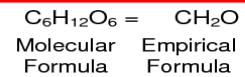


Lesson 5 - Empirical and Molecular Formulas

Empirical Formula = simplest formula

Molecular Formula = actual number and kind of atoms in a molecule

Example:



1) Give the empirical formula of the following compounds:

- $N_2O_4 \rightarrow NO_2$
- $C_6H_{12} \rightarrow CH_2$
- $P_2O_3 \rightarrow P_2O_3$
- $C_6H_6 \rightarrow CH$

2) What is the empirical formula for a compound that contains 21.6% sodium, 33.3% chlorine, and 45.1%

a. Assume that you have 100g of the substance

$$Na = 21.6g$$

$$Cl = 33.3g$$

$$O = 41.5g$$

b. Find the # of moles of each element

$$Na \quad n = \frac{m}{M}$$

$$n = \frac{21.6g}{22.99g/mol}$$

$$n = 0.940$$

$$Cl \quad n = \frac{m}{M}$$

$$n = \frac{33.3g}{35.45g/mol}$$

$$n = 0.939mol$$

$$O \quad n = \frac{m}{M}$$

$$n = \frac{45.1g}{16.00g/mol}$$

$$n = 2.82mol$$

c. Divide each mole value by the smallest mole value to get the ratio

$$Na = \frac{0.940}{0.939} \quad O = \frac{2.82}{0.939}$$

$$= 1$$

$$= 3$$

$$Cl = \frac{0.939}{0.939}$$

$$= 1$$

\therefore The empirical formula is $NaClO_3$