

# História da Ciência e o Ensino de Astronomia DE ÁTOMOS E ESTRELAS

Amâncio Friaça (IAG/USP)

Rasgar a tabela periódica é, para um químico, o mesmo que rasgar a bandeira

Roberto Nardi (IAG-USP,4/11/2013)

# Tipos de tecnologia\*

- Tecnologias de ação
- Tecnologias sensoriais
- Tecnologias da natureza
- Tecnologias intelectuais

\*ver Jack Goody e Daniel Bell

# Tecnologias de ação

estendem nossa força física, destreza ou resiliência

- arado
- agulha de costura
- máquina à vapor
- motor elétrico
- submarino
- avião a jato

# Tecnologias sensoriais

estendem a faixa ou a sensibilidade de nossos sentidos

- telescópio
- microscópio
- termômetro
- barômetro
- amplificador
- contador Geiger



# Tecnologias da natureza

remodelam e modificam a natureza

- reservatórios e canais
- agricultura e domesticação de animais
- tatuagens
- cirurgias
- pílula anticoncepcional
- organismos geneticamente modificados

# Tecnologias intelectuais

estendem ou dão suporte às nossas habilidades mentais

- o mapa e o relógio
- a escrita
- o ábaco e a régua de cálculo
- o sextante e o globo
- a imprensa
- o livro e o jornal
- a escola e a biblioteca
- a máquina de escrever
- o computador e a internet

# Ação das tecnologias no ser humano\*

- Os efeitos da tecnologia não ocorrem no nível das opiniões ou conceitos. Antes, eles alteram os padrões de percepção continuamente e sem qualquer resistência.”
- Nossas ferramentas acabam “amortecendo” aquela nossa capacidade que elas “amplificam.”

\*ver Marshall McLuhan, *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*



# Tecnologias nos documentos do Ministério da Educação, BRASIL

(Menções de “tecnologia”/“tecnologias”)

- Parâmetros Curriculares Nacionais do Ensino Médio. 2000. Linguagens, Códigos e suas Tecnologias (163)
- \_\_\_\_\_. Ciências da Natureza, Matemática e suas Tecnologias (64)
- \_\_\_\_\_. Ciências Humanas e suas Tecnologias (51)
- Orientações Curriculares para o Ensino Médio. 2006. Linguagens, Códigos e suas Tecnologias (52)
- \_\_\_\_\_. Ciências da Natureza, Matemática e suas Tecnologias (83)
- \_\_\_\_\_. Ciências Humanas e suas Tecnologias (31)
- Base Nacional Comum Curricular. Apresentação. 2013. (132)
- Base Nacional Comum Curricular. 2018. (51)

# PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

## Elementary Subatomic Particles

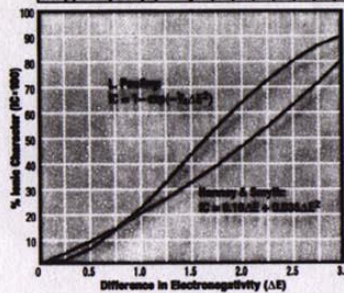
	Electron	Proton	Neutron	Photon	Neutrino
Symbol	e	p	n	γ	ν
Rest mass (kg)	9.1093897(54) × 10 <sup>-31</sup>	1.6726231(10) × 10 <sup>-27</sup>	1.6749286(10) × 10 <sup>-27</sup>	0	0
Major mass (kg/mol)	5.48579903(13) × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.007276470(12) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.008664904(14) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0	0
Particle-electron mass ratio	1	1836.152701(37)	1838.683662(40)	0	0
Particle-proton mass ratio	5.44617013(11) × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1	1.001378404(9)	0	0
Particle-neutron mass ratio	5.43867310 <sup>-4</sup>	0.998624	1	0	0
Specific charge (C/kg)	-1.75881962(53) × 10 <sup>+11</sup>	9.5786309(29) × 10 <sup>+7</sup>	0	0	0
Radius (m)	<1 × 10 <sup>-18</sup>	8 × 10 <sup>-16</sup>	8 × 10 <sup>-16</sup>	0	0
Spin quantum number	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1/2
Compton wavelength (m)	2.42631058(22) × 10 <sup>-12</sup>	1.32141002(12) × 10 <sup>-15</sup>	1.31959110(12) × 10 <sup>-15</sup>	-	-
Magnetic moment (J/T)	9.2847701(51) × 10 <sup>-26</sup>	1.41080761(47) × 10 <sup>-26</sup>	0.96623707(40) × 10 <sup>-26</sup>	0	0
In Bohr magneton, μ <sub>B</sub>	1.001198952193(10)	1.521032202(15) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.04187363(25) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0	0
In nuclear magneton, μ <sub>N</sub>	1836.282000(37)	2.792847386(63)	1.01304275(45)	0	0

Elementary particles are the fundamental constituents of energy and matter. The antineutrino ( $\bar{\nu}$ ) is a positive-energy particle which has the same mass as a neutrino. The antineutrino ( $\bar{\nu}$ ) has similar properties as that of a neutrino ( $\nu$ ) except its spin is directed along the direction of motion, whereas the neutrino's spin is always opposite to the direction of motion. Negative beta decay is the transformation of a neutron into a proton, a beta particle (negative electron) and a

positron ( $\beta^+$ ) is a positive-energy particle which has the same mass as an electron. The positron ( $\beta^+$ ) has similar properties as that of a neutrino ( $\nu$ ) except its spin is directed along the direction of motion, whereas the neutrino's spin is always opposite to the direction of motion. Negative beta decay is the transformation of a neutron into a proton, a beta particle (negative electron) and a

## % Ionic Character of a Single Chemical Bond

Difference in Electronegativity	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2
% ionic (by Pauling)	0.2	1.0	2.2	3.9	6.1	8.6	12	15	18	22	26	30	34	39	43	47	51	56	59	63	67	70	73	76	79	82	84	86	88	89	91	92
% ionic (by Hannay & Smyth)	1.0	3.3	5.1	7.0	8.9	11	13	15	17	20	22	24	27	29	32	35	37	40	43	46	49	52	55	59	62	65	69	72	76	80	83	87



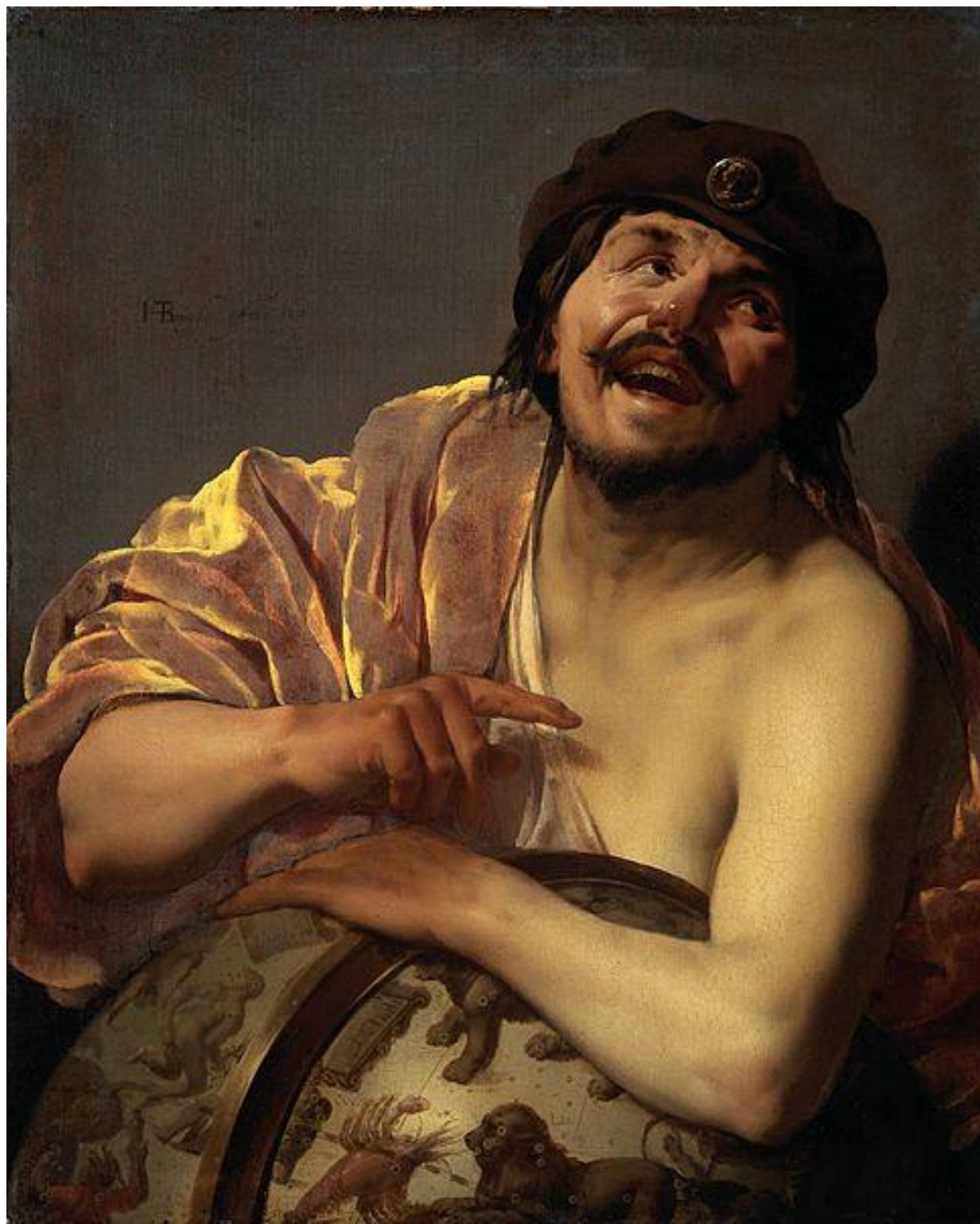
Percent ionic character describes the nature of a bond. Bonds possessing 50% or greater ionic character are commonly termed ionic; bonds with less than 50% ionic character are termed covalent. Pauling's equation was modified by Hannay

& Smyth in order to achieve better agreement between experimental and calculated values. Transition from ionic to covalent bonding is usually accompanied by a reduction in electrical conductivity, melting point and boiling point.

Elementary Subatomic Particles																		% Ionic Character of a Single Chemical Bond																																																																																																				
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1.00794 -209.34 -252.87 0.00089 2.20 13.598 1s <sup>1</sup> Hydrogen	4.001508 -238.029 -272.31 -268.93 0.1785 24.587 1s <sup>2</sup> Helium	6.941 180.5 1342 0.534 0.98 5.962 [He]2s <sup>1</sup> Lithium	9.012182 1287 2471 1.8407 1.57 9.322 [He]2s <sup>2</sup> Beryllium	12.0107 198.5 1462 0.8663 1.31 7.846 [He]3s <sup>1</sup> Sodium	24.3050 650 1090 897 6.93 5.139 [Ne]3s <sup>2</sup> Magnesium	44.955910 201 2832 3.04 2.981 1.54 6.82 [Ar]3d <sup>1</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Scandium	47.88 1888 2827 4.3 3.98 1.54 6.82 [Ar]3d <sup>2</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Titanium	50.9415 1910 2837 3.4 3.98 1.54 6.82 [Ar]3d <sup>2</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Vanadium	51.9961 1907 2837 3.34 3.98 1.54 6.82 [Ar]3d <sup>3</sup> 4s <sup>1</sup> Chromium	54.93805 2001 2837 3.34 3.98 1.54 6.82 [Ar]3d <sup>5</sup> 4s <sup>1</sup> Manganese	55.847 1936 2837 3.34 3.98 1.54 6.82 [Ar]3d <sup>5</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Iron	58.93320 1465 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>6</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Cobalt	58.93320 1465 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>7</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Nickel	63.546 1063 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>8</sup> 4s <sup>1</sup> Copper	65.38 107.75 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>1</sup> Zinc	69.723 72.61 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Gallium	72.61 72.61 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Germanium	74.92159 78.96 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Arsenic	78.96 78.96 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Selenium	79.904 79.904 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Bromine	83.80 83.80 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> Krypton	85.468 131.29 157.36 -153.22 3.74 1.99 3.999 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Rubidium	85.468 131.29 157.36 -153.22 3.74 1.99 3.999 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Strontium	88.90585 88.90585 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Yttrium	91.224 91.224 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Zirconium	92.90638 92.90638 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Niobium	95.94 95.94 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Molybdenum	97.9072 97.9072 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Technetium	101.07 101.07 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Ruthenium	102.90550 102.90550 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Rhodium	106.42 106.42 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Palladium	112.411 112.411 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Silver	114.818 114.818 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Cadmium	118.710 118.710 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Indium	121.757 121.757 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Tin	127.80 127.80 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Antimony	127.80 127.80 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Tellurium	126.90447 126.90447 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Iodine	131.29 131.29 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Xenon	132.905 132.905 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Francium	132.905 132.905 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Kr]4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>2</sup> Radium	226.0254 226.0254 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Actinium	227.0278 227.0278 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Unnilquadium	261.11 261.11 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Unnilpentium	262.114 262.114 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Unnilhexium	263.118 263.118 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Unnilseptium	262.12 262.12 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Unniloctium	265 265 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Unnilennium	266 266 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	272 272 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	273 273 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	274 274 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	275 275 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	276 276 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	277 277 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	278 278 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	279 279 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	280 280 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	281 281 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	282 282 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	283 283 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f 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<sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	323 323 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	324 324 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	325 325 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	326 326 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	327 327 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	328 328 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	329 329 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	330 330 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	331 331 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	332 332 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	333 333 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	334 334 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	335 335 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	336 336 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	337 337 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	338 338 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	339 339 2062 2.3 2.97 1.86 7.86 [Rn]5f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> Ununium	340 340 2062 2.3 

# Os Elementos no *Timeu* de Platão

				
Tetraedro Fogo	Octaedro Ar	Icosaedro (20) Água	Hexaedro (Cubo) Terra	Dodecaedro (12) Universo



Demócrito de Abdera (c. 460 a.C- c. 370 a.C.)

# Atomistic Cosmology

## - atoms, infinite and void

Moreover, the universe as a whole is infinite, for whatever is limited has an outermost edge to limit it, and such an edge is defined by something beyond. Since the universe does not have an edge, it has no limit; and since it lacks a limit, it is infinite and unbounded. Moreover, the universe is infinite both in the number of its atoms and in the extent of its void. (42a) If, on the one hand, the void were infinite and matter finite, the atoms would not remain anywhere but would be carried away and scattered through the infinite void, since there would be no atoms from without to support them and hold them together by striking them. If, on the other hand, the void were finite, there would not be room in it for an infinite number of atoms.

*Letter to Herodotus*  
Epicurus (341 – 270 BCE)

# A teoria atomista da Via Láctea em Dante: “Os céus são ciências” (*Convito*)

I say that the Starry Heaven may be compared to Physics because of three properties, and to Metaphysics because of three others.

And because of the Milky Way, this Heaven has a great similitude with Metaphysics.

What Aristotle may have said of this is not so easy to learn, because his opinion is not found to be the same in one translation as in the other; and I believe that it might be due to the error of the translators, for in the new one he seems to say that the Galaxy is a collection of vapours under the stars of that part which always attract them; and this does not seem to be the true reason. In the old translation he says that the Galaxy is no other than a multitude of fixed stars in that part, so small that we cannot distinguish them from here below, but that they cause the whiteness which we call the Milky Way.

... Therefore, since the Galaxy is an effect of those stars which we cannot see, if we understand those things by their effect alone, and Metaphysics treats of the first substances, which we cannot similarly understand except by their effects, it is evident that the Starry Heaven has a great similitude to Metaphysics.

# Elementos

## - Antiguidade e Idade Média

- Metais “planetários”: Au, Ag, Hg, Cu, Fe, Sn, Pb
- Fogos (incêndios, vulcões): C, S
- Bronzes e Latões: As, Zn
- Pigmentos: Sb, Bi

# Planetas como metais e modalidades da luz

- Sol: Au (Ouro), Ἡλιος (Hélios)
- Lua: Ag (Prata), Σελήνη (Selene)
- Mercúrio: Hg (Mercúrio), Στιλβων (Stilbon)  
brilhante, cintilante
- Vênus: Cu (Cobre), Φωσφορος (Fosforos)  
portador da luz
- Marte: Fe (Ferro), Πυροεις (Pyroies)  
ígneo
- Júpiter: Sn (Estanho), Φαεθων (Faethon)  
brilhante. fulgurante
- Saturno: Pb (Chumbo), Φαινων (Fainon)  
brilhante, evidente

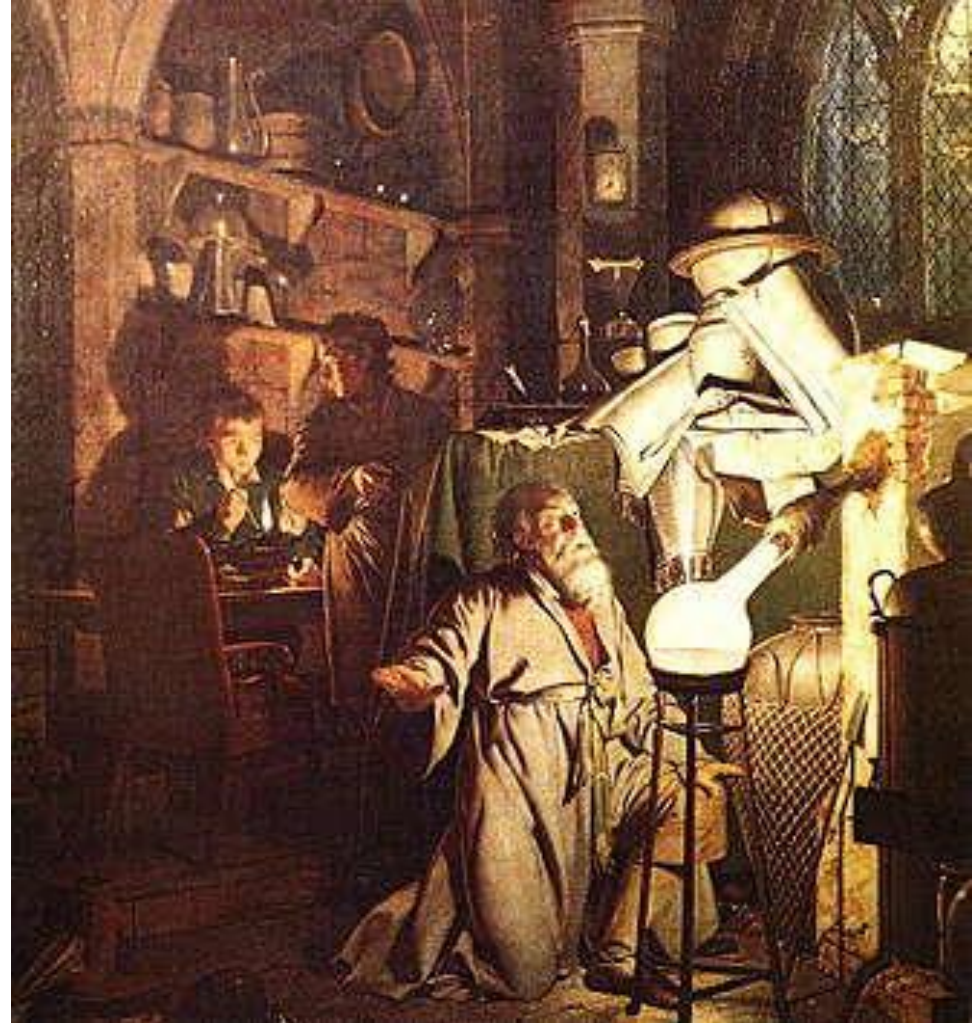




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# Elementos – Início da Química Moderna

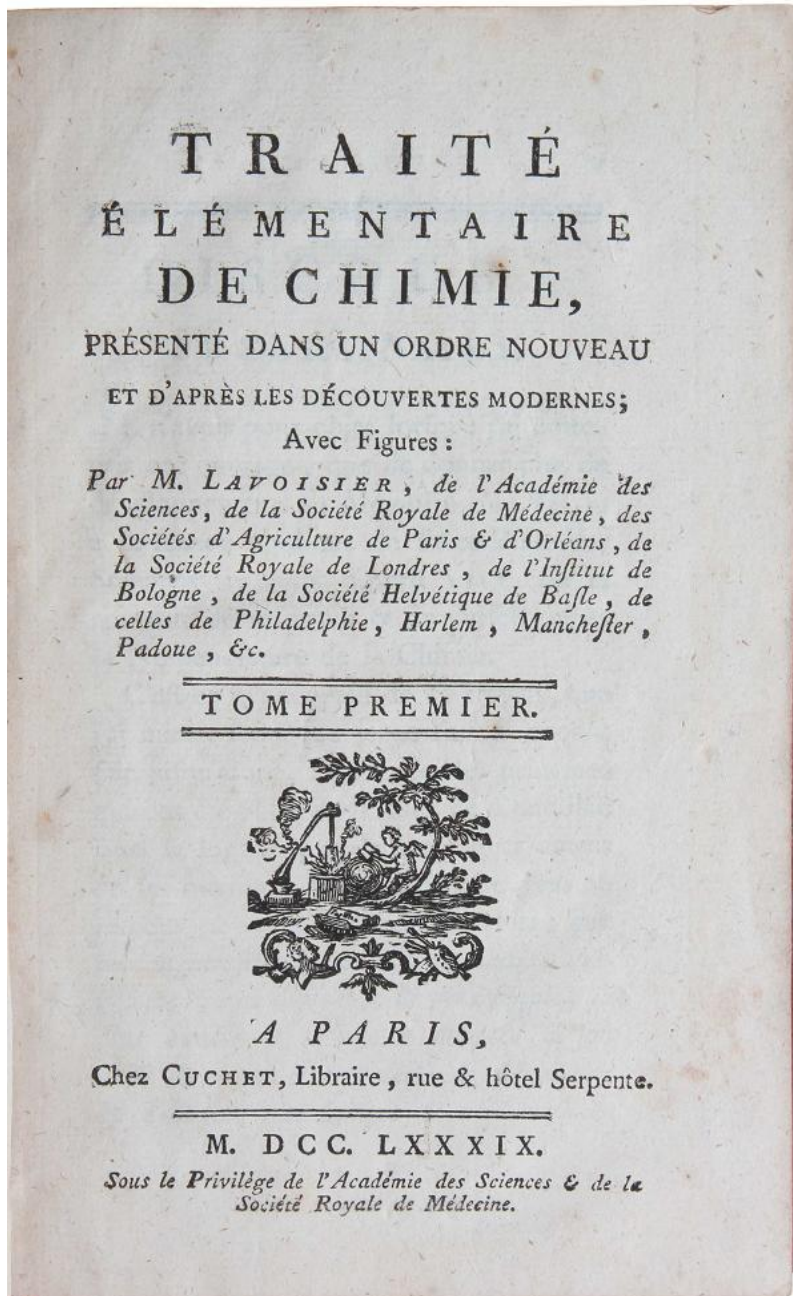
- Hennig Brand (1649): descoberta do fósforo
- Robert Boyle (1661): definição de elemento
- Boyle (1680): redescoberta do fósforo



# Elementos - Iluminismo

- Descoberta do nitrogênio: Daniel Rutherford (Edinburgh), 1772. (Termo devido a Jean-Antoine Chaptal, 1780)
- Descoberta do oxigênio: Carl Wilhelm Scheele (Uppsala) 1773 Joseph Priestley (Wiltshire) 1774. (Termo devido a Lavoisier, 1777)
- Descoberta do hidrogênio: Henry Cavendish (London) 1776 (Termo devido a Lavoisier, 1788)
- *Traité Élémentaire de Chimie* (Antoine de Lavoisier 1789)

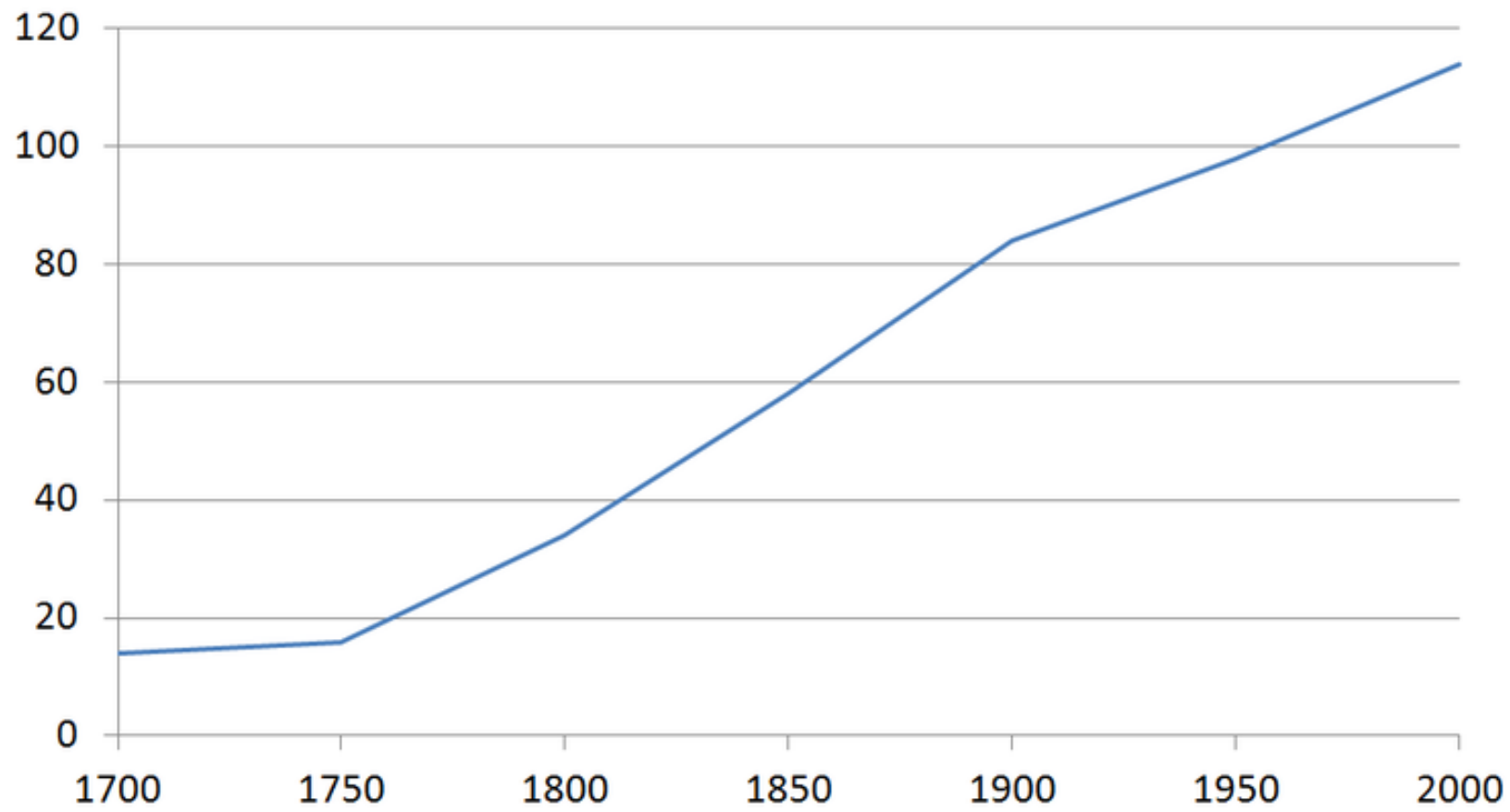
# Traité Élémentaire de Chimie (1789)



Antoine Laurent de Lavoisier  
(1743-1794)

23 elementos

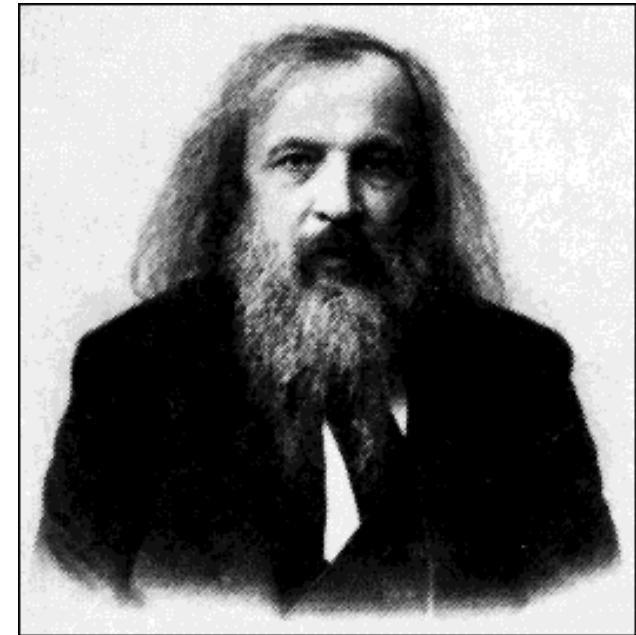
## Number of known chemical elements 1700-2000



# Tabela Periódica (1869)

			Ti = 50	Zr = 90	? = 180
			V = 51	Nb = 94	Ta = 182
			Cr = 52	Mo = 96	W = 186
			Mn = 55	Rh = 104,4	Pt = 197,4
			Fe = 56	Ru = 104,4	Ir = 198
		Ni = 58	Co = 59	Pd = 106,6	Os = 199
			Cu = 63,4	Ag = 108	Hg = 200
H = 1			Zn = 65,2	Cd = 112	
	Be = 9,4	Mg = 24	? = 68	Ur = 116	Au = 197?
	B = 11	Al = 27,4	? = 70	Sn = 118	
	C = 12	Si = 28	As = 75	Sb = 122	Bi = 210?
	N = 14	P = 31	Se = 79,4	Te = 128?	
	O = 16	S = 32	Br = 80	J = 127	
	F = 19	Cl = 35,5	Rb = 85,4	Cs = 133	Tl = 204
Li = 7	Na = 23	K = 39	Sr = 87,6	Ba = 137	Pb = 207
		Ca = 40	Ce = 92		
		? = 45	La = 94		
		?Er = 56	Di = 95		
		?Yt = 60	Th = 118?		
		?In = 75,6			

63 elementos



Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev  
(1834-1907)

Observações:

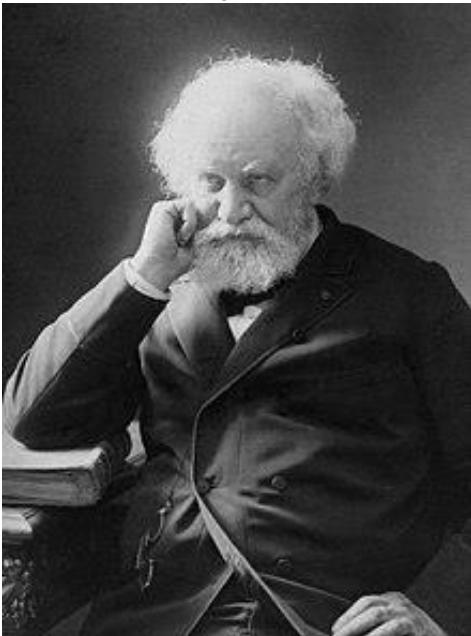
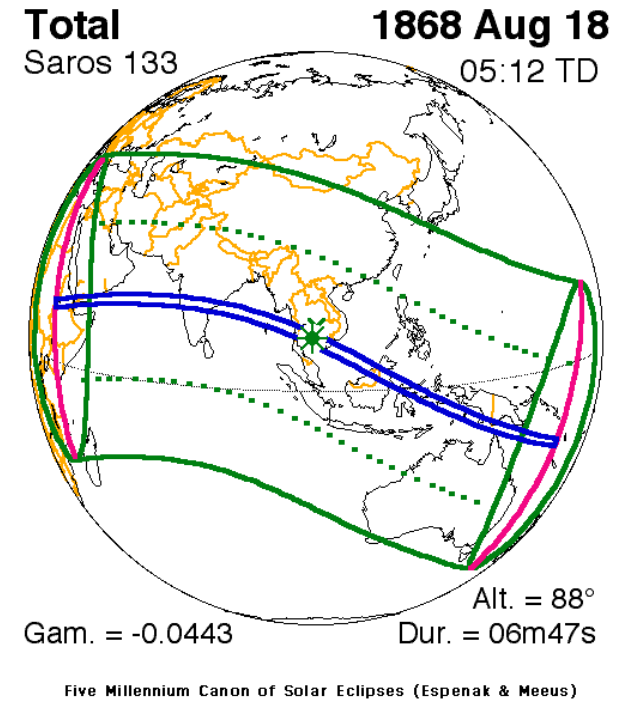
- 1) Prevê a existência de elementos ainda não descobertos (ex. eka-alumínio = gálio)
- 2) Não inclui os gases nobres (ainda não descobertos), entre eles o hélio

# Tabela Periódica (1898)

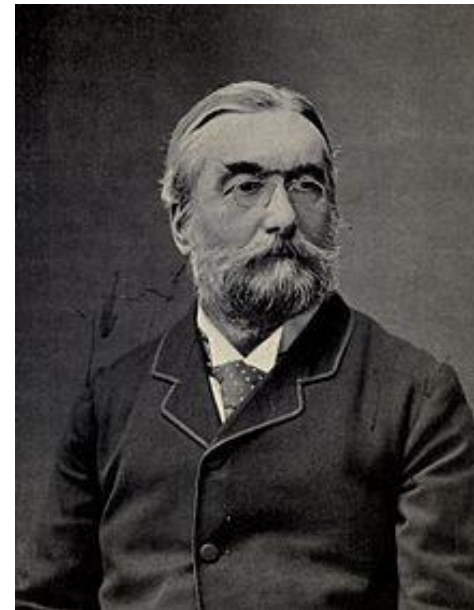
0	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	
He 4	Li 7	Be 9.1	B 11	C 12	N 14	O 16	F 19	—
Ne 20	Na 23	Mg 24.4	Al 27.1	Si 28.4	P 31.0	S 32.1	Cl 35.5	—
Ar 40	K 39.1	Ca 40	Sc 44.1	Ti 48.1	V 51.2	Cr 52.1	Mn 55.0	Fe 56, Ni 58.7, Co 59
Kr > 45	Cu 63.6	Zn 65.4	Ga 70	Ge 72	As 75	Se 79.1	Br 80.0	—
X > 65	Rb 85.4	Sr 87.6	Y 89	Zr 90.6	Nb 94	Mo 96.0	—	Ru 102, Rh 103, Pd 106
—	Ag 107.9	Cd 112	In 114	Sn 118.5	Sb 120	Te 127	J 126.9	—
—	Cs 133	Ba 137.4	La 138 etc.	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	Yb 173	—	Ta 183	W 184	—	Os 191, Ir 193, Pt 195
—	Au 197.2	Hg 200.3	Tl 204.1	Pb 206.9	Bi 208	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	Th 232	—	U 240	—	—

# Descoberta do Hélio

- Eclipse solar de 18/8/1868: linha espectral desconhecida (D<sub>3</sub>, Secci) (P. Janssen, N. Lockyer)
- “a new element X”: 3/4/1871 (Lockyer)
- “Helium”: 3/8/1971 (Kelvin)
- Hélio em laboratório: 1895 (Ramsay; Cleve & Lunglet)



Pierre Janssen (1824-1907)



Norman Lockyer (1836-1920)



Considérations philosophiques sur l'ensemble de la science astronomique.

L'astronomie est jusqu'ici la seule branche de la philosophie naturelle dans laquelle l'esprit humain se soit enfin rigoureusement affranchi de toute influence théologique et métaphysique, directe ou indirecte; ce qui rend particulièrement facile de présenter avec netteté son vrai caractère philosophique. Mais, pour se faire une juste idée générale de la nature et de la composition de cette science, il est indispensable, en sortant des définitions vagues qu'on en donne encore habituellement, de commencer par circonscrire avec exactitude le véritable champ des connaissances positives que nous pouvons acquérir à l'égard des astres.

Parmi les trois sens propres à nous faire apercevoir l'existence des corps éloignés, celui de la vue est évidemment le seul qui puisse être employé relativement aux corps célestes; en sorte qu'il ne saurait exister aucune astronomie pour des espèces aveugles, quelque intelligentes qu'on voulût d'ailleurs les imaginer; et, pour nous-mêmes, les astres obscurs, qui sont peut-être plus nombreux que les astres visibles, échappent à toute étude réelle, leur existence pouvant tout au plus être soupçonnée par induction. Toute recherche qui n'est point finalement réductible à de simples observations visuelles nous est donc nécessairement interdite au sujet des astres, qui sont ainsi de tous les êtres naturels ceux que nous pouvons connaître sous les rapports les moins variés. Nous concevons la possibilité de déterminer leurs formes, leurs distances, leurs grandeurs et leurs mouvements; tandis que nous ne saurions jamais étudier par aucun moyen leur composition chimique, ou leur structure minéralogique, et, à plus forte raison, la nature des corps organisés qui vivent à leur surface, etc. En un mot, pour employer immédiatement les expressions scientifiques les plus précises, nos connaissances positives par rapport aux astres sont nécessairement limitées à leurs seuls phénomènes géométriques et mécaniques, sans pouvoir nullement embrasser les autres recherches physiques, chimiques, physiologiques, et même sociales, que comportent les êtres accessibles à tous nos divers moyens d'observation.

Auguste Comte, 1835. *Cours de Philosophie Positive*, 19<sup>ème</sup> leçon

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