

## **Electronegativity**

*The tendency of an atom to attract shared pair of electrons towards itself is called electronegativity. This definition was given by Pauling in 1932.*

Electronegativity is an inherently fundamental property of the atom and it is fundamentally different from electron affinity since electron affinity represents the tendency of an isolated atom to attract the electron while electronegativity is tendency of a bonded atom to attract shared electron pair.

## **Sharing**

If atoms bonded together have same electronegativity the shared electrons would be equally shared. If the electrons of bond are more attracted to one of the atoms (because it has more electronegativity) the electrons would be unequal shared. If the electronegativity difference is large enough the electrons will not be shared at all. The more electronegative atoms will take them resulting in two ions or in ionic bond.

## **Example**

Imagine the game tug-of-war if the two teams have equal strength the rope stays center. If one team is stronger than the other team the rope is pulled in that team's direction. The weaker team is no longer able to hold the rope and the entire rope ends up on the side of the stronger team. This is analogous to chemical bond.

## **Effectuated by**

It is effectuated by the

- Nuclear charge
- Number of electrons in atomic shells

## **Nuclear charge**

The more protons an atom has the pull it will have on the electrons.

Number of electrons in atomic shells

If an atom has more electrons further from the nucleus the valence electrons result in less +ve charge they experience both because

- The increase in distance from the nucleus
- The other electrons with low energy orbitals will act to shield the valence electrons from the positive charge nucleus.

## **History**

- The term electronegativity was introduced by Jons Jacob Berzelius in 1811 through the concept was known even before that and was studied by many chemists including Avogadro.
- In spite of its long history an accurate scale of electronegativity was not developed until 1932.

- Then Linus Pauling proposed an electronegativity scale which depends on bond energy as development of Valence bond theory ( VBT)
- It has been shown to correlate with the number of the other chemical properties. Electronegativity can't be directly measured and must be calculated from the other atomic or molecular properties.
- Several methods of calculation have been proposed and although there may be small difference in the numerical value of the electronegativity
- All methods show same periodic trends between the elements.

### Scales for calculation of electronegativity

The most common method used for the calculation of electronegativity is originally proposed by Linus Pauling

#### Pauling scale of electronegativity

This gives a dimensionless quantity on a relative scale numbering from 0.78 to 3.98 (hydrogen=2.20). When other methods of calculation are used it is conventional to quote the results on a scale that covers the same range of numerical values. This is known as electronegativity Pauling units. As it is usually calculated

Electronegativity is not a property of an atom alone but rather a property of an atom in a molecule.

#### Property of atom increase

- Ionization energy
- Electron affinity

It is to be expected that the electronegativity of an element will vary with its chemical environment but it is **considered a transferable property that is to say that the similar value will** be valid in a variety of situations. Example Caesium is least electronegative in the periodic table (=0.79) and fluorine is most electronegative in the periodic table (=3.98). Francium and caesium were both originally assigned 0.7. Caesium later refined to 0.79 but no experimental data allow for similar refinement for francium. However, the ionization energy of caesium according to the relativistic stabilization of 7s orbitals and this fact francium is more electronegative than caesium.

#### Mulliken electronegativity scale

Robert S. Mulliken proposed that the arithmetic mean of the first ionization energy ( $E_i$ ) and electron affinity ( $E_{ea}$ ) should be a measure of the tendency of an atom

$$\chi = \frac{E_i + E_{ea}}{2}$$

to attract electrons. This definition is not dependent on the arbitrary relative scale it has termed absolute electronegativity with the unit kilojoules per mole or electron volt.

However it is more usual to use a linear transformation to transfer these absolute values into values that resemble the more familiar Pauling values. For ionization energy the electron affinity in electron volts.

And for energy in kilojoules per mole.

$$\chi = (1.97 \times 10^{-3})(E_i + E_{ea}) + 0.19$$

The Mulliken electronegativity can only be calculated for an element for which the electron affinity is known. fifty seven as of 2006. The Mulliken electronegativity of an atom is sometimes to be the positive of chemical potential. By inserting the energetic definition of the ionization energy and electron affinity into the Mulliken electronegativity bit is possible to show that the Mulliken

$$\chi = 0.187(E_i + E_{ea}) + 0.17$$

chemical potential is a finite difference approximation in electronic energy with respect to the number of electrons.

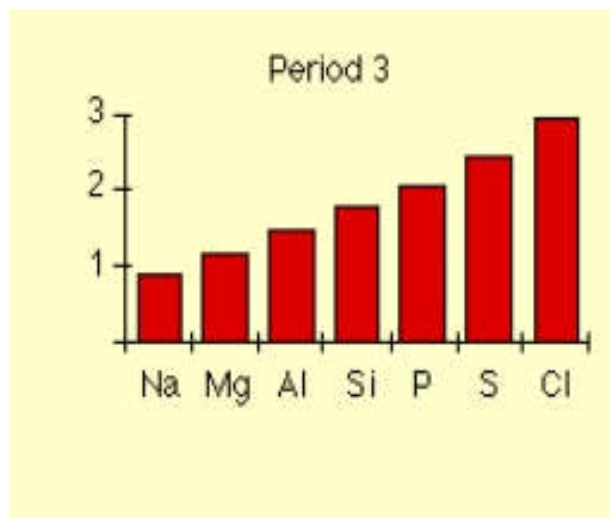
### **Trends in periodic table**

There is different trends in periodic table in periods and groups.

$$\mu(\text{Mulliken}) = -\chi(\text{Mulliken})$$

### **In periods**

Going from left to right the value of electronegativity increase. This chart show electronegativity from sodium to chlorine. we ignore argon. It doesn't have electronegativity because it doesn't form bond.

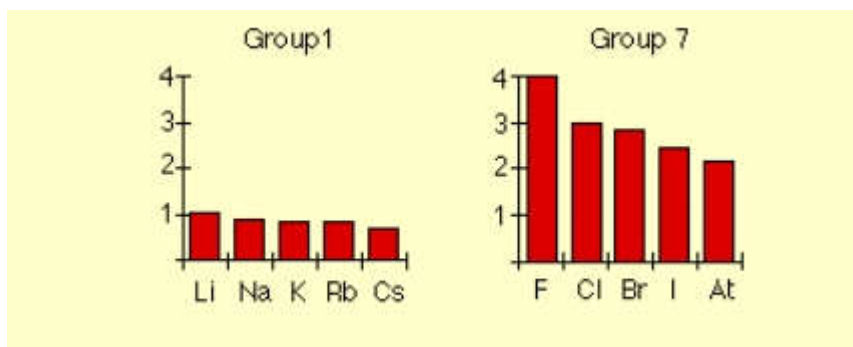


**Why does electronegativity increase across the periods?**

The electronegativity increases across the periods because the number of protons on the nucleus increases. The more the charge on the nucleus, the more strongly it attracts the bonding pair of electrons.

**Down the groups**

Going from above to down the value of electronegativity decreases. As in group seven it is large at fluorine and decreases when going down.



**Why does it fall moving from above to down?**

Moving from above to down the value of electronegativity decreases because the bonding pair of electrons is increasingly distant from the attraction of the nucleus.

Think HF and HCl

The bonding is shared from the positive fluorine's nucleus only by 1s electron in the chlorine it is shielded by all 1s, 2s and 2p electrons. In each case there is a net pull the center of chlorine or fluorine +7. But the fluorine has bond pair in the two levels rather than the three levels as it is in the chlorine it is closer to the nucleus the attraction is greater.

### **Variation of electronegativity with oxidation state**

In inorganic chemistry it is common to consider a single value of electronegativity to be valid for normal situation. But now it is clear that the electronegativity is not an invariable atomic property and particularly increase with the oxidation state of the elements.

Allred used the Pauling method to calculate the electronegativity for the different oxidation state the elements for which sufficient data was available. However for the most elements there are not enough different covalent compounds for which bond dissociation energies are known to approach feasibility. This is particularly true for the transition elements where quoted electronegativity values are usually unassessable averages over several different oxidation states.

This effect can be seen clearly in the dissociation constant of the oxoacids of chlorine. This chemical effect of this increasing electronegativity can be seen in both in the structure of oxides and halides and in the acidity of oxoacids. This effect is much larger than could be explained by +ve charge being shared among a larger number of oxygen atoms which would lead to a difference in  $\text{pK}_a$  of  $\log(1/4) = 0.6$  between hypochlorous acid and perchloric acid. The oxidation state of the central chlorine atoms increase more electron density is drawn from the oxygen atom onto the chlorine resulting in the partial negative charge on the oxygen atom and increasing the acidity.

### **Electronegativity and the nature of chemical bond**

The concept of electronegativity can be used to predict the nature of chemical bond formed between two similar and dissimilar atoms i.e. the concept of electronegativity can predict whether the bond between two similar and dissimilar atoms is non-polar covalent, polar covalent or ionic bond.

- When  $(X_A - X_B) = 1.7$  the A-B bond is 50% ionic and 50% covalent.
- When  $(X_A - X_B) < 1.7$  the bond is predominantly covalent.
- When  $(X_A - X_B) > 1.7$  the bond is predominantly ionic.