mixed-metal oxide, § 6.5.4(241)
 mobility, § 6.7.1(249)
 Moissan, § 4.2.2(146)
 molecular formula, § 1.2.3(33)
 molecular orbital, § 8.4.1(388), § 9.9(451),
 § 10.3(476)
 molecular weight, § 2.7(81)
 molecule, § 1.1.3(7), § 1.3.1(50), § 1.5(59)
 molten, § 9.9(451)
 molybdenum, § 8.2(364)
 monoclinic, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.8(260)
 monodentate, § 3.1(105), § 8.4.2(395),
 § 9.8(447)
 monomer, § 4.3(172), § 9.8(447), § 10.2(473)
 monosilane, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 Moore, § 9.5(438)
 MOSFET, § 7.3.2.2(344), § 7.3.2.3(348)
 motorsports, § 8.4.1(388)
 Munich, § 8.3.4(373)
 Murdoch, § 4.2.2(146)
 MWNT, § 7.2.2.1(295)
- N** NaCl, § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114)
 nanocrystal, § 5.2.1(188)
 nanomaterials, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 nanoparticle, § 5.2.1(188)
 nanosheet, § 7.2.2.2(306)
 nanotube, § 3.2(114), § 7.1(277), § 7.2.2.1(295)
 native oxide, § 6.7.1(249)
 Nazi, § 7.2.3(310)
 neon, § 11.1(487)
 Nessler, § 6.5.2(231)
 neutron, § 2.7(81), § 2.8(93)
 neutron star, § 2.9(98)
 Newcomen, § 7.2.1(288)
 Newman projection, § 1.2.3(33)
 NH₃, § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.3(371)
 nickel, § 6.5.3(240)
 nicotine, § 7.2.4.1(316)
 nido, § 6.4.2(226)
 nitrate, § 1.3.1(50), § 8.3.4(373), § 8.4.2(395),
 § 9.5(438)
 nitric acid, § 8.4.1(388), § 8.4.2(395)
 nitric oxide, § 8.4.1(388)
 nitride, § 6.6(244), § 8.2(364), § 8.3.2(366)
 nitrite, § 8.4.2(395)
 nitrogen, § 2.7(81), § 6.6(244), § 7.2.3(310),
 § 7.2.4.1(316), § 8.1(353), § 8.2(364),
 § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.3(371), § 8.3.4(373),
 § 8.3.5(381), § 8.4.1(388), § 8.4.2(395),
 § 9.5(438), § 11.1(487)
 nitrogen dioxide, § 8.4.1(388)
 Nitrogen pentoxide, § 8.4.1(388)
 nitrogenase, § 8.2(364)
 nitronium, § 1.3.1(50)
 nitrosonium, § 8.4.1(388)
 nitrous, § 8.4.1(388)
 nitrous acid, § 8.4.2(395)
 nitrous oxide, § 1.4.1(56), § 8.4.1(388)
 NMR, § 2.7(81), § 2.8(93), § 5.1(183),
 § 6.1(203), § 6.5.2(231), § 8.4.4(401)
 Noble gas, § 11.1(487)
 non-metal, § 1.5(59)
 non-specific solvation, § 1.3.1(50)
 North Sea, § 8.4.1(388)
 NOS, § 8.4.1(388)
 nozzle, § 9.5(438)
 nitrogen, § 8.3.1(364)
 nucleophile, § 9.9(451)
 Nyholm, § 1.2.1(11)
- O** octahedral, § 1.2.1(11), § 1.2.2(16), § 4.3(172)
 ODCB, § 7.2.2.2(306)
 oil, § 9.3(432)
 olefin, § 6.6(244)
 oligomer, § 2.7(81), § 10.2(473)
 orbital, § 6.4.1(223)
 ore, § 5.1(183), § 6.1(203), § 7.1(277),
 § 9.3(432)
 organic, § 3.4(124), § 10.2(473), § 10.4(481)
 organomercury, § 5.4(195)
 organometallic, § 3.4(124), § 4.3(172),
 § 5.3.1(190), § 5.3.2(192)
 orientation, § 1.2.2(16)
 orthophosphoric acid, § 8.4.4(401)
 orthorhombic, § 1.2.2(16)
 overshot, § 9.3(432)
 oxamide, § 7.2.3(310)
 oxidant, § 1.4.1(56)
 oxidation, § 1.3.1(50), § 7.2.2.1(295),
 § 7.3.2.2(344), § 8.3.3(371), § 8.4.1(388),
 § 8.4.3(399)
 oxidation number, § 1.1.1(3)

- oxidation state, § 1.1.1(3), § 3.2(114)
 oxidative addition, § 9.9(451)
 oxide, § 1.5(59), § 4.2.1(143), § 5.1(183),
 § 6.1(203), § 6.5.1(231), § 6.5.2(231),
 § 7.1(277), § 7.2.4.2(319), § 7.2.4.3(326),
 § 8.4.1(388), § 8.4.3(399), § 10.3(476)
 oxides, § 9.8(447)
 oxoacid, § 8.4.2(395)
 oxoacids, § 8.4.4(401)
 oxyacid, § 10.3(476), § 10.4(481)
 oxyacids, § 9.8(447)
 oxygen, § 1.4.1(56), § 2.7(81), § 2.10(101),
 § 3.1(105), § 4.2.1(143), § 6.1(203),
 § 6.5.1(231), § 6.7.2(253), § 7.2.3(310),
 § 7.2.4.1(316), § 7.2.4.2(319), § 7.2.4.3(326),
 § 7.3.2.1(336), § 7.3.2.2(344), § 8.3.2(366),
 § 8.4.1(388), § 8.4.2(395), § 8.4.3(399),
 § 8.4.4(401), § 9.1(409), § 9.2(429), § 9.6(443),
 § 11.1(487)
 oxygen balance, § 1.4.1(56)
 ozone, § 7.2.4.2(319), § 7.2.5(327), § 9.2(429),
 § 9.8(447)
 ozone layer, § 9.2(429)
 ozonide, § 9.2(429)
- P** p-block, § 1.5(59)
 packaging, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 paddle, § 9.3(432)
 Paracelsus, § 2.1(65)
 paramagnetic, § 8.4.1(388)
 passivation, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 Pasteur, § 1.2.3(33)
 Patent, § 7.2.1(288)
 Pauling, § 1.1.3(7), § 1.1.4(9), § 6.6(244)
 Pauling electronegativity, § 2.2(68)
 pentaborane, § 6.4.1(223)
 pentoxide, § 8.4.3(399), § 8.4.4(401)
 peptide, § 2.7(81)
 perchlorate, § 1.3.1(50), § 10.3(476)
 perchloric, § 10.4(481)
 perfluoroethanol, § 10.2(473)
 performic acid, § 1.4.1(56)
 Period, § 1.1.2(4)
 Periodic Table, § (1), § 1.1.2(4), § 1.5(59),
 § 2.4(72)
 perm, § 6.5.2(231)
 perovskite, § 6.5.4(241)
 pH, § 2.5(73)
 phase, § 6.5.3(240)
 phenolphthalein, § 3.4(124)
 Philo, § 9.1(409)
 phlogiston, § 9.1(409)
- phosgene, § 7.2.5(327)
 phosphate, § 8.1(353), § 8.4.4(401)
 phosphide, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.3(221), § 8.3.6(386)
 phosphine, § 1.2.3(33), § 8.3.6(386), § 8.5(405)
 phosphite, § 8.5(405)
 phosphonic acid, § 4.2.3.4(166)
 phosphoric acid, § 8.4.3(399), § 8.4.4(401),
 § 8.5(405)
 phosphorous, § 6.7.2(253), § 8.4.3(399),
 § 8.5(405)
 phosphorous acid, § 8.3.6(386), § 8.4.4(401)
 phosphorus, § 6.7.1(249), § 8.1(353),
 § 8.3.1(364), § 8.3.6(386), § 8.4.4(401)
 phosphine, § 8.3.1(364)
 photochemical, § 9.9(451)
 photolysis, § 2.4(72), § 9.2(429)
 Pictet, § 9.1(409)
 pilot, § 9.5(438)
 pitchblende, § 4.1(131)
 planarization, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 plasma, § 7.3.2.2(344), § 7.3.2.3(348)
 plastic, § 9.4(437)
 platinum, § 2.3(69), § 8.4.1(388), § 8.4.2(395),
 § 9.2(429)
 pnictide, § 6.7.1(249), § 8.1(353)
 pnictogen, § 8.1(353)
 point, § 1.2.2(16)
 Poland, § 7.2.3(310), § 9.1(409)
 polarized light, § 1.2.3(33)
 pollution, § 9.8(447)
 polonium, § 9.1(409), § 11.1(487)
 polyborate, § 6.5.2(231)
 polymer, § 1.5(59), § 2.7(81), § 4.3(172),
 § 9.8(447), § 10.2(473)
 polysilicon, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 polysulfide, § 9.1(409)
 polytetrafluoroethylene, § 10.2(473)
 porosity, § 6.5.3(240)
 Portland cement, § 4.2.3.1(153), § 4.2.3.2(154),
 § 4.2.3.3(161), § 4.2.3.4(166)
 potash, § 8.3.4(373)
 potassium, § 3.1(105), § 6.5.4(241),
 § 7.2.3(310), § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.5(381),
 § 10.1(457), § 10.5(483)
 powder, § 6.5.4(241)
 Prato reaction, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 Priestley, § 8.1(353), § 9.1(409)
 prisoner, § 7.2.3(310)
 proton, § 2.5(73), § 2.7(81)
 Prussia, § 8.3.4(373)
 pseudo halogen, § 7.2.3(310)

- pseudorotation, § 1.2.3(33)
 PTFE, § 7.2.5(327)
 purification, § 6.7.2(253), § 7.3.2.1(336)
 pyramid, § 1.2.3(33)
 pyramidal, § 1.2.1(11)
 pyridine, § 1.3.1(50), § 6.4.1(223)
 pyrite, § 6.1(203)
 pyrolusite, § 10.1(457)
 pyrosulfuric acid, § 9.8(447)
- Q** quadrupole, § 6.1(203)
 quantum dot, § 5.2.1(188)
 quantum rod, § 5.2.1(188)
 quartz, § 7.3.2.1(336)
- R** racemate, § 1.2.3(33)
 racemic, § 1.2.3(33)
 radical, § 2.4(72), § 4.4(173), § 9.9(451)
 radioactive, § 2.8(93), § 4.1(131), § 5.1(183),
 § 10.1(457), § 11.1(487)
 radium, § 4.1(131), § 11.1(487)
 radius, § 3.3(122), § 6.2(219)
 radon, § 11.1(487)
 Raman, § 5.3.1(190), § 7.2.2.1(295)
 Ramsay, § 11.1(487)
 Rayleigh, § 11.1(487)
 reaction, § (1), § 8.2(364)
 reactivity, § 3.3(122)
 realgar, § 8.1(353)
 red, § 8.1(353)
 reducing agent, § 2.4(72), § 3.1(105)
 reduction, § 1.3.1(50), § 8.3.6(386)
 reduction potential, § 3.1(105)
 reforming, § 2.3(69)
 refractive index, § 6.7.1(249)
 Reich, § 6.1(203)
 resin, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 resistivity, § 6.7.1(249)
 resolution, § 1.2.3(33)
 resonance, § 1.2.1(11)
 reverberatory furnace, § 7.1(277)
 revolution, § 9.3(432)
 rhombohedral, § 1.2.2(16), § 6.8(260)
 Richter, § 6.1(203)
 Riggs, § 8.4.1(388)
 rock salt, § 1.2.2(16), § 2.6(77), § 3.1(105),
 § 3.2(114), § 10.1(457)
 rocket, § 6.4.1(223), § 7.2.1(288), § 8.3.5(381),
 § 9.5(438)
 Roman Empire, § 9.3(432)
 Rome, § 9.3(432)
 Rosenoff, § 1.2.3(33)
- rotation, § 1.2.3(33)
 rubidium, § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114), § 8.3.2(366)
 ruby, § 6.5.4(241)
 Russell, § 2.9(98)
 Rutherford, § 8.1(353)
- S** Sachsenhausen, § 7.2.3(310)
 salt, § 7.2.3(310), § 8.3.3(371), § 10.2(473),
 § 10.3(476)
 saltpeter, § 10.1(457)
 samarium, § 9.5(438)
 sand, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 sapphire, § 6.5.4(241)
 Scandinavia, § 8.4.1(388)
 Scheele, § 7.1(277), § 8.1(353), § 9.1(409)
 Schlenk, § 4.4(173)
 science, § (1)
 seawater, § 3.1(105)
 Seimens, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 selenide, § 5.1(183), § 6.8(260)
 selenium, § 5.2.1(188), § 6.8(260), § 9.1(409)
 SEM, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 semi-insulating, § 6.7.1(249)
 semiconductor, § 1.2.2(16), § 5.2.1(188),
 § 6.7.1(249), § 6.7.2(253), § 7.3.2.1(336),
 § 7.3.2.2(344), § 7.3.2.3(348)
 SEP, § 6.4.2(226)
 setting, § 4.2.3.4(166)
 shape, § 1.2.1(11)
 sheet, § 8.4.3(399)
 shell, § 1.1.2(4)
 shield, § 6.2(219)
 Si, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 Sicilian process, § 9.1(409)
 silica, § 6.1(203), § 7.3.2.2(344), § 7.3.2.3(348)
 silicate, § 4.2.3.1(153), § 4.2.3.3(161),
 § 4.2.3.4(166), § 7.3.2.1(336)
 silicide, § 6.3(221)
 silicon, § 1.2.2(16), § 1.5(59), § 4.2.3.1(153),
 § 6.7.1(249), § 7.1(277), § 7.3.1(333),
 § 7.3.2.1(336), § 7.3.2.2(344), § 7.3.2.3(348)
 silicon dioxide, § 7.3.2.2(344), § 7.3.2.3(348)
 silicon tetrachloride, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 silk, § 9.3(432)
 silver, § 1.3.1(50), § 9.5(438), § 10.5(483)
 SiO₂, § 7.3.2.2(344), § 7.3.2.3(348)
 skeletal, § 6.4.2(226)
 skin, § 9.2(429)
 slim rod, § 7.3.2.1(336)
 sludge, § 9.1(409)
 slurry, § 6.5.4(241)
 Smalley, § 7.1(277), § 7.2.2.1(295)

- SMERSH, § 7.2.3(310)
 smithsonite, § 5.1(183)
 sodium, § 1.4.1(56), § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114),
 § 3.3(122), § 6.5.4(241), § 7.2.3(310),
 § 8.3.5(381)
 Soho stink, § 8.3.4(373)
 sol-gel, § 6.5.4(241)
 solid, § 9.9(451)
 solid state, § 1.2.2(16), § 2.7(81), § 3.2(114)
 solubility, § 1.5(59), § 4.2.1(143)
 solution, § 2.4(72), § 2.7(81), § 6.8(260),
 § 9.4(437), § 10.4(481)
 solvation, § 1.3.1(50), § 2.4(72)
 solvent, § 1.3.1(50), § 5.3.2(192), § 6.5.4(241),
 § 7.2.4.2(319), § 8.3.3(371)
 solvolysis, § 1.3.1(50)
 solvomercuration, § 5.3.2(192)
 sonication, § 4.4(173)
 Spain, § 8.4.2(395)
 spark, § 1.4.1(56)
 specific solvation, § 1.3.1(50)
 spectroscopy, § 2.7(81), § 2.8(93), § 5.3.1(190),
 § 6.1(203)
 spectrum, § 11.1(487)
 sphalerite, § 6.6(244), § 6.8(260)
 Spindletop, § 9.1(409)
 spirit of nitre, § 8.4.2(395)
 square planar, § 1.2.1(11)
 square pyramidal, § 1.2.1(11)
 square-based pyramid, § 1.2.3(33)
 St Gall, § 9.3(432)
 staggered, § 1.2.3(33)
 Stahl, § 9.1(409)
 star, § 2.9(98)
 Stashynsky, § 7.2.3(310)
 steam, § 2.3(69), § 7.3.2.2(344), § 9.5(438)
 steam engine, § 7.2.1(288)
 stereo isomer, § 1.2.3(33)
 stereochemistry, § 1.2.3(33)
 steric, § 2.7(81), § 5.3.2(192)
 stibine, § 8.3.1(364)
 storage, § 2.6(77)
 strontium, § 4.1(131), § 4.2.1(143)
 structure, § (1), § 1.2.2(16), § 6.3(221),
 § 6.5.1(231)
 sublimate, § 5.4(195)
 sublime, § 6.7.2(253), § 7.2.4.2(319)
 suboxide, § 7.2.4.3(326)
 substitution, § 1.2.2(16)
 sucrose, § 4.2.3.4(166)
 sugar, § 9.3(432)
 Suitor, § 9.5(438)
 sulfane, § 9.7(445)
 sulfide, § 1.2.2(16), § 5.1(183), § 6.1(203),
 § 6.8(260), § 9.1(409)
 sulfite, § 9.8(447)
 sulfur, § 5.2.1(188), § 6.8(260), § 9.1(409),
 § 9.6(443), § 9.7(445), § 9.8(447), § 9.9(451)
 sulfur dioxide, § 8.4.1(388), § 9.8(447)
 sulfur trioxide, § 9.8(447)
 sulfuric acid, § 1.3.1(50), § 7.2.3(310),
 § 8.4.2(395), § 9.2(429), § 9.8(447)
 sulfurous acid, § 9.8(447)
 sulphate, § 4.1(131)
 sulphur, § 9.1(409)
 sun, § 2.9(98), § 7.2.4.2(319), § 11.1(487)
 Sun burn, § 9.2(429)
 superacid, § 8.3.6(386)
 supercritical, § 7.2.4.2(319)
 surface, § 1.2.2(16)
 SWNT, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 symmetry, § 9.9(451)
 synthesis, § (1), § 1.3.1(50), § 3.4(124),
 § 6.7.2(253), § 7.3.2.1(336)
 syphilis, § 5.4(195)
- T** T-Stoff, § 8.3.5(381)
 tanning, § 9.3(432)
 tantalum, § 8.4.2(395)
 tartaric acid, § 1.2.3(33), § 4.2.3.4(166)
 tautomer, § 8.4.4(401)
 tea, § 7.2.4.1(316)
 Teflon, § 7.2.5(327), § 10.2(473)
 telluride, § 6.8(260)
 tellurium, § 6.8(260), § 9.1(409)
 TEM, § 7.2.2.1(295), § 7.2.2.2(306)
 ternary, § 6.5.4(241)
 tetraborane, § 6.4.1(223)
 tetragonal, § 1.2.2(16)
 tetrahalide, § 7.2.5(327)
 tetrahedral, § 1.2.1(11), § 1.2.2(16), § 4.3(172),
 § 8.4.4(401)
 tetrahedron, § 3.4(124)
 tetrahydridoborate, § 6.4.1(223)
 tetrahydrofuran, § 4.4(173)
 tetramethylthylene diamine, § 4.4(173)
 tetraoxide, § 10.3(476)
 Texas, § 9.1(409)
 thaler, § 8.1(353)
 thallium, § 6.1(203), § 6.2(219), § 6.5.1(231),
 § 6.9(264)
 thermal, § 7.3.2.2(344)
 thermolysis, § 2.4(72)

- THF, § 4.4(173), § 6.4.1(223)
 thin film, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 thioether, § 9.6(443)
 thiosulfate, § 9.8(447)
 thorium, § 11.1(487)
 threitol, § 1.2.3(33)
 threonine, § 1.2.3(33)
 threose, § 1.2.3(33)
 Thunderball, § 9.5(438)
 Thénard, § 6.1(203)
 tin, § 1.2.2(16), § 7.1(277)
 titanium dioxide, § 6.1(203)
 titration, § 3.4(124)
 TMED, § 4.4(173)
 TNT, § 1.4.1(56)
 tobacco, § 9.1(409)
 topaz, § 6.5.4(241)
 toxic, § 5.4(195), § 7.2.4.1(316), § 8.3.6(386)
 toxicity, § 9.7(445)
 trans, § 1.2.3(33), § 2.7(81)
 transition metal, § 8.2(364), § 10.3(476)
 Travers, § 11.1(487)
 trend, § 1.5(59)
 triangular, § 1.2.1(11)
 triclinic, § 1.2.2(16)
 triethylamine, § 4.4(173)
 trigonal bipyramidal, § 1.2.3(33)
 trigonal bipyramidal, § 1.2.1(11)
 trimer, § 9.8(447)
 trioxide, § 8.4.3(399)
 tritium, § 2.8(93)
- U** UK, § 8.4.1(388)
 umbrella, § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.6(386)
 undershot, § 9.3(432)
 unit cell, § 1.2.2(16)
 unpaired, § 8.4.1(388)
 uranium, § 11.1(487)
 urea, § 1.3.1(50)
 uride, § 1.3.1(50)
 US Army, § 9.5(438)
 UV, § 7.2.5(327)
- V** V-2, § 7.2.1(288)
 vacancies, § 1.2.2(16)
 valence, § 1.2.1(11)
 valence band, § 7.3.2.2(344)
 Valence Shell Electron Pair Repulsion, § 1.2.1(11)
 van der Waal, § 2.2(68), § 2.7(81), § 3.2(114), § 7.3.1(333), § 9.6(443), § 10.3(476)
 van der Waals, § 1.3.1(50), § 10.2(473)
- vanadium, § 10.5(483)
 vapor, § 2.4(72), § 2.7(81), § 9.4(437)
 vapor pressure, § 6.7.2(253), § 7.3.2.1(336)
 Venus, § 7.2.4.2(319)
 Vergard's law, § 1.2.2(16)
 Vergeltungswaffen, § 7.2.1(288)
 VGF, § 7.2.2.1(295)
 violet, § 8.1(353)
 vitamin D3, § 9.2(429)
 Vitruvius, § 9.3(432)
 VLSI, § 7.3.2.3(348)
 von Linde, § 9.1(409)
 von Reichenstein, § 9.1(409)
 VSEPR, § 1.2.1(11)
- W** Wade, § 6.4.2(226)
 wafer, § 7.3.2.2(344)
 water, § 1.3.1(50), § 1.4.1(56), § 1.5(59), § 2.3(69), § 2.7(81), § 2.8(93), § 2.10(101), § 3.2(114), § 4.1(131), § 4.2.1(143), § 5.3.2(192), § 6.4.1(223), § 7.2.3(310), § 7.2.4.2(319), § 7.2.4.3(326), § 7.3.2.2(344), § 8.3.2(366), § 8.3.5(381), § 8.4.2(395), § 9.3(432), § 9.4(437), § 9.7(445), § 10.4(481), § 11.1(487)
 water gas shift, § 2.3(69)
 waterwheel, § 9.3(432)
 Watt, § 7.2.1(288)
 Wells, § 8.4.1(388)
 Welsbach, § 4.2.2(146)
 Werner, § 7.2.1(288)
 white, § 8.1(353), § 8.4.3(399)
 Winsor, § 4.2.2(146)
 Wurtzite, § 1.2.2(16), § 5.1(183), § 6.6(244), § 6.7.1(249)
 Wöhler, § 6.1(203)
- X** X-ray, § 2.7(81)
 X-ray crystallography, § 8.4.4(401)
 xenon, § 11.1(487)
- Y** YAG, § 6.5.4(241)
 Yeager, § 9.5(438)
 Ypres, § 10.1(457)
- Z** zinc, § 1.2.2(16), § 5.1(183), § 5.3.1(190)
 zinc blende, § 1.2.2(16), § 3.1(105), § 3.2(114), § 5.1(183), § 6.1(203), § 6.2(219), § 6.7.1(249)
 ZnS, § 3.2(114)
 zone refining, § 6.7.2(253), § 7.3.2.1(336)
 Zosimos, § 8.1(353)
 zusammen, § 1.2.3(33)
 Zyklon B, § 7.2.3(310)

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Module: "Calcium the Archetypal Alkaline Earth Metal"

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Module: "Trends for the Oxides of the Group 13 Elements"

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Module: "Boron Oxides, Hydroxides, and Oxyanions"

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Module: "Aluminum Oxides, Hydroxides, and Hydrated Oxides"

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Module: "Electronic Grade Gallium Arsenide"

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Based on: Synthesis and Purification of Bulk Semiconductors

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Module: "Chalcogenides of Aluminum, Gallium, and Indium"

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Used here as: "Fullerenes and Nanotubes"

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By: Andrew R. Barron
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Module: "Oxidation of Silicon"
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URL: <http://cnx.org/content/m24908/1.3/>
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Module: "Hydrogen Peroxide Providing a Lift for 007"

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Chemistry of the Main Group Elements

The main group (s- and p-block) elements are among the most diverse in the Periodic Table. Ranging from non-metallic gases (e.g., hydrogen and fluorine), through semi-metals (e.g., metalloids such as silicon) to highly reactive metals (e.g., sodium and potassium). The study of the main group elements is important for a number of reasons. On an academic level they exemplify the trends and predictions in structure and reactivity that are the key to the Periodic Table. The main group elements represent the most prevalent elements in the Earth's crust, as well as most of the key elements of life, and have enormous industrial, economic, and environmental importance. In this regard an understanding of the chemistry of the main group elements is vital for students within science, engineering, and medicine; however, it is hoped that those who make political and economic decisions would make better ones if they had a fraction of the knowledge of the world around them. In addition to the basic synthesis, structure, properties, and reactivity of the elements and their compounds, sections describing some industrial use, as well as historical or social perspective have been added. These sections were as a result of attempts within class to put the chemistry into a context outside of the classroom. It is important that the discovery and use of elements be understood to be a human endeavor rather than a series of abstract concepts or facts. It is only by an appreciation of the past that we can advance the future.

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