

Composition Stoichiometry Assignment #3
Molecular Formula

Name _____
Class Period _____

Molecular formula – a formula showing the types and numbers of atoms combined in a single molecule of a molecular compound. It is a whole number multiple of the empirical formula.

The relationship between a compound's empirical and molecular formula can be written as:

$x(\text{empirical formula}) = \text{molecular formula}$ <p style="text-align: center;">also</p> $x(\text{empirical formula mass}) = \text{molecular formula mass}$

Process:

- To determine the molecular formula of a compound, you must know the compound's formula mass.
- Divide the molecular mass by the empirical formula mass to determine the whole number multiple (x). You may have to find the empirical formula in order to obtain the empirical formula mass.

Example:

The empirical formula of a compound of phosphorus and oxygen was found to be P_2O_5 . Experimentation shows that the molar mass of this compound is 283.89g. What is the compound's molecular formula?

Empirical Formula = P_2O_5

Empirical Mass = $2(31.0) + 5(16.0) = 142\text{g}$

Molecular Mass = 283.89g.

$$\frac{283.89}{142} \approx 2$$

So: $2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_5) \Rightarrow (\text{P}_2\text{O}_5)_2 \Rightarrow \text{P}_4\text{O}_{10}$

Another way to organize your work:

	Formula	Molar Mass
Empirical	P_2O_5	142g
Molecular		283.89g

Problems:

1. Determine the molecular formula of the compound with an empirical formula of CH and a formula mass of 78.110amu.

2. A sample with a formula mass of 34.00 amu is found to consist of 0.44g H and 6.92g O. Find its molecular formula.

3. If 4.04g of N combine with 11.46g O to produce a compound with a formula mass of 108.0 amu, what is the molecular formula of this compound?

4. The empirical formula for trichloroisocyanuric acid, the active ingredient in many household bleaches, is OCNCl. The molar mass of this compound is 232.41g. What is the molecular formula of trichloroisocyanuric acid.

5. The molar mass of a compound is 92g. Analysis of a sample of the compound indicates that it contains 0.606g N and 1.390g O. Find its molecular formula.

6. Determine the molecular formula of a compound with an empirical formula of NH₂ and a formula mass of 32.06 amu.