

Chapter 3

ATOMS AND MOLECULES

Atomic mass:

Mass of one atom of given element is known as atomic mass.

- The standard reference unit chosen to measure mass of atoms (as they are very small) is a.m.u.
- a.m.u is atomic mass unit.
- Earlier $1/16^{\text{th}}$ of mass of one atom of oxygen is used as a.m.u.
- Currently $1/12^{\text{th}}$ of mass of one atom of carbon-12 is approved as a.m.u.
- a.m.u is now written as 'u' – Unified mass.
- The relative atomic mass of all element is found with respect to an atom of carbon-12.

Ex.

Atomic mass of sodium – 23 u, Nitrogen – 14 u