

Pauli exclusion principle: This is the most important

principle, which cannot be derived from any fundamental concept. We know that four quantum numbers are needed to define the energy of an electron in an atom. Wolfgang Pauli put forward an ingenious principle which controls the assignment of value of four quantum numbers of an electron. It applies certain restrictions on the value for electron in an atom, and hence the name, exclusion principle.

Statement - The principle can be stated

in a number of ways:

- 1) All electrons in any system must be distinguishable.
- 2) No electrons in a single atom can have all their quantum numbers identical.
- 3) No two electrons in atom can exist in the same quantum state.

All the above statements are identical and carry the same meaning that if two electrons possess the same value of n, l and m , they must have different values of s . Thus every electron in any atom differs from every other electron in a shell as these are possible

arrangement of different quantum numbers. According to Pauli principle, the electrons entering same orbitals n, l and m are identical should have opposite spins. Thus this stable opposite side give a lower energy level side.

than. when the pairing of electrons. with parallel spins. According to the dynamics. a system having lower energy is maximum stable. and therefore the state with lower energy. opposite spins is preferred. and electrons entering the same orbital. must have spin in opposite direction.

16

opposite spin.
lower energy.
more stable.

17

parallel spin.
more energy.
less stable.

From the above discussion. it follows that no orbital can contain more than two electrons. Therefore Pauli principle can be stated in another way: "Two electrons can occupy the same orbital only if their spins are opposed".

Application.

The application of this principle can be demonstrated by determining the maximum number of electrons that can be accommodated by the cells defined by quantum numbers. Having values of $1, 2, 3, \dots$ so on.
K-Shell. As the principle quantum no. this shell is 1 and l and m are zero. the possible values of four quantum numbers can be given as follows

Shell.	Quantum Numbers				No. of electrons in sub-shell	No. of electrons in complete shell
	m	l	m_l	m_s		
K	1	0	0	$+\frac{1}{2}$	2	2
	1	0	0	$-\frac{1}{2}$		

I

Thus, the K-subshell contains one s-subshell ($l=0$), and thus the maximum number of electrons is 2.

L Shell, having principle quantum number 2 can have two values of l (0, 1) and m_l can have three values -1, 0, +1.

Shell	n	Quantum numbers			No. of electrons in sub-shell	No. of electrons in complete shell
		l	m_l	m_s		
2L Shell	2	0	0	$+\frac{1}{2}$	2	
		0	0	$-\frac{1}{2}$		
M	2	1	-1	$+\frac{1}{2}$	6	8
	2	1	-1	$-\frac{1}{2}$		
	2	1	0	$+\frac{1}{2}$		
	2	1	0	$-\frac{1}{2}$		
N	2	1	+1	$+\frac{1}{2}$	6	8
	2	1	+1	$-\frac{1}{2}$		

Thus L shell is composed of s-subshell $l=0$ which can have two electrons and p-subshell $l=1$ which can have six electrons.

Therefore d shell can accommodate electrons

M shell as the value of principle quantum is 3 l can have value 0, 1, 2. The value of m_l for $l=2$ will be $-2, -1, 0, +1, +2$. Thus M-shell is composed of three sub-shells $s =$ sub-shell (corresponding $l=0$, $m_l=0$) contains 2 electrons.

$p =$ sub shell corresponding $l=1$, $m_l = -1, 0, +1$ containing 6 electrons.

$d =$ sub shell corresponding to $l=2$, $m_l = -2, -1, 0, +1, +2$.

containing 10 electrons.

Therefore the total number of electrons in M-shell is 18.

Similarly, one calculate the maximum number of electrons in N shell. N shell can have 32 electrons.

From the above discussion, it is clear that the capacity of s-sub shell is 2 electrons while p, d and f sub shells are 6, 10, 14 electrons respectively.