

MLT / FPT / CSWT | SEMESTER 1

BS105 Applied Chemistry

Unit 1

What is inside an atom?

Today we walk from Dalton to Rutherford model.
Simple pictures. No heavy maths.

Class 1

Group A topic

Atoms sit behind your daily work.

MLT

- Blood, salts, medicines: all made of atoms and ions.

FPT

- Water, oil, sugar, acid: chemistry of food starts here.

CSWT

- Chips, wires, batteries: materials are atomic arrangements.

We take Unit 1 in three parts

Today

- Dalton (brief)
- Thomson
- Rutherford

Next

- Bohr model
- Quantum numbers
- Electron configuration

Later

- Bonding
- Hybridisation
- Solutions

An atom is a tiny building brick.

- > Everything around you is made of atoms : air, water, iron, plastic.
- > Atoms are extremely small. You cannot see one atom with your eyes.
- > Different elements have different atoms (H, O, Fe, C...).
- > First people thought atoms were solid balls. Then we looked inside.

First clear idea: atoms are solid balls



Dalton said

- > Matter is made of tiny solid atoms.
- > Same element = same atoms.
- > Different elements = different atoms.
- > Atoms join in fixed ratios to form molecules.
- > He thought atom is the smallest part of anything.

What he got right -- and what he missed

Still useful

- > Atoms are real building blocks.
- > Each element has its own kind of atom.
- > Compounds form in fixed ratios.

He did not know

- > Atoms are not actually “solid”.
- > They have smaller parts inside.

Later Scientists found three pieces inside



Proton
Positive
In the nucleus



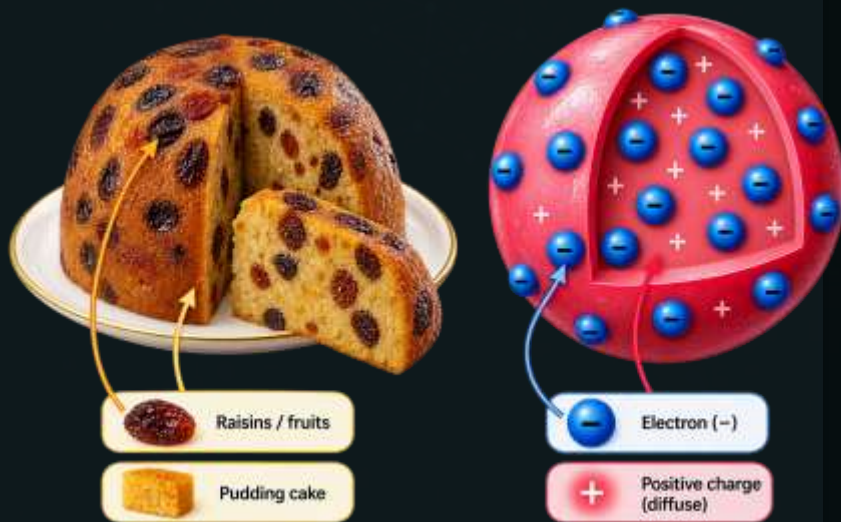
Neutron
No charge
In the nucleus



Electron
Negative
Moves outside

Short form: proton = p+, neutron = n, electron = e-
Nucleus = protons + neutrons (centre). Electrons stay outside.

The “Palm Pudding” model of atom



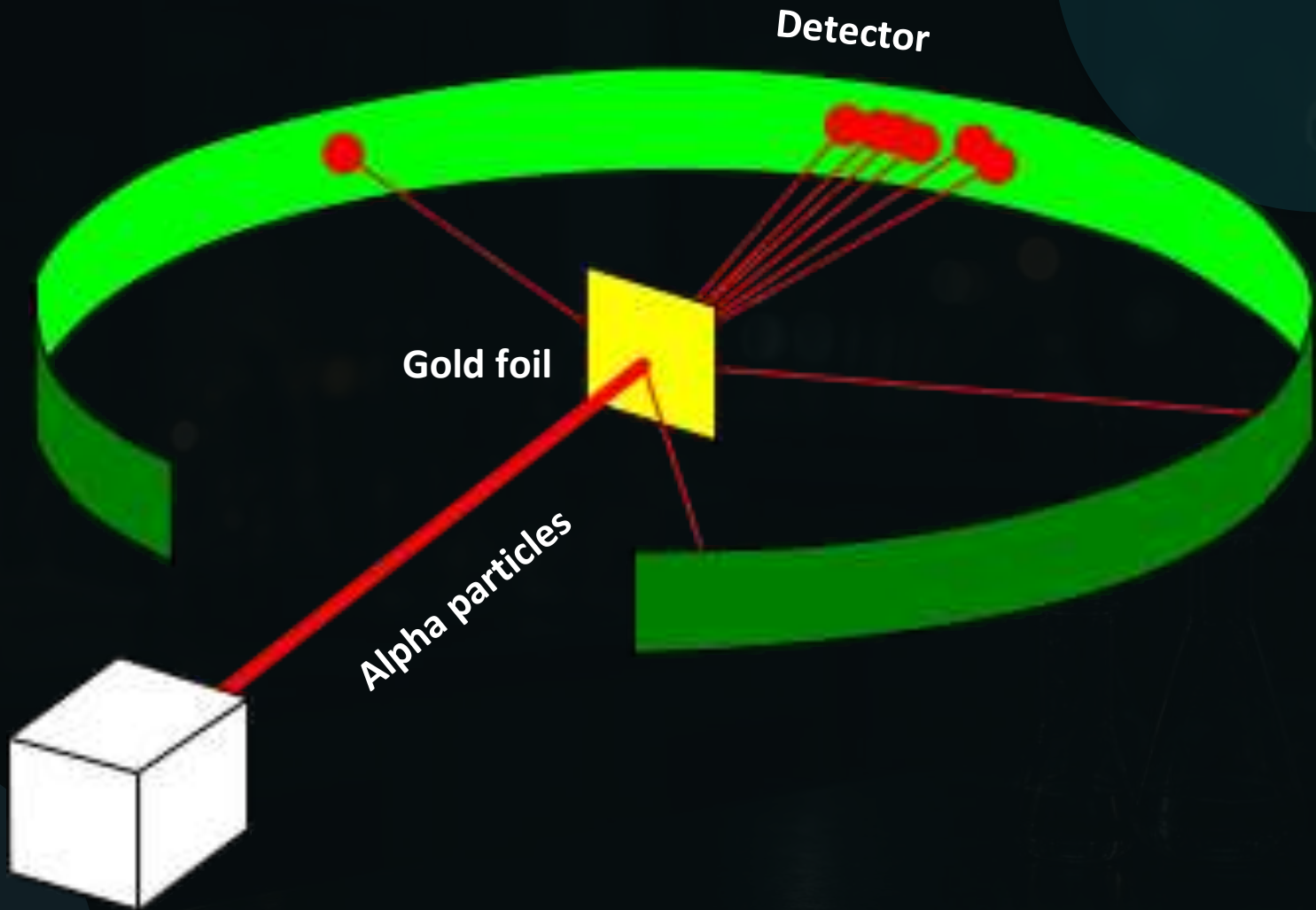
Thomson's idea

- > Positive charge spread out like soft dough.
- > Electrons sit in it like raisins in bread.
- > Better than a “solid ball” concept but still not the full story.

If we shoot tiny particles at a thin gold foil, what happens?

He used alpha particles (He^{2+}): heavy, positive bits from radioactive decay. The foil was extremely thin, like a few thousand atoms thick. If Thomson was right, the particles should pass with only small bends.

Gold foil (watch the paths)



Three results: three meanings.

Most alpha particles (+) went straight

Atom is mostly empty space.

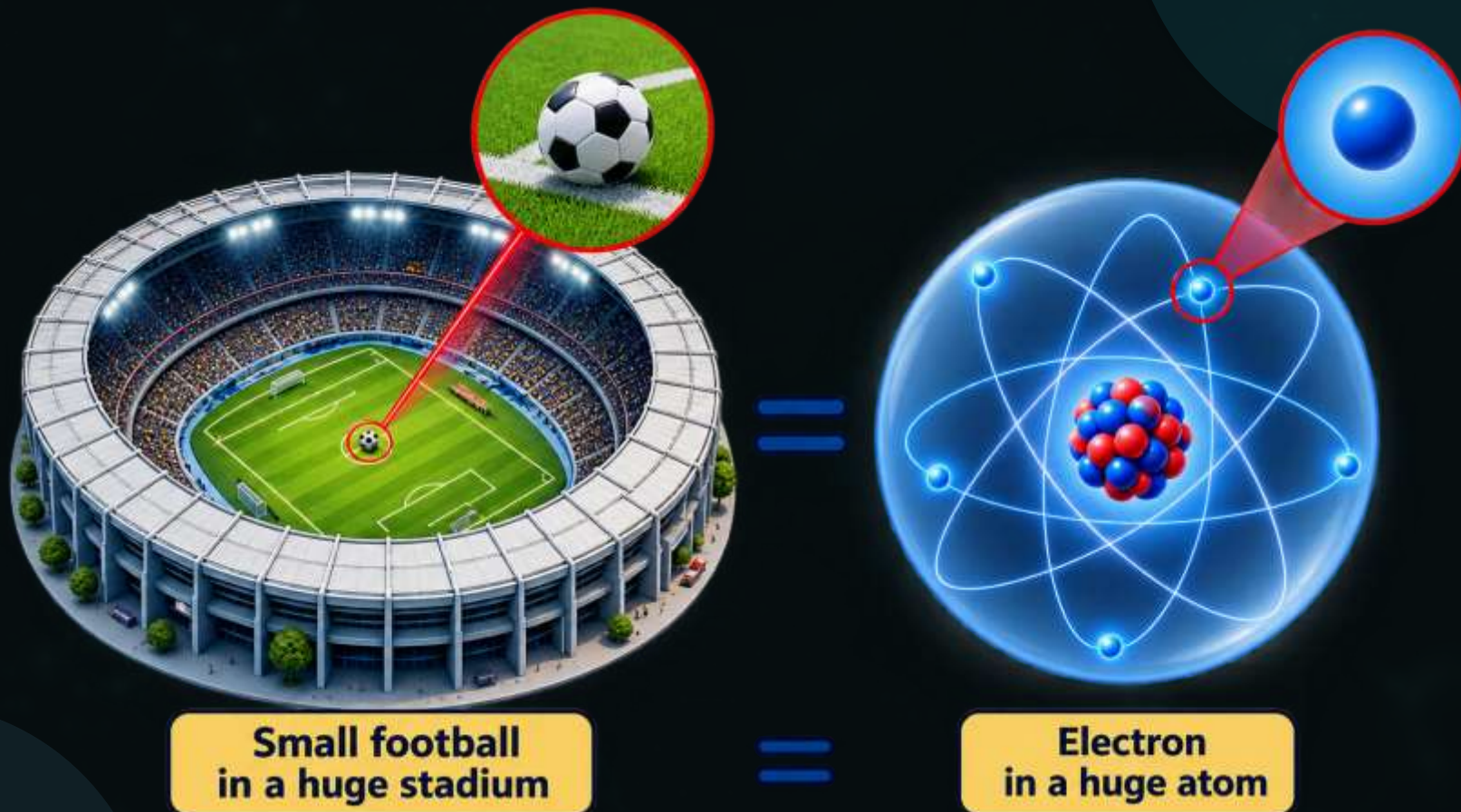
A few alpha particles (+) bent sideways

Something positive and heavy is inside.

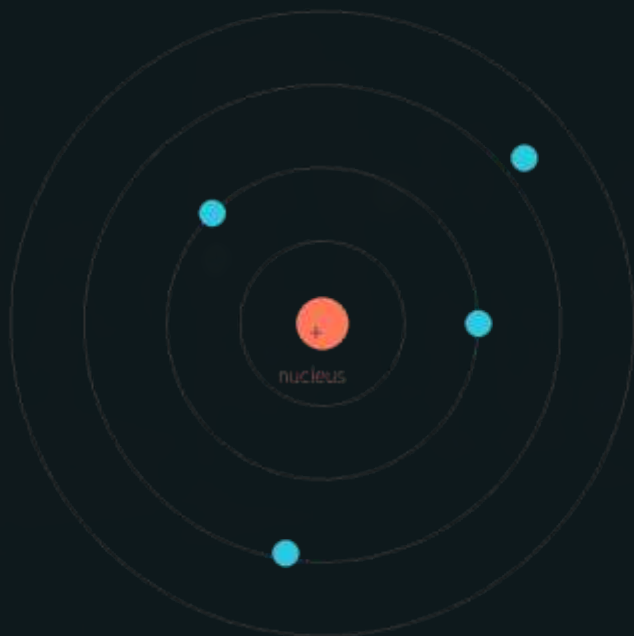
Very few alpha particles (+) bounced back

That heavy positive part is tiny -- the nucleus.

Nucleus is tiny compared to the atom



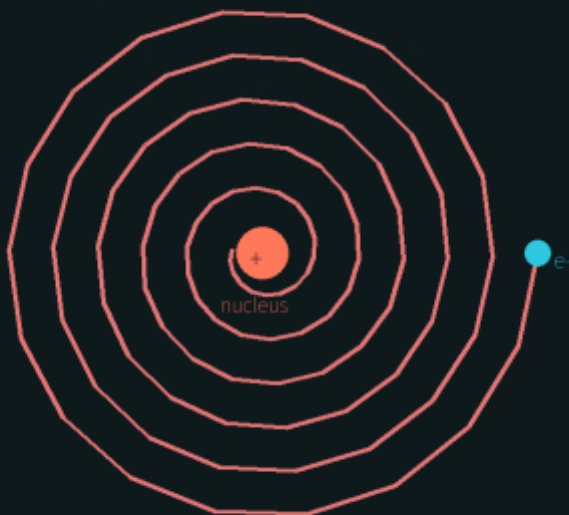
This is the picture for your notes



Points from his model

- > Centre = nucleus (protons + neutrons).
- > Nucleus is positive and heavy.
- > Electrons move outside the nucleus.
- > Most of the atom is empty space.
- > This replaced the old Thomson picture.

But, Rutherford could not explain the stability



In simple words

- > A charged particle going round should lose energy.
- > Then the electron would fall into the nucleus.
- > But real atoms do not collapse.
- > Also hydrogen line spectrum needs a better model.
- > So next class we meet Dr. Bohr.

Today's summary

- > Dalton said atoms are like solid balls.
- > Later we found protons, neutrons and electrons.
- > Thomson put electrons in a positive dough.
- > Rutherford's gold foil showed a tiny nucleus.
- > Most of the atom is empty space.
- > Rutherford still has a problem: Can't explain the stability of atom.

Bohr model and hydrogen spectrum

- > We will not derive energy or radius formulae.
- > We will learn Bohr's main points and how hydrogen shows colored lines.
- > Bring a notebook sketch of the Rutherford atom.

Any question?